

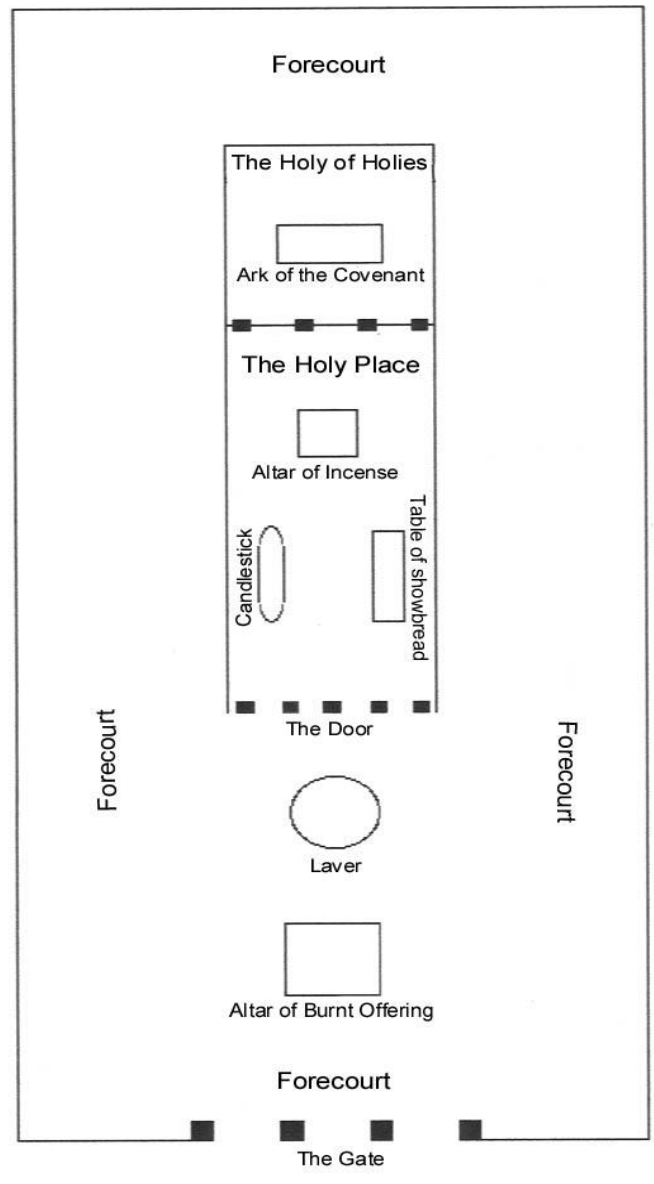
Luke (Chapter 12)

The Book of the NEW MAN in Christ

1

"Verse by verse" the deeper meaning of this Bible-book, explained in the light of the Israeli Tabernacle.

Plan of the Israeli Tabernacle



Part II

**The life in the holy place
of the resurrection person**

2

Chapter 12

**The cleansing/purification of the holy place in order to come to “the end of all flesh”.
(Part 1)**



Seven "Christian" demons or "holy" devils.

"When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first" (Luke 11:24-26).

Through faith in the Word of God and in the shed blood of Calvary a man (re)turns to the Lord Jesus with all his heart, and by the Word of God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, the demon dwelling in him, which he had mostly obeyed, is cast out. Alleluia! So this man's inner being was completely cleansed in the blood of Jesus, and, in due time it was garnished with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This man became a Christian.

But this exorcised demon of worldly lust, of worldly desires (1 John 2:16), that used to dwell in him, returns because it longs to live in its former "house" again. But this person, in whom this demon used to dwell, now has been cleansed spiritually; he now is a Christian obedient to the Word, and even baptized with God's Spirit! And, one would expect that such a worldly spirit like this demon, which is very rebellious and hostile towards God, would find no more entry into the life of this Christian. But, if it would succeed, it could defile this life again with its presence, so that the Spirit of God would eventually have to leave this person. But then this demon would have to act very, very cunningly! For this person does not want to behave in an un-

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christian way. And, because this demon knows it, it will tolerate that Christian behavior. But, it goes away to get seven other demons to help it to stalk and repossess the "house" (namely the heart) it used to live in. These seven other demons are more cunning than the first one. The first one is very rebellious towards God, but the others act in a sneakier way. All seven of them wear a white, "Christian" robe. And this robe gives them a "Christian" look, whereby they are accepted easier by Christians. In this way the old demon returns to this Christian, hidden amongst these seven "Christian" demons.

Unfortunately (too) many Christians think that, after the (inward) renewal by the Word and the Holy Ghost, nothing can happen to them anymore. God Himself delivered them from the "old man" after all, they think. Let us study more closely the work of these seven "Christian" demons, one by one. God's Word revealed them in Luke 12.

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The first demon: the "Eye of men".

The first demon is called "Eye of men", and it is all too eager to point out fellow brothers and sisters, neighbors, or people we work with at the office or at the factory, and it whispers in our ear:

"Now that you have repented you must behave like a Christian, for it is written that as a Christian you must labor worthy of that repentance. So, especially see to it, that the people you see daily, do not see you play around. Wrong words and/or deeds, you tend to do in weakness. Therefore cover these carefully, and show yourself as a tough follower of Christ. If you are alone or in strange surroundings or abroad, where no one knows you, then it does not matter."

Brother and sister, do you hear these whisperings in your ear too? Then rebuke this demon "Eye of men". Bind it in the Name of Jesus, and cast it out in that same Name, in outer darkness where it belongs! Have nothing to do with "Eye of men". You only have to heed the (all seeing) eye of God! You have not repented unto people, but unto God. It is not your attitude towards people which is decisive, but it is your attitude towards God. We should please our **Lord Jesus Christ** in everything.

This demon distracts us from our wonderful Savior, and draws our attention to the people. If we let ourselves be deceived by it, then our Christian life will be a game of hide-and-seek between you and your acquaintances, between you and your brothers and sisters. Therefore God's Spirit will have to leave you, because you cannot hear His divine voice, which wants you to focus your whole being on your Redeemer and Savior, anymore. And this Christian demon of hypocrisy will take possession of your heart and will dwell in it in the place of the Holy Spirit. This "Christian" demon in us will see to it that we wear a "Christian" mask when we are near acquaintances, but especially in the presence of the leader, and in the (congregational) meetings. You will behave just like the Pharisees and the lawyers. And because you have become so keen on what people think of you, it goes without saying that you will seek the honor, and thus the appreciation, of people, for in their eyes you want to be a good, blessed Christian. And this praise of people will see to it, that deep in our heart, the old pride we have come to detest so when we repented, will rear its head again. It was because of pride in the Pharisees that they took the prominent seats in the synagogue and loved the greetings in the markets.

Again, brother and sister, do not let yourselves be deceived by "Eye of men", for one day, on the day of judgment, every person will know what you thought in the depths of your own heart; or what you spoke, even if it was in your inner room.

Luke 12 verse 1-3: *"In the meantime, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trod one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven (symbol of sin that spreads) of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops."*

Let us see to it that we be delivered from "Eye of men", **before** we are called to justice; otherwise it shall be our accuser before God and let Him know that you have always obeyed and served it!

The second demon: "Fear of men".

Luke 12 verse 4-7: *"And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath*

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killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him. Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings (coins of little value), and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows."

The second demon is called "Fear of men". It will see to it that you will see your unconverted neighbors as giants, having a finger in many pies; whom you are to fear. This same demon influenced ten of the twelve spies of Israel (see Numbers 13). It also is all too eager to incite our tongue, that unruly evil, to gossip and other evil (see James 3:1-18). Let us see what all it whispers in our ear:

"Be very careful to whom you proclaim the gospel; for you know that God's Word speaks of "casting pearls before swine", and that these swine can turn around and tear you to pieces... Such people do not understand you anyway, and you will become an object of mockery and scorn, and surely you don't want that; what a disgrace that would be! Be very careful that you do not talk too much to people about the gospel; they might call you a fanatic (namely a religious fanatic), or even religiously deranged! Imagine them telling your boss. You most certainly would come into his bad books! No, always be sober about witnessing for Jesus. The Holy Spirit will send people to you, who (like) to listen to you, and ask you to tell them more about the gospel. I think it would be better to be quiet about it yourself. For this way you will always be accepted by people. Why should you make more enemies than is necessary? The Lord chose you to hear, and accept, the gospel... and you are saved thereby. That is wonderful! Certainly the Lord will also draw others He has chosen thereto. After all He said: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit will it happen!" So leave it to His Spirit, do not do it yourself... Rather testify, if that is what you want, in the church, among your brothers and sisters; they at least will understand..."

