

The Devil's Footholds

Danang International Fellowship

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The Devil's Footholds

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty Hand, that He may lift you up in due time... Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around looking for someone to devour.” 1 Peter 5:6&8

“and do not give the devil a foothold.” Eph 4:27

Let’s pray...

How do we give the devil a foothold?

- Inheritance (we are born that way)
“..the result of one trespass was the condemnation for all men...” Romans 5:18
- These footholds are either ***general*** or ***specific***.
- Either through ignorance, or deliberate sin, we give satan legal rights to these inherited footholds; and even give him new footholds through our sins
- The devil also gains footholds through life's traumas and sins of others against us.

How do we give the devil a foothold?

- Christ offers to cancel these rights, but it is not automatic. 5 benefits of following Jesus:
 - Forgiveness for sins through His spilled blood
 - Canceling of curses (He became cursed on a tree to break the power of curses on our lives)
 - Promise of eternal life in Heaven
 - Healing for our souls and bodies
 - Power to defeat the devil and drive away evil spirits

How do we give the devil a foothold?

- Have you asked Jesus for *all* of these benefits?
- Christians must be **intentional and specific** in order to remove the devil from whatever **specific footholds** he has in our lives
- Let's examine the gates through which the devil gains footholds in our lives...

12 Gates of Entry

1. Ancestral sins
2. Personal sins
3. Sins of others against you
4. Traumas
5. Soul Ties
6. Vows
7. Curses
8. Dedications
9. Ungodly Beliefs (UGBs)
10. Unclean Things (UCTs): Places
11. UCTs: Objects
12. UCTs: Our Five Senses

An undeserved curse does not come to rest *Prov. 26:6*

Gate 12: UTCs – 5 Senses

Eyes, Ears, Nose, Taste, and Touch all can give the devil a foothold and open the door to evil spirits. Alcohol, drugs, pornography, horror movies, demonically-inspired music, food offered to idols, touching, etc.

“...get rid of the vile images you have set your eyes on and do not defile yourselves...” Ezek. 20:7

“Stolen water is sweet... but... the dead are there,” Prov. 9:17-18

“Touch no unclean thing...” 2 Cor. 6:17

“Let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates the body...” 2 Cor. 7:1

Gate 11: UCTs - Objects

Any unclean objects you own or have handled may have opened the door for oppression in your life. These include objects of false worship, idols, Occult games (including video), jewelry, videos, etc.

“Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn them in the fire.”
Deut. 7:5

“The sacrifices of pagans are offerings to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.” I Cor. 10:20

Gate 10: UCTs - Places

God is angry whenever His people associate themselves with anything that He has called unclean. Have you ever visited a temple, haunted house, brothels, seedy nightclub? Even "Christian tourism" can leave people contaminated and give the devil a foothold.

"...come out from there and be separate, says the Lord... and I will receive you." 2 Cor. 6:17

"Depart, depart, go out from there! ... Come out from it and be pure..." Is. 52:11

Gate 9: Ungodly Beliefs (UGBs)

Ungodly beliefs are any thoughts or parts of our belief system that are not consistent with the Word of God and His promises to people who obey Him. UGBs are expressed as absolute truth, which become bondage until we break agreement with them. Ex: "I am ugly" "I am ALWAYS sick when ..."
"I CAN'T do math..." "I am a failure"

"For as he thinks in his heart, so is he..." Prov. 23:7

"Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so? Amos 3:3

Gate 8: Dedications

God's law is absolute. Any vow to worship another god is serious and binding to the 4th generation. When another god is honored *in any way* this can be a dedication and should be renounced.

"You shall have no other gods before me." Deut. 5:7

"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

Gate 7: Curses

Curses can be put upon us by ourselves and by others. We can also inherit curses from our ancestors. Someone can become cursed by a school teacher or parent that calls them stupid, or will never be good at something, etc. Curses can also result from disobedience (see especially Lev. 26:14-46.)

“Now come and put a curse upon these people because ... I know that those you bless are blessed, and those you curse are cursed.” Num. 22:6

“Reckless words pierce like a sword...” Prov. 12:18

Gate 6: Vows

Vows are statements (verbal or internal) that bind us to certain consequences. Wedding vows are a good example, which contain blessings for our obedience to those vows. Vows to follow other gods or bind us to ungodly persons, institutions, secret societies or behaviors have devastating consequences. Ex: "I will never be like my dad," "I will never confess..."

"...if you refrain from making a vow, you will not be guilty."
" Deut. 23:22

"It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it. Do not let your mouth lead you into sin." Eccl. 5:5-6

Gate 5: Soul Ties

Soul Ties are connections between people. Godly = bonding. Ungodly = bondage. The devil can use ungodly soul ties to influence our thoughts, feelings, and behavior. Soul ties are created whenever we, by our sin, bind ourselves to others based on behaviors that are contrary to God's law. Sexual relations outside of marriage always create soul ties.

“Bad company corrupts good character.” 1 Cor. 15:33

“Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body?” 1 Cor. 6:16

Gate 4: Traumas

Traumas can affect our heart (spirit) and soul in our childhood and also adult lives. Emotional hurts, loss of a loved one, accidents, frightening experiences all create wounds which can give the devil a foothold in our memories or our bodies. Jesus can heal these wounds through physical and inner healing.

“He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted... to comfort all who mourn, and provide for all who grieve...” Is. 61:1-3

“I pour out my complaint before Him...” Ps. 142:2

Gate 3: Sins of Others Against You (Unforgiveness)

The Bible clearly teaches that we must forgive others if we expect God to forgive our sins. Sometimes we say we forgive with our lips, but in our hearts we hold onto judgments against others.

“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Matt. 6:13-15

“...in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Matt. 7:1

Gate 2: Personal Sins

We give the devil a foothold with every sin we commit and every sinful thought we contemplate. The Bible clearly teaches that we will reap what we sow (Gal. 6:7)

“When I was silent, my bones wasted away...for night and day your Hand was heavy upon me... Then I acknowledged my sin to You... and You forgave the guilt of my sin.” Ps. 32:3-5

“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayers of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” James 5:16

Gate 1: Ancestral Sins (SOF)

Last but certainly not least... The Bible teaches that God views us not only as individuals, but also as part of a family. God warns us that not only will He punish us for our sins, but He will also punish our children and grandchildren for our sins. We need to confess and repent on behalf of our ancestors (and forgive them!) in order to break the curses of their sins upon us. Jesus became a curse on a tree to break our curses, but this is not automatic (just as salvation is not automatic!)

“O Lord, we acknowledge our wickedness and the guilt of our fathers; we have indeed sinned against You.” Jer.

14:20

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Where do we go from here?

- Some of you may have a specific struggle or need in your life. Perhaps this message helps you better understand the root of that struggle.
- Others may be aware of multiple areas where the devil has footholds in your life.
- What are you going to do about it?
- Jesus is saying, "Behold I stand at the door and knock." Rev. 3:20. If you hear His voice, let Him deal with whatever need you may have.

Present your petitions to the Lord

- Our Isaiah 61 Ministry approach is to deal with the whole person, your whole life story, all 12 gates .
- We invite people to prepare a complete prayer petition, then present it to the Lord for a major “housecleaning.”
- Confess, repent, test the spirits, cast them out...
- *then **REFILL** those spaces with the **Spirit of God!***
- If you would like more information as to how this works, feel free to ask me or any of our I-61 team.
- Lets’ pray...