

"We Are Representatives Of The Most High God"

We see that God has committed His awesome message of reconciliation into our hands. We who were formerly His enemies but who have now been reconciled to Him - We have been sent to deliver His message of reconciliation to others! He has entrusted this precious message to us! Whenever we meet someone in the course of our lives, we should recognize that God has given us something that they need very much! We should have a sense of the awesome message God has entrusted to us; and how He wants us to pass it on to them. **Second**, we see that God has given us, as it were, an official title: we are "**Ambassadors For Christ**". This underscores not only the responsibility that has been entrusted to us, but the great authority that has been placed upon us as well. As the famous and theologian Charles Hodge wrote; "**An ambassador is at once a messenger and a representative. He does not speak in his own name. He does not act on his own authority. What he communicates is not his own opinions or demands, but simply what he has been told or commissioned to say. His message derives no part of its importance or trustworthiness from him. At the same time he is more than a mere messenger. He represents his sovereign. He speaks with authority, as accredited to act in the name of his master. Any neglect, contempt or injury done to him in his official character, is not a personal offense, but an offense to the sovereign or state by whom he is commissioned.**" Whenever we see someone, then, we should not only remember our great responsibility to them, but also the great authority God has endowed us with as His "**Ambassadors**" to them. May God help us to see ourselves as authorized by Him to impart a wonderful message of reconciliation to them.

"May God Help Us"

Everywhere we go, then, God has put people in our lives that He sees in a far greater way than we do. How short-sighted we are! May God help us to see their great value to Him - as people that Jesus loves infinitely, and for whom He died. May God Help Us To See The Depth Of Their Need - that Jesus died for them; and that in His doing so, God was showing them to be dead in sins and in a terrible state of need apart from Him. May God Help Us To See Their Potential As God Sees It - looking at them as someone for whom Jesus died and rose again, so that they would no longer live for themselves but live instead for Him. May God Help Us To See Their True Spiritual Condition - no longer evaluating them merely on the basis of their outward appearance; but looking upon them as either "**dead in sins**" apart from Christ, or "**brand new creations**" in Christ. And May God Help Us To See The Great Provision He Has Made For Their Salvation - And The Great Part He Has Called Us To Play In Ministering The Message Of That Salvation To Them. From this day forward, brothers and sisters in Christ, may we never look at people the same old way again.



Jesus sees the same people we see in these everyday encounters along the road of life. But what He sees when He looks at those same people is considerably different from what we see.

Jesus compared our spiritual eyes to a "**Lamp**" that gives light to every part of our life (Matthew 6:22-23). And Paul prayed for his friends in Ephesus to have their eyes enlightened so they would have a more intimate relationship with their Heavenly Father and "**Know the hope to which He has called you**" (Ephesians 1:15-19). Often we look at God through the lens of life. How different would things be if we looked at life through the lens of God?

(2 Corinthians 5:14-21)



"For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that One has died for all; therefore all have died. And He died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for Him Who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; (We Regard People From A Spiritual View.) even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know Him no

longer in that way. (We Know Christ Through The Enlightenment Of His Holy Spirit and His Word) **So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!** (We Now Have The Spirit Of Christ, The Mind Of Christ, The Love Of Christ, The Forgiveness Of Christ, The Power Of The Holy Spirit To Lead Us To All Truths And The Power To Love Others Has He Loves Them) **All this is from God, Who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; (The reconciled become the reconcilers; The root of Reconciliation is the word 'Conciliation' which is the action of stopping someone from being angry. When we have reconciliation, it means that we restore our relationship to one that enables us to be compatible and friendly with one another again. The Bible teaches about reconciliation and that we must make it a priority to reconcile. We have been equipped and empowered with the Fruits of the Spirit to be reconcilers.) that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. (To be reconcilers we are not to hold trespasses against others.) So we are Ambassadors for Christ, (We represent Christ) since God is making His appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."**

"The Thief Comes Only To Steal And Kill And Destroy" (John 10:10)



"Don't Focus On The Issue." Behind all the world's deception is the arch deceiver, thief, murderer and destroyer himself—Satan the devil. Satan destroys loving and caring relationships among individuals, families, communities and countries by breeding competition, greed, selfishness and strife, which lead to evil thoughts and acts of revenge, murder and hatred. He takes pleasure

Reconcile

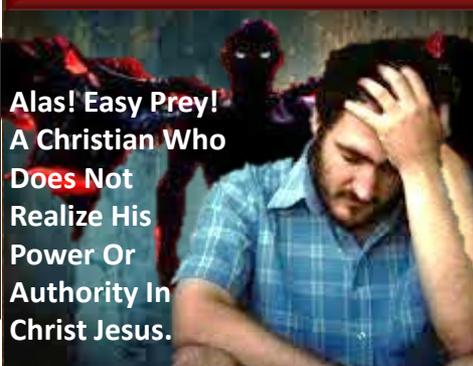
in dividing and conquering and blinding us from knowing the real purpose of why we are born and seeing our potential as created beings in the image of God. He really does go about "seeking whom he may devour."

