

'UNDERSTANDING DECEPTIONS' Pt 2 - 'SATAN'S FOOthOLDS'

Message Notes by Stewart Patrick, 14 February 2016

Psalms 73:2-3 NIV *But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.*

(3) *For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.*

- Asaph made an observation, that the wicked often do better than the righteous!
- Today the believer is bombarded by the media with what a 'successful' life looks like and the temptation is to examine what unbelievers possess, and assess we are lacking.
- A question: 'Would you like to be free from all sickness and monetary pressure and live a life of ease?' Be aware - for the unbeliever doing well, there is a trade off (see v. 6-9).
- By contrast, suffering for the believer can deliver him/her from pride, violence, hardheartedness, an evil mind, malice, arrogance, oppression, boasting, a big mouth.

Psalms 73:16-17 *"But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God;"*

- The 'sanctuary' for the O.T. Psalmist, was the 'Tabernacle' in the wilderness, or more specifically for Asaph, the Temple in Jerusalem. What is the 'sanctuary' for the believer today? Would Satan want to keep you from recognizing it?
- Yes! Satan's schemes would seek to keep me from recognizing Christ's abiding presence and turning to it in my heart. When we do turn to His presence and bask in the life He has given on the path we are walking, our adverse circumstances make perfect sense.

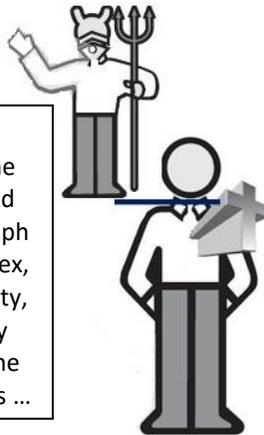
Ephesians 4:27 AMP *"Leave no room or foothold for the devil [give no opportunity to him]."*

- Now the contrast between a 'foothold' of the O.T. Psalmist and a 'foothold' of Satan.



1) A believer with Christ's life flowing through them, has victory over the enemy. The 'abiding door' open to receive...

3) Here's the deception - What is the problem? Satan using the foothold, or the abiding door?.....
What's the solution?
Open the door, abide in Christ, be restored into fellowship, & take your stand in the blood of Jesus Christ against Satan.



2) Satan gains a foothold when the baggage of the old life is stirred up, (Eph 4:27 - e.g. anger, sex, steal, lies, inferiority, etc, & I live in my flesh life again, the abiding door closes ...

- An example of this from 1 & 2 Corinthians...

1 Corinthians 5:1 *"It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife..."*

1 Corinthians 5:5 *"hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord."...*

2 Corinthians 2:7 (following the man's repentance) *"Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow."*

'ABIDING LIFE SEMINARS , SMALL GROUPS & DISCIPLESHIP COUNSELLING



How does the indwelling Christ make a difference in believers' lives in the midst of problems, discouragements, and sufferings?

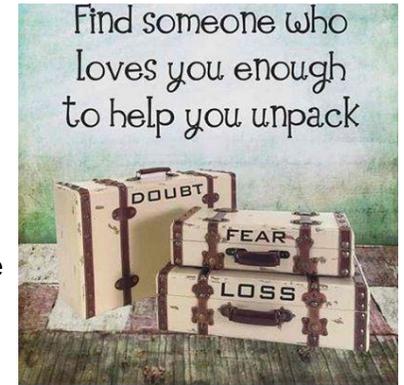
OUR mission is for every believer to discover the life of Christ within, the fullness of His fellowship, and uninterrupted access to and standing before the Father.

This we call *abiding in Christ*. (John 15)

Most ministries focus on what the believer does not have; a good marriage, inner peace, victory over sin, lack of discipline, etc. This message focuses on what every believer does have - Christ's life within, which is abundantly sufficient to meet the challenge of any circumstance.

At Mangapapa Church, we have several ways you can do an Abiding Life seminar;

1. **An 8 week Abiding Life Seminar**, Tuesday nights 7pm-8:30pm - Leigh McGurk presents these and her next one is for women. **Commences on Tuesday 1 March, @ the Church House, 7pm. Cost is just \$5 for the manual.** These 8 week courses are great too, for bringing along friends who are seeking answers to life problems. Contact Leigh to register, at 027 486 9258 or e-mail her at the.mcgurks@xtra.co.nz



2. **Small Group 30 week Abiding Life Seminar**, This is a 30 part dvd seminar by Mike Wells, with full manual notes and diagrams. Some Home Groups and small groups have done this and new groups are always being formed, so just register your interest with Vinnette at the church office, 867 9604, or e-mail office@mup.org.nz

3. **One to One Discipleship Counselling** - We work with folk individually or as couples, through the abiding life resources to help make sense of life problems, building relationships, examining our ways and turning to the Lord. Contact the Church Leader, Stewart Patrick at the church office, or cell 021 047 0795; or e-mail stewart@mup.org.nz