This way "Fear of men" will draw away your attention from (the Almighty) Jesus; and will show you the power and might of the worldly people; and also their unrepentant attitude. But, my brother and sister, do remember this well: our testimony of Jesus should not in any way be dependent on that. We are to completely focus on the Holy Ghost! We must labor according to His will, and testify in His strength. He (i.e. the Holy Spirit) will then glorify the Lord Jesus through us. He will not bring people to us, but will lead us to people and places where we must speak in the Name of Jesus, and testify of Him. Even if this person is our boss at work or at the factory; even if they are highly placed people. We must not (and may not) be ashamed of the gospel! Shame for Jesus and His gospel message is the deceitful poison "Fear of men" pours into our hearts. For we (must) know that the Holy Spirit, in all circumstances and with all people, will give us wisdom and thus the right words in our mouth; but for this our attitude **must** be like that **of every Christian**, namely that **we are saved to save others**. We must learn to understand the gentle prodding of the Spirit at this point, and learn to develop the gifts of ministry given to us. So He will lead us on our way (of life) in the first place to always be a witness of Jesus through our conduct, but also, at His command and with His guidance, testify of Him.

Finally, the demon "Fear of men" can put so much fear to testify in our heart that we, because of this fear, not only will be quiet about our faith, but that we even will deny our Savior, when the people ask us about our religious denomination!

Luke 12 verse 8-9: *"Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God: But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God."*

Let us therefore never again look to people, but only focus on the Lord Jesus. We should not (want to) be men pleasers... but God pleasers! Let us plead with Him prayerfully to fill us so with His Holy Spirit, that God's Word be in us like a fire that will blaze up in us into an unstoppable flame of love unto salvation and healing of souls. And, if we are thus on fire for Him, He will make us irresistible witnesses by the great compassion for souls He has poured out into our hearts. All power and love to witness, all gifts of ministry come from the Lord Jesus Christ. It is because of that that He told His disciples to stay in Jerusalem **until** they would have received the power to witness from above; and this power and gifts (of ministry) we will only receive when we are truly filled with His Holy Spirit.

When we have received the baptism with the Spirit – and this is only really so when the biblical seal of **new tongues** proves it – then let us not leave it there, but ask God's Holy Spirit for more anointing and power to testify of Jesus, that we, without resisting Him, can be send out into His field of labor on account of the lov-

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ing urge of the indwelling Holy Spirit. And this, purely and solely for the salvation of lost souls and for the edification – namely increase, in numbers, but especially in spiritual depth – of the Body of Christ.

Not only will "Fear of men" keep us from speaking, so that we hardly or not dare to testify of Him to this humanity which is becoming increasingly more sinful; but it may get to the point that we deny our beloved Savior, when socially higher placed persons inquire after our denomination; most certainly if this may cost us our job (or worse). We also may be so filled with intense fear by it towards people (who think differently), that we finally may join the mockers of the gospel. At first we will join in the laughter, but in the long run we will mock as well... It is something the Lord will never forgive, because this is an unforgivable sin: namely the sin against the Holy Spirit! In the light of the grace of Jesus one will then have trespassed in the Holy of holies...

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Luke 12 verse 10: *"And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven."*

A permanent hardening will take place in such a heart, and there will not be the slightest form of remorse, and in his heart no desire will arise for a restored relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Fear of men" will be especially active in times of persecution. Before these difficult times will begin, let us already have learned to walk in His fullness and according to His wonderful Word and infallible guidance, expecting everything from Him. So that, when, and in whichever way, earthly or spiritual foes make our life miserable for us, He will deliver us out of these troubles.

Luke 12 verse 11-12: *"And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour **what ye ought to say.**"*

The third demon: "Chasing after the gold". The pursuit of more money and material; the dance around the gold calf and thus the worship of the Mammon.

Luke 12 verse 13-14: *"And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?"*

The next demon, of which we will investigate the working method, is "Chasing after the gold". It will do its utmost to have you go after more income, more possessions, a better position! So that you will continually be busy working (overtime, moonlighting, etc.); not because it is necessary, but because of the extra income it brings; to buy luxury articles; to go on holidays. Whereby both husband and wife work, causing neglect of the children's upbringing, and their becoming running wild. This desire for more money often is also the cause that (also religious!) men and women live together unmarried in order to be able to keep the widow's pension of the woman, or another benefit. Listen, it whispers in your ear:

"Do you see the nice car of your neighbor? Nice, isn't it? Of course you want one too. Mind you, all your neighbors have beautiful cars... and yours is such an old and ugly thing, while your salary is more than that of many a neighbor. Actually that is rather embarrassing. So, you should also have a new(er) one. God's Word says that you are not to envy other people's possessions, but surely you are entitled to have a good car; in fact you have had a right to it for quite a while. Surely you want to work hard for it... Why not do a lot of overtime, that is bound to earn you much money! And that Johnson at the office for instance; that is one terrific boss, isn't he? He could easily overtake you. Using your elbows a little would help... That man is actually too stupid for his position, don't you think so? Suppose he would make mistakes which are detrimental to the office, and you would report that to the boss, then you would do the business a favor. For, such mistakes as Johnson makes now and again, cause the company loss, and that is not right. No, it would good to show the boss each mistake of Johnson's, and the boss would know immediately that you have a heart for the business, for the good of the company is also yours... For, if the company makes good profits, it could pay its employees (and thus you!) more. And if I were you, Christian, I would study further, qualify further for your job, get diplomas. Your family is growing, and it needs more money. You should spend every available moment on your study now. It is true, the Lord does ask you to testify, and to work in His vineyard... but you can do that once you have earned your diplomas. After all you must look after your family well, for God's Word says that you will otherwise be worse than the Gentile. What about it, if your wife would go to work as well? Boy, on such a double income you could live very comfortably! You could buy a lot of luxury things. A superfast computer, for instance. And what about a dishwasher? Then you would not have to do that nasty

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washing up. And, going on holidays once (but preferably twice), of course, is essential. That way you could relax nicely, and after all the stress of the daily work you really need that! So, do that before all else..."

The demon "Chasing after the gold" will try to completely win you over, and the Spirit of God is grieved time after time. You hardly hear the voice of the Holy Spirit anymore, pointing out the riches Christ offers you. Earthly riches, which "Chasing after the gold" so tantalizingly dangles before your eyes, have won you over and you will long for these things very much; you will dream of them. And this demon will see to it that this desire will become increasingly fierce, irresistible... So "Chasing after the gold" has come to dwell in your heart and your first love, the love for Jesus, your fierce longing for Him, and for the possession of the riches of heaven, herewith immediately fades... yes, where has it gone? Where is it now? It is gone, not in your heart anymore! In the place thereof "Chasing after the gold" has come... and it is your guide from now on. Its slogan: "The end justifies the means" has gradually become yours as well. Slowly you learn, if still in a "Christian" way, to "walk over dead bodies"... If you were driven thereto, you would explain away even a murder... Therefore, go away "Chasing after the gold", in the Name of Jesus!

Let us be content with that which we receive from our heavenly Father, for He knows what we really need. And let us learn to give our time and our heart to our Savior, because He can do with our time after His will and pleasing and fill our heart with His great, redeeming love!

The fourth demon: "Rest in the gold"

The next demon, we will study the working method of, is called "Rest in the gold". He will do his utmost to draw your focus away from Jesus as being the Lord out of Whom everything is, and to Whom all things belong (therefore also your time and your money), to then focus your eyes on your possessions, such as your savings, or your own home, or your good position in society.

Luke 12 verse 15-19: *"And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, soul, thou hast much goods laid up (stored) for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry."*

This is the thought that was put on his heart by "Rest in the gold". Let us listen some more to its satanic, cunning whisperings in the heart of a Christian:

"How wonderful it is, Christian, nothing can happen to you; you now have enough money and you have a good position in society; you can pay for everything you need, and that is very convenient! You could also support the Church if you want to. And surely you would want that, for you are a confirmed Christian. But... if I were you, I would not chuck my money around as far as this support is concerned. Each capital, no matter how large, can be depleted by chucking your money around. Just remember the prodigal son... So, if I were you, I would consider this question carefully... Yes, I know, testifying for Jesus is the Lord's commandment for each Christian, but you could easily take care of that with your money. Just give something to your pastor, and you will see that he will treat you with proper respect; respect that is due to a man like you. For, your pastor may proclaim the gospel, but you see to it with your money that this is possible. This way you share the gospel work. You also could send some money for mission work, and all those little money-missions together must cost quite a tidy sum, would they not? And so you have sent someone in your place this way; with your money you made mission-work possible. So you have served God too. And that is wonderful, isn't it? God will reward you for that in heaven, for you do believe in Him, and so you will go there of course. For God's Word says, that everyone who believes will have eternal life. That goes for you too! And now that you have sent someone to the mission field through your money, you do not have to go yourself, and your conscience – concerning Jesus' command to witness – can be at peace too. Now you yourself have the opportunity to enjoy your money, and I hurry to add: of course in the proper way, worthy of a Christian. But, surely you could have the most delicious food and the finest wines too, if only you do not indulge in it. And a villa in a sunnier country would not be an extravagant luxury either, if you look at that bleak climate here. And if you have led such a quiet life here on earth, then surely a wonderful, eternal life in the hereafter awaits you as well. After all, you believe in Jesus Christ, so the pearl gates of the New Jerusalem are also

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open to you. Mind you, you see it also in the Church, there you are treated respectfully by God's servant... This is a foretaste of what awaits you in the heavenly Kingdom..."

O, in the Name of Jesus, let the power of "Rest in the gold" be broken, so that this (and any other) Christian be made free from its false mammonish (idolatrous money hunger) rest! So will we, being freed from these bands of "Rest in the gold", be able to focus on the Lord Jesus **alone**, in order to put ourselves **and** our capital or position, altogether on God's altar, so that all that we are and have will be in the hands of Jesus – the Redeemer and Savior of all people. After all, all things are possible with God, Who took upon Him the unrighteousness of **all** humans by the sacrifice (on the cross) of Jesus. So will also this Christian, delivered from the false calm at the hand of this demon, be able to expect everything from the Lord Jesus alone; to offer **everything** to Him, all that the Lord Jesus asks of him. And this "house", this life, just like Zachaeus', will receive salvation from God (see Luke 19:2-8)! However, should "Rest in the gold" succeed in staying in the heart of this Christian, then God will have to say to him:

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Luke 12 verse 20: *"Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"*

For this type of Christian the divine warning is also applicable:

Luke 12 verse 21: *"So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

The fifth demon: "Worry about sustenance".

Now it is the turn of the fifth demon. And may I introduce it to you? Its name is "Worry about sustenance". It will leave no stone unturned to confuse the eye of the Christians, and their subjection to Jesus, by means of numerous big and little worries. Yes, it is its intention to turn them into a large mountain in the eyes of Christians, or a tempestuous sea, wherein they are bound to drown! This way it tries to destroy or suffocate the faith in Christians, as God's Word says in Matthew 13:22. Let us eavesdrop its cunning whisperings in the ear of a Christian housewife:

"O, life is difficult, is it not? All prices are going up. How are we to live. You can hardly do anything with your income. And the children cost so much money. Their coats are too small already, and they wear out their shoes within two months. And if this is not bad enough, in a few months' time another new arrival is due, whom you must also clothe and feed! Yes, yes... I really feel sorry for you! And that husband of yours, is he to be trusted completely? He was so nice to his secretary. Did you see that? You should really rub it in when you see it again! And what a troublemaker that neighbor lady of yours is! These days the children cannot do anything or she is already wound up! Say, and what do you think about your taxes this year? I think they will be increased again this year. What use is a salary raise now? It is taken away by the more expensive articles and increased taxes. I really feel for you! And then there is that bill for the payment on your dishwasher, for which you have not money at all at the moment. O... it would drive you mad! And then listen to that pastor of yours. He actually states that you are to give 10% of your income to the Church! Yes, yes... fattening him up and... you being reduced to poverty. And, how do you think your Mary looks these days? She is bound to have some kind of decease. She has no appetite either, remember? If I were you I would take her to the doctor. And at night just before going to sleep: You are tired, are you not? So terribly tired. Well, the Lord knows it too. Just fold your hands: that is good, and now go to sleep. The Lord will not blame you."

We will leave it here. Listening to one such case is bad enough. If the demon "Worry" sings its song of worry in our ear, let us immediately chase it away in the Name of our Lord Jesus. For if you allow it into your heart, God's Spirit will (have to) leave you, because, bent under the (many) worries, you will not see Jesus anymore! However, if we keep focused on Jesus in faith, and cheerfully expect the outcome from Him, then He will surely lead us out of all worries, for His name is "Wonderful"! For, if we stay focused on Him in faith, then, notwithstanding still pressing worries, soon a song of praise will arise in our heart and mouth because of His caring love for us! Let us listen closely to what He says in the following verses:

Luke 12 verse 22-32: *"And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn: and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you,*

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that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

And as far as satan's false whisperings is concerned about that 10% of your income, this really belongs to God for the financing of God's work here on earth. Abraham already gave to Melchizedek, the High priest of the God most high, tithes of all he possessed. This was before the Mosaic law (law God gave to Moses) was established. By Moses' service the bringing of tithes for the Lord became a law. Let us read Malachi 3:10: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now here-with, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." During His walk on earth the Lord Jesus taught the Pharisees and the scribes to keep up the tithing, but thereby to keep in mind God's other, weightier demand, namely regarding the judgment, the mercy and the faith! "Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for ye pay tithe of (the proceeds of) mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: **these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone**" (Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42).

In the New Testament the Lord Jesus even teaches us to hand over to Him **all** that we are and have, that He may have it at His disposal, to do with as He wills. And we must obey Him, according to this will. Let us therefore learn to give cheerfully these tithes (minimally) of all that we earn and possess, and possibly more, because this belongs to Him, as **all** that we are and have is His. We will then experience that the promise in Malachi 3:10, given to the Israelites, **also** applies to us. And if we cannot do this yet, then pray the Lord that He will make this possible in our life; that He lead our life in such a way that we can do this cheerfully. The Lord's work after all needs cheerful offers to pay for the many expenses, such as the overheads and the support of e.g. missionaries. God's servants, who, because they were called to give **all** their time to the Lord's work, should not die from hunger either, but they should receive whatever is needed for their living. Further do the labor fields demand a lot of money! Glory to Jesus! Finally, let us listen to this part of the words of Jesus Himself:

Luke 12 verse 33-34: *"Sell that ye have, and give alms (gifts to the poor); provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

The sixth demon: "Sleep tight".

Now it is time to expose the sixth demon. What its name is? Its name is "Sleep tight"! It will leave no stone unturned to weaken your prayer life; to cut off the contact with your Savior. "To sleep spiritually" means, that the inward man of the heart does not know a true prayer life, whereby we will share death and resurrection **in** and **with** Jesus Christ, anymore; that we are not alert anymore to the creeping in of sins and false teachings. Did you know previously the wonderful experience of hours of prayer, something which probably was not without fruit in your testimony life; these hours will slowly decrease. Perhaps at first one hour still, then half an hour, then a quarter of an hour, until it is only a quick prayer and you (regularly) forget to pray.

What is the cause for this? How did "Sleep tight" achieve this? Well, it gave you very many things to do, spiritual as well as earthly; it thereby took seized you. It caused you to be "pressed for time"... But also in other ways does it attack our prayer life: by a wave of lust for the world, and material abundance... Yes, "Sleep tight" knows many ways to keep us from praying. We can see the work of this demon revealed in the slumber and sleep of the five wise and five foolish virgins, which parable we can read in Matthew 25:1-13... Mind you, it **also** influenced the wise!

There once was a preacher who saw through this, and who, because of that, developed a rule for life: The more activities (for the Lord), the more need of prayer! Scripture points out to us the silent, and cunning, action of this demon by comparing it with a thief, sneaking up and breaking into our house, because of which our spiritual life weakens...

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Luke 12 verse 39: *"And this know, that if the good man of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through."*

You might think that you still stand and live in Christ, but you do not know, that you have not been His for a long time already. It is only when, by God's grace, we are enlightened by His Word, and we see in this never failing mirror of God our own inner being, that we discover that all freshness and simplicity of true devotion and communion with Him is lacking in us. How sobering His words to the Church at Laodicea sound: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and **knowest not** that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked..." (Revelation 3:15-17). The Lord also states of the Church at Sardis the following: "...thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead" (Revelation 3:1b).

Which advice does the Lord give us in Luke 12:35 to make us able-bodied, whereby we will be able to resist the deceptions of this demon?

Luke 12 verse 35: *"Let your loins be girded about (namely with the truth of God's Word and with the Spirit of Truth) and your lights burning (i.e. be [spiritually] alert)."*

The Israelites wore long loose garments, which hampered them when they were serving. Therefore they pulled up the upper garment, and fastened it around the hips. What does this mean to us spiritually? Let us first read another word of Scripture. "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about **with truth**..." (Ephesians 6:14a). And that truth is God's Word, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the incarnated Word of God, thus the Spirit of Truth. We must therefore be willing to serve Him according to His entire Word, and be at His disposal in order to, under His management, labor in His vineyard. This requires a true **devotion**, an openness of the heart; to be able to receive His guidance and will in the prayer life. Only then can He give us His love and gifts to the labor, all revelations of His own Spirit and Being, through the faithful servant. This way we can burn for Him like a candle; and proclaim to the people around us His resurrection and His power – to the redemption from sin by communion with Him.

By the Word, the prayer life keeps alive the **Maranatha expectation** (i.e. the expectation that the Lord will soon return); on the other hand the Maranatha expectation keeps us praying that we be found prepared by Him at His return. When the five wise and the five foolish virgins lost the Maranatha expectation which is told us by the words: "While the bridegroom tarried (when His coming was delayed)... they slept" (Matthew 25:5), they lost the prayer life... with all the sad results thereof! It is because of this, that Scripture has linked up this **watchfulness** to the expectation of a speedy return of the Lord Jesus.

Luke 12 verse 36-38: *"And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch (one of the four parts, wherein in times past the night was divided), or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants."*

Luke 12 verse 40: *"Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."*

The seventh demon: "Work in the flesh".

It is only a small step to get from spiritual sleep to **willfulness**, to a further "service" to the Lord in one's own strength; and thus in the "flesh". That is why we call this demon "Work in the flesh". "Work in the flesh" will always cause one to serve out of, and for, oneself; it is something which is always to the disadvantage and harm of the true fellow servants **and** of the Body of the Lord Jesus Christ! This demon is a true hunter, which hassles one to labor "for Jesus". However, if we act **in faith** – the opposite of a willful service – then we will draw from His fullness; something which can only happen in a life of (sincere and continual) prayer. Then we can, as verse 42 says: "...give their portion of meat (namely spiritual food) in due season" to those the Lord has entrusted to us; to serve them, in Christ, with the Word. But if we listen to (and obey) the whisperings of "Work in the flesh", who always co-operates with "Sleep tight", then we will become (greatly) unfaithful to Christ. We then no longer draw from the fullness of God's love and strength to the edification of His Kingdom, but we will use (read: MIS-use) God's Word to beat others around the head with, and to pursue our own goals. It is odd, that God's Word reveals that such "service" is linked to carnal, sexual debauchery.

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Luke 12 verse 45: *"But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;..."*

"For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women (here: the spiritually weak) laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Timothy 3:6-7). "These are murmurers, complainers, **walking after their own lusts**; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage" (Jude 16).

Luke 12 verse 46-48: *"The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."*

Let us therefore rather (be willing to) serve the Lord of the Harvest faithfully, and act according to His guidance and driving-force, so that to us, too, the following Scripture part applies:

Luke 12 verse 41-44: *"Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable (only) unto us, or even to all? And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you that he will make him ruler over all that he hath."*

My brother and sister, let us now, being warned, carefully walk in keeping with God's Word, and be alert to these seven evil spirits (these demons). For, over and over again, co-operating with each other, they will try and overpower the depths of our heart; and if we are not alert to this – in continual prayer and subjection, that we remain in Christ through the strength of the blood of the Lamb – they will pounce on our heart and overcome it (with force, and thus without permission), whereby they will have power over our heart and life again. When that happens, the "old Adam" – namely the satanic spirit which, by our faith in the blood of Jesus, was dispelled – will again take possession of us, and Luke 11:26 reveals to us, that "the last state of that man is worse than the first", which is to say that such a person, spiritually seen, in the end is far worse off than before his repentance. Beloved, let us therefore (always and everywhere) be watchful for the unwanted and (often) unnoticed invasion of these "Christian" demons!

The fire of the Holy Spirit will deliver us from all powers of hell.

We ourselves are no match for the works and powers of these demonic forces. We must and can be delivered from them, and this can only happen when we put their works, the works in our sinful flesh, in the hand of God's Spirit for them to be burned away, and thus destroyed by the divine fire (Romans 8:13) on account of our faith in His eternal redemption, obtained by the shedding of His blood on Calvary (Hebrews 9:12).

The Lord wants us to be completely freed (and remain so) of these seven sins of hypocrisy. He does not want us to be hypocritical in our faith, life and works. He wants us to pursue a sincere faith in Him... which will not be without any fruit of the Spirit. Only in this case, whereby repentance, subjection and devotion to Christ are sincere, the holy fire of the Spirit will (be able to) deliver us from **all** works of the flesh unto the deepest fibers of our entire being; to the foundations thereof! Then He will baptize us with the Holy Spirit and with fire, and, each day anew, fill us with Himself; truly fill us, so that we finally be **completely** dead to our (sinful) flesh; whereby we could serve and follow Him according to **His** will and pleasing. To God be all glory for this!

Luke 12 verse 49-50: *"I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!"*

In the first place, we are (or will be) baptized with the Holy Spirit to be consumed by the fire of His Being; That is to say, the old and thus sinful man in us! The water baptism as well as the baptism in the Spirit are in the first place sharing the death of Jesus (Romans 6:3). If we sincerely long to completely die to our old and sinful nature, then His powerful, inner working will consume to ashes this old man in us (Psalm 20:4; Isaiah 4:4).

In Matthew 13 we read the parable of the seed, and how the seed which fell in good soil, bears fruit: a hundredfold, sixty-fold and thirty-fold. A hundredfold fruit bearing is a symbol of the perfect work of the seed, namely of the divine seed of the Word of God, which was sown and which matured in our heart and being.

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In other words: Here a 100% working of God's Spirit, in and by the believer, is revealed. In those other cases we have a 60% and a 30% working of God's Spirit in the believer. For, the Holy Spirit could only achieve that much in the believer because of a (still) imperfect subjection and devotion. Respectively 40% and 70% are still works of the flesh, and are reprehensible to God; even if they are meant well. These are works and actions in one's **own strength!**

Before the Lord Jesus could pour out the fire of the Holy Spirit onto the earth, he first had to go through the baptism of death on the cross (see Luke 12:50). Jesus meant by this, that He first had to die for this; had to shed His blood on Calvary.

The fire of the Holy Spirit brings division between hypocrisy and true faith.

11

Luke 12 verse 51-53: *"Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against her mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law."*

If we mean "peace of the heart" with peace, **then** Christ came to bring peace. But here the Lord means by "peace" a peace amongst each other; being able to get along (namely in the same spiritual state). In this sense He came to bring division: division between believers and unbelievers; yes, even a division between hypocritical believers and sincere believers. For, the temple of the Holy Spirit (i.e. the person, wherein the Holy Spirit dwells) has **nothing in common** with the temple dedicated to the idols (i.e. with those who serve the devil) (2 Corinthians 6:16). The Lord wants us to break away, to separate ourselves, from all those who, in whichever way, want to continue to serve the darkness (and thus the devil). A Dutch proverb says: "Show me your friends, and I will tell you who you are". "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6: 17-18).

Therefore a (spiritually) unequal marriage is, from the beginning, condemned by the Word of God! Little do such people know what cross they take into their home; what sword of deep division awaits them! For who is to say that the unbelieving partner will ever come to believe and obey the Word of God. It is more likely that the believing partner will be drawn into a worldly life, and thus to a hypocritical faith!

Now that we know this, let us pursue the divine flame of this purifying fire, especially when we see that His return is at hand.

Luke 12 verse 54-55: *"And he said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is. And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass."*

You might know that the Mediterranean (Sea) lies west of Palestine (Canaan, the promised land), and that a sea-wind is always damp, full of rain clouds. But, south of Palestine lies the Negev desert; and when the southern wind blows, it naturally will be hot.

Luke 12 verse 56-57: *"Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time? Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right?"*

They had some knowledge of the natural things, everyday things such as predicting the weather, but they lacked insight in the spiritual things, such as recognizing the Messiah Who came to them; because of their hypocrisy they were insensitive and blind.

We, in our days, are before His (speedy) return. The signs thereof in this world do not lie about it! On account of these signs and the predictions thereof in the bible, we can be certain that Jesus will soon return; it may be in a few years already! Especially the young among us can be sure of it: The Lord will return in their lifetime. At first invisible in and by the Holy Spirit, and later on physically visible on the clouds of heaven in glory. And yet, how little one longs to share this divine fire in his being: how little one sincerely desires the purifying fire of the Holy Spirit! Why? God's Word explains it: it calls them **hypocrites!** These are people with a **hypocritical** faith; their faith has been affected by the seven demons of hypocrisy! Before the judgment seat of Christ these demons will act as the accusers of such "Christians". We can read this in the following verses:

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Luke 12 verse 58-59: *"When thou goest with thine adversary to the magistrate, as thou art in the way, give diligence that thou mayest be delivered from him; lest he hale thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and the officer cast thee into prison. I tell thee, thou shalt not depart thence, till thou hast paid the very last mite (the last penny)."*

Let us do our very best to, by the fire of the Spirit, break this band with the demonic forces. And know, that we should hand over our bondages to Jesus, for in order to lose them we must subject ourselves completely to Jesus, so that He – in and by His Name – deliver us from any occult power!

And, we also should know very well, that when we are not part of the **complete** deliverance from these demons, we will suffer the Great Tribulation... because the Wedding Supper, the preparation unto the great and **holy** union with the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, has passed us by (see Matthew 24:21; 25:1-13 and Revelation 19:9). We will then have missed the boat, beloved! Let us realize this! But when we **pursue** peace with everybody, and sanctification (Hebrews 12:4), then we will also **pursue** the (pure) goal in Christ, until, by His perfect **grace**, we will have indeed reached the fullness in Christ, whereto God has called us (Philippians 3:14). Amen!

The end of Chapter 12

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