"Understanding The Enemy"

John 10:10 is one of the most familiar verses in the Gospels to the born-again Christian. Unfortunately it is also one of the most misunderstood. When we pay close attention to the verse we see that the verse does not say that the thief can steal from us, or kill us, or destroy us. It only states that his purpose in coming is to steal, kill, or destroy. And, the Good News is that he can't do anything if we don't allow him to do it. Scripture affirms this in more than one place. 1 Peter 5:8 exhorts us to: "Be sensible and vigilant, because your adversary the Devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking someone he can devour." James 4:7 tells us: "Therefore submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Notice that our adversary seeks someone whom he can devour. In other words, if we don't allow him to devour us (our health, our finances, our family, our business, etc.) - he can't! Furthermore: The Apostle James tells us to resist the devil when he comes to steal, kill, or destroy! And, when we RESIST him he FLEES from us. In other words he is afraid of Christians and the power that resides in us as born-again children of the most-high God! Keep in mind that we would not be told to resist the devil if we were not able to resist him successfully.

"Why The Thief Comes"

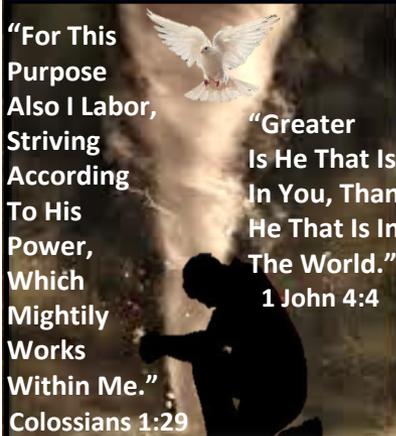
Have you ever considered the fact that a thief would not try to steal something if there was nothing to steal? Thieves don't risk the possibility of being caught and punished by trying to steal something that has no value, or by breaking into homes and businesses where there is nothing to steal. No! When a thief comes to steal, it is because he knows that the rightful person or business possesses something to steal. That is why he comes. if there was nothing to steal - he wouldn't bother. • You cannot steal what one does not have. • You cannot destroy what does not exist.



Alas! Easy Prey! A Christian Who Does Not Realize His Power Or Authority In Christ Jesus.

That means that you and I must already have the things that he is coming for! Once the Christian becomes knowledgeable about their rights, privileges and possessions as "Heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ" the enemy can no longer successfully steal, kill and destroy because the knowledgeable Christian will resist him when he comes!

"We Are A Force To Be Reckoned With"



"For This Purpose Also I Labor, Striving According To His Power, Which Mightily Works Within Me." Colossians 1:29

"Greater Is He That Is In You, Than He That Is In The World." 1 John 4:4

Spiritual power is the divine energy God is willing to express in and through us and the divine authority needed to carry out the work God has called us to do. We cannot "Harness" the power of the Holy Spirit. This power is not just for preachers, evangelists, or people who work in special ministry; rather, it is available to every believer who willingly surrenders moment by moment in submission and obedience to the Holy Spirit. We cannot garner the power of the Spirit in order to use God. Conversely, we experience His power when we surrender to be used by

Him. God releases His power through us as we walk in obedience to Him. Three ways He releases His power to us are:
*Through the Fruit Of The Spirit, God's power and only God's power enables us to exhibit love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, which reveal the character of Christ in us.
*Through witnessing. Scripture always refers to the power of the Holy Spirit in relationship to witnessing and glorifying God. It is His power through us that emboldens us and carries out the work.
*Through the work we are called to do. (Zechariah 4:6) "He said to me, "This is the Word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD of hosts." There's a reason the Holy Spirit is with you. There is a reason He is equipping and empowering you. This reason is your purpose in ministry. What good is it to be empowered if you don't have a role to fulfill that requires empowerment? God will not place you into a position or ask you to accomplish a task for which He will not fully equip and enable you.