MY TWO VISITORS –

DISCONTENTMENT & DISCOURAGEMENT

**Gal. 6:9** - And let us not be **weary** in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we **faint not**.

**1Cor. 15:58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is **not** **in** **vain** in the Lord.

 Can I tell you the enemy of our souls, the Devil, has pulled out all the stops in his efforts to discourage and hinder the Church from praying, working and serving God? He wants to silence you. Satan hates the Church, he hates God’s ministers and workers. He is quick to point out every fault and negative thing to quench our spirit and take away our passion in serving the Lord! Your arch enemy is quick to point out every bad thing, everything that is wrong and he’ll show you every failure in order to take away your Faith and desire.

 Once while in prayer the Holy Ghost spoke to my heart and showed me the enemy’s tactics how he speaks to the minds of God’s people to fill them with doubt and discourage them in the Lord’s service. So, I made up a little story to tell in allegory form to help you see how cunning and sly the Devil is in getting people dismayed. You see, the enemy of your soul does not want you happy, he does not want you serving the Lord! He does not want you going to Church and working for Jesus. If he can, he will isolate you, separate you from good people and keep you from the fellowship of God’s Holiness people. Remember, there is strength in UNITY and that is exactly what he wants to break. He wants to stop you and shut you and the Church down.

 When you Unite and work together in the Love of God, then Charity becomes a bond the devil cannot break. United together we stand, but divided we separate and fall. When you are isolated and alone, you have no one to help you bear your burdens, no one to help you lift a heavy load. There will surely come times in your life that you will need encouragement and comfort, someone to share and care. That is the time when you need the Church, you need precious brothers and sisters in the Lord for strength! God has made His Children encouragers, comforters, workers, helpers, