

DESTROYING THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL

“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested (made visible), that He might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8). ***“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him”*** (Acts 10:38).

In 1 John 3 we find the writer comparing the children of God with the children of the devil. The chapter starts off... *“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called **children of God!**”* The theme continues in verses 7 and 8, ***“Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning.”*** Then verse 10 states, ***“In this the **children of God** and the **children of the devil** are made manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.”*** Therefore, it is safe to assume that the emphasis here is on the deeds (the works) produced by either the children of God or the children of the devil.

This being the case, we must remember that the difference between the two is the “spirit” behind these deeds or actions. Hence, when it mentions ‘sin’, it is referring to the devil’s children, ***“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning.”*** If we focus entirely on sin in this passage (as most commentators do), we miss the powerful meaning of the statement that follows, ***“For this very purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”*** The works are not sin itself but the actions or deeds produced when the devil uses his own children to do evil things. Therefore, what Jesus came to destroy was the ‘consequence of sin’, and that covers a wide range of evil deeds! Observe, the devil manifests his “works” through people that are under his control.

Yet, Jesus didn't come to destroy people, He came to set them free! So, even though the devil will use his own children to accomplish his wicked schemes (to steal, kill and destroy), Jesus wants those very same people saved. He gave His life to rescue them out of the kingdom of darkness and transfer them into the Kingdom of Light. This is a sure way of destroying the all works of the devil! However, because the devil will stop at nothing to fulfil his mandate, there is another dimension to God's divine decree to destroy the works of satan. An expounded literal translation of 1 John 3:8 would read... *"For this reason the Son of God appeared, that He might destroy every activity undertaken by the devil through the employment of his children."* Jesus came to erase all the power and dominion that the devil has exercises over humanity. God has purposed that the terrible work satan upon the earth be obliterated - every atom of it!

Yes, God wants the consequence of sin totally eradicated! Not limited or restrained, nor alleviated or neutralised, but completely exterminated! Without divine intervention, what could you and I do against such a power as satan? Who among us has the ability to destroy his works and break his influence over others? Yet, if God has purposed it, nothing can prevent it from taking place! If this is a Divine Decree, initiated in the throne room of grace, then the devil trembles at the very thought of it. For there will surely come an end to all his works if God has already purposed to destroy them! God wants to remove all traces of the devil's activity; He wants to wipe off the face of the earth every evil thing that satan has employed against humanity. The devil may be alive, but he is certainly not kicking!

We should constantly remind ourselves that Jesus has already defeated the devil! ***"He disarmed principalities and powers and made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it"*** (Colossians 2:15). But now He wants to enforce this defeat by destroying all the devil's evil deeds.

The awesome directive, which is found in this great purpose, has its origins in God. The Almighty who can create can certainly destroy. Destruction lies in the hand of Omnipotence and is a prerogative of the Eternal God. Think of Sodom and Gomorrah. Divine judgement was passed upon Sodom and Gomorrah, along with two other neighbouring cities, and they were completely consumed by fire and brimstone. Destruction of evil must come only from the Lord. What could you and I do in this Divine purpose? Could we destroy the Destroyer? Often the image of Christ in us is marred by the work of satan around us! Could we restore that image? That which has been tarnished by the powers of darkness must be cleansed by the Eternal Light, or else it will hinder God's plan. It is a Divine work - this destruction of the works of the devil - and herein lies our hope and our confidence. And it speaks loudly of an all-conquering, all-consuming act.

Let me ask you... When are the palaces and the fortifications of great kings destroyed? Not until the kings themselves, have been overthrown. When their power is broken, it is then that the conquerors destroy the castle and tear down the fortified walls! It is God's purpose to win such a victory over the Prince of Darkness so that every work of his shall be destroyed! Psalm 46:8-9 declares, ***“Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations He has made in the earth; He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire.”*** Our Almighty Champion (Jesus Christ) has come forth with a shout of victory to divide the spoils with the strong (Isaiah 53:12). The archenemy of God's children is defeated, and his works shall be destroyed! Now, it is left to us to enforce his defeat and divide the spoils of that wonderful conquest. *“For in ALL these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us”* (Romans 8:37)! Therefore, there is no “work” (activity) of the devil in which we cannot claim the victory. God the Father promised His children that He would manifest His Son Jesus so that the works of the devil can be destroyed.

This means also a complete work. The product of evil is not to be cut down for a time and left to grow again. The tree of the forest is demolished by the axe, but if the root remains, a little amount of water it will bud and grow branches again. The purpose of God is to utterly destroy the works of the devil; and destroyed they shall be! When God begins His work, He does not cease until He has completely devastated the kingdom of darkness. That means that the consequence of sin, the visible deeds or actions of the devil, are to be annihilated as well. All sickness, all disease, all oppression, all poverty, all suffering is to be destroyed. Yes, the very tendency and possibility of evil is not to be seen when the image of Jesus Christ appears. If we want to destroy the works of the devil, our best method is to manifest more and more Jesus Christ! Let it never be forgotten that Jesus has destroyed the works of darkness and made a show of them openly. When the Holy Spirit manifests Christ brightly in a man or woman - the works of darkness are destroyed in and through that man or woman! When Christ is manifested brightly in a nation - the works of satan begin to diminish in that nation! It's up to you and me to make sure that happens in the United Kingdom.

Remember, our Lord Jesus Christ was manifested in His eternal power and kingdom to destroy the works of the devil, for *"the government shall be upon His shoulders, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"* (Isaiah 9:6). Kings, presidents, parliaments, poets, leaders, celebrities and such like these are visible powers - but there is over them all an invisible power. Enthroned on high, there is a King of Kings and a Lord of Lords! And who is He? It is Jesus, of whom we read, ***"And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church"*** (Ephesians 1:22). He is ruling! He is in office reigning right now! His kingdom is here! The ultimate destruction of evil on the earth is a certainty and the reign of Him who is righteous and good was manifest. Total dominion is with the Son of God and together we shall end the reign of the devil in people's lives. Amen!

With this knowledge (which we've attained through revelation that comes from the Word of God), how do we now enforce the devil's defeat? First, let's look at how Jesus did it... ***“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him”*** (Acts 10:38). The literal translation, taken from the original Greek is, *“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and making whole all who the devil had exercised his power over, for God was with Him.”* If we put this in the first-person it reads, *“God has anointed me with the Holy Spirit and with power so I can go about doing good and making whole all whom the devil has exercised his power over, for Christ is with me.”* Going about doing good and delivering all whom the devil has had control over is destroying the devil's works - right? When people have been delivered from under the devil's control, they cease to do his bidding or obey his commands.

We enforce the devil's defeat exactly the same way Jesus did. We first accept the truth that the Holy Spirit and power are already in us, and available for this assignment, then we use that power and authority to deliver anyone who is under the influence of the devil - because **Christ is with us**. Remembering always that this battle is not against flesh and blood, but against those rulers of darkness and the evil deeds that are being performed because demonic power is being exercised people's lives. When you break the power of the devil over people, you destroy the “works” that he is performing through them.

Constantly remind yourself of this truth... The Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil and that assignment is finished. Now, it's up to us to make sure the destruction of evil continues until His return. The devil may be alive, but he is certainly not kicking!