

Destroy The Seed Of The Serpent Within!

Pastor Vijay Eathakota

www.gracetabernaclehyd.org

Father, we thank You, Lord. Yes, Lord – You are awesome in this place. Not because of anything that is good in us but, Lord, because You are faithful to Your own promise. You said in Your Word, “Where two or three are gathered in My Name, that I will be there in your midst.” And we believe with all of our heart that this evening, You are here in our midst and therefore, I pray, Lord Jesus, that You would speak to our hearts. We have come to hear from You, Lord, that is the expectancy that we have in our hearts that we will hear from You and therefore, I pray, Lord, that You would anoint this Word, the speaking and the hearing. Cleanse us and wash us by the water of Your Word. Cleanse our minds that we will be able to see. Cleanse our eyes, O Lord. Circumcise our hearts so that we will be able to hear You clearly, Lord, in this last hour of time. We thank You. We commit this time into Your hands. We praise You; we worship You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

In the Church, we’ve been doing what I personally call ‘the serpentine series’ on the serpent and his tactics and how to identify and how to overcome. I just wanted to look at it, (from my perspective. Not my perspective but it is from the Bible) to be able to identify the serpents inside of us and to see how we can identify him and how we can overcome the serpent inside of us, the seed of the serpent inside of us. So, if you are a believer and one of the things that you will have to acquaint yourself with as soon as possible is about two persons in the Bible. Two people in the Bible you have to be absolutely acquainted. Every believer who is born again, who is baptized, who is filled with the Holy Spirit, it doesn’t matter at what stage in your walk with the Lord, you have to be acquainted with two people in the Bible and that is not Jesus and satan; it’s somebody very close to us. Let us see how they are. It is found in *Ephesians 4:20-24*. This is NASB. So, just follow.

Ephesians 4:20-24

²⁰ But you did not learn Christ in this way, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, ²² that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self (the old man, as the other translations will call it), which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, (so, the old man being corrupted because of the lusts of deceit,) ²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

So, the two people that we have to acquaint ourselves with – absolutely imperative; in fact, you cannot progress with your walk with the Lord unless you know this guy and this guy and where are they? In the self. They are inside of you. The old self, which does not go away, by the way; and you have to fight them till the end of your life; and the new self – we need to understand these two people in our lives in order to be able to walk in victory; not only over our sin, not only over the world but also, over the devil. So, we have to be familiar with these two people. So, let’s see the origin of both of them and we will try to understand how we identify who these people are inside of ourselves and therefore, what remedies or what solutions the Scripture gives in order for us to be able to overcome this old fellow. So, first, let us try to identify the origin of these two guys. Keep in mind the serpentine series, the whole set of series of messages that we have been taught over a period of time.

First, the old man is a product of deception. The old man, all of us, we know it – inside of us is a product of deception. How did it happen? It is found in *2 Corinthians 11:3*,

2 Corinthians 11:3

³ But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

So, the first thing you need to understand is that this old fellow was created inside of us as a result of deception. That is the reason why it says, “The old self being corrupted by the lusts of deceit.” He was a product of deception. The first thing. Because we were deceived.

Second – how was he born? He was birthed by listening or hearing to a lie. That is the origin. That is how he was birthed. You need to understand that. And therefore, we all have that nature. This is found in *Genesis 3*. Look at what the serpent says.

Genesis 3:4-5

⁴The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die!

Absolute lie. You heard it.

⁵For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

When the woman heard it, she obeyed it and she ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and then, you know – the fallen man was created. That’s the origin – birthed in a lie.

The next thing about this old man – he grows and becomes strong in an environment of lies and deceit. You need to understand that. He grows and becomes strong in an environment of, what? Lies and deceit and that is because he was birthed of a lie, he was birthed of a deception. That is how he grows also. He grows in an environment of lies and deception. By the way, one of the first things that satan attacked in man when he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is that he lost his innocence. Remember that? He lost his innocence and he started to hide, trying to deceive others by not showing his true nature. That’s exactly what the serpent does. He doesn’t show his true nature. He has a guise and that is how this old man becomes strong, gets birthed in deception and in lies. Then, it gets stronger and stronger even as it’s there in the environment of lies and deception. This is found in Ephesians 2. Look at what it says.

Ephesians 2:2-3

²in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

So, the old man is birthed in deception, birthed by listening to a lie and grows. The nature of deception becomes a part of it. That is what the old man is all about.

Another thing that you need to understand about the old man – he not only grows and becomes strong, he enjoys lying, deception, flattery but he hates truth. You need to understand that. He enjoys lies and deception. Flattery. I don’t know if you have seen the movie ‘The Devil’s Advocate’. The last scene ends with – “Vanity, my favourite sin,” says the devil. That’s exactly what it is. And the old man enjoys flattery, enjoys deception. It enjoys lying. It loves it, in fact but it hates truth. You find this in the Bible.

John 8:43-45

⁴³Why do you not understand what I am saying? (This is Jesus trying to explain.) It is because you cannot hear My word.

It is that you hate it from the bottom of your heart.

⁴⁴You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. (He cannot stand it. He hates but he loves lying. And then, He says,) Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.

That’s fantastic. He loves lying. He loves flattery. Look at this indictment of the prophet Jeremiah concerning Israel.

Jeremiah 5:30-31

³⁰“A horrible and shocking thing has happened in the land: (It has happened with whom? It has happened with My people. What is the ‘horrible and shocking thing’? Look at the horrible and the shocking thing,) ³¹The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people (what do they do?) love it this way. But what will you do in the end?

They love lies and deception and flattery. That’s the old man. These are symbols you will find in the Old Covenant about the

Destroy The Seed Of The Serpent Within!

old man. You will see king Ahab. Ahab and Jehoshaphat. That scene, if you remember,

1 Kings 22:7-8

⁷But Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there no longer a prophet of the Lord here whom we can inquire of?" ⁸The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, "There is still one prophet through whom we can inquire of the Lord, but I hate him (why do I hate him?) because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah."

"Therefore, I hate him. I don't like him." That's the old man. That's Ahab. That's how he confronts Elijah and he says, "You troubler of Israel!" Elijah says, "I didn't trouble Israel. You troubled Israel. You and your wife."

"The king should not say such a thing," Jehoshaphat replied.

That's the nature and the origin of the old man. 2 Timothy 4:3-4, this is what Paul will tell Timothy. He says,

2 Timothy 4:3-4

³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires (lusts)...

This word 'lust', the Greek translation is 'epithimia'. It is neutral. In fact, desire is not bad. We will talk about that. We will talk about these desires.

...because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

That is the reason why people love stories. I mean, they don't like pure truth. I believe all the men of God realized that and therefore, in order to convey the truth, they use stories because people love it. They like to be entertained. So, the old man was birthed because of deception, birthed because it heard a lie; it grows and becomes strong in an environment of deception and lies and it loves a diet. What is its diet? "I love lies. I eat lies. I think lies. I sleep lies." That's what the old man does. That is the nature of the old man. Think about it. You need to understand this – there is nothing good. That is the reason why Paul says, "I know that is inside of me, that is, inside my flesh, nothing good dwells." You need to understand that. There is nothing good in the old man. He is absolutely our enemy. He is a serpent deep down inside of us.

Another thing about the old man and I think, this is possibly, one of the most important things in connections with this message.

Ephesians 4:22

²²...the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

Another translation, to get an idea of what is going over here.

²²...your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

Do you see that? What has happened to the old man, therefore? Understand this word 'lust'. It's essentially translated as 'desire', epithimia, strong desire. That is what it means and it is necessarily not evil. So, what has happened to the old man? This is what has happened to the old man according to this verse – his desires have been corrupted by, what? Deception. That's the point. His desires have been corrupted by deception. What does that mean? Desire in itself is not wrong. Corrupted desire is wrong. That's what it means. So, how do I know that my desire has been corrupted, for example? C. S. Lewis, in one of his famous sermons, this is what he says, "Money is not the natural reward of love. That is why we call a man a mercenary," by the way, all IPL players are mercenaries. "if he marries a woman for the sake of her money but marriage is a proper reward for a real lover and he is not a mercenary for desiring it." In other words, if I fall in love with a girl and I married her and I married her because I desire to have a relationship with her and I want to live my life with her and I want to share joy and sorrow and literally, walk with God with her and therefore, I want to get married; that in itself is not wrong but if I have gotten married because I have desired her property or her beauty, then that desire has got corrupted. That is what it means for desires to get corrupted. Desire for honor. See, everybody likes to be praised and it is

Destroy The Seed Of The Serpent Within!

not wrong. Honor is what we all need and this is something which we all have inbuilt inside of us – the need for honor. It's there because God created us in His image. But the problem is – the objective of our honor; for example, if you have a General who is in the army, who has a very difficult battle; if he fights the battle for the sake of victory, that is not a wrong desire. Desire for victory is not wrong. But if he fights the battle because he will get a medal and he will be called 'sir', then that is wrong. Because you will be called 'great man', 'paramveer', whatever veer. Then, that is wrong. But if he is fighting because he wants victory and his desire is victory, absolutely not a problem. That desire is not a problem. That's not an issue at all. So, in *John 5:44*, this is what Jesus will say,

John 5:44

⁴⁴ How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

You see, when God gives us that honor, that's an incredible honor. You guys are so short-sighted that you want to have honor men, you desire honor from men – that is corrupted but you don't desire to seek the honor which comes from God alone. That is a corrupted desire. So, what has happened to the old man? The old man has his desires but we all have desires and these desires have become corrupted. We will see this example again. *1 Samuel 15*. This is Saul, when is confronted by Samuel and Samuel pronounces judgment over his life. This is what he says,

1 Samuel 15:30-31

³⁰ Saul replied, "I have sinned. But please honor me before the elders of my people (You see, it doesn't require the honor that comes from God,) and before Israel; come back with me, so that I may worship the Lord (not my God but,) your God." ³¹ So Samuel went back with Saul, and Saul worshiped the Lord.

You see? That is what it means for the desires to get corrupted. So, what is the old man? He has got God-given desires but they have been corrupted because of deception and lies. C. S. Lewis, in that fantastic Sermon, this is what he says; he says, "Our Lord finds our desires not too strong but too weak." He says, "The desires are not a problem but your desires are not strong but they are weak. We are half-hearted creatures fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered to us. Like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum, because he cannot imagine what is meant by an offered holiday at sea. We are far too easily pleased." You know what it says in Telugu? There is an adjective for it – 'alpa santosi' – easily satisfied with little things. It's like I remember when Abigail was 5 years old, if I am right. I'm not going to embarrass you okay, Abigail? Don't worry. "Papa (father), don't take my example from the pulpit." She already has a personality now. Okay. When she was 5 years old, mother asked, Jacinth asked, "What do you want for your birthday? What gift do you want for your birthday?" "Anything. I want a sticker." Sticker? That's exactly how we are. What will satisfy us? A sticker will satisfy. "I am willing to offer Myself to you." We are all too easily satisfied. I mean it's good to be satisfied when it comes to worldly things with small things, but when it comes to heavenly things, are we too easily satisfied? But God says, "There is only one thing that can satisfy you – that is God, Me. I only can satisfy you." And we are far too easily satisfied. And C. S. Lewis says, "Our desires are all corrupted desires." What is corrupted desires? Corrupted desire means desires which will just corrupt away, and just fade away and disintegrate with time or will not find or stand the test of time. That is a corrupted desire, a corruptible desire. The desire for success and to make money, nothing wrong. Boy, I remember Francis Chan talking about this. He said, "Whenever you start a Church, you need two people. First – you need a preacher. Second – you need a businessman." I thought it was interesting. Why? Preacher to build the congregation and businessman to sustain the congregation. You see. And I believe there are people in the Kingdom who have been given the gift of making wealth. Making wealth and becoming successful in itself is not a wrong desire. And by the way, if you are not studying hard to succeed in life, boy, forget about it. In other words, think about it. This sister over here is studying for her EAMCET exam or NEET exam. And if she studies and is writing, "I don't desire to become a doctor," what is she doing? See, if she is not really working hard to succeed, then there is no point in actually working hard. I mean, that's exactly the reason why when we play a game, I say, "Boy, winner takes it all, period." So, put your honour at stake. And that is how we play a game. Otherwise, there is no point. Right? Sweat it out, right? Why do we have to play, if we don't have the desire to succeed? And that is a God-given desire. We are never ever created for failure. No. But the problem is the objective of our success. That is important.

So, look at a corruptible. I mean, to have a desire to succeed, it's wrong. How can this desire be corrupted? Look at this, this is a *Luke's Gospel 12*. We know the story.

Destroy The Seed Of The Serpent Within!

Luke 12:18

¹⁸ *"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do..."*

This is the rich man. He knows how to read the stock market. Smart fellow. He's got an algorithm in his mind. Kalman filter. Estimation theory. Everything is there in his mind. Okay? And he knows actually which stock is going to make it and which stock is going to break it. He knows it exactly. What does he do? "This is what I'll do."

...I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. (For what? To give it away? No.)¹⁹ *And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. (Retire early) Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."* (What has happened to your success? That desire for success has become corrupted) ²⁰ *"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'"* ²¹ *"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."*

You see what got success. *Proverbs 3,*

Proverbs 3:9-10

⁹ *Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase;* ¹⁰ *So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.*

What is he saying? Your life itself will be a life of blessing. What has happened to you? You have taken the success and corrupted it. See? Okay? You got that, young people? You want to make it big in life? Get this in your minds. That is the reason why look at *Matthew 6:19* onwards.

