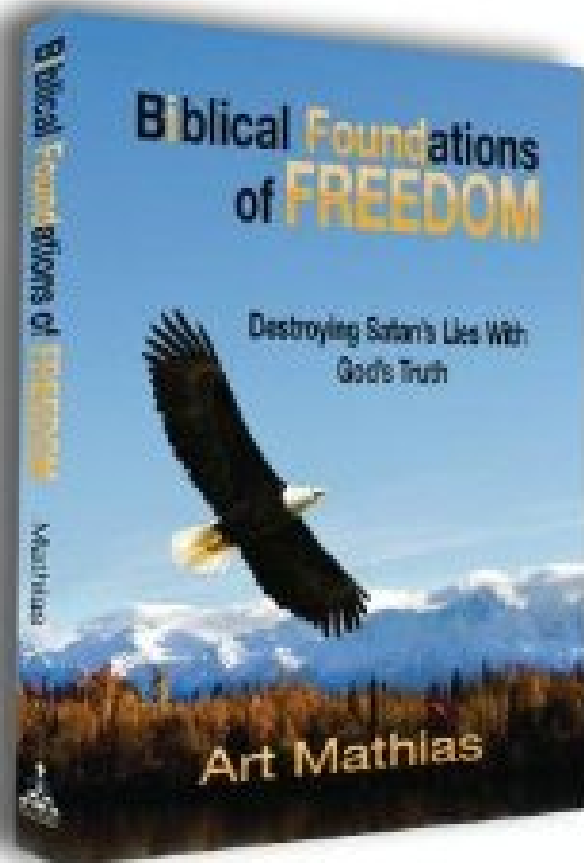


Book's Author: Dr. Art Mathias

Biblical Foundations of Freedom Program & Study Guide

Destroying Satan's Lies With God's Truth



Dr. Dorothy E. Hooks, PsyD
Senior Lecturer

“Biblical Foundations of Freedom Destroying Satan’s Lies With God’s Truth” was written
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About the Authors:

Dr. Mathias has lived in Alaska for more than twenty five years. He is a businessman, bush pilot, outdoorsman, and has authored several books and booklets. He and his wife Patti, of 38 years have two grown sons. Patti is an accomplished teacher and along with her husband are founders of Wellspring Ministries. Dr. Mathias has earned his master and doctorate degrees in counseling. Both Patti and Dr. Mathias travel extensively teaching about and demonstrating a powerful God that has answers.

I had the opportunity to attend one of Dr. Mathias’ “Biblical Foundations of Freedom” seminars a couple of months ago and it was a life changing event for me. I saw firsthand what God was doing at his seminars; I witnessed how powerful forgiveness is – people were getting set free because they decided to forgive – some had been holding onto unforgiveness for years - and that is why I decided to adapt his book into my Recovery program. Forgiveness is powerful because when we decide to forgive, we are obeying God’s Word and when we obey God, we will be blessed.

I am using these materials from Dr. Mathias’ book and other training aids by permission from him and his wife Patti.

Welcome to the journey that is going to change your life!

God bless,
Dr. Dorothy E. Hooks, PsyD

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Notebook Cover | 4 |
| Principality of Self-Bitterness, Unloving Spirits Class Syllabus | 5 |
| Chapter Six – Principality of Self-Bitterness, Unloving Spirits | 6 |
| Definition of Self | 8 |
| Self-Hatred (Unloving Spirits) | 10 |
| Competition or Self-Comparison | 11 |
| More Aspects of Unloving Spirits | 14 |
| More Areas of Concern | 18 |
| God’s Truth | 22 |
| The Self-Bitterness Affidavit | 26 |
| Prayer for Overcoming Self-Bitterness | 26 |
| Chapter Six – Principality of Self-Bitterness, Unloving Spirits Study Guide | 28 |



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Class Dates & Topics:

February 21st, 2010 – June 12th, 2010 - all classes will be held online:

- Preface & Introduction (2 hour) – February 21st – 27th.
- What Is Sin – Chapter One (2½ hours) – February 28th – March 6th.
- Discernment – Chapter Two (2½ hours) – March 7th – March 13th.
- Accusing Spirits – Chapter Three (2½ hours) – March 14th – March 20th.
- The Major Strongholds, or Principalities, of Satan – Chapter Four (1½ hours) – March 21st – 27th.
- Principality of Bitterness – Chapter Five (2½ hours) – March 28th – April 3rd.
- **Principality of Self-Bitterness, Unloving Spirits – Chapter Six (3½ hours) – April 11th – April 24th.**
- Forgiveness – Chapter Seven (2 hours) – April 25th – May 1st.
- Principality of Jealousy & Envy – Chapter Eight (2½ hours) – May 2nd – May 8th.
- Principality of Rejection – Chapter Nine (3½ hours) – May 9th – May 15th.
- Principality of Fear – Chapter Ten (2½ hours) – May 16th – May 22nd.
- Principality of Occultism, Pharmakia & Sorcery – Chapter Eleven (2½ hours) – May 23rd – May 29th.
- The Kinsman Redeemer – Chapter Twelve (1½ hours) – May 30th – June 5th.
- The Armor of God – Chapter Thirteen (5½ hours) – June 6th – June 12th.
- Our Power and Authority in Christ – Chapter Fourteen (3 hours) – June 13th – June 19th.

Class Location: www.recovery4abusedwoman.org – Main Web Site



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Winter Semester 2010

BFOF Class Syllabus

April 11th – April 24th

Instructor: Dr. Dorothy E. Hooks, PsyD
Campus: www.recovery4abusedwoman.org
Email: awmsoh@yahoo.com

Topic & Goal:

- **Principality of Self-Bitterness, Unloving Spirits – Goal: to define and explain the principality of self-bitterness (unloving spirits). To accomplish this goal, we will:**
 - ✚ Define "Self"
 - ✚ Explain Self-Hatred (Unloving Spirits)
 - ✚ Discuss Competition Or Self-Competition
 - ✚ Give More Aspects of Unloving Spirits
 - ✚ Discuss More Areas of Concerns
 - ✚ Explain God's Truth
 - ✚ Give The "Self-Bitterness Affidavit"
 - ✚ Give The "Prayer For Overcoming Self-Bitterness"



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Chapter Six: Principality of Self-Bitterness: Unloving Spirits

Next to God, we should be our own best friend, enjoying and accepting ourselves. We should love ourselves. Perhaps self-love is a novel concept to you.

Sadly, many of us were told as children that we were stupid or ugly or garbage, or that we would never amount to anything, or "never be as good as Billy Smith." We saw God as unreachable and ourselves as insignificant.

Self-love, though, is an important Biblical principle. Jesus taught that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:39). If we condemn, hate, and belittle ourselves, and we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, does this mean that we should treat our neighbors, spouses, and families just as negatively? Of course not.

Matthew 22:36-40 says, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

In this passage Jesus was asked, "Master, which is the great commandment in the Law?" This was the required test to see if the teacher was a true or false prophet. Jesus fully understood the intent and purpose of the question and His answer proved that He is genuine. Jesus said that we are to love God the Father with all our heart, soul and mind. In other words we are to have no other gods before Him. We are also to love our neighbors as our selves. This means that we must love our selves or we cannot love our neighbor.

These two commands are so important that Jesus said all the law and the prophets hang on them. These two commandments are the sum of all divine revelation and responsibility. We have learned that if we do not love ourselves, we cannot love others or God. In contrast, being "stuck on ourselves" is prideful. Pride means having an unrealistic high opinion of one's own worth: conceit. Scripture warns us often about pride. Proverbs 16:18 says that "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

Praise God, there is balance between pride and self-hatred. The Bible lays out this balance and God desires us to grasp hold of it and apply it in our daily lives.

Before we get too far into this discussion, I want you to consider this: I can teach what God has said about us, but you can reject it. Rejecting God's teaching about self-love is, in essence, telling Him that He made a mistake when He created us. Calling Almighty God a liar is serious business, yet when we curse ourselves we also curse God. To be successful in finding the peace of God and His healing power, we need agree with God about this matter of self-love.

Anything that disagrees with God's Word flows from an anti-Christ spirit. So, not accepting and loving ourselves is the result of the influence of an anti-Christ spirit living in us. How do I know this? Let's take a look at what God's Word says about His children.



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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

Psalms 139:14 says that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." Before we were ever knit together in our mother's womb, God knew us. Before our bones, eye hair and the rest of our body were formed, God knew us.

In Jeremiah 1:5, God told the prophet that He knew and sanctified him while he still lay in the womb. In Zechariah 2:8, God says we are the "apple of His eye." In Isaiah 49:16 we're told that we are engraved on the palms of His hand. God took a special interest in each one of us even before we were born. We are not the product of so accident of nature. When God sent His only Son to die for us and His Holy Spirit to convict and teach us, this was the ultimate expression of love. He considered us so valuable that Jesus died for us to make our salvation possible. John 15:13 says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Jesus is our Creator, Savior and Friend.

Genesis 1:27, 31 says that "so God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning was the sixth day."

We are created in the image of God and He says that everything He created is very good. If we curse ourselves we curse our maker. If we say anything that portrays us as less than very good, we are calling God a liar. It is true that we have sinned, but learned earlier in this study we are not what we do. We are responsible for our sins, but we are who Christ made us to be.

Genesis 1:28 says, "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruit and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

God blessed man and delegated sovereignty to us over every living thing on this earth. He gave us sovereignty in our ability to choose. He gave us a free will. Does this sound like we are totally depraved and worthless? Does this sound like we don't have the ability to make a decision?

Additionally, Psalms 8:5 says, "For thou [Jesus] hast made him [man] a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour." The word translated "angels" is Elohiym which is Jesus. Jesus created man a little lower than Himself. Are we nothing? Are we trash? Of course not. We are the children of the Most High God. We are joint heirs with Christ. So let's act like it.

Why then did humans begin hating themselves and those around them, all of whom were created in the image of God? Because Satan came into the world and brought his lies and accusations and man believed him. We must take responsibility for believing these lies and destroy the works of the devil in our lives. This is another reason we need to be fully informed of Satan's wiles.



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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

Definition of "Self"

Let's start by defining the term "self." The dictionary definition is "one's own person, an individual."

In Romans 7, Paul teaches about the two different parts of self. Paul said that there was a part of him that was good, and a part of him that was sin. Romans 7:18 says, "For in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not."

These are strong words: "In my flesh dwelleth no good thing." Paul speaks here of his carnal, sinful Adamic nature.

He adds, "for to will is present with me." The verb used here is "to will." It means to choose. What he describes is making a quality choice, a choice with which Paul admits he struggles. "For to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good I find not" (Romans 7:18).

Romans 7:19-20 says, "For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." It's vital to understand this. Verse 21 says, "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me." Does Paul's self include both the good and evil parts? Do you think that Paul claims that he is partly good and partly evil? No! Paul plainly states that it is not I that sin, but that the sin dwells within me.

The sin that dwelt within Paul was the flesh or the Adamic nature. It was not Paul nor you or me that is sin. Sin is not part of our original creation or nature; it was added by Satan at the fall. We are not evil. When we sin we must take responsibility for our actions but we are not those actions.

What is a law? Romans 7:7 say, "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." God's law has never been nor will ever be a curse if it is applied as He intended. His laws have been given to show us our sin. Thus we are able to recognize our sin, and then we are able to sanctify ourselves by forgiving others and asking God to forgive us. This is the process of purging ourselves of all iniquities (II Timothy 2:20-21).

Verse 16 says, "If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law [of Satan] that it is good." In other words, when I choose to do something evil, even though I know it is evil, I am calling evil "good." (WOW! Help us Lord Jesus). In verse 21 he says, "I find then a law that when I would do good evil is present with me."

Paul is saying that there are two laws working within him. One is the law of sin, and the other, the law of God.

A Biblical law is a precept or concept by which one ought to live: a standard. Paul says that residing within him are two opposing ways of thinking. One way loves God and desires to serve Him and righteousness. The other way responds to a different law than God's law. It presents a different word, precept, concept, or suggestion that entices me to follow it instead of God's law. By following this law of sin, I am saying to the law of sin, "you are good." I am saying to the law of God, "you are evil."



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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

Definition of "Self" (continued)

Both laws establish within us a code of thoughts, words and actions. Attitudes are defined as habits of thought, so both legal codes promote their own set of attitudes. We follow one or the other. We cannot follow both; we must choose whom will we serve. This is how spiritual warfare plays out in our lives.

Do we follow God's law or a law that is anti-God, the law of sin?

Paul emphasizes this, writing, "I find then a law that when I would do good, evil is present with me, for I delight in the law of God after..." After what? After the inward man. The inward man is a very real part of him; it was part of his original creation. It is the nature of God that was born again in Paul when He made Jesus his Lord and Master. The inward man, or his new nature, is why the New Covenant is better than the Old Covenant.

There is, however, another part of him described in verse 23. "But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." He sees another (different) law in his members that wars against the law in his mind, bringing him into captivity to the law of sin. He places the location of the law of sin in his members. This should be the real teaching in Psychology 101, not the pagan notions one usually hears. There is a battle between good and evil inside of each of us, but they are not equal.

Paul's explanation provides the truth-based alternative to psychotherapy. Man struggles against two kingdoms: the kingdom of God, and the kingdom of sin. This is a clear statement about the need for mature spiritual discernment. Understanding and applying this truth brings victory over mental disorders, panic attacks, depression all manner of struggles that war in our minds and bodies.

When we learn to wage this war in our minds and bodies with God's tools, we have victory. Jesus came to deliver us from the bondage of sin. But obedience is required on our part.

The dictionary further defines "self" as "by its self" or "separate." A self is a separate, unique identity. Each of us is separately and uniquely different, and we stand alone as individuals.

Psalms 139 says that God made each of us "fearfully and wonderfully." Even before conception, God saw how our parts and our pieces fit together; this included our body, soul, and spirit. "My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth" (Psalms 139:15). God knew our ancestry and our offspring before we ever actually came to be. God knows each one of us as unique individuals, separate and different from anyone else.

Believers know that their name is written down in the Lamb's Book of Life. Our separate individual identity is already recorded in eternity. This is further proof of our individual identity in God's eyes. I Corinthians 13:12 says that in that day you shall be known as you are known. To win our battles against disease and Satan, we need to truly understand how important each of us is to God. When exercising our free will, we need to make decisions that are pleasing to the Lord. The real "us" is made up of the one person described in Psalms 139. We are the person God saw at the foundation of the world.



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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

Definition of "Self" (continued)

Paul wrote that God had ordained him to be an apostle to the Gentiles (I Timothy 2:7). God told Jeremiah, before you were ever conceived, I ordained you to be a prophet (Jeremiah 1:5). Paul and Jeremiah provide historical proof that God sees each of us as separate and distinct individuals with a God-ordained purpose in this life. God planned for each and every one of us individually from before the foundation of the world. He knew each of us before we were conceived or born. His sense of time is one of eternal perspectives, not temporal like ours.

When Satan entered the world through Adam, another nature became added to our original nature: the sin nature. Self now had a hyphen after it, and became the target of unloving spirits.

Self-Hatred (Unloving Spirits)

What is an unloving spirit? It's a spirit that attaches to us and attacks us, seeking to make us feel self-rejected, unclean and unworthy. It tells us that we don't measure up, that we are no good. Unloving spirits make us wretch at the sound of our own voice or the contents of our words: "everything I say is so stupid." When we look at ourselves in the mirror, unloving spirits tell us, "You sure are ugly." As we watch others, we become sure that they hate our guts, because unloving spirits tell us that we can see it in their eyes.

Under their attack, unloving spirits cause us to debate whether or not we even belong on this planet. We look in the mirror and see uncontrollable hair, wrinkles, sags and old tired eyes, and we hear, "Face it, you're no prize except maybe the booby prize."

Our days are spent feeling like we always fall short of others' expectations. "Not even God could like me. I can't stand myself. Why was I born?"

We find ourselves focusing on every negative thing we see and hear that makes less of a person. "My sister never should have said anything about my kids. If she only knew the trouble they have been." "Every time I'm with Bob, he's gotta rub it in that I don't have a college degree."

We replay old memory tapes that keep us from enjoying fellowship. "I'd go choir, but the director teased me about my high F last year." "Sure, going bowling with the folks from Sunday School would be fun, but that jerk Gary will just tease me again."

These unloving spirits continue their assault so that self-rejection becomes the norm in our life. The conflict wears us out.

A constant or high level of this type of self-accusation and rejection is evidence that unloving spirits have taken up residence in us. In order to do their evil work, they need to use us to express themselves. An unloving spirit wants to use us like a puppet on a stage. It wants to be the hand that pulls our strings. The unloving spirit uses its armor to keep you from discovering the real you. It uses weapons of self-pity, self-abuse, self-rejection, self-hatred, competition, self-pride, self-enthronement, and false piety.



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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

Self-Hatred (Unloving Spirits) (continued)

It thrives on the I: I will, self-exaltation, attention getting, excessive talkativeness, insecurity, self-mutilation, excessive eating and bingeing. It fires self-comparison, self-idolatry, perfectionism, and self-torment at us. It pushes us to be defensive, and filled with self-doubt, unbelief, self-bitterness, self-resentment, self-unforgiveness, self-retaliation, self-anger, self-violence, and suicide. These are but a few of the arms with which unloving spirits attack us.

In this warfare, it is essential to decide which law will rule our lives: the law God, or of the kingdom of Self, controlled by Satan.

The Unloving Spirit - Kingdom of Self - is the principality of self-bitterness, and it is protected by strong armor (Luke 11:24-26). Once again, to defeat Satan we must be able to recognize and deal successfully with all of his evil ways, and that includes defeating his principalities. Each principality is protected by layers of armor. Let's study the armor in this principality of an unloving spirit.

Turning back to our dictionary, we notice that following the immediate definition of word "self," self includes many modifiers:

- Self-abandonment: disregarding all self-interest.
- Self-abasement: humiliation of oneself
- Self-absorbed: focusing on oneself to the exclusion or consideration of others.
- Self-abuse: comes in many forms, i.e. obesity or anorexia; sleep deprivation or too much sleep; lack of exercise or pushing oneself to the brink; denial of normal sexuality with your spouse or preoccupation with sex.
- Self-accusation: constantly finding fault with oneself.

Let's look more deeply.

Competition or Self-Comparison

When we are preoccupied with competition it should be a clue that we have an unloving spirit. It tells us that we are not a whole person unless we win. In contrast, Luke 9:24 says, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for My sake, the same shall save it." God has a different perspective about how we gain acceptance.

We need to stop worrying about who we are and comparing ourselves to others because we already know we are precious in God's sight — it's all that matters.

The Pharisees often compared themselves to others. Matthew records one such instance. Spotting a non-Pharisee, they pray, "Oh God, I thank you that I'm not like these worms that I have to associate with. I thank you that the good work that you've done in my life is so complete that I don't have to associate with these undesirable spiritual ones" (see Matthew 23:1-36). All of us, even a Pharisee, must learn to accept who we are in Christ, not in comparison to others. If we try to artificially build ourselves up in our own strength, using our own plan, we will lose our life.

Competition is rooted in self-pride or self-enthronement that forms another layer of satanic armor. What is self-enthronement? Putting ourselves on the throne of our life so that we become the singular focus of everything that interests us; me, me, me – thinking it is all me- self, self, self – I believe you get the picture. This is a piece of evil armor.



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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

Competition or Self-Comparison (continued)

To be a candidate for greatness in God's kingdom we must quit trying to be the end of everything in this earthly kingdom. God's selection process works differently from ours. Luke 13:30 says, "And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last."

I Corinthians 12 provide a rich list of spiritual gifts made available to us by God. It teaches that these gifts of the Holy Spirit are God-given and that the Holy Spirit decides who which gift. Scripture teaches us to desire the best gift, not demand or take it. As we express our desire, the Holy Spirit fulfills our desire at His discretion. In this way, God's gifts are used for the right purpose: to bring Him glory and adv His Kingdom.

Many people like to claim to have the gift of prophecy. Yet, it is possible for a person to be prophesying from their own spirit, or worse, from an evil spirit of divination using them in self-exaltation. If the Holy Spirit gives a willing believer the gift prophecy, that person couldn't help but prophesy. Then the gift will be used to bring glory to God, not to the prophet. The prophecy will increase our fellowship with God.

Matthew 25:14 gives us a glimpse at how God thinks. "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods." Whose servants and whose goods? These were the master's servants and his goods. Matthew 25:15 says, "And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey."

Does this Scripture teach that the person who got five talents was more important than the other two? Not at all. The Lord gave the talents according to each man's ability. It had nothing to do with trust or status. It had everything to do with the person's God-created ability. God gave them only what they could handle. The talent came from God, not man.

The first two servants invested the talents wisely, and doubled them. However, the servant who received one talent buried it, because he feared that the master would be angry with him if he lost it. When the master came back he called this last man an "unfaithful servant," saying, "The least you could have done is put my money in bank to gain interest. At least you could have given me back a talent plus interest, but you didn't even do that. You hid it in fear" (Matthew 25:26-27).

Competition and self-comparison keep us from accepting who we are and leave us unfulfilled. It really shows that we have not trusted God's judgment. James 4:10 teaches us to humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. It is time learn to trust Him.

It is a fact: God is sovereign. If someone else seems to be doing more for God or seems more able than we are, even if it is true, it doesn't mean that we are a lesser person than they are. We are simply different. Competition and comparison all result in bitterness either toward another or our self.

An unloving spirit wants to steal your peace. It reinterprets the story, saying, "I am really a nobody unless I can have the five talents or at least two. But I always get stuck with just one ... or none." Self-pity has joined in the attack.



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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

Competition or Self-Comparison (continued)

The truth is that God has created you with all the ability you will ever need to accomplish what He has called you to do. An unloving spirit attacks you to prevent you from using your God-given talents and spiritual gifts for any purpose.

Pride is anti-Christ mentality. Pride drives a person to dishonesty about himself or herself. Prides says, "Everybody else has the problem, but I'm glad I don't." Pride is the result of disobedience to the Word of God. Pride keeps a person from God, leaders, or the five-fold ministry of the local church (Ephesians 4). Pride never takes responsibility for anything, except when it flatters itself; and Pride never repents. Pride is the ultimate expression of Satan who thought himself to be so great he believed he was equal to God. We are expressing pride every time we choose to disobey God. In disobedience we are saying, "we know more than you do God" (God help us not to fall into pride and allow the ones who are in pride to see what they are doing-they are blinded by the enemy).

There is another form of pride that says, "I am nothing." It is false humility. You hear it when a person responds to a comment, saying, "Oh well, it was nothing," instead of a simple "Thank you."

False humility often finds its roots in a misunderstanding of Bible's teaching about preferring others above oneself. It becomes, "No, you go this time. I've had my chance," all the time hoping the other person will beg you to go ahead. It says, "Yes, the church does look beautiful. I'm glad God uses my gifts this way, even though it took a lot of time." That's false humility speaking.

Pride shows itself when a person finds a way to exalt himself or herself. That is false and unrighteous pride. It is self-centeredness and the wrong kind of self-love, rooted as it is in making oneself seem greater than others.

Self-effacement happens when a person purposes to hide in the background, minimizing their actions. They deliberately choose to exhibit modest, retiring behavior. This is often the wallflower in the group. True humility can, of course, be good, but not when it results from an unloving spirit showing itself in deliberate behavior. This is the kind of behavior that refuses to accept thanks for a job well done, preferring to almost back of the room to avoid it. It comes from false piety. These are some of the forms of pride.

We have chosen to call pride a form of self-hatred because of the disastrous fruit it bears in a person's life.

Another piece of the armor of an unloving spirit is "I and the I will." An anti-Christ spirit always protects, develop and look to itself first. It sees the world in a sphere that surrounds self. But a spirit that's not of anti-Christ will look beyond itself to the bigger picture.

Learning to be free from an unloving spirit requires looking beyond ourselves, and really seeing others. It gives us the ability to look at those who have rejected or victimized us, and realize they have serious problems of their own. It is the ability to separate the sin from the sinner, and gives us the ability to forgive and have compassion on them. We have to be able to look deep into our own nature and discern what we really are from what we are not. If we can see our true Godly nature, then we will not act ungodly. Satan will be left without a foothold.



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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

Competition or Self-Comparison (continued)

Faith is the substance of things hoped for (Hebrews 11:1). What do you hope for? A different way of thinking? A different nature? A different way of living? We will never have a different way of thinking if we haven't changed our hearts. It's not possible. Why? Because the Bible says so. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7).

God gave us a free will; He gave us the ability to make quality decisions. None of us was created as a puppet or clone, or to simply vegetate. All of us have been given the ability to reason out a matter and come to a conclusion.

Deuteronomy 30:19 says, "I call heaven and earth to record this day against that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, both thou and thy seed may live." Every created being has free choice. Joshua 24:15 says to "choose this day whom we are to serve." Did Jesus have a choice? He "Abba, Father, all things are possible unto Thee; take away this cup from Me: nevertheless not what I will, but what Thou wilt" (Mark 14:36). Why do you and I serve God? Because we choose to do so. And we cannot force anyone to serve God if they do not want to; it is their choice.

Making the right choice today sets us apart in both this life and for eternity. Choosing to live humbly and with a contrite heart, while taking responsibility for the times we fall short of God's will, sets us apart from the sons of the devil as sons of God. Choosing what is right separates the sons of light from the sons of darkness.

Why was David called a man after God's own heart? Two reasons: he loved God, and he took responsibility for his sin. Then he sought and received God's forgiveness. God's desire is that we do the same thing.

More Aspects of Unloving Spirits

A person who has an unloving spirit often desires attention. A bully usually has both a spirit of rejection and an unloving spirit. He compensates for these evil influences through bragging, bravado and threats. Why? He thinks that getting attention will mask his spiritual deficiencies.

Excessive talkativeness is another piece of Satan's armor he uses to disguise the strong man of the unloving spirit. This is the person who always has something to say, talks non-stop, but really never says much of value. Such a person has deep struggles with insecurity.

Insecurity is a form of fear: fear of man, of failure, of abandonment, of rejection. The unloving spirit is a principality who often links arms with the principalities of fear and rejection. Together, they present a formidable foe, but they cannot stand against the power of God in Christ Jesus. Nothing can stand against the blood of Jesus and win! NOTHING!!!!

I John 4:18 says that perfect love casts out fear. We defeat fear with perfect love. It all starts when receive the perfect love of God, learn to love ourselves, and then love others. When we have mastered loving God, self and others, fear doesn't stand a chance. To defeat fear, we must face him down by learning to love ourselves and to be prepared to deal with the armor of the unloving spirit. We must realize that fear is unbelief and therefore a sin against God.



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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

More Aspects of Unloving Spirits (continued)

The principality of fear has a set of armor for protection (this will be discussed more in chapter 10, "Principality of Fear"). The principality of bitterness is protected by unforgiveness, resentment, retaliation, anger, hatred, violence, and murder. The principality of self-bitterness or unloving spirits is protected and reinforced by all of Satan's demons. Please get delivered if you have found yourself in this lecture; you need help – you cannot fight these demons alone.

Winning spiritual warfare carries a responsibility on our part to behave in a Godly manner. All of what I teach is predicated on each of us choosing to be a man or woman of God. This results in changed attitudes and actions. I Thessalonians 2.12 say, "That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto His kingdom and glory.

Idolatry provides armor to the principality of an unloving spirit. It also leads to another piece of evil armor: perfectionism. Perfectionism allows no room for failure and you can be sure that if you are engaged in any aspect of life, failure will come at some time. When perfectionists experience failure, it produces self-accusation and self-condemnation.

These aspects of an unloving spirit make up its armor. These are the "goods" of Luke 11:21. This is another example of how the armed strong man fights to keep his palace. **How do we spoil the goods? We learn to discern each of the goods to determine which ones are of Satan, and then we begin unraveling them.**

Satan uses self-bitterness against us. Here, instead of being bitter toward others, we are bitter toward ourselves. Self-bitterness produces an inability to forgive ourselves. Have you ever struggled with unforgiveness toward yourself? I have.

Unforgiveness of ourselves leads to self-resentment. It says, "I can never do anything right. The harder I try the worse things get. I never have been any good, never will be any good. I'm just a nobody. I don't like the way I look. Daddy was right. I'll never amount to anything." This kind of self-talk buffers and bruises us, leaving us too weak to withstand Satan's onslaught.

Self-resentment leads to self-retaliation. This will cause us to react strongly and negatively to someone who accuses us. Our negativity results in their rejection of us, which is what we expected in the first place. We go into these situations with our eyes wide open, because we have a need to be rejected. Then the unloving spirit starts accusing us, telling us that we're not loved, causing a spiraling down. The worse we are, the worse we get. Before long, we have developed a continual pattern of victimization. This happened to me too but I thank God I am free today!

What drives a battered woman back to a husband who beats her? She has developed a need to be beaten in order to reinforce her self-hatred. Self-retaliation results in self-hatred. Though she now truly is a victim, she needs the beating, or a threat of the beating, to fulfill her need to hate herself. That belief is an absolute lie, but the unloving spirit accuses her and drives her back to her abuser.

Victimization, oddly enough, is a type of control. It gains us attention and can win us support outside of our abusive relationship. We win membership in the victim's support group. But we do not have to remain victims; God can set you free NOW!



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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

More Aspects of Unloving Spirits (continued)

When self-hatred that results in abuse by others becomes dominant, it is a force that takes over and we are unable to stop the craziness. The only way to break its hold is to totally remove ourselves from the situation, to gain space and cool off. But this presents a new set of problems.

When we remove ourselves from a violent situation, but fail to deal with our root problems, the next person we marry is most often an abuser. We recreate the same situation, and hear ourselves say, "Oh, no! Here I go again." It is common that when a girl grows up being abused by her father, she marries someone just like dad. It is common among women to find that the ones who get into abusive relationships, they have been abused by their father and the person they marry, have the same characteristics as their father.

It is essential that if the person you are dating or engaged to shows any evidence of verbal or physical abuse, you must honestly recognize that you are headed for trouble. If your betrothed fails to deal with the spirits that drive him to this behavior, when you get married you will find that you bought the whole package. If you see patterns of victimization, but hear good intentions that "I have changed," be suspicious. Statically, these sentiments have been proven to be untrue. God designed the husband to provide physical and emotional shelter for the wife. Any other behavior is not of God. Pray and ask God for directions in every area of your life!

God is the only one who can change an abusive man. He needs ministry for deliverance. What has him by the spiritual neck is not some passing emotion. It's an unloving spirit direct from the pit of hell.

How do I know that it's an unloving spirit? Because the Bible makes it clear that a man who hates his wife hates himself. They became one flesh in marriage, and if the man is abusing his wife, he is abusing himself (Ephesians 5:31). He hates what God loves.

The reverse is also true. Women can hate or dislike men. This usually occurs when their fathers or husbands have been weak and disobedient, and have not provided for their families. A daughter may learn this from her mother and transfer it into her marriage.

What should you do if you're already in an abusive relationship? **Understand that living in an abusive marriage will reinforce the unloving spirits in us.**

Romans 12:18 says, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Many pastors who deal with spousal abuse advise an immediate separation. They want to stop the abuse and deal with its causes. Both partners can benefit wise counsel.

People who are accused by an unloving spirit often pick fights just to get rejected. They hate themselves so much, that they want to be rejected; this is not really them but the unloving spirits working through them.

Some people seem to get up in the morning so demonized that they try to fight all day long, until it happens. They set up their day and their relationships so that somewhere along the way there will be a big problem. I plead the blood of Jesus against the spirits!



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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

More Aspects of Unloving Spirits (continued)

People accused by unloving spirits split churches, split families and ruin businesses. They seem bent on finding trouble. What did the Lord say? "If at all possible, live peaceably one with another." When two people cannot live together peaceably, it might time to separate.

Have you ever experienced self-anger? "I just can't stand myself!" "See, here's more proof of how stupid I am. I should just kill myself!" From where does this behavior come? It is the result of a successful attack by an unloving spirit.

In self-anger, we will find perfectionism, self-accusation, and self-condemnation. When these three come together, they will trigger anger like a flash fire. Self-anger is no respecter of persons. We see how it affects us well enough, but if we are not careful, this anger will spill over onto somebody else. The evil fruit of this demonic attack is to include others as victims, not just us.

Consider self-hatred. We don't get to self-hatred without self-bitterness accusing us. Self-hatred is the result of a process of working through self-unforgiveness, self-resentment, self-retaliation and self-anger, each stage being more dangerous than its predecessor. Self-hatred results from something that simmers and festers below the surface, often for days, weeks, months or years.

The next stage is self-violence. Self-anger spills over into committing some type of hurtful act against oneself; such as cutting or mutilating oneself out of extreme shame or guilt.

The ultimate expression of self-violence is, of course, suicide. When thoughts of suicide is entertained, that is clear evidence of self-bitterness with its entire evil armor in full battle array, getting close to celebrating final victory over us. To defeat self-murder, we have to break the bond of the unloving spirit and eliminate self-bitterness.

It is characteristic of people who have reached this point to constantly entertain thoughts like, "I need to eliminate myself; I don't belong here." "Nobody would care if I died. In fact, the world would be better off." "The only way I can make Jane happy is to kill myself!" **I come against this spirit with the blood of Jesus and command it to go where Jesus sends it. Father in the name of Jesus, deliver Your people from these spirits and cover their minds with the blood of Jesus.**

Self-murder is an anti-Christ mentality that comes from the armor of an unloving spirit. When you experience such thoughts, turn them around, saying, "I do belong here." "God made me. I'm precious to Him." I do belong here! We must repent for believing the lies of the devil, in the name of Jesus command his lying spirit to go, command the spirit of death to go, and then ask the Holy Spirit to heal and make us whole.

Here are some more ways that we self-destruct. Constantly defending on rooted in the fear of rejection, but it's also tied directly to the unloving spirit. We desire to feel safe in our relationships, and if we perceive an attack we become defensive. So sensitized are we to these perceived attacks that we fly off the handle even when not being provoked. An unloving spirit won't let us feel safe. Our need for security drives us to aggressively defend ourselves. All this is rooted in fear tied to an unloving spirit.



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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

More Aspects of Unloving Spirits (continued)

Profanity and an unloving spirit also walk together. The use of four-letter words degrades and cheapens us. We make excuses that the vulgar words are more descriptive than others we might choose, but this is just rationalizing. Profane language may be colorful, but it degrades us and those with whom we are talking.

Some people always seem to be trying to "fix" someone else. They marry the alcoholic or the abuser, suffer for it, get divorced and do it again. This, too, is driven by an element of the unloving spirit. Here we are drawn to others who "need us" so we can feel good about ourselves. We have an urge to help these people see that they are all right and worthwhile, but we fail to confront their real spiritual needs. The result is a continual spiraling down of our own sense of worth.

The Word says that we should love each other despite our fallen state. Galatians 6:1-2 says, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

If someone disregards us because we commit an error or they think we have, they have also committed an error. In contrast, a person who walks in the Spirit would forgive, restore, accept and come alongside us. They would help us bear our burdens.

Likewise, if someone sins against us, we are to come alongside him or her in a spirit of forgiveness with a desire to help. Our motivation is to aid them in recovering from their sin and be freed from "the snare of the devil" (II Timothy 2:23-26).

It is good and healthy to want to be at peace with someone with whom we differences. It's scriptural. The Holy Spirit will assist us in such an endeavor. However, when attempting to resolve these differences, we've got to be careful that the other person has dealt with their own sin. If they haven't, God's Word tells us to "restore such a one in the spirit of meekness," adding that we are to "bear one another's burdens." Is it risky to ask someone to forgive you when they are capable of eating you for lunch? Yes, it is. Is it worth taking the risk? Absolutely, because in taking that risk and seeking restoration, we fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:1-2).

But if they reject you, calling fire down from heaven on you, get away from them. Don't be a victim! Don't let their sinful nature draw you in. Your approval does not come from man. No man serves as your judge. If you follow the Word of God and your motives are pure, then God will judge you righteously.

More Areas of Concern

Self-pity is the most dangerous of all of the unloving spirits because it binds us to past demons; it constantly reminds us of how we were hurt in the past. This binding keeps us from God's future provision; it binds us to what somebody has done to us or what we've done to ourselves. Self-pity says nobody really understands us, and even if they did, they don't really care.



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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

More Areas of Concern (continued)

After all, if they did care, they'd love us more and show us more attention. They'd call us every day, come and see us, and want to do things together. Because of self-pity, when someone does come we tell him or her to go away. We whine about being unloved and we can prove it with illustrations from our past. Their visit then becomes an irritation. Either we ask them to leave or, once they have left, they purpose to never again visit. After they leave, we rail against them for their insensitivity to our needs.

Self-pity creates a vicious circle. The person needs to be loved and use their manipulating techniques to get someone's attention. Then we offend them enough that they leave us alone. This increases the person's self-pity and the cycle repeats itself. Self-pity is very dangerous, because it binds our freedom with a life sentence.

All kleptomania is rooted in a spirit of self-indulgence. A person who shoplifts gets fulfilled from the fix of thievery. Self-indulgence is rooted in an unloving spirit.

A kleptomaniac desperately wants to be caught stealing. They don't need what they steal, but they use it to fill an inner void. They want to be caught to attract attention. But, when they get that kind of negative attention, it brings on more guilt and self-hatred. It reinforces the unloving spirit in a debilitating vicious circle.

Cocaine acts in much the same way. Cocaine is not chemically addictive. It is psychologically addictive. Cocaine releases dopamine. Dopamine is the pleasure neurotransmitter. When a man takes his first hit of cocaine, he will never again experience that same rush because the remanufactures dopamine very slowly.

A cocaine hit releases the same amount of dopamine as a sexual orgasm does. The dynamics of sexual addiction are the same as those of cocaine addiction. A sexual addict can never attain the same high again, or achieve the same satisfaction. In a vain attempt to do so, they keep repeating their behavior, but it eludes them.

A compulsive spender needs the rush gained from buying yet another thing. It is fix to help him feel good about himself. Compulsive spending is very similar to bingeing. It attempts to satisfy its love void with material possessions. It flows from an unloving spirit. It says, "You know dad doesn't like you. He thinks you're a loser. Well, you show him! Buy that new car right now and everyone will see you're a winner!" You drive the car for a week and its newness wears off, your dad never sees it because you avoid him anyway, and within months, the finance company repossesses it because you couldn't afford it in the first place. So you go out and buy something else.



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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

More Areas of Concern (continued)

See how the enemy will set us up if we are not discerning him? We cannot allow the enemy to get a foothold in our lives; his ultimate goal is to steal, kill, and destroy. These lectures are designed for you to take inventory to make sure none of these spirits have taken up resident in you; and when I minister to you, I minister to myself. As you check yourselves, so do I. spiritual warfare is no joke and the devil is not playing with us; he hates us and will try to take us out. We must be obedient to God and His Word; He is our only defense against the enemy. Please don't take these lectures lightly; they are ordained by God.

Self-sabotage is very dangerous because it is tied closely with self-mutilation and self-destruction. Self-sabotage destroys our faith, because faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen (Hebrews 11:1). Self-sabotage says that our faith will never work and on those occasions when we attempt to live by faith, we sabotage the results. Self-sabotage keeps us from ever achieving our hopes. Yet the Bible says, "hope deferred maketh the heart sick" (Proverbs 13:12). Now we're caught in a web with a sick heart and mind, yet still needing to be loved and to overcome. Self-sabotage rears up, saying, "I don't qualify," and "Everything good that happens to me needs to be destroyed." And this spiritual attack reinforces the unloving spirit that accuses us.

Vows are another form of self-sabotage. When we say, "I will never trust women (or men) again," because of how we have been hurt, Satan is there ready to fulfill words, and every future relationship that begins to grow close is destroyed. The "I never do this or that" statements set us up for failure in the future. When we say "I don't matter, I'm not good enough, I'd better be perfect, I'm just a doormat, I'm just a victim, men don't cry, I'm a bad seed, I have to keep peace at any price," or other similar words, we curse ourselves. The words and fears that we speak against ourselves are self-fulfilling forms of prophecy. They will come true if we do not repent and break the curse we spoke against ourselves, in the name of Jesus.

False piety is another evil spirit. In the context of the Christian faith, piety means devotion to God, His Word and Biblical religious practices. It carries the element of loyalty and devotion to parents and family.

False piety is contrary to Godly piety. It sounds like, "Even though mom abuse me, victimize me, and reject me, since the Bible says to honor your father and mother, I'll just have to submit, like it or not." This false piety preaches the stiff upper lip when confronting ungodly behavior in others.

Nowhere in the Bible are we taught to submit to this kind of evil. This is not suffering for your faith. When Paul suffered for his faith he was stoned, falsely imprisoned or beaten because he served Jesus (II Corinthians 11-13). Suffering because of our sin is not suffering for our faith.

When God says to honor your father and mother, He doesn't mean to submit to their authority if it is used in an evil way. I don't believe we need to submit to the authority of a mother or father who physically, verbally, or sexually abuses us or who habitually demonstrates other ungodly behavior. Neither do we attack them in return. We get out from under their evil influence and honor them differently, by trying to win them to submit to Christ and ban the demons that control their lives.



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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

More Areas of Concern (continued)

False piety might drive a wife to continue suffering verbal or physical abuse her husband. The Bible teaches women to submit to their husbands, and abused wives often misunderstand this teaching. There is another side to it. The Bible also tells men to love their wives as Christ loves the Church. An abusive husband commits an evil act, and the wife must get out of the way. Yet by allowing the abuse to continue, the wife is saying that she's getting the treatment she deserves. In essence, she is agreeing that the abusive treatment is all she is worth. Since God created her in His own image, this false piety has her saying that God is of little worth. **These statements are part of the teachings, I am not saying leave or stay if you are in an abusive relationship – pray to God and He will direct you.**

False piety is closely related to codependency. Codependency is really calling evil good. In codependency we are allowing evil and sinful behavior to continue because we do not love or respect ourselves. We allow ourselves to be physically, emotionally and sexually abused because we think that is our lot in life. We believe that we deserve to be treated in those ways.

In reality, in codependency, we are calling evil good and in doing so have become accessories to sin. Verbal, physical, emotional and sexual abuses are sins, and they can also be criminal acts. If we allow these to happen, if we allow ourselves to be doormats, we are then agreeing that we deserve it. In not stopping this kind of behavior we are not loving or respecting ourselves as God command us to. When we allow ourselves to be treated this way it becomes our sin also. We stop the behavior by telling the person to stop. If they refuse, we remove ourselves from the situation.

God calls us to peace and to have a perfect hatred for evil. So why would we submit to evil? False piety and codependency produce martyrdom and martyrdom can be true or false. When we hear ourselves say, "My sufferings allow me to identify with the world's pain," or "Ungodly people beat and killed the Savior; I should count it a blessing to be beaten by my evil husband," this is evil thinking. True martyrs suffer for the sake of the Cross, not to raise their own self-image or to give them an excuse why they should do nothing to correct a bad situation.

The two most common occurrences of false piety are found in wives and in pastors. Pastors get clobbered by their flock or their board and then go back for more. Once clobbered again, they retreat into false piety, asserting that they are suffering for the Lord. What they're really doing is teaching that inappropriate, non-Christian behavior is acceptable. Pastors need to appeal to their flock based on the authority of the Scriptures. Allowing their flock to continue in sin becomes their sin. Remember Eli and his wicked sons? Eli was the priest and judge of Israel and did not discipline his sons; he was too easy going (read his story in 1 Samuel 2). God is not pleased when this happens.

There are many ways that we show a lack of Godly self-love. We need to learn to accept our position in Christ and the extreme value God places on us, and begin a proper love relationship with ourselves.



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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

God's Truth

I Corinthians 12:14-31 reads, "¹⁴For the body is not one member, but many. ¹⁵If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? ¹⁸But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. ¹⁹And if they were all one member, where were the body? ²⁰But now are they many members, yet but one body. ²¹And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. ²²Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: ²³And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. ²⁴For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked. ²⁵That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. ²⁶And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. ²⁷Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. ²⁸And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? ³⁰Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? ³¹But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way" (www.biblegatway.com KJV).

Verse 14 says that the body is made up of many members. Take a look around; you'll see it takes many of us to make up the body of Christ. Verse 15 says, if the foot shall say because I am not the hand then I'm not part of the body. Is it therefore of the body? Verse 16 continues, And if the ears shall say because I am not the eye, I'm not of the body. Is it therefore not of the body? Verse 17 says, If the whole body were an eye, then how could you hear? And if the whole body was an ear, then how could you smell?

Read verse 18 again, carefully. But now hath God, the Father set the members of the body; every one of them. The body of Christ is made up of individual members: you and me, and others. How did God choose where to place each member? "As it hath pleased Him." He willed it! It is His choice, not ours.

God has decided on the function of each member. If God called me to be an eye, then I will see for the body. If He has called me to be an ear, then I will hear for the body. Each part of the body is designed to function together in harmony. If you hand and another person is the mouth, don't reject yourself because he does all the talking and you do all the lifting. It is the way God designed the body to work together to accomplish His purpose.

Verse 21 says, "The eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of you." Which body part do you think is more important, the eye or the hand? God says they have equal importance.



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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

God's Truth (continued)

We cannot tell any body part that it is unneeded, even when we are a part that seems less desirable. God assigns each one of us a function in the His family. Our desire should be to function as God created us, not as the devil has recreated us. To be whole and mature, we need to stand beside each other. Occasionally we might need to carry another person's burden, **but our main purpose is to fulfill the function God our creation.**

When Jesus offered us His salvation, He paid the ultimate price. He did this because He loves us. NOW is the time to accept God's truth.

Choose TODAY to believe the Lord's promises. Do you really want to be well? Are tired of the mess the tormentors bring into your life? You must love yourself as God loves you. You must quit listening to the lies of the devil!

Satan's lies emanate from an anti-Christ spirit; they contradict what the Bible says. **Repeat with me: "I am part of the body of Christ. I am important, I am special, I am valuable." Repeat it a few times. It is what God says about each of us. Each of us is incredibly important to God.**

What does the Bible say? All of us are important and necessary! Let's quit debating this with God! Tell the unloving spirits to "shut up!" Choose to go through the whole day blessing God, saying, "I am necessary, I am needed, I am important to my Creator – God." Don't believe me on this; believe the Bible; believe Christ!

An unloving spirit or an accusing spirit might tell you that you are unnecessary, or that you are a failure. Tell him, "God didn't create me that way! And if God create me this way, then I'm not the failure. You, Satan, are the failure. I no longer agree with you, Satan. Get out of my life now!"

We need to refuse to agree with failure. When a voice in our mind says, "Well, I'm not going to even try to do this, because I'm just going to fail anyway," we need to refuse to accept it. It's not from God.

Members of the body too often place undue importance on the role of some members of the body while disparaging the value of other members' roles. Which members of the body do you think are less honorable or important? Is the man who faithfully cuts the grass, tends the garden, and trims the trees any less important than the church treasurer is? Not to God he isn't. **I am not saying all positions in the body of Christ are equal because there is protocol; the Pastor is head of the congregation. I am saying that God loves everyone in His body and does not love the Pastor more than the members, for example. We must submit to the spiritual authority God has put over us – no matter what office you hold.**

Unloving spirits lie about who God created you to be, and urge you to rank your relative importance to others, and they tell you you're not worth much. Part of the armor of the unloving spirit is self-doubt, self-unbelief, and self-questioning. When we battle an unloving spirit, we always question our beliefs and motives, further eroding self-confidence. Never discount your value in and to the body of Christ. You are important!



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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

God's Truth (continued)

Verse 25 warns, "that there should be no schism...." The word "schism" means division. Part of an unloving spirit's armor is division. An unloving spirit seeks to divide and conquer by destroying unity. When an unloving spirit successfully accuses a person, they are not interested in peace; they're interested in war. Schisms produce or result from strife. When strife exists, a door for every evil thing is flung open.

Paul spends an entire chapter laying out clearly what the more excellent way is in I Corinthians 13. This chapter tells us that the more excellent way is love. Godly love and charity, directed at others, and ourselves, drives out an unloving spirit and all its armor. Without it, everything we do falls far short of God's desire.

In the first three chapters of Ephesians, Paul describes six doctrinal statements that define our position in Christ:

1. **God chose us.** Ephesians 1:4 says, "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." When the enemy seeks to persuade you that you are cut off from God, hit him with this truth.
2. **God saved us.** Ephesians 1:7 says, "In whom we have redemption through forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." God redeemed us with the blood of His Son; thus we have forgiveness of sins. Satan no longer holds the power of death over us. James 4:7 tells us to resist the devil and he will flee from us. Jesus gave us His power and authority over Satan, but we must choose to use it.
3. **We are sealed.** Ephesians 1:13 says, "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise." Satan tries to demoralize us and steal our hope. He wants us to doubt our security in God. The Holy Spirit gives us constant refreshment in our life in Jesus Christ, sealing us, guaranteeing our redemption; as long as you remain holy and ask for forgiveness if you sin.
4. **Positionally,** Christ is seated at the right hand of God so that puts us in heavenly places. Ephesians 2:6 says, "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." When you are involved in spiritual warfare, where better could you be sitting than with Jesus Christ? There is neither a better nor more secure place than this.
5. **We are secure.** We will always be seated with Christ. Ephesians 2:19 says, "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and the household of God." Ephesians 3:6 says, "That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel." We are citizens and full heirs of God, and a member of the same body in Christ.



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Principality of Bitterness (continued)

God's Truth (continued)

6. **Our position is one of strength.** Ephesians 3.16, "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man."

Psalms 139 says that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." We were created in with the image and with the nature of God (Genesis 1:27). But we were tarnished by Adam's sin. The choice of how to live is ours. We can choose to believe God and be set free, or choose to continue in bondage to Satan's lies.

When we believe all of the unloving spirits that scream in our heads, we are saying that God is a liar! I certainly don't want to stand before God and say, "Well, Lord, I know I'm fearfully and wonderfully made. I know I'm the apple of your eye (Psalm 17:8). I know you love me with an everlasting love (Jer. 31:3). I know I'm the righteousness of God through Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:21). I know I'm a child of God (1 John 3:2). I know I'm a king and a priest (Rev. 5:10); I know you said all that, but I never really believed it."

Here are more truths that the Bible says about us:

I Peter 3:12 says, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and His ears are open unto their prayers...." God focuses His attention on you. He is zealous for you. He loves you. He wants you completely.

Isaiah 49:15-16 says, "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands; thy walls are continually before Me." God has written your name indelibly on His heart. He will never forget you.

I don't want Jesus to ask, "Why did you call me a liar when I said I loved you?" I choose to believe the report of the Lord. Let God be true and every man, devil, angel and created being that preaches another gospel be accursed and be a liar (Rom. 3:4).

What is the answer to unforgiveness? Forgiveness! We must learn to forgive others and ourselves. Thus begins the unraveling of the stronghold of bitterness.





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Principality of Self-Bitterness (continued)

The Self-Bitterness Affidavit

Make a list of all the bitterness you have had against yourself. We need to confess and repent before Almighty God for holding onto this bitterness and believing it, instead of believing Him. The stronghold that self-bitterness has held in your life will be destroyed, and Satan's power over you will be legally cancelled. Here is an example of a prayer you can use to deal with self-bitterness, and eliminate it from your life:

Prayer of Release

Dear Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus, and as an act of my free will, I confess, repent and renounce my (specific sin of self-hatred). I ask you to forgive me for this sin. I purpose and choose to forgive myself for this (specific sin) from my heart. I release myself from any guilt or shame because of this self-bitterness. In the name of Jesus, and by the power of His blood, I cancel Satan's authority over me because of the self-bitterness of (name specific sin mentioned above). In the name of Jesus, I command this spirit of self-bitterness to go.

Holy Spirit, I invite You into my heart to heal me of self-bitterness. Please speak your words of truth to me about this situation.

As the Holy Spirit speaks to you, write down His message in the space provided next page. When you have finished this prayer for each person or situation on your list, command the principality of self-bitterness to go in the name of Jesus.





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BFOF Study Guide

Topic: Principality of Self-Bitterness

April 11th – April 24th

Study Guide Goals:

- To understand the weapons of self-bitterness.
- To recognize and identify these weapons.
- To have freedom from self-bitterness.

To Think About:

Who should be our first love?

Who should be our second love?

How are we commanded to love our neighbors?

Define pride.

What does Proverbs 16:18 say about pride?

Why should we love ourselves?

Define the term "self".

In Romans 7:15-21 what does Paul say about the sin that he found in himself?

What two laws does Paul say are working within him? (Rom. 7:15-21)

How do these two laws create spiritual warfare in our lives?



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BFOF Study Guide

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April 11th – April 24th

What is the armor in which the self-bitterness trusts?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Note: see the definitions of each of these in the chapter 5, "Principality of Bitterness." Self-bitterness directs each of these at ourselves.

How can we be free from self-bitterness?

In Psalm 51, what did David do that allowed his discernment of his "self" to be free of Satan's temptations?

Why was David called a man after God's own heart?

What are vows?

Who does God say you are?

When God created Adam and Eve, how did He consider this part of His creation?



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List some of the characteristics or aspects of self-bitterness.
What are some thoughts we can use to defeat self-bitterness?

According to I Corinthians 12:25, what is another deadly weapon of self-bitterness?

According to I Corinthians 13, what will drive out self-bitterness and its entire armor?

What does Psalm 17:8 ask of God?

What does I Peter 3:12 say the Lord will do for you?

What does Isaiah 49:15-16 promise you?

What is your position in Christ according to Ephesians, chapters 1-3?

To defeat unloving spirits what must be our choice?



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PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY:

Make a list of any memory that has any shame, guilt regret or sorrow. Complete the self-bitterness affidavit at the end of the chapter and use the prayer suggested below to pray through each memory individually.

APPLICATION:

Pray through this prayer.

Dear Lord Jesus, I ask you to forgive me for (specific sin or act). I purpose and choose to forgive myself for (same as above). In the name of Jesus, I cancel all of Satan's power and authority over me in this issue, because God has forgiven me and I have forgiven myself. Holy Spirit please come and heal my heart, tell me Your truth about this situation.

Listen for the Holy Spirit and write down whatever He says:

