

SILT TRAINING

Introduction

Does anybody recognize this? Yep, it's the Melnor Turbo Oscillator 4500, resurrected from Pastor Randy's great sermon on June 26, the Home Depot message. While he was preaching that morning, I was thinking of our teaching today on SILT, thinking it would be a perfect illustration of what can block the flow of living water in and through our lives. So I went up afterwards to tell him what a powerful message it was, and he handed this to me and said, "Want it?" to which I replied, "Are you kidding?!" I grabbed this thing like I was winning an Oscar at the Academy Awards and ran out the sanctuary waving my trophy. When Dave Sixta saw me, he said, "Looks like you got Pastor Randy's mantle!" May I be so blessed!

Since he told me I could keep it, I've taken the liberty of writing on it. The central column is what I'm calling the mercy pipeline through which the living water of Jesus flows in and through us. The four valves at the bottom have each been assigned a letter: S I L T, an acronym we use to describe those deterrents Satan throws into our lives to try to keep us from flowing freely with rivers of living water.

Silt in the natural is a type of sediment composed primarily of granular broken quartz which can negatively impact human health, wetlands and coastlines, and the migration of fish. In the spiritual, we use it as an acronym that stands for SIN, INIQUITY, LIES, and TRAUMA. These four areas are possible points of entry for us to consider when we are praying for ourselves or others to receive freedom in Christ.

Everyone here today is a leader in the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood and in the process of being sanctified as Holy Spirit changes us from glory to glory. We have emerged through new birth into a living hope, an incorruptible inheritance, sealed for the day of redemption in Christ Jesus. But in the meantime, we live in a world where there is still an accuser of the brethren, whom we know of as Satan—the father of lies, the one who comes to steal, kill, and destroy, the deceiver, the bully of the brethren, a general troublemaker. But as Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world." (JOHN 16:33)

Although God has limited Satan's power on earth, this fallen angel prowls around like a roaring lion stalking its prey, looking for loopholes in our lives where he can legally gain a foothold. But how does this happen if we are followers of Christ? If Holy Spirit is living in us, how does the enemy gain a point of entry?

We all know God is one God in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We were created in God's triune image as spirit, soul, and body. Our spirit is that which will live for eternity—for believers in Christ, in heaven, the everlasting presence of God; for those who choose to not receive Christ, in the eternal absence of God, which is hell. As a believer, our spirit is sealed by the blood of Jesus, not accessible to the enemy. But the realm of the soul, which is our mind, will, and emotions, is an open target. And what happens in the soul often impacts what happens to the body. Many diseases have their roots in our mind, will, and emotions. So the enemy looks for loopholes to access the realms of our soul and body through avenues of unconfessed, unrepented sin.

Please understand that what we are teaching today is not a fix-all guarantee that you or those to whom you are ministering will never have another attack from the enemy. As we all know, bad things still happen to good people, even to the people of God—sometimes especially to the people of God because the enemy doesn't like Who we follow and what we stand for. What we are offering today is simply a tool to help identify and root out areas in our lives where Satan may have gained access.

With my husband being a pilot, I know that the airlines have definite protocols for crews to follow before a flight. Every system on the list must be checked and verified before takeoff. While this doesn't ensure absolute safety, it does mean they have done everything in their power to ensure a safe flight, closing any obvious gaps caused by oversight or human error.

Closing gaps makes me think of our previous home in The Woodlands. In the quiet of night, we'd lie in bed and hear the pitter-patter of little feet. Very, very little feet making very, very much noise. According to the exterminator, tree squirrels had gained access to our spacious attic through tiny gaps under the roof. The only permanent solution was to seal the gaps.

Today, we will identify some of those gaps in our lives where Satan has found a legal point of entry. We will use the SILT tool as a guideline to

discern these places and then pray to seal them off in the name of Jesus. Philippe will address each of these areas with a biblical precedent in each of the four categories to illustrate the effects of unconfessed, unrepented sin, and I will offer God's solution through prayer and practical suggestions.

Knowing many of you have received a great deal of training for inner healing prayer and are active members of the Freedom ministry prayer team and/or TruHope, some of this will be redundant, but we trust Holy Spirit will refresh and bring ever-increasing depth to your knowledge. As we've prayed for this time today, we've asked Holy Spirit to come in a mighty way to bring healing and deliverance, even while we are speaking the Word and offering testimonies. He wants us all to be made holy and whole in order for us to become one body in Him, His ambassadors in this world who look like Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 in The Message says, May God Himself, the God who makes everything holy and whole, make you holy and whole; put you together—spirit, soul, and body—and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ. The One who called you is completely dependable. If he said it, he'll do it!

I'd like us to pray together a prayer of submission before we begin. Please repeat after me:

Abba Father, I submit my spirit, soul, and body to you and silence all voices other than yours. I bind my will to yours, Father; my mind to the mind of Christ; my emotions to the control of Holy Spirit. Come, Holy Spirit, and reveal everything you want me to know. Bring healing to every broken part of me, Jesus, and help me find the freedom you bought for me with your blood. I pray this with thanksgiving in your name, amen.

Session 1—SIN

Philippe's perspective

Let's compare two Old Testament sinners.

The first example is King Saul, who first offered a sacrifice that he was not entitled to offer. He refused to obey the prophet and wait; then later on during his reign, he was told by God to annihilate or chase out all the Amalekites, a wicked, idolatrous tribe that still remained in the Promised Land. Saul told the prophet that he would exterminate them all, yet he didn't—and kept spoils for himself. Then God said that this disobedience would cost him the kingdom.

Still not repenting, in flagrant disobedience he consulted a medium to try and hear from the dead prophet Samuel, who immediately rebuked him severely. A few days later Saul and his three sons died in battle with the Philistines.

The other example is King David, who instead of going to war with his army, stayed home—and lusted after and then seduced Bathsheba. Then, in order to cover for his sin, he had her husband come home from the war for a few days, later having him murdered in the battle.

This scandalous behavior, perhaps, encouraged David's first son Amnon (from one of his eight wives) to rape his half-sister, Tamar. David failed to punish his oldest son, so Tamar's full brother Absalom took matters into his own hands and had Amnon killed. Apart from a short exile, David didn't punish Absalom, who eventually tried to take the kingdom from his father.

Superficially, it is hard to differentiate between the sins of Saul and the sins of David. David's life is told in greater detail, so seemingly more disobediences appear. King Saul is always serving his own interests and seems to love only himself, never repenting, whereas David loves the Lord first and desires to do God's will, yet still sins. But he was a first-class repentor. And because of that, the Bible calls him a man after God's own heart.

In our ministry, we were privileged to come alongside a single mother who worked hard to provide for her children. She was young in her faith, and eventually told us about her boyfriend who had just moved in with her. For a long time, we tried to gently show her that as she was growing in the Lord, she could not live in this ambiguous situation. Eventually, after over a year of counsel, they repented as both realized that this was not the will of God for their lives. After he moved out, their faith continued to grow and about a year later they were married. With that repentance came numerous restorations of family relationships on both sides, as well as emotional healing in her life.

Jan's perspective

The Oxford dictionary removed the word “sin” because it has “fallen into disuse and is not recognized by the younger generation.” In our post-Modern era in which seemingly anything goes, I can assure you that God has not deleted sin from His vocabulary—and a sin by any other name is still a sin.

God's definition of sin (I John 3:4) is *transgression of the law of God and rebellion against God* (Deuteronomy 9:7; Joshua 1:18), provoking Him to anger. We know that sin originated with Lucifer, meaning “light-bearer” in Hebrew, probably the most magnificent of the angels in heaven, who began to admire himself and desire to be in a higher position than God. He was booted out of heaven, taking a third of the angels along with him. Renamed Satan, which in Hebrew means “accuser” or “adversary,” he was the one who introduced sin to mankind when, in the guise of a serpent, he enticed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to eat from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, promising them they would “be like God.” Instead, their eyes were opened to their own shame, because their disobedience caused them to acquire a sinful nature that separated them from God.

There are two principle types of sin we will address today: **inherited sin**, the generational iniquity passed down from the original sin of Adam, and **personal sin**, that which each of us is subject to committing every day in any number of ways. We will address this first.

Personal sin is ongoing for each of us because as long as we live in this world, we will have a sinful nature. You've probably heard of all kinds of different types and categories of sin: sins of attitude, action, intent, and neglect; sins of omission or sins of commission; the “seven deadly sins.” It's not our intent today to put sin under a microscope; the Holy Spirit does a magnificent job of gently convicting us when we have sinned. We just want to identify how it has gained a point of entry in order to root it out.

First, we need to emphasize that **ALL sin of any type has been covered by the blood of Jesus** and forgiven when we confess it to God; we know

this from 1 John 1:8-9, *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness.*

However, when we **continue** to sin in a willful, ongoing manner without repentance, we open a door for Satan, the accuser of the brethren, to traffic in our lives. God's Word is very clear on what He considers sin; there are over 120 specific sins listed in the New Testament. You'll find mention of them sprinkled throughout the gospels, in Paul's letters, the books of Peter, James, John, Hebrews—all the way to and through Revelation. Sin may have been omitted from the dictionary, but it's very present in the Bible.

The thing is, there aren't "big" sins and "little sins"; anything God considers sin hurts us because it separates us from Him. We still have assurance of our salvation, but we are not able to operate in the fullness of faith and its fruit because part of us is in rebellion when we choose to continue to willfully sin. For instance, even though contemporary society has accepted an entirely different set of moral standards regarding sexuality than those of even two or three decades ago, if an individual chooses to engage in a sexual relationship with someone other than an opposite sex marriage partner, they are in willful, ongoing sin and Satan has a legal right to harass them unless and until they repent and stop doing it.

Likewise, other ongoing sins that contemporary society doesn't recognize as any big deal are things like coarse jesting, swearing, slandering others, complaining, boasting, arrogance, hypocrisy, anger, and causing division among others. Murder and adultery may sound a whole lot worse, but in God's Book, these sins are all the same because they are acts of rebellion against His ways, so they hurt us and those around us. And they hurt the heart of God.

Having said that God considers one sin just as serious as another, there does seem to be an area which predominates and is addressed scripturally more often than other sins: unforgiveness and its consequence, bitterness. I'm going to share with you the well-known parable Jesus told in Matthew 18:21-35 of the unforgiving servant from *The Message*:

At that point, Peter got up the nerve to ask, "Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?"

Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven. The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market. The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt. The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, 'Pay up. Now!' The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' But he wouldn't do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king. The king summoned the man and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?' The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy."

There you have it. God places a premium on forgiveness because He gave EVERYTHING to pay for it. It's the whole principle behind salvation: the forgiveness of our sin because Jesus became sin for us. He took my sin, gave me His righteousness, and called it DONE. Finished. Paid in full.

That's why in the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray, "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." Immediately after that, He says, "For if you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, your heavenly Father will not forgive you." It's a reciprocal agreement. Jesus forgives us, and we therefore extend that same grace to others. It's how His kingdom works, sowing and reaping. If we sow forgiveness, we reap forgiveness.

How many of you have been Indian givers when it comes to forgiveness? I know I have. You forgive—and then take it back as soon as the offense reappears or is repeated. Dutch Sheets has a great illustration of this he calls "Don't take the bait!" The Greek word for offense, *skandalon*, from which we get the word scandal, implies a stumbling block but literally means "trap stick," the trigger of a trap on which bait was placed to attract a

wild animal. When we metaphorically take the bait when someone offends us, we can find ourselves trapped in a scandalous situation, or at the very least, trip over a stumbling block.

We all do it; it feels good—at least for the moment—to take the bait, to pick up an offense. It's like scratching a fire ant bite—feels great for about three seconds and then you wish you'd never gone near it. But the bait is a trap to get us to hold on to the offense.

Are you wondering why I brought this banana in a mayonnaise jar? It's not because I'm worried we won't get lunch. It's an object lesson, one I learned from Dutch Sheets. Hunters used to trap African monkeys by putting a banana in a jar attached to a tree, with the opening of the jar just large enough for the monkey to insert his hand. I'll be the monkey here. Look what happens when I close my greedy little fist around the fruit. Yep, it gets stuck. Clutching the fruit of bitterness entraps me—all of me, not just my hand.

In Luke 6:37, Jesus said, "Forgive and you will be forgiven." The word forgive also means to RELEASE. The key to forgiving the effects of being wronged is to release the person that hurt us, to let go of the banana.

If we don't release the offender, the offense will become a root of bitterness. It produces the fruit of bitterness, which can include emotional and physical sickness, anger, loss of joy, and any number of other negative manifestations. Hebrews 12:15 instructs us, *See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.*

Unforgiveness is like a contagious disease. But forgiveness is the cure for what ails us. Just as "Hurting people hurt people," so do "Healed people heal people."

Let's take a moment to ask Holy Spirit to show us any areas of unforgiveness or any other personal sin we may be carrying and then we will pray together to be released from the trap. When we come to the place in the prayer where we confess any specific sins and any individuals we need to forgive, we will pause briefly; you may simply say "those you have brought to mind," or you may speak out (or whisper) the specifics.

Sometimes we need to speak aloud for a definitive verbal reminder of our confession in order to feel truly forgiven.

Prayer to renounce personal sin

Let's read this together now.

Heavenly Father,

I praise you as the God and Father of my salvation, who has cleansed me of all unrighteousness by the power of the blood of your Son and my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I repent of and renounce the specific sins of *(those you have brought to mind)*, as well as any unmentioned or unknown sins that I may have committed that have caused me to sin against you, myself, or anyone else. I specifically renounce the sin of unforgiveness toward *(those you have brought to mind)*, and choose by an act of my will, along with your help, to release both the offense and the offender in Jesus' name.

Father, I repent of and renounce anything in my life that has displeased you, and in Jesus' name, I break its power and declare that it no longer has a hold on me, my spouse, my children, and our future generations. I cover myself with the blood of Jesus and I sever the effects of my sin coming down or going up my bloodline, carrying sin, strongholds, ungodly vows, and curses, and I infuse my bloodline with the bloodline of Jesus that washes me, my spouse, our children, and all our future generations whiter than snow. I seal this in the name of Jesus, by the blood of Jesus, amen.

Session 2—INIQUITY

Philippe's perspective

Two Old Testament examples of iniquity come to mind:

First is the example of David and his sons. David sinned with Bathsheba and subsequently repented before the Lord, yet there was no understanding of a personal repentance in front of his children.

Thus, his children didn't understand the sin that David had committed was not just against Bathsheba and Uriah, but also that something wrong had been done to them.

Amnon did in part what he had seen his father doing when he raped his sister Tamar; Absalom then replicated what he thought he saw his father had done and had his brother murdered. Later on, he tried to take the kingdom from his own father.

David's fourth son, Adonijah, also tried to take the kingdom for himself, even after David had designated Solomon as the next king. God had instructed David to provide for the building of the temple, but he forbade him to build it because he was a man of war; his son Solomon was a man of peace—Solomon's name even means "man of peace."

However, Solomon himself inherited some of the iniquity of his father and had many wives and concubines, which eventually caused him to

compromise the sole worship of Yahweh In Israel. This led to the division of the kingdom.

The second example is Judah, the fourth son of Jacob. In rebellion against his mother and God, he married a Canaanite woman and had three sons. The first two were so horrible that God killed them. Before dying, the first son had married a Canaanite called Tamar; she was now a widow and Judah promised her his third son in marriage to give her some children, but since the son was too young, Judah sent Tamar back to her family. Eventually, Judah lost his wife and decided to go and sleep with a prostitute; however, Tamar knew that he was in town and since she had not yet received her promised husband, decided to disguise herself as a prostitute and sleep with Judah. In payment for her services, Judah gave her his signet ring. Months later, Judah heard that his daughter-in-law was expecting a baby and had her brought before him to punish her by death. But when she confronted him by producing his signet ring, he repented and confessed his sin.

Two sons came from this encounter, and the whole tribe of Judah descended from them, including David, his son Ammon, his daughter Tamar, and his son Absalom—all descendants of this iniquity. Yet God's prophecy and promise remained on the house of Judah and through David. Jesus would become the Messiah and Savior on whose shoulders the government remains forever.

Testimony of healing of generational iniquity

We were doing inner healing sessions in Kuwait at a large church. At the end of a long day, this anxious, forty-something emergency room nurse came for prayer. At first, she couldn't give us a clear reason for wanting inner healing prayer; she listed various family members who needed prayer but none for herself. Suddenly, Jan felt led to ask her who she needed to forgive.

Immediately, it was like turning on Niagara Falls. In between deep sobs, she said that until then she'd never told a soul about how her uncle had sexually abused her from the age of five until the age of 13 and that her mother had never defended her. The picture was so horrifying that we couldn't possibly tell her that it was mandatory/essential that she forgive her uncle. You can't represent God well by putting a gun to someone's head and yelling, "FORGIVE OR ELSE!"

So gently we told her the story of Corrie ten Boom who, in a church years after the World War II, was suddenly face to face with the violent

German concentration camp guard who had beaten her sister nearly to death. Approaching her with a contrite demeanor, he asked for her forgiveness. In the natural, Corrie was unable to do this, so had to simply trust Jesus to forgive him on her behalf. So, we gently asked this woman if she felt safe enough with Jesus in the room to let HIM forgive her uncle on her behalf. After a little while and many tears, she asked Jesus to do so. The emotional release and healing was astonishing! She started jumping up and down, dancing around the room shouting, “I’m free! I’m free! I’ve never felt so light!!”

Then, suddenly she stopped and said, “Oh! Could you pray for my liver? I have an inoperable tumor that I can feel; it’s hard.” We laid hands on her and very quickly heat started to come all over. In two minutes that tumor completely dissolved, turning soft. When we saw her three months later, she was still rejoicing and tumor free. She was released from the torment of generational iniquity and her body instantly responded to that reconciliation.

Jan’s perspective

You’ve probably all heard of Jonathan Edwards, the man God used to spearhead the eighteenth-century Great Awakening in pre-revolutionary America. He married a godly woman named Sarah, and their descendants included 300 preachers of the Gospel, 65 college professors, 13 university presidents, 60 authors of books, 3 Congressmen, and one vice president of the United States.

But it’s likely you have never heard of a man named Max Jukes, who lived around the same time as Jonathan Edwards; and no, I’m pretty sure he was not the inventor of the juke box. He was not a believer and lived a very ungodly life, having married a woman of similar lack of character. Of his descendants, 300 were said to have died premature deaths, 67 died of syphilis, 50 were prostitutes, 100 were alcoholics, 280 lived in abject poverty, and 140 were criminals, including 7 murderers. Internet statistics vary a bit, but you get the gist of it.

We can derive from these statistics the significance of generational influence. We know from the Ten Commandments that God addresses this very specifically in Exodus 20:5-6—*For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third*

and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

The Hebrew word for iniquity, *avon*, means to bend, twist, or distort, implying a twisting of God’s law which results in disobedience. We see this everywhere today in our culture through gross perversion of just about everything God has designed and ordained. But we see it way back in Genesis as well, and throughout Bible history. Adam and Eve first sinned because they were influenced by Satan, the serpent in the Garden, who twisted God’s word, saying, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” Iniquity came forth at the moment of disobedience when God’s word was exchanged for a lie.

Patterns of generational iniquity become evident in many ways: addiction to any unwholesome substance or ungodly practice, such as smoking, drinking, gluttony, gambling, pornography; sexual perversion, including fornication, adultery, homosexuality, rape, etc.; unnatural death by murder, suicide, abortion; negative personality traits including anger and rage, spousal and child abuse, swearing, gossip, envy, lying, stealing.

It’s fascinating to observe the lives of our spiritual forefathers and witness the domino effect of not only their righteousness, but also of generational iniquity. We know that Abraham, first known as Abram, was called by God to be the father of many nations; he left everything he knew to go to the land God showed him. But after the Lord told him to look at the stars in the sky as a measure of how many his offspring would be, Abram short-circuited God’s plan by sleeping with his wife Sarai’s maidservant Hagar because Sarai was so desperate for a son. This, of course, resulted in the birth of Ishmael and ultimate enmity between nations ever since.

As Philippe shared about King David, whom we know was a man after God’s own heart, we’ve seen how he engendered a domino effect of generational iniquity through his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba and the consequent murder of her husband, Uriah. What followed was like a spiritual soap opera, with David’s son Amnon raping his half-sister, Tamar, setting off rage in her brother Absalom, resulting in his attempt to overtake his father’s kingdom. And that’s just the beginning. His son Solomon, ostensibly the wisest man ever to live, followed in some of his father’s footsteps through willful disobedience. Not so smart.

A survey through chapter 11 of Hebrews, known as the Hall of Faith, reveals many others who are remembered as those who were faithful to God—yet they had very evident flaws. Yes, they were human too, just as we are. The good news is that every single one of us has fallen short of the glory of God, but He provided Jesus as the perfect sacrifice to pay our sin debt in full. When we acknowledge and confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and cleanse us of all unrighteousness.

The beauty of this is that it is also retroactive. When there has been generational iniquity in our bloodlines, we have the capability by God's grace to ask Him to cleanse us, our children, and our future generations from the iniquities of our forefathers. I love that the wording in Exodus 20, verse 5, which says, "***visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me...***"

Those iniquities can only "visit" as long as we permit them to stay. When we confess and renounce them, repenting on behalf of previous generations and forgiving them for perpetrating these sins, the ungodly bloodlines are cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Because we know Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever, we can trust Him to show His mercy to us and those who love God and keep His commandments.

All of us have at least a few of these generational iniquities in our bloodlines; some of us have many. Let's take a moment to ask Holy Spirit to reveal whatever needs to be brought to light, and then we will pray together to ask Jesus to come in and cleanse our bloodlines, infusing them with His blood.

Prayer to renounce generational iniquity

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for placing us as your children in your family forever! Thank you also for my earthly family and for all they have contributed to my life, as well as for their weaknesses that have helped me to rely on your strength.

In the name of Jesus, by the power of His blood, I forgive my mother and my father, as well as any adoptive parents and/or stepparents, and all their

ancestors, for any of their choices that have resulted in generational iniquity affecting me, my spouse, our children, and our future generations. I repent of and renounce specifically (*the known generational sins you have brought to mind*), as well as any unmentioned, hidden, or unknown sins.

In the name of Jesus, I break and cancel all ungodly vows, oaths, covenants, curses, and word curses that have come upon my lineage through generational sin and/or spoken words by any individual, including myself, my parents (including birth, adoptive, and stepparents), and all their ancestors. I sever these ungodly bloodlines and infuse my bloodline, which includes my spouse, children, and our future generations, with the bloodline of Jesus that washes us whiter than snow. I seal this in the name of Jesus, by the power of His blood. Amen.

Session 3—LIES AND WRONG BELIEF SYSTEMS

Philippe's perspective

King Hezekiah and Simon the magician are people in the Bible who had to deal with lies and wrong belief systems.

After King Solomon died, his heirs caused the kingdom of Israel to split in two as a result of the lies and wrong beliefs systems that were brought in by Solomon's wives, foreigners who had installed centers of idolatry all over Israel. Child sacrifices became common, along with many other abominations. Both the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel could no longer defend themselves and became the subjects of surrounding powers, to whom they had to pay heavy taxes.

In the second book of Kings, we find the story of Hezekiah, the thirteenth king of Judah. Said to be the most righteous king of Judah, Hezekiah rediscovered the Book of the Law, cleansed and restored the temple, and eliminated all the idolatrous worship places across Judah. He was also able to free Judah from slavery to the surrounding nations. A national repentance in Judah caused the people of Judah to be free to rediscover Yahweh as their Lord. Yet the prophets at that time had to warn Hezekiah not to fall back into the old crooked ways for fear of the torment and hardships that would return.

In Acts 8, we find Simon the magician, who was a Samaritan. Well known for his magic tricks, he had become quite wealthy. When Philip came to Samaria and preached the gospel, many people in Samaria gave their lives to the Lord and signs and wonders followed as people were healed and delivered. Simon himself became a believer and was baptized. After hearing of this in Jerusalem, Peter and John decided to go down to Samaria to pray for them, that they might also receive the Holy Spirit.

When Simon saw Peter imparting the Holy Spirit, he asked Peter if he could pay him money to receive that power. Peter severely rebuked him, saying, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Repent, therefore, of this

wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.” (Acts 8:20-23)

He repented. As a Samaritan, he probably had a great deal of lies and wrong beliefs to unlearn.

Testimony of healing from lies and wrong belief systems

An example we’ve encountered in our prayer ministry is Rathna, a native of India. When we were in Kuwait, she came for inner healing prayer mostly having to do with broken relationships. She had been blaming an old boyfriend for financial loss, had a great deal of animosity toward her siblings for ruining her relationship with her parents, and was blaming her boss for unfair treatment. She had inherited a very critical spirit from her parents and was carrying a lot of bitter unforgiveness toward a number of people.

The lie she believed was that all these people were responsible for her misery; every time she blamed them, she felt some relief. She believed that God Himself had to set them straight and that would solve her problems. Yet she was a strong Christian, involved in an intercessory prayer group, and she loved the Lord.

As we started to minister to her, Rathna suddenly started manifesting demonic oppression. It took us two and a half hours to cast 11 demons out of her. After that, we still had to lead her into forgiveness for all these people. But her life was radically changed. When we saw her three months later, she was a free, joyful, reconciled person.

Jan’s perspective

Jesus said in John 8:31-32, *“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”* We come to know the truth through understanding God’s Word and receiving the counsel of Holy Spirit, who guides us into all truth. This helps us to distinguish the lies we may have believed that have kept us from finding true freedom. Some of them seem so subtle we might be tempted to disregard them. But when we see how Satan, the father of lies, twists and schemes to try to keep us from walking in freedom with Jesus, our eyes are opened and we can do something about it.

Here are some of the principle lies the enemy uses to deceive followers of Christ, based on the article *Top 10 Destructive Lies Christians Believe About Themselves* by Alex Seeley.

- 1) **“I can handle this on my own.”** The enemy loves to cultivate our pride and self-sufficiency, which encourages isolation; he loves to make us feel like no one can help us or even understand our situation—not even God. The truth is Matthew 11:28, “Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” He goes after the lost, the least, the lonely. And He also humbles the proud. He wants us to ask Him—and others—for help.
- 2) **“I’m not qualified.”** All we need to refute this is to look at the disciples Jesus chose! Definitely a motley crew. We are no different. Jesus didn’t ask for their diplomas from rabbinical school. He is looking for those who are willing to obey Him; to deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Him. He’s looking for those who want to learn to live a life modeled after His.
- 3) **“If I show any weakness or vulnerability, it dishonors God.”** Stuffing our emotions when we feel angry, alone, betrayed, fearful, worried, or any of a myriad of normal human feelings leads to closing our hearts off to God’s plan for healing and delivering us. We need to trust that He can fill our emptiness with whatever we need and strengthen those places in us that are weak. To the weak, He shows Himself strong.
- 4) **“I’ve sinned so much that God could never use someone like me.”** Every one of us has fallen short of God’s glory, making us ideal candidates to prove the truth of Romans 8:28, for He truly does work all things together for good when we love Him and are called to His purpose. He specializes in bringing beauty from the ashes of our past. God is looking for men and women with repentant, open hearts that recognize their need for a Savior. Think of Rahab the prostitute, or King David the murderer and adulterer. Think of the apostle Paul, who persecuted Christians until he encountered the Holy Spirit and became one.
- 5) **“I need to perform frequently and perfectly in order for God to love me.”** God is not looking for human doings; He is interested in

who you are in a personal relationship with Him and then with others. We know from the story of the Prodigal Son that Jesus values every single one of His children, not just those who perfectly dot every I and cross every t. Our service for God hopefully comes out of the overflow of our love for Him, not from an effort to win His approval.

- 6) **“I am alone.”** There are times when all of us feel alone; our emotions get the best of us and we forget that God was with us even when we were being knit together in our mother’s womb. We discount His promise to never leave or forsake us; we forget the interactions we’ve enjoyed with family, friends, and church family. But God looks for us when we stray off the path of fellowship with Him. He leaves the 99 to go after the one. He heard Leah’s cries when her husband Jacob preferred her sister Rachel over her; He drew Moses to a burning bush after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness; He saw Ruth and Naomi struggling to eke out a living and provided Boaz as their kinsman-redeemer; He worshiped with Paul and Silas in prison. And He hears and sees you.
- 7) **“I can’t compare to (name that person!).”** Nor were you meant to! When we obsess with living up to the ideal of someone else’s profile, we are distracted from attending to those attributes God has deposited in each of us to make us uniquely His. His word says (four times that I have found) that He is no respecter of persons. Each one of us is entitled to His full attention and to every promise He has spoken. We have no idea what famous or highly visible individuals are actually struggling with or the price they’ve paid to get where they are. We only need to be accountable to God for ourselves and those He has entrusted to our care.
- 8) **“I’m not valued or accepted.”** There are areas in all of our lives where we feel like we don’t fit in. I don’t think I was ever anyone’s first choice for a sports team when I was growing up. Nor did I ever get invited to the popular kids’ parties. I was the studious, hardworking, geeky girl musician who eventually found my way when I realized how much God loved and appreciated me. He is the One we want to please—and we please Him simply by being who He designed us to be.

- 9) **“Nobody listens to what I say.”** We know that God created the world by speaking it into existence. As those made in His image, He has likewise given us the power of the tongue to speak life or death, according to Proverbs 18:21. We have the ability and authority as believers in Christ to bind and loose; to speak blessing (or cursing). Our words carry weight, no matter whether we feel someone is listening or not. Speaking the name of Jesus invites the kingdom of heaven to come to earth. God is listening.
- 10) **“I don’t have any authority.”** Jesus would most certainly argue with that! Jesus Himself always and only spoke what His Father spoke and did what His Father did. And God gave Him ALL authority in heaven and on earth, according to Matthew 28:18. Furthermore, according to the words of Jesus in John 17:22, He has given US the same glory the Father gave Him! I love Luke 10:19 where Jesus tells His disciples, “I have given you authority over serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, that nothing by any means shall hurt you.” That’s some authority!

We also need to take inventory of other areas in our lives that may have been hijacked by the enemy. Remembering that he is the ultimate legalist, he looks for areas in our lives, past and present, where we may have opened a door to ungodly spirits.

I like to think of our souls—mind, will, and emotions—as rooms. When we have Holy Spirit, our spirits are sealed for the day of redemption in Jesus Christ. We have the secure knowledge that we will be with Him forever. But the rooms of our souls are subject to Satan’s prowling around like a roaring lion, seeking those he can devour. God has limited his authority over us, but Satan has a legal right to enter those places in the rooms of our soul where we have opened the door.

Just like those tree squirrels entering our attic through very slight openings, the enemy looks for every opportunity to legally stake his claim to whatever is in the rooms of our soul. Many believers don’t realize Satan has a legal right to stay until we bind him and renounce and repent of all areas where we, either knowingly or unknowingly, opened the door. For those of you who have not received this type of training before, it may come as an eye opener, but I’ll mention some areas where he often gains a point of entry:

- 1) **Any participation with the occult**, even things as seemingly innocuous as reading horoscopes, playing with an Ouija board or tarot cards, having your fortune told or your palm read. Other possibilities are any type of witchcraft, black or white magic, sorcery, incantations, casting spells, etc.
- 2) **Any type of secret society** that asks you to take a vow, such as Freemasonry and any of its affiliates like the Shriners; the Knights Templar, the Rosicrucians, the Bilderbergers, the Illuminati—just to name a few. Many of us have family members who have been Freemasons and Shriners. We have seen huge consequences in people's lives who have this in their generational bloodline. It is imperative for anyone who does to pray a specific prayer of repentance, breaking all ties with this stronghold.
- 3) **Any religions or denominations** that do not acknowledge God the Father, Jesus Christ as His only begotten Son, and Holy Spirit as One God in three Persons, eternal and coequal; that do not acknowledge the Bible as the inerrant, inspired Word of God; that do not believe in the virgin birth and divinity of Christ and in His resurrection from the dead; that do not acknowledge salvation is by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ and not through our works; that do not believe Jesus is returning to establish His eternal kingdom and to judge the world; any religions or denominations that practice additional teachings not found in the Bible and call them truth. Some examples of false religions are Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Confucianism, Theosophy, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, the Unitarians, the Unity Church, Scientology, and all other New Age proponents.
- 4) **Curses** spoken by others over us or even by us over ourselves. Many of us have, in times of frustration, said, "I'm such an idiot!" or "I'm worthless." Name your tune; we've all done it. But the enemy likes to prey on those statements and help them find a place to roost. Sometimes parents, teachers, coaches, or other authority figures speak disparaging things over children that open the door to Satan's accusations, even for a lifetime. These need to be confessed and renounced, replaced by God's affirmation of life and purpose, of hope and a future.

5) Ungodly vows we make in the form of “I will never” statements.

For instance, if you've been hurt in a relationship, you may have said, “I will never let anyone get that close to me again” or “I will never trust another man/woman as long as I live.” Those types of statements put you in the position of self-protector that only belongs to God.

These are some of the areas where we may have opened the door to the father of lies. There are undoubtedly others, so trust Holy Spirit to reveal to you anything He wants you to know that may be hindering your freedom. Take a moment now to ask Him if there is any door you have opened that needs to be revealed, shut, and sealed.

Prayer to renounce lies and wrong belief systems

Father God,

I am so grateful to know you as the Truth, the Way, and the Life! Thank you for leading me out of darkness into your great light and for blessing me with the mind of Christ and counsel of the Holy Spirit.

I repent for believing or participating in any lies, deceit, deception, ungodly vows, curses, and wrong belief systems that have kept me from fully embracing truth, and I renounce all these lies, deceit, deception, ungodly vows, curses, and wrong belief systems, declaring they are dismantled in the name of Jesus. By the power of the blood of Jesus, I sever these wrong mindsets and wrong belief systems, covering my mind with the blood of Jesus. I bind my mind to the mind of Christ, agreeing that only truth can stand, and ask your help, Holy Spirit, in recognizing the lies and accusations that come from the enemy.

I decree that all lies, deceit, deception, ungodly vows, curses, and wrong belief systems have no power or hold on me, my mind, my will, my emotions, and my actions. I cover myself with the blood of Jesus and sever all connections to these lies, deceit, deception, ungodly vows, curses, and wrong belief systems and their effects coming down my bloodline. I infuse my bloodline with the bloodline of Jesus Christ that washes me, my spouse, my children, and all our future generations whiter than snow. I seal this in the name of Jesus, by the power of His blood. Amen.

Session 4—TRAUMA

Philippe's perspective

In the second book of Samuel is the story of Mephibosheth, who was Jonathan's son and the grandson of King Saul. We studied earlier how King Saul had lost the kingdom and then his life. His son Jonathan, David's best friend, also died in the same battle. A remaining son of Saul ruled over Israel.

When the news of Saul and Jonathan's death came to Israel, Mephibosheth was only five years old and his nurse grabbed him and fled, not knowing who might rule in place of Saul. During their flight, she dropped him and both his legs broke, causing him to become lame. A victim of trauma, he remained hidden, always in fear for his life, trying to

protect himself from some opportunist wanting to please either his weak uncle who had become king, or David, who eventually would become king.

After seven years, the whole kingdom of Israel was united under King David. Once again, some opportunists were looking for relatives of Saul to kill in order to please David. But David punished all those who would take the lives of the relatives of Saul. After a number of years, David sought out any descendants of Saul to see if he could bless them.

Mephibosheth was found and brought to David. One can only imagine the terror he must have felt. The dreaded day had arrived—but instead of being killed, David gave him a permanent place at his table, even restoring all his land. The basis of this healing was not any merit but simply the power of the covenant between David and Jonathan.

For us as believers, the covenant is with Jesus, who stood in our place for us and paid our debt in full.

Another example of trauma in the Bible is the story of the man born blind in John 9. When they saw this man, the disciples asked Jesus who had sinned; this was according to the law of Moses, which says that if you followed the covenant, God would not put on you the diseases of the Egyptians. But if you broke the covenant, you would incur blindness and leprosy and other diseases. Consequently, a warped Jewish tradition developed that if a man were born blind, clearly someone in his family had sinned. Therefore, this man was worthy of being cursed and sometimes spit upon. All his life as a beggar, he never knew if he would be spit upon or if he would receive some kindness. Now when Jesus happened to come by, he heard him spit! But somehow Jesus missed! However, Jesus made mud and put it on the blind man's eyes, telling him to go to the pool of Siloam and wash it off. At the pool, the man recovered his sight, but the priests were furious because it was the Sabbath and ended up scolding the man's parents. In this process, they highlighted the whole family as one that had been cursed because of their blind son—but by God's grace, they became elevated as the miracle family favored by God with the healed son. So, Jesus not only healed the man's vision, but He also healed his identity and restored the entire family's standing in society.

Testimony of healing from trauma

For seven years we held a weekly service of Christian healing prayer at St. Luke's Hospital. One Wednesday while we were having our noontime service, a doctor came in and stood towards the back of the room. As we were concluding the short service, Jan asked if anyone would like to come

forward to be anointed with oil for healing. When the young doctor came to the altar, she anointed his head and prayed for him, feeling a strong release of the Holy Spirit. Although he did not speak, he nodded and left. A few weeks later, the same doctor came back and told one of the intercessors why he had come to the service that day. He had been playing golf with some friends, standing too close to one of the players, and was hit in the jaw by a golf club. He went to the emergency room and they found a broken jaw on the xray which would require surgery. So, he had come to receive prayer at our service, but could not speak because he was in pain. The following day, he had an appointment with the surgeon who was going to wire his jaw, but the amazed surgeon looked at a second xray and declared, "I don't know what happened, but you no longer need surgery!"

The Lord loves to heal us of trauma.

Jan's perspective

This fourth category, trauma, almost seems out of place in the list of potential areas of access for Satan to legally traffic in our lives. Trauma is not something we have initiated, welcomed, cultivated, or otherwise sought. This term covers a myriad of tragic situations including accidents, illnesses, the death of a loved one, adultery, divorce, physical abuse, sexual abuse, violence, bullying, or any other violation of our personhood—whatever rocks our world as we know it.

As with Job, sometimes trauma seems to be randomly hurled our way in a manner that blindsides us. But not many of us respond as Job did on learning of the loss of his livestock, servants, and all of his sons and daughters: *"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised"* (JOB 1:21).

Those were not my words in April of 1990 when I sat across from my doctor to hear words no one is ever prepared to hear. Married to Philippe for just a year and a half, we were eager to start our family when I experienced a miscarriage on Good Friday. Checking my hormone levels a few days later, Dr. Cedars assured me I was still pregnant—it was most likely twins, he said, with the second baby still viable. Following the doctor's orders, Philippe stayed by my side day and night, taking time off from his job even to accompany me to opera rehearsals so I would never be alone.

The same day Dr. Cedars gave Philippe clearance to go back to flying, he had no sooner closed the garage door to drive to the airport than I was nearly knocked to the floor with crushing abdominal pain and began to hemorrhage. Surgery revealed an ectopic pregnancy, requiring removal of one fallopian tube. But the doctor reassured us that it might still be possible for me to have a child.

Two weeks later, I sat across from the same doctor after going for what I thought was a routine post-op check—until the nurse directed me to Dr. Cedars' office rather than to an examining room. Feeling like a junior high student being sent to the principal's office, my blood ran cold as he compassionately looked at me and said, "I found a growth during your surgery that the hospital pathologist identified as benign hyperplasia from your pregnancy. But I had my doubts about that and sent slides to the three best pathologists I know in the country. They agree that you have cancer."

This began a journey unlike any I'd ever expected to have. But in the midst of this trauma, God did something equally unexpected: He made Himself known to Philippe and me in a way we had not yet experienced. After my husband heard the news from me over the phone, he was walking through the Denver airport in his captain's uniform, tears flowing down his face, when he suddenly heard God's voice saying, "Praise me." Thinking he was hearing things, that he must be delusional, Philippe tried to ignore the prompting. But it was insistent. "Praise me."

Feeling as if he'd been punched in the gut, Philippe thought, "I'm really needing the Complaint Department right about now!" But for a third time, God's audible voice insisted, "Praise me now!" So Philippe said, "Well, Lord, I can't sing through my tears, so is it okay if I just hum?"

That seemed to be fine with the Lord, so he began to hum hymns and praise songs. Within a few minutes, Holy Spirit took over and the atmosphere in Philippe's heart began to change from fear to faith. He knew that he knew that he knew everything would be alright.

That blessed assurance saw us both through a long, tortuous road of surgeries and treatments. I went overnight from being a young expectant mother to being a postmenopausal cancer patient. Fear crouched at the door of my heart every single day, just waiting to pounce. The trauma of the loss of our babies, loss of my reproductive system and my ability to ever

bear children, loss of my health, loss of our dreams—all threatened my will to live and made me a slave to fear.

Although the command “Fear not” occurs 366 times in the Bible—one for every day, including leap year—fear as a result of trauma can become a very real point of entry for Satan. Did you know the opposite of love is not hate; it is fear? If perfect love—the love of Jesus—drives out fear, we need to renounce the lie that we are being punished by God for what simply occurs in a fallen world and let the love of Jesus come in and take its place.

Sometimes when trauma occurs, we believe that we brought it on ourselves and deserve to be punished for it. God doesn’t operate that way. Satan does. When we encounter lifechanging circumstances that can cause us to question whether God is truly our provider and protector, the Accuser seizes the opportunity to cast doubt on what we know to be true and tries to convince us we need to protect ourselves. I became obsessive about checking the slightest symptom, sure it must be a sign of impending doom.

Finally, one night after having just seen yet another medical specialist to put to rest one more phantom symptom that had arisen from the ashes of my trauma, Philippe very gently said to me, “Jan, don’t you think that the same God who allowed you to become pregnant against all medical odds, who sacrificed the lives of two babies to reveal that cancer so their mother might live—don’t you think He has a plan for your life?”

Whoosh. The truth spoken in love delivered me from all my fear. Although my husband did not in so many words cast out a spirit of trauma, it left because Holy Spirit had identified the intruder and brought it to light. The truth set me free.

During this time, the Lord gave me a promise from His Word in Psalm 27:13-14 that became my life verse—*And I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart, and wait for the Lord.* I have drawn on this more times than I could ever count. God is good—absolutely all of the time.

When something traumatic happens to us, a response occurs in the **limbic** system, the part of our brain that processes emotions, as well as in the **prefrontal cortex**, which governs decision making. When we are

traumatically injured, the **amygdala**, a structure in the limbic system, goes into overdrive, what is sometimes called the “fight or flight” syndrome. At the same time, the **hippocampus**, another part of the limbic system that governs memory, actually retreats by shrinking and becoming less active. With this imbalance, we can’t accurately discern whether a distressing situation is still present or if it is from a memory of something even from the distant past, so sometimes we remain on high alert even after the danger has passed.

A third structure in our brain, the **ventromedial prefrontal cortex**, which is like an emotional thermostat, is also affected by trauma, becoming less active and less able to regulate warning signs. This phenomenon helps to explain why people with high levels of anxiety or PTSD are so easily startled. Without the healthy emotional regulators operating as God designed them, we can become overly reactive, hyper controlling, even dysfunctional individuals.

So, trauma has a physiological as well as psychological effect that Satan uses to make us question any number of areas in our lives, including whether we can truly trust God to protect or provide for all our needs. We become vulnerable to the power of suggestion, opening the door to lies about God, and sometimes resort to self-protection as our only reliable means of survival. But when we acknowledge the trauma, allow ourselves to process the emotional pain, communicate with those close to us what we are feeling or fearing, and ask God to renew our mind, replacing the lies we are believing with the truth, we are on the way to restoration.

Let’s take a moment and ask Holy Spirit to reveal any latent trauma in your life that continues to have negative repercussions, and then we will pray together to ask Jesus to remove that trauma.

Prayer to renounce trauma

Heavenly Father,
You have seen and known me even as I was being knit together in my mother’s womb, and you have grieved every evil thing that has ever come against me. As you guard my heart and mind in Christ Jesus, I ask you today to deliver me from the pain of my past that has caused me to hold on to false coping mechanisms that are not your best for me.

I repent of holding on to fear, anger, bitterness, resentment, unforgiveness, false guilt, false responsibility, and/or any other negative emotions, thoughts, behaviors, or actions toward anyone, especially toward myself and you, Lord. In the name of Jesus, I renounce the effects of all traumas that have occurred in my life and sever any and all ties with their power over me. I cover every trauma I have experienced, especially what Holy Spirit has just brought to mind, with the blood of Jesus.

I decree that the spirit of trauma and all its helpers have no power or hold on me, my emotions, my mind, my will, my thoughts, and my actions. I declare that the Lord God Almighty is my Protector, Jesus Christ is my Deliverer, and Holy Spirit is my Comforter. I am washed in the blood of Jesus and joyfully receive the freedom He purchased for me on the cross. I seal this with great thanksgiving and joy in the name of Jesus. Amen.

We'll close with one of my favorite scriptures, 2 Corinthians 1:3-5. Let these words wash over you as one of God's promises in His plan to redeem even the worst tragedies in our lives for the ultimate good of His kingdom.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.