Matthews 6:19-20

¹⁹ *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;*

Meaning –whatever you laid up for yourselves has become corrupted. That's what it means.

²⁰ *but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

Or corrupts. Where thieves do not break in and steal. It's remarkable how incredible it is.

I saw this NDTV interview sometime back. News sometime back. Where you know, in IIT, this placement season is a big thing. It's a fantastic thing, this placement season. It's depressing for many students and euphoria for many students. So, this one guy who got an offer from the U.S. and his annual pay pack, it's embarrassing for all of us; I am sure. Is? 1.5 crores. One crore 50 lakhs per annum. That was the highest pay pack. Take home salary. From IIT Kanpur. So? IIT was so happy. Our alumni have got, our students have nailed it. They have got the highest in the market. 1.5 crores per annum. You know what happened two weeks later? The guy who got the package, his brother was kidnapped. And people called him, and they asked for 50 lakhs ransom to release his brother. And the argument was, "Arrey 1.5 crore thankwa aaraha hai'(you are getting an amount of 1.5 crore as your salary)." Even before he started the naukri (work), thieves have broken and have stolen the wealth. I thought it was a funny thing. Really funny what happened. Before he got his salary, that was gone. That's what happens.

There is nothing wrong to desire success in life. By the way, you need to have the desire. By the way. You are a young man and not having desire for success, you are, boy! You need something. You need motivation. Whatever. You possibly need deliverance. If you have desire not to succeed. Okay? So, the old man grows and become strong in the environment of lies. And the old man has got his desire corrupted because of deception. Got that, everybody? So, this is what Paul says, in *Philippians 3*. About this people.

Philippians 3: 18-19

Destroy The Seed Of The Serpent Within!

¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

Here, we are all alpa santoshi (almost happy), we are far too easily pleased. *Romans 16:17-18*, the same thing.

Romans 16:17-18

¹⁷ Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. ¹⁸ For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

These are the people who have set their minds on earthly things. That's exactly what has happened to the children of Israel. The children of Israel were saved. They came out of Egypt. They were baptized. They were baptized in Holy Spirit. What happened? They never confronted the old man. This is what. This is how the psalmist summarizes the children of Israel. In *Psalms 103:7-8*,

Psalms 103:7-8

⁷He made known His ways (unto) to Moses, (but) His acts to the children of Israel.

Because the children of Israel were never interested in His ways. They were only interested in His acts. See. They were not following Jesus for the sake of Jesus. But Moses realized the key for success. Right? The key to success. That's what he says in,

Exodus 33:13

¹³ Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know (That is his desire. You see.) You, and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people."

Again, *Colossians* will say, "Set your hearts and your minds not on earthly things but on things which are incorruptible." So, first thing we looked at the characteristics and the origin of the old man. And if you keep on feeding the old man, where will it end? Look at the Bible and see where it will take us if we keep on feeding the old man. This is once again in *Ephesians 4*. Look at the entire verse.

Ephesians 4:22

²² You were taught, with regard to your former (look at this former) way of life, to put off your old self,

Or old man or old self which is essentially the former way. The former way means old self. What is this former way? In other words, if you continue like this to empower the old man, this is where you will end up. Look at the context which is found in *Ephesians 4:17*. The nature and the origin and the end result of feeding the old man. What happens in the end?

Ephesians 4:17

¹⁷ No longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.

Thoughts get messed up. They are darkened in their understanding. There is no understanding. There is nothing. There is no vision.

Proverbs 29:18

¹⁸ Where there is no vision, the people perish

There is no vision. Thoughts are messed up. You are separated from the life of God. You have become ignorant. Your hearts have become hardened. You have lost all sensitivity. And you have been given over to sensuality. And what has happened? You indulge in every kind of impurity. And you are full of greed. This is the old man. The end result of it. What happens to you? You keep on thinking futile thoughts. Your thoughts because you are degenerating your thoughts. Your mind has

Destroy The Seed Of The Serpent Within!

become, your thoughts are so important. Your thoughts. You see. *“As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he (Proverbs 23:7).”* Thoughts are so important.

Jeremiah 4:14

¹⁴ ***Jerusalem, wash the evil from your heart and be saved. How long will you harbor wicked thoughts? (within you).***

You know a ship when it comes to harbour, it puts the anchor. That's exactly what he is saying. "How long will you harbour wicked thoughts within you?" You know we remember the famous man of God who said this. You know, "Evil thoughts are like birds. If they fly over your mind, it's no problem. But if it makes a nest, then it is a problem." What has happened to you? This has literally happened to me in my life. Literally. Have you been to our Church office? How many of you have been to our Church office? Everybody knows our Church office. All of us – Sammy, Peter, all of us – we parked our vehicles, our bikes. And what do we do with our helmets? We hang it to the handle and we just enjoy. We go inside, and we work. Right? So, one day, I was in the Church office. I came put my bike there, hung my helmet, my helmet inside of becoming like this it became like that. Okay? Slipped over and become ulta (upside down). After a while, I came out of the office and I saw a small sparrow there on my bike. I looked at it and said, "Wow! Such a cute sparrow!" And because I generally take chai breaks. I went and had a chai break and I came back. And I found the sparrow still on the bike. I said, "Boy, it likes my bike." So, I went inside and started working and another one and half hours two hours. I wanted to take break. Again, I wanted to go for chai and I found another sparrow. Two sparrows now on my bike. I said, "Boy, cute little sparrows," and went and again had chai. I came back and again was walking. Generally walking in the corridor came out and started thinking and looked at the sparrows and they are still there on the bike. I said, "Boy, they love my bike." So that was Tuesday Bible study, by the way. Okay? So, Tuesday Bible study, by 6 o' clock I have to leave, and I generally take my bike. And I came out. I wanted to take my bike. I went and saw my helmet. Nice cushion and a beautiful nest inside my helmet. Made by two sparrows. They made it their love nest. I was like, "Oh my goodness." And immediately, this thought came to my mind. "Oh! That man of God very wise." You see, that's exactly what happens to our thoughts. They fly they look cute like sparrows. Aww. What a boy? Such cute boy. So cute! So handsome. Come back. And that fellow has made nest in your mind, over a period of time. That is exactly what he is saying. What happens if you keep feeding your old man? Because his desires have been corrupted because of deception. Thoughts are corrupted. And you keep on thinking. That's what it says, *"Although they knew God they did not, what? Glorify Him as God but, became futile in their thinking."* And then, what happened to their hearts? Their foolish hearts were darkened. Darkness happens because your mind is completely cluttered, and you can't see anything anymore. That's what *Romans 1:21* says, harbour, that is the word you can take away.

Romans 1:21-22

²¹ ***For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became (what?) futile (in their thinking) and their foolish hearts were darkened.*** ²² ***Professing to be wise, they became (what?) fools.***

That's the next verse. Verse 22. So, the moment you start harbouring wicked thoughts in your mind, what happens to you? You lose all sense of right and wrong. Now, you are driven by your passions. And even you see right in front of your eyes, the consequences of your evil actions, you still will not be able to stop yourself from taking part of sin. How do I know this? In fact, you become worse than a bird. You become what? Worse than a bird. I'll tell you. This is found in *Proverbs*. By the way, Solomon had idea about all birds. He observed birds very well. This is what he is talking about birds. Found in *Proverbs 1:17* onwards.

Proverbs 1:17

¹⁷ ***For in vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird,***

Look at it, Think about it. You know. It's like this know. He is saying perform this experiment guys. Okay? Put a net. When all the pigeons and birds are there. Right in front of their eyes, put a net. Okay? What should you do? Put a net. Do this experiment. Go home take a net right in front of all birds and the sparrows and the pigeons, while they are watching, out a net right in front of their eyes. And take some juicy little grains and peanuts and everything. Put it on the nets. And invite the birds. "come, eat, see the juicy little nuts and peanuts and grains and etc. "You know what the birds will say? Nah! Right in front of my eyes, you put the net and you are expecting. You think I am a fool to come and get myself trapped in those net? That's what Solomon observed. *"In vain is a net spread in the sight of a bird."* But you know what happens to

Destroy The Seed Of The Serpent Within!

these fellows? *“These men lie in wait for their own blood. They set an ambush for their own lives.”* They are always. *“Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors.”* That’s exactly what happened to Balaam. Balaam was enticed with gain. First time, offer. “Arrey, let me enquire.” Lord says, “I am not coming.” Second time, offer increased. You see, more honourable men double the price. Come. What happens to Balaam? He goes, and he is so blind. That even when a donkey opens its mouth, he is not able to see. See. You don’t even have the instinct of a bird. You know some man of God talks. I think Sundar Krishnan talks about this. If you go to Guntur, my parents are not there. My parents were there in Guntur. In the outskirts of Guntur, there is a bird sanctuary. How many of you know that? Have you ever been to Guntur? You know, in the outskirts of Guntur, there is a bird sanctuary. And birds from Scandinavia and all these cold places, they come there. And they breed, and they take back their little ones and young ones back once the winter is gone. So, what happens in winter? In winter in Scandinavia and in Canada, what happens? All the birds realize that it’s very cold and they come to which place? Guntur. Why? Because they know the weather. In Guntur, there are only three weathers – hot, hotter and hottest. Okay? So, in winter, it is hot in monsoon it is hotter and in summer, it’s hottest. So, they know that in winter in Canada, it is very cold.

So, instinct is telling me – “We need to go to Guntur.” So, they all fly towards Guntur. That is the instinct of a bird. So, if you are a man and you are in Canada and it is cold, you have two options – you can take a flight and come to Guntur or you can stay back at home and shovel snow. Which one will you choose? Answer? Indians will say, “I’ll take a flight and come home, it’s a winter break.” No! You will stay back home and shovel snow because you don’t operate on instincts. Don’t you? You know what he is saying? The instincts that a bird have, when you are blinded by a sin and can’t even function on basis of instincts. Your understanding is completely dark. In other words, you know the consequences of your actions but you now say, “I can’t help it. I have to take it.” In the world, that’s what exactly what happens to addicts. “You know what is going to happen to you? This is going to kill you, man!” “It doesn’t matter. I can’t live without it.”

So, what happens to the old man? If you feed the old man, by the way, this fellow is right there inside of you and if you feed him, he is like a snake. He coils around you slowly and sucks the life of God out of your heart and swallows you. If you go to Thailand, which is supposed to be a place where most of the people got to take a massage, it’s known for its spa. Recently, they have opened spas where they throw snakes on your back and you can get a massage by a snake. And there was a poll in a particular website saying, “How many of you want to have a massage by a snake?” I also took part in the poll. I said ‘no’ and thankfully, I was on the majority. There were 20% of the people who are idiots who wanted snakes on their backs. That’s what exactly he is talking about – idiots who have snakes on their backs and play with them. And that fellow is right there inside of our hearts in the way of our old man. So, what do you do with this fellow? His desires are being corrupted. Can you educate him? Can you make him disciplined? Answer is ‘no’. In fact, if you try to discipline him, he will become more rebellious. Let Scripture speak for itself.

Romans 7:7

⁷What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.”

“For I would not have known what it is to lust.” That’s the word ‘epithumia’ or desire, desires gone haywire. I would have not known what it is to lust if the law has not said, “Thou shall not lust or desire or covet.” But this fellow called sin which is essentially the nature of the old man ceasing opportunity through the commandments. Oh, the law has come, what does it say? *“Thou shall not covet.”* I shall show my true colours now.

Romans 7:11

¹¹But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of coveting (sin). For apart from the law, sin was dead.

And then, he asks, “Is anything wrong with the law?” No, law is spiritual but I am of the flesh sold under sin.

Romans 7:14

¹⁴We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.

Meaning? Think about it – we are sold out to sin. Give me an example. Story of Balaam.

Numbers 22:7-8

⁷So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the diviner's fee (prophet's fee, that's his price) in their hand, and they came to Balaam and spoke to him the words of Balak. ⁸And he said to them, "Lodge here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, as the LORD speaks to me." So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam.

Numbers 22:12-15

¹²And God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed. ¹³So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, "Go back to your land, for the LORD has refused to give me permission to go with you."¹⁴And the princes of Moab rose and went to Balak, and said, "Balaam refuses to come with me"

But Balak recognizes that this man is sold under sin. So, what is he going to do? Increase his price tag.

¹⁵Then Balak again sent princes, more numerous and more honorable than they. ¹⁶And they came to Balaam and said to him, "Thus says Balak the son of Zippor: 'Please let nothing hinder you from coming to me;

What is stopping you? Money, honor? Name your price, you'll have it.

Numbers 22:17

¹⁷for I will certainly honor you greatly, and I will do whatever you say to me. Therefore please come, curse this people for me."

Look at how Balaam answers.

Numbers 22:18-19

¹⁸Then Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, "Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.

And he should have asked them to go but this guy is sold under sin.

¹⁹Now therefore, please, you also stay here tonight, that I may know what more the LORD will say to me."

Sold! Do you have a price tag? Can people push you to compromise? That's an old man sold under sin. And if you keep on feeding him, you will see the ultimate end of that fellow. We see in *Ephesians*, he becomes hard in his heart and is not able to repent anymore. That's what happened with Pharaoh,

Exodus 8:15

¹⁵But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the LORD had said.

Exodus 8:32

³²But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go.

You know, one man of God said, "First, Pharaoh hardened his heart how many times? Seven times. Then, God hardened his heart once. Then, Pharaoh hardened his heart twice, and then, God hardened his heart six times. Total number of times God hardened seven and total number of times Pharaoh hardened? Nine." You are fantastic in math, I say. Seven is the number of God. After He hardens Pharaoh's heart, this is what He will say, "I hardened my heart but God says, 'you want to take the honor for the fact that you have hardened yourself against Me'. No! Even the honor that you have hardened your heart will belong to Me. "

Romans 9:17-18

Destroy The Seed Of The Serpent Within!

¹⁷ For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.”¹⁸ Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

And even the glory that Pharaoh hardened his heart will belong to God. Scripture. That’s exactly what happens to many believers. Over a period of time because they have kept on feeding the old man, I’ve not recognized Him, they have come to a point where they cannot be brought back to repentance and I’ve seen it happening right in front of my eyes, unable to repent, unable to humble themselves.

So, what is God’s solution to the old man?

Ephesians 4:23-24

²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

What does he do? Just as the old man was created by listening to lies and deception, he creates another guy called the new man by listening to what now? By listening to what? By listening to the truth. So, *James 1:18* will say.

James 1:18

¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures. (A kind of first fruits)

1 Peter 1:23

²³ having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.

You see that? “That which was perishing but I am going to give you an imperishable, an incorruptible seed through the living and abiding Word of God. So, first I will create a new man. Then, I will continue to feed the new man with truth.” That’s what it says.

1 Peter 2:2-3

² as newborn babies, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

So, you keep on listening to the truth. That’s what Jesus will say to the disciples who believed in Him.

John 8:30-32

³⁰ As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. ³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

“Keep on abiding in my Word.” But come as much as you can, listen to the Word of truth and let it sink into the deep most part of your inner soul so he may grow up, stronger and stronger. That is one part of the solution.

Second part of the solution – the old man is corrupted in its desires and is a rebel. There’s only one solution to a rebel. And what is the solution to a rebel? In Telugu, we say ‘Maddar’ You got it, right? Okay. Execute the old man. What should you do? Kill that fellow. But then, you will say, “How can I do that?” Thankfully, somebody did it for us. We knew that the old man cannot be cultured or whatever. He cannot be rehabilitated. Nothing is going to happen to him. One thing you have to do to that fellow – kill that fellow, murder him, crucify him. Thankfully, it’s been done for us. This is the promise.

Romans 6:6-7

⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷ For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Destroy The Seed Of The Serpent Within!

We know that, do we know? You know what the problem is? Many Christians, do not know. That's exactly the reason why Paul says, "I do not want you to be ignored brethren." As I say, there are all kinds of brethren. There are brethren, brethren. There are Plymouth brethren, there are Baptist brethren, Pentecostal brethren, Methodist brethren and there are ignorant brethren. Okay? So, he says, I do not want you to be ignorant brethren.

1 Corinthians 10:1

¹ Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

Okay? So, it says, "I do not want you to be ignorant brethren." Don't you know? We know (I hope we know) that our old man was dead. When did this happen? Do you know that? Your old man was crucified 2000 years back on the Cross, when Jesus died, along with Him that the body of sin might be brought to nothing. You know what is the old man? "It's corrupt." What should you declare him? "It's guilty of every kind of sin," And, what you should punish him with? "Capital punishment, Kill him." Right? So, that has happened. The body of sin might be brought to nothing so that we no longer be slaves to sin. Why? Because One who has died has been (you know the word? The translation has been very, very tragic. It uses the word,) free. But the original is – those who have died, have been justified." Meaning, what they have been found guilty and capital punishment has been given. They have been given the just punishment of their sin. They have been nailed to the cross in the Body of Christ. That's what it means. That is what we call it as – positional truth. But as with every truth, God doesn't automatically do it for us. He does it in collaboration with our will because he will not bend our will. Okay? Do you understand what I am saying? This is what we call – collaborating with God in order to kill the old man. How do we do it? This is what it says in *Romans 8:13* onwards.

Romans 8:13-14

¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, (what will happen to us?) you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, (To put to death the deeds of the body) these are sons of God (Are called what? sons of God)

These are the people who are called as sons of God. What happened? They take the help of sons of God. In another words, you can never, ever live the Christian life and crucify the old man in your strength. Never. You cannot do it. That's why Zac Poonen says, "Pendulum-Isis." That's a disease. Have you seen pendulums? They go from one extreme to another. One extreme – "God will do everything for me. He has done everything for me." That is one extreme. The other extreme – "I have to do everything for myself." No, if you, by the Spirit, put to death the deeds of the body, I will live. What does it mean? You know, what it means? Take my yoke upon yourself and learn from me.

Matthew 11:29

²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

How many are there? How many oxen are there in a yoke? Two oxen. One is Christ and the other is you. Who has more of the burden? Christ has more of the burden, that's the reason why it says my burden is light.

Matthew 11:30

³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

So, what does he do? Cana of Galilee. What did they do, His disciples? No wine. "Okay, you want wine? Six empty stone jars. Let them be filled with wine." He doesn't say in the Name of Jesus but of course, He is Jesus Himself. "Okay, let them be filled with wine." Does He say that? No, no. He says, "Servants, come here. Fill the jars with water. You do that." Who? "What you can do, I will do the impossible. Okay? Can they change water into wine?" No. Can we kill the old man? No. But can we do what Jesus asks us to do? Yes. Can we fill the jugs with water? Yes. That's exactly what He's telling each one of us, "Fill your life with the Word of God; I will kill sin in your life." That's what. You, by the Spirit put to death the deeds of the body. Can anybody bring Lazarus from the dead? No, but can you roll the stone away? Yes. That is what we call as faith without works is dead. So, what does He do in collaboration with us? With the power of the Spirit even as we listen to the Word, what does the Word say? Even as we listen to the Word, listen to the Word faith keeps arising inside of heart. "God, You can do it, God," because God's Word says, "Yes, I can do it." That's exactly what happens to the disciples to the place

Destroy The Seed Of The Serpent Within!

where Paul was preaching, he looked at that fellow after he finished preaching. He looked at this guy and Scripture says, "He found faith in this man to be healed." After the message was preached, he said, "In the Name of Jesus." See, that's exactly what it says in *Philippians 2:12*,

Philippians 2:12

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

Do what you can do. What you can do – coming to Church regularly. You can do that. Coming to Church on time – you can do that. "You can never overcome sin. Absolutely not. But I will give you the power; I will give you the faith, I will give you the Spirit without measure to enable you to kill the deeds of your body." For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil His good pleasure.

Philippians 2:13

¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Another thing that we do, how do we ensure that? One of the things that we do. How do we ensure that we co-operate with God? *2 Timothy 2:22*. This is the quadruple two principle. It's a very easy verse to remember. That's how I remember.

2 Timothy 2:22

²² Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Ah, *Proverbs 18:21*, six times three is eighteen. Seven times three is twenty-one, they are neighbours. So, that's how I remember. How I remember? So, *Proverbs 18:21*

Proverbs 18:21

²¹ Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Two times nine is eighteen. *Proverbs 29:18*

Proverbs 29:18

¹⁸ Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

That's how I remember, because I like numbers. So ,quadruple two principle. *2 Timothy 2:22*

2 Timothy 2:22

²² Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Flee, what is that? Flee, run. All young people say, "Run." Whoever is young. Ah, young people, run from evil desires in us. Pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace along with all of those who call on the Lord; out of a pure heart.

Another verse which we have been hearing over and over again in series. *1 Thessalonians 5:22*

1 Thessalonians 5:22

²² Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Run – that's what you can do. Can you run? Unless you have a swollen foot. But you can still run, you can do it. Run. That's what he is looking at. He is looking for action. All be it, retarded. Still looking for that; that is faith. So, run from every appearance of evil. What is therefore...? What should I run from? Susana Wesley puts this beautifully. This is what John Wesley and Charles Wesley came and asked her, "What should I run from, mama?" "What is sin for me, mama?" What she says, I think Ravi Zac quotes it many times – "Whatever weakens your thinking, impairs the tenderness of your conscience,

Destroy The Seed Of The Serpent Within!

obscures the sense of God, takes off the relish for spiritual things; whatever increases the authority of the body over the mind that thing is sin to you however innocent it might be seen in itself. Therefore, run.”

That is how you empower your new man, till the end. Shall we pray?

Closing Prayer:

Thank You, Father, for this time that You have blessed us with. So many truths we have learned. I pray, Father, at least some will stick with us and bear fruit in our lives. Lord, You said, You promised us in New Covenant that You will write your law in the deep most parts of our inner man, that You will cause us to walk in Your ways and according to Your promise. Lord Father, do it in our lives. Thank You, Father, for this time. We praise You. We worship You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.