

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10, NKJV)

- It is clear through this text that Satan has a plan to destroy our life
- Jesus is the One that brings us abundant life

One of the major ways that Satan steals the abundant life is through Double-Mindedness

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

(James 1:5–8, NKJV)

- The majority of double-minded people manage to function in life and have some success
- Yet they still have characteristics of double-mindedness
- This causes them to constantly be unstable in every area
- Never have peace about who they are or what they can or have to accomplish
- Double-minded – Greek word, *“One who has two souls; one who is wavering or inconstant.”*

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”
(James 4:8, NKJV)

- The same word – Only used in these two scriptures
- Someone who is always wavering, irresolute, doubting, changing – Lacking emotional control
- A person who has a problem making decisions and sticking to them
- Procrastinating, questioning, lingering, delaying
- Because of instability, he is always changing his mind concerning relationships, careers, ministries, and churches

Double-Mindedness is made up of two primary strongholds
– Rejection and Rebellion

- Rejection is the doorway to Double-Mindedness
- When you are given to a spirit of rejection you have a hard time becoming the person God created you to be

You find yourself constantly trying to compensate for your lack of development and confidence

- This leads to Rebellion

With Rebellion comes Bitterness against people and life circumstances that have caused all kinds of trauma

- It causes a person to live out of a false, double personality
- Sometimes we refer to it as passive/aggressive
- It is simply, rejection/rebellion

Getting to The Root of Bitterness

“looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;” (Hebrews 12:15, NKJV)

- Bitterness – *“to make bitter or unpleasant, to rebel, or resist, to be disobedient, provoke, or rebel against”*
- Remember bitterness is connected to rejection which often leads to rebellion
- Rejection hurts so badly, many people become unforgiving, resentful, and bitter

Satan knows that if He can get us to live in rebellion and bitterness it will open up our lives for destruction

“If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword”; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

(Isaiah 1:19–20, NKJV)

- We must stay submitted and obedient to God if we are going to eat the good of the land
- I believe that people want their lives to be blessed
- No one wants to live life under a curse
- No one wants to struggle
- No one wants to be defeated
- No one wants to suffer

The blessing of God always comes from obeying His voice

Just going through life can make us bitter

“So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage—in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor.”

(Exodus 1:13–14, NKJV)

- We can become angry and bitter at God
 - *Why is my life so hard?*
 - *Why am I having so much difficulty?*
 - *Why must I struggle so much?*
- There are so many ways life can deal us a bitter hand

No matter what has happened to us we must forgive and release people

When we live out of rejection and the spirit of bitterness we are opening ourselves up to witchcraft

“For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.”

(1 Samuel 15:23, NKJV)

Simon the Sorcerer – Seeking the Power of the Holy Spirit

“For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.” **(Acts 8:23, NKJV)**

Bitterness is Connected to Sorcery and Witchcraft

Saul, Ahab, Jezebel, and Simon were operating under the spirit of rebellion and bitterness

Bitterness can produce rage and murder

“And Saul cast the spear, for he said, “I will pin David to the wall!” But David escaped his presence twice. Now Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul.” (1 Samuel 18:11–12, NKJV)

Murder is a heart issue

“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,” (Mark 7:21, NKJV)

- Keep your heart with all diligence – Proverbs 4:23
- Bitterness is a root and harder to identify and expose than some surface issues
- It is a deadly poison

Bitterness is also exposed through cursing, angry outbursts, and malice

“Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.”

(Romans 3:14, NKJV)

“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.” (Ephesians 4:31, NKJV)

“Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?”

“But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.” (James 3:10-11, 14–16, NKJV)

- Not being able to control our tongue and emotions is a sign that something deeper is going on
- Griping, complaining, self-seeking, and self-preservation
- Irritability, anger, hatred
- Often becoming upset over little things
- Blaming the circumstances rather than seeing how you are handling the circumstance
- These are all signs that the demonic spirit of bitterness has been given access to our souls
- If left alone it will only grow and fester

How the demonic spirit of bitterness first enters the heart

“When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, “Bless me—me also, O my father!” But he said, “Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing.”

And Esau said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and

now look, he has taken away my blessing!” And he said, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?” Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, “Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?” And Esau said to his father, “Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, O my father!” And Esau lifted up his voice and wept. Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: “Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, And of the dew of heaven from above. By your sword you shall live, And you shall serve your brother; And it shall come to pass, when you become restless, That you shall break his yoke from your neck.” So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, “The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”” (Genesis 27:34–41, NKJV)

- When something that belongs to a person is unlawfully stolen or taken away – “*real or imagined*”
- When we feel like someone has taken from our life the honor and blessing that was rightfully ours
- Someone has cheated you out of something
- This is especially hard for men
- That position, blessing, finances, relationship
- Somehow a “*Jacob*” steps in and steals what was yours
- Esau should have received the blessing of the firstborn
- Once it was given, it couldn’t be taken back

The only way to keep your heart clear of bitterness is to truly and completely forgive and walk in love

- This can only be done through the Spirit

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

(Galatians 5:22–24, NKJV)

The flesh will always respond with sorcery, hatred, contention, jealousy, selfish ambition, dissensions, envy, murder, etc.

- See **Galatians 5:19-21**
- Esau is a representation of the flesh
- His name means “hairy” and “rough” – **Genesis 25:25**

“lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.”

(Hebrews 12:16, NKJV)

- Profane – “*debase, disrespectful, irreverent, and vulgar*”
- He was ungodly, worldly, fleshly, and carnal
- This is how the flesh acts when it feels it has been wronged

Life is full of people who mistreat others and steal from them

- There will always be someone trying to get ahead of you or take what’s yours
- Don’t let the enemy use people to destroy your life through bitterness

Bitterness can also enter your life through a satanic attack

“and a messenger came to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, when the Sabeans raided them and took them away—indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!” While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!” While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!” While he was still speaking, another also came and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!” Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD.” (Job 1:14–21, NKJV)

- Some people use this verse to make it look like whatever happens to you is the Lord’s doing
- But the Lord wasn’t taking anything away from Job – Satan was – **Job 1:12**
- That’s why at the end of the book God shows up and rebukes Job

Job said a lot of things that weren't accurate about God

- Understand a lot of what Job says was not inspired by God
- Job didn't have the Bible as we do
- He didn't have all the spiritual resources you and I have that gave witness to the character of God
- His knowledge of God was limited at the time of his suffering
- By the time God shows up Job is speaking out of hurt and bitterness
- Bitterness and shame can cause us to blame God for everything that happens to us
- *“If God is a loving God, why would He allow this to happen to me?”*
- Not everything that happens is the will of God
- There is a devil and he comes to *steal, kill, and destroy*

When attacks like his come we need to put on the armor of God and take authority over the devil – **Ephesians 6:10-18; Luke 10:19; Mark 16:17-18**

- Don't blame God!
- It will only cause you to become religious and bitter
- We are in a better place than where Job was
- He didn't have the Holy Spirit
- He wasn't saved by the blood of Jesus
- Yes, he loved and feared God but his revelation of God was not what ours is today
- We have transferred authority – **Matthew 28:18-20**

God will deliver you not only from the captivity of the tragedy but also from the bitterness resulting from the tragedy

“And the LORD restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.” (Job 42:10, NKJV)

- Yes life can make you bitter but you can get deliverance and walk in the Spirit

God wants to break you from the link of a painful past so you can move forward into the destiny He has for you

Pray and ask Jesus to show you any hidden or repressed memories of events in your life that are causing bitterness

Don’t allow yourself to remember and recall every bad thing that has ever happened to you

We tend to store those things up and when something bad happens we remember all of the other times someone did us wrong

- We can forgive the same way God forgives us
- He puts our sins in the sea of forgetfulness – **Micah 7:19**
- We may remember some of the events but we can be free of the pain, hurt, and anger associated with it
- Don’t allow things of the past to prevent you from moving into the future
- We can't control what people do and say, but we can forgive

Many times when we have a root of bitterness we can become controlling and possessive

- We have to have the upper hand in every situation
- We think we can stop anything negative from coming into our lives
- We don't want to feel the pain, rejection, and disappointment
- What's really at play is the spirit of fear

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.” (1 John 4:18, NKJV)

- Not only do we need to receive God's love we must also give it to walk in freedom from fear
- The perfection of His love will set us free of tormenting spirits

“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:31–32, NKJV)

- God is kind, He doesn't reject, abuse, or mistreat us

One of the ways you can know if you are delivered from unforgiveness, anger, bitterness, and resentment, is the way you think about, talk to, and treat other people – Kindness

- You will find it easy to forgive others as well as ask them to forgive you

Bitterness opens the door for the spirit of death (suicide)

“Why is light given to him who is in misery, And life to the bitter of soul, Who long for death, but it does not come, And search for it more than hidden treasures; Who rejoice exceedingly, And are glad when they can find the grave?”

(Job 3:20–22, NKJV)

Bitterness opens the door for sexual sin

“For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth is smoother than oil; But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death, Her steps lay hold of hell. Lest you ponder her path of life— Her ways are unstable; You do not know them.”

(Proverbs 5:3–6, NKJV)

Bitterness will manifest through words

“Who sharpen their tongue like a sword, And bend their bows to shoot their arrows—bitter words, That they may shoot in secret at the blameless; Suddenly they shoot at him and do not fear.”

(Psalm 64:3–4, NKJV)

God will deliver us and give us His joy

“To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.” **(Isaiah 61:3, NKJV)**