

The Twin Towers of Torment

September 11, 2001, will forever be etched in the hearts and minds of Americans. Evil acted before us in the name of religion and defiled this nation's innocence. That has always been the Devil's modus operandi. He is the original terrorist! Terroristic religion is not the true enemy. In a spiritual sense, Satan is a bully who has always wanted to tear down what God has built up and build up what Jesus, God's Son, died to tear down. The felling of the World Trade Center's twin towers was chillingly symbolic of this maniacal plan. The purpose of this teaching is to present insight about your real enemy and the twin towers he wants to destroy in your life. It is based upon this minister's almost 40 years of experience in dealing both personally and professionally with how this process is played out in the lives of all of us from the cradle to the grave. May God bless your mind and heart as you consider this teaching.

God's Plan vs. Satan's Plan

Make no mistake about it! You are in the midst of a war for your soul. There is a constant and supernatural force that is poised to rob you of real life. The good news is that it is your choice which force you serve. If you have not willfully chosen God, you have, in effect, chosen the enemy. Even if you have made the choice to follow God, through Jesus Christ, the enemy has carefully constructed a series of battlefield maneuvers to sow defeat into your life. After dealing with thousands of people, it is obvious to me that the Devil has two main personal weapons he craftily uses against every person; unforgiveness and unbelief. These towers of torment are only conquered by having constructed in our lives the twin towers of triumph, which are forgiveness and faith.

The Notion of God and Torment

The world is full of religions. Religions are necessarily an expression of a world view, that is, one's understanding of life and reality. Even the religions of humanism, paganism, environmentalism or even atheism must in fact be predicated on a world view. Religions are systems of belief that have been formulated to explain the unseen and to help resolve the issues of pain, purpose and power. Almost without exception religion is a pursuit of the divine, or at least an attempt to deal with the great unknown. Man wrestles with the framework in which we operate; time, space and matter. Man has tried to boil it down to a formula and in so doing has attempted to create a god or gods of his own design, unable to reconcile himself to a God unencumbered with time, space or matter, except in choosing to involve Himself in it. The first verse in the bible explains the true nature of God and man. In the beginning (time) God created the heavens (space) and the earth (matter).

If one embraces that truth then everything else in scripture becomes understandable. Unfortunately, we are all limited and fragile. We all deal with pain and loss and confusion and fearfulness. Misunderstanding who God is opens us up to faulty beliefs about suffering. Deception about who God is and His will opens the door to futility, a toleration of evil and a misunderstanding of the cause of torment. The Bible speaks of torment in this life as caused by two things: (1) **fear** (I Jn. 4:18) and (2) **unforgiveness** (Matt. 18:34). The root words for torment in these verses mean torture. To not deal with these patterns will open one to torment (physical, spiritual and emotional) inflicted by a determined and evil enemy. And, as it happens in so many religious orientations, God is blamed for either causing the suffering or of being unable to have prevented it. Let's look at the real source of torment and God's remedy.

Evil Tower # 1 --UNFORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is an important concept. It is a part of the Lord's Prayer, a common theme in human relationships and taught repeatedly in the scriptures. Based on the parable of Matthew 18—to not forgive blocks our own assurance of forgiveness and opens the door to torment. Unforgiveness can be directed towards God, towards others (individuals or groups) or towards oneself.

Unforgiveness is always an expression of bitterness, the feeling of being wronged or violated. It is driven by pain. It is the response to an offense against oneself, or others. It demands its rights and is totally self-oriented. Hebrews 12:15 warns against a root of bitterness springing up in us, for it not only hurts us, it hurts and defiles others. This bitterness can be personal, familial, generational, or cultural. The accompanying personal unforgiveness is an attempt to execute justice (punishment) for the perceived wrong inflicted. It is self-motivated and destructive. It is a proclamation that justice must be served and you are the person to do it. It is the sin of trying to be God. It brings with it division, distortion, destruction, disease and dysfunction. It is the "chip" someone has on their shoulder, the seed of depression and division and the Devil's favorite tool. Bitterness and unforgiveness progressively lead to other sins. I will address these sins, which I call the *Seven Sinister Siblings of a Soured Soul*, on the next page. But, before we look at that please understand. I speak and teach frequently. I explain the notion of forgiving others, or yourself if that is necessary, and I have found that many people cannot extend real forgiveness to anyone else because they themselves have never experienced forgiveness. It only comes from God, not religion. You can be forgiven! In fact, you are forgiven. But, you must accept what you have been given.

The Seven Sinister Siblings of a Soured Soul

In my experience, both personal and professional, I believe the following regression takes place in a person's life when they are wounded and bitter and when they are not able to fully forgive the person, group, entity or perceived source of that pain. It is the deep pit of victimization. Here is the regression.

(1) REJECTION

(2) RESENTMENT

(3) RETALIATION

(4) REVILING

(5) RAGE

(6) RETRIBUTION

(7) REMOVAL

This tower of unforgiveness is usually present in broken relationships, spiritual dysfunction and destructive sin patterns. It is the open door through which the enemy sows the seeds of disease and division. You must deal with your bitterness through the act of forgiving and being forgiven. If you do not, it will simmer inside of you until it explodes in rage or other destructive dysfunctions. The enemy wants to help you to build this evil tower by reminding you of how you have been hurt and victimized, how your rights have been violated and how you have been mistreated and misunderstood. God has a much better plan; forgive and receive forgiveness, opening yourself up to God's blessing and healing. Let God be responsible to execute timely justice. If not, rejection will come, followed by resentment and then retaliation. This always leads to expressions of anger and hatred which demands physical action and then removal of that person from your life.

Evil Tower #2--UNBELIEF

The other tower of torment is unbelief. Unbelief and fear walk hand in hand. The absence of faith promotes fear in the same way that the absence of light produces darkness. Darkness has no reality. You can't create darkness. It is empty and lifeless. (Please see my other teaching on "What About Fear.") All fear has as its genesis the fear of death. According to Hebrews 2:15 it is this fear that enables the enemy to keep people in bondage their whole life. That's why it is called "terrorism." It is a proven weapon. This basic fear manifests itself in other fears and attitudes that cripple and bind people. The only true deliverance from fear is through the one who openly destroyed this work of the enemy, Jesus Christ (Heb. 2:14; I John 3:8). It is in receiving and walking in God's "perfect love" (I John 4:18) that unbelief is dispelled. The key is a dynamic relationship with God through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Of course, we are all affected by fearfulness. Everyone of us wants and needs a safe place to go when these fears come. People try the safe place of drugs, or alcohol, or religion, or immorality. None of these produce peace, only momentary escape. The only safe place is in the arms of a loving heavenly Father through His Son.

The Devil's Hijacked Weaponry

Just as a jet liner is not usually a weapon, the enemy uses our common traits as weapons to destroy the good towers of forgiveness and trust. Herein lies the problem. We must be vigilant and aware that what seem to be natural reactions may become powerful weapons in the enemy's hands. God wants us to forgive even when we are wronged. He wants us to trust Him even if it goes against natural inclinations. These responses are not possible without Him. The enemy uses our own lusts as the source of his attack (Ja. 1:14). He is a cunning opportunist.

"But, I Was Wronged!"

Yes, you are probably right in believing you have been wronged. That person should not have done that to you. But, your unforgiveness tethers you to them and you are hurting only yourself by not releasing your bitterness towards them and your fear of being wronged again. Most of the diseases and dysfunctions of mankind are either directly tied, or linked, to these towers of torment. It is not possible to deal with all the details of fear and unforgiveness here, but we would like to help you. Try applying the following principles.

Building the Towers of Triumph in Your Life

God wants you to be whole and to have real life. The following suggestions can help you build the *Towers of Triumph* in your life. These steps are discussed in more detail in the teaching, *God's Prescription For Wholeness*, by Terry Sutton.

- Step 1: **Responsibility:**
- Purpose to be responsible for your life.
 - Pursue a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Step 2: **Repent:**
- Deal with unresolved sin in your life.
 - Divorce yourself from evil influence.
- Step 3: **Reconcile:**
- Work on mending relationships.
 - Walk with a clear conscience.
- Step 4: **Recite:**
- Read and verbally confess scripture.
 - Renounce wrong influence/feelings.
- Step 5: **Receive:**
- God's forgiveness.
 - God's truth.
 - God's love.
 - God's Word.
 - God's presence daily.

Dear Friend,

Because of the constraints of space in this paper, I can only give you a way to get started down the road of building the good towers of faith and forgiveness in your life. This teaching is only meant to introduce you to these spiritual concepts. I urge you to seek the counsel and support of others, and find a church that will help you grow and heal. I invite you to attend one of our seminars or feel free to reach out to us with the contact information on our web site:

www.MasterYourDisaster.com

The approach I take is to help you settle the most important issue first, your relationship to Almighty God through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Unless you have received God's free gift of salvation and life you cannot have the best foundation on which to stand. Please consider giving your heart to Jesus. Life, wholeness and forgiveness are only available through Him! Because the ultimate enemy is Satan, there can be no lasting victory apart from the finished victorious work of Jesus. May you grow in Him and in the grace of God. Blessings!

Terry Sutton