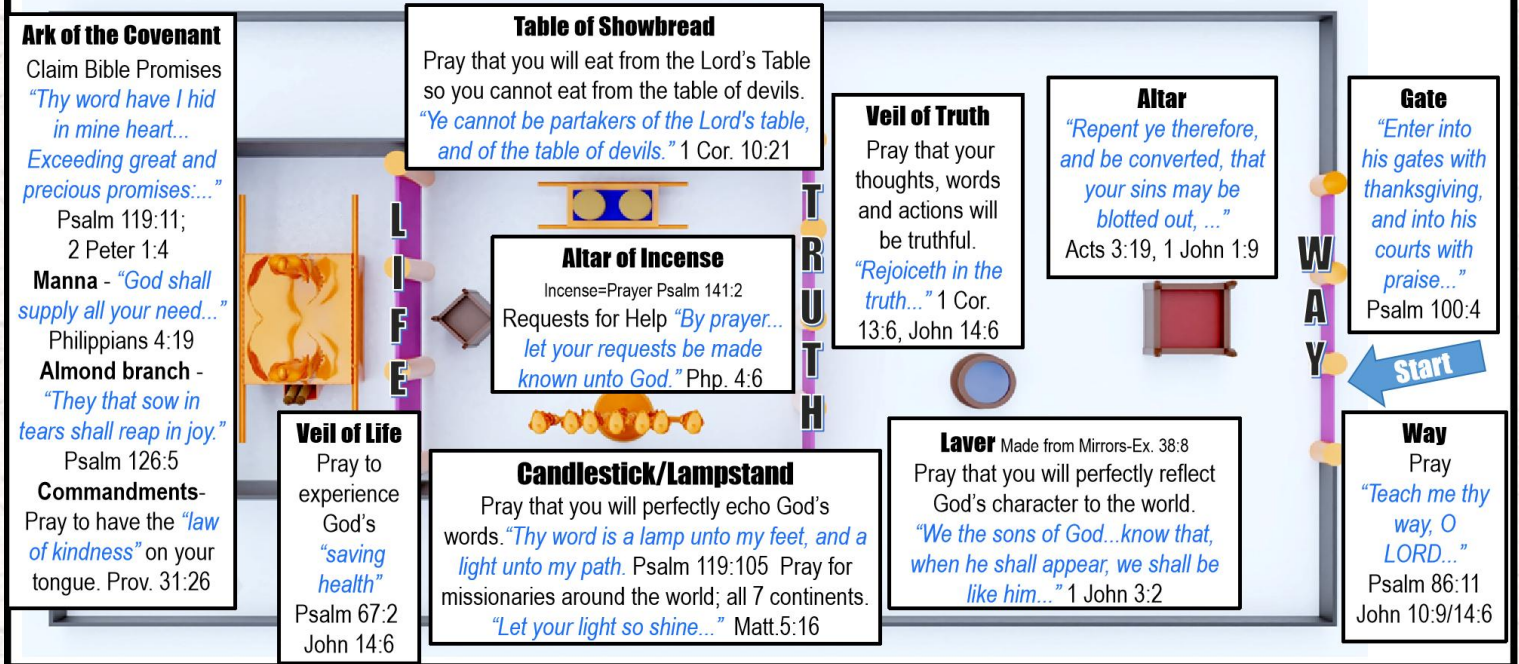




Profitable Traditions
Cultivate a relationship with God through prayer and Bible Study

Sanctuary Patterns for Prayer

"Order my steps in thy word..." Psalm 119:133 *"Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary..."* Psalm 77:13



Note: These are only some of the interesting links to prayer found in the sanctuary pattern. You may discover many more as you study.

You can find more sanctuary lessons [here](#)



Hold the Fort
Editor's Note

"Mighty men around us falling, courage almost gone..." My day and my mood matched the words of the song. How could I possibly keep going? What had happened to all the humans that I thought I could depend on? Physically, I was exhausted. Mentally, I was struggling to remain positive. And then there were all the spiritual battles to fight. I was willing to follow truth, but sometimes it seemed hard to know which way was truth. When one person says this is right and another says the opposite is right, it requires extra research in God's word and is sometimes a struggle of the mind to have to try to figure out who is doing things God's way. I knew I needed divine help if I was to make it, so repeatedly, I had prayed for extra wisdom from heaven and strength for another day. I claimed the promises, *"As thy days, so shall thy strength be."* Deuteronomy 33:25 and *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength."* Isaiah 26:3,4

The first dose of help came in the form of a story at the breakfast table. The story was told of a pilot who had a heart attack while flying a plane. This incident left only an untrained passenger to try to fly and land the plane. But, thankfully, air traffic control was able to find a flight instructor who knew the plane. Despite the passenger's lack of experience flying, the flight instructor "walked" the passenger step-by-step through what to do and how to fly the plane. He told him which buttons to push to put out the landing gear, and how to throttle the plane down, etc. Miraculously, with the verbal help of the flight instructor, the inexperienced passenger was able to land the plane safely. The lesson struck home. It was as if God had said, ***"You may not know the right way, but I do. Just trust me and obey my words in the Bible. Carefully follow each step I have given you, and victory is assured."*** Though now I had a lump in my throat and tears in my eyes, I felt more ready to meet the day knowing God had all the answers I needed.



However, physically, I was still extremely tired and wondered how I could keep going. But as I struggled to move a heavy weight uphill, I learned that God wasn't finished with His lessons for the day. Just when I thought I didn't have the energy to pull any harder, my husband, who had been in the middle of another job, showed up behind me. I didn't even see him approach or know he was there until

he tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Do you want me to help you with that?" Very thankfully, I handed off the job, breathing a sigh of relief. Although the help came in the form of my husband, again it seemed as if God was saying to me, "I see you doing your very best. Even when you don't see me, I'm always here, ready to help when the job is too heavy for you." Again a lump formed in my throat, and I was teary-eyed for a while as I watched my husband move the weight uphill for me. God is so good, and has so many ways to encourage us! As I write, the final words of one of our daughter's [History of Hymns](#) homeschooling project videos echoes through my mind. "Hold the fort for I am coming, Jesus signals still....Wave the answer back to heaven, by thy grace we will."

Indeed, we "can do all things through Christ" who makes us strong. (Philippians 4:13)



A Better Blue

I never would have believed it if I hadn't experienced it myself. A five-year-old that I was caring for was given an artificially colored lollipop. I wasn't too pleased and thought the sugar would lower her immune system, but I was completely unprepared for the negative effect on her behavior. I had her in a public place, and she became almost uncontrollable. She hollered until I feared I would get in trouble



because somebody might think I was hurting her. It was not until later that I learned that she was highly reactive to artificial food colorings. More and more science is learning that artificial colorings can have negative effects on children's behavior¹ as well as some artificial colors demonstrating toxic effects on the body's organs.² It would be well to replace potentially harmful colorings with something better. After all, even God is a lover of beauty and color. We find in Exodus 28:2 that he told Moses, "[And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.](#)"

Many artificial colors are easy to replace, pink with beet powder, yellow with tumeric, orange with carrots, brown with carob, green with spinach, etc. But for many years I've looked for a good easy blue coloring. There is a spirulina that is blue, but I'm always afraid the seaweed-like taste may overpower whatever I am coloring. And then I ran across butterfly pea flower. Its beautiful color can also vary with pH changes, making it wonderfully fun. In the picture above I just added some butterfly pea flower powder to some clover tea. Butterfly pea powder, I think, would make an amazing incentive to get people who don't naturally like to drink water to try this beautiful "re-hydration" drink.

"Butterfly pea is a rapidly growing vine that can reach up to 15 feet long. The leaves and flowers both resemble those of other pea plants. The blooms are a vibrant blue, with a white and yellow center. The flower contains phenolic pigments, called anthocyanins, that give it the gorgeous hue. The anthocyanins also have antioxidant properties, which means they have health benefits too. The color of a butterfly pea extract changes based on the pH. When the pH is lowered (such as by adding lemon juice) it turns from indigo to pink or pale purple. When the pH is raised (such as by adding saffron), the extract turns green."³



We tested the butterfly pea powder ourselves and it was fun to watch the beautiful blue hue turn to pink or purple when you add lemon juice. We even colored some organic sugar for topping cookies with (I'll share the recipe later), and its color held up to the heat of baking in the oven. Because butterfly pea flower doesn't have a strong flavor, you can add as much as you can afford, although it didn't take much to color things. With the beautiful sapphire blue color of butterfly pea flower, why use artificial colors? After all, God had it first and better!

1- <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9573786/> 2- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/14769768/> 3 <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/butterfly-pea/>



Warning-- A "Deliverance" Ministry Ended in Murder Prophetic News Notes

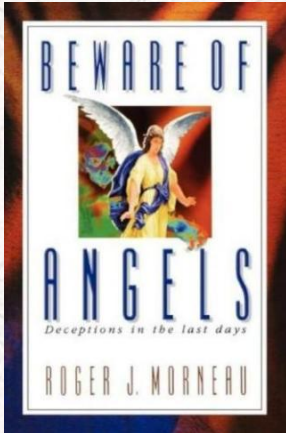
As we drove through Grants Pass, Oregon, we remembered the sad story of two ladies (the Halstead sisters) so deceived by "angels" as to murder in the name of religion. Their story, as detailed in the book [Beware of Angels](#), reveals what brought them to this point.



The Bible shows these kind of actions are a sign of the times. 1 Timothy 4:1 says, "[Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils...](#)" 1 Timothy 4:1

According to Webster's 1828 dictionary, the word seduce comes from the word "to lead" and means "to tempt and lead to iniquity" or "to draw aside or entice from the path of rectitude and duty in any manner, by flattery, promises, bribes or otherwise..." This is

exactly what happened to the Halstead sisters. These seducing spirits used a ministry that professed to cast out demons to get people to go against God's word. One of the sisters told author Roger Morneau, "*For a period of five years I was affiliated with a small group involved in deliverance ministries...They believed that they...had the ability to hear and see angels...I never thought the day would come when he would tell me to destroy six individuals who were demon possessed.*" (*Beware of Angels*, pg. 13,14) There is a reason the Bible says in 1 John 4:1 "*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*" This means we must test even the spirit of those who profess to cast out demons. The Bible makes it abundantly clear that especially in the last days there will be some claiming to cast out demons who are not working for God but rather for the devil. Jesus said, "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.* Matthew 7:21-23



This statement shows that professed Christians could often be the ones who mislead you into following counterfeit deliverance ministries. In my case, it was a pastor that invited me. I might have fallen for it except, I had just read this counsel to someone else from an author I had a high regard for. She stated to them, "*You have even supposed that power is given you to cast out devils. Through your influence over the human mind men and women are led to believe that they are possessed of devils, and that the Lord has appointed you as His agents for casting out these evil spirits....The work of declaring persons possessed of the devil, and then praying with them and pretending to cast out the evil spirits, is fanaticism which will bring into disrepute any church which sanctions such work.*" {3SM 376.3,378.2}

The story of the deliverance ministry that the Halstead sisters joined sounds strikingly similar to what is forbidden in the above quote. One testimony stated, "*Jean prayed again, and placed some anointing oil on Donna's forehead, and having done this, commanded in the name of Christ for the demons to manifest themselves....Jean conversed with one of the demons who told her that Donna was full of them....Some of the demons gave their names...Here are some of them: Headache, Sad, Weepy, Illness, Pride, etc...The session lasted about three hours...*" (*Beware of Angels*, pg. 82,83)

Although demon possession is real, this process is contrary to the Bible. Jesus never initiated conversation with demons and much of the time even when the demons initiated conversation, Jesus "*suffered not the devils to speak.*" (Mark 1:34, Luke 4:41). Actually, consulting with demons is prohibited in the Bible. In Deuteronomy 18:10-12 God commands, "*There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD....*" Regularly talking to or consulting with spirits makes them "familiar" and is an abomination. Keep in mind, the devil is "a liar" (John 8:44), we do not need to learn anything from him (Isaiah 8:19,20). "Seducing spirits" would love to have you talk to them because talking to them opens you up to demonic attack yourself, especially if you are committing various sins like unforgiveness, skepticism of God's word, novel reading, movie watching, or makeup wearing, etc., yourself. In fact, in many cases demons have taunted the people who spoke to them because of sins like these that they have committed. (There is more on this topic in our presentation [Spirits of Devils--What the Christian needs to Know.](#)) We are not to make room for the devil to speak or afford him any foothold in our lives. This is why Ephesians 4:27 says, "*Neither give place to the devil.*" and John 14:30 records Jesus saying, "*For the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.*"

Another problem with deliverance ministries is they generally focus on casting out the demons by name, even including many disease names as demons. In the Halstead sisters' case, casting out demons was also purposely done "one demon" at a time. There is no precedent for this in the Bible. For example, when Jesus cast "Legion" (many demons) out of the demoniac, allowing the demons to go into the pigs, they all went out at once. (Mark 5:1-16) Although Mary seven times had devils cast out of her by Jesus, it is likely because she slipped back into sin allowing the demons to re-inhabit her body. (Luke 8:2, Matthew 12:43-45) Also, the Bible makes clear that there are physical diseases, mental diseases, and demon possession, all three. Matthew 4:24 states, "*And his [Jesus] fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.*" Although occasionally physical, mental, and spiritual illness or demon possession may overlap (Matt. 12:22 & 17:14-21) or possession may be misdiagnosed as mental illness, these are not all always one and the same. For example, Job was made sick, but he was not possessed by demons (Job 1:22 and 42:8). And low blood sugar, causing negative mental effects, is not demon possession.

In addition, deliverance ministries often take upon themselves to look for demons everywhere. Members of the deliverance ministries group that the Halstead sisters were in said, "*We got involved...the deliverance ministry...We were riding the thing because it was sensational...rather than accepting the counsel...*" (pg. 98) Consider Christ's counsel to the 70 He sent out. "*And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them...Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.* Luke 10:17-20 We

are not to become prideful because the devils are subject to us through the name of Jesus. This is not the whole of the gospel. Also, while the devil is real, and habitual, presumptuous sin opens us up to an attack of the devil, we needn't exalt the devil by constantly talking about him and classing every temptation, even eating a bite of dessert, into *"the demon of sugar"* type category. For James 1:14 reveals some things are just human nature, *"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed."* Looking for demons everywhere, and making people feel like they are possessed when they are not, yields dangerous fruit. The book *Mind, Character and Personality* warns, *"By such fanaticism as we have lately had among us ... in peculiar exercises and the claim of power to cast out devils, Satan is seeking to deceive if possible the very elect. These persons, claiming to have a special message for our people, would charge one and another with being possessed of an evil spirit. Then after praying with them they would declare the devil cast out. The result of their work testified of its character... The Lord was not in these strange exercises but.. such exhibitions would deceive souls to their ruin unless they were warned..."* {1MCP 40.1} The problem is these deliverance ministries tend to destroy peoples' faith in Christ to protect sincere Christians. In the end, those who do get involved in ministries like this will get *"worsted"* just like the sons of Sceva. Acts 19:13-16 records, *"Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded."* Note that although these men were sons of one of the chief priests, because they didn't really know Jesus, they were no match for the devil and his demons. Repentance of one's own sins is necessary before dealing with those who are demon possessed and to avoid becoming possessed. God and the devil can both recognize a hypocrite for Psalm 66:18 reminds us, *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:"* In addition, spiritual pride can set us up for disaster, because, *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us... If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."* 1 John 1:8,10 But the good news is *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9

Let us follow a better plan than these counterfeit deliverance ministries, and as the Bible directs *"overcome evil with good."* Romans 12:21. James 4:7,8 has an especially good formula for spiritual warfare. *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist [Greek-antihistemi meaning stand against] the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."* Don't be a fence sitter, pray and tell God *"not my will, but thine be done."* Luke 22:42 Ephesians 6:11-17 tells us three times that the armor of God is what God gives us to *"stand"* against the devil. We may use "all prayer" and pray in Jesus name (Mark 16:17) *"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith"* it is promised *"ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."* Ephesians 6:16



One recitation of how a man was correctly to be dispossessed of demons demonstrates the importance of prayers of faith ascending to God. The writer stated, *"Evil angels are all about him, and at times have control of him in a strange, revolting way.... He is possessed of an evil spirit and 'has no power from the snare to go.' His case is like the cases of ancient times. At times, he thinks, speaks, and acts under the influence of satanic agencies, and does revolting things....As soon as possible, this demon-tempter's power must be broken... Satan must be rebuked as in olden time, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. This in faith we must ask the Lord to do, and He will fulfill His word. The Lord will hear prayer...Labor we must to have the man dispossessed."* {15MR 343.2}

But how do we have faith? The Bible says, *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* Romans 10:17 The word of God is key when we are wrestling against *"principalities and powers."* Jesus always met Satan's temptations with an *"it is written."* Also Matthew 8:16 records *"When the even was come, they brought unto him [Jesus] many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word."* The word of God, the Sword of the Spirit, is the only offensive weapon included in the armor of God. Just as in any health problem we are to get to the root of the problem and treat it, in cases of demon possession the root cause should be searched out. Sins like resentment, pride, or selfishness should be repented of. Also sins like fear (which is literally lack of trust in God) may effectively be rooted out by claiming promises of scripture. For example, one of my favorite verses is 2 Timothy 1:7 *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."* As we can see from the story of David singing for Saul, scripture songs are a most effective weapon. While other Christian songs may be helpful, **scripture is the ultimate weapon!** Find Bible texts appropriate to the temptation. *TheMarkedBibleMission.com* has a wonderful [collection of scripture songs](#) organized by book. Some other scripture songs you may find helpful include: To counter temptation--1 Cor.10:13, To overcome fear-- 2 Timothy 1:7, Isaiah 41:10, Good thought patterns--Philippians 4:8, Pride--Jeremiah 9:23,24, Patience--Isaiah 40:31, Revelation 14:12, Caring for the Body Temple--1 Cor. 6:19,20, Peace and Trust--Isaiah 26:3,4, Matthew 11:28-30, Contentment--1 Timothy 6:6,7 Philippians 4:11. As you avoid counterfeits, embrace that which is true, and remember, *"The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."* Luke 18:27



Potholes

It is said that since the Portuguese withdrew from Angola many years ago, the country's roads, bridges and transportation systems had fallen into disrepair while the country engaged in civil war. Trucks sat beside the roads because they lacked the replacement parts that would enable them to run. Bridges had collapsed and the roads were full of potholes. On a trip to Angola, a representative from a certain humanitarian ministry



was being driven through this impoverished, war-torn country to assess the needs, when he noticed that his driver made no attempt to avoid the deep potholes and ruts characteristic of that nation's highways. In fact, his driver seemed to be avoiding those places where some repair work had been carried out--those few holes that had been filled in. Curious, he asked his driver why he avoided those few relatively smooth patches of road. "Because," came his reply, "That's where the land mines are." Likewise, in the Christian life, we must follow the direction of the All-knowing God, and not just do what looks best to us, for "There is a way which

seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.." Proverbs 14:12



God's Amazing Creations

Feather stars are found around the world's oceans in both shallow and deep waters. Looking like a plant can help this starfish hide from predators (animals that eat it). Feather stars swim by moving alternating arms up and down. There are over 600 known species of feather stars. Like other echinoderms, or invertebrates (animals without a backbone) with spiny skin, they can re-grow parts of their bodies if they lose them. I think it is neat that God made the feather star's body to heal like that. Don't you?



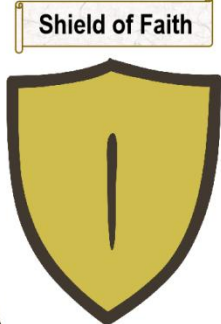
"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ephesians 6:11



The Bible tells us in Ephesians 6:10-17 what the Christian soldier's pieces of armor are for fighting against Satan and sin. Can you help the Christian soldier name all the pieces of the armor he is wearing?



Helmet of Salvation



Shield of Faith



Breastplate of Righteousness



Belt of Truth



God's Word the Sword of the Spirit



Gospel Missionary Shoes
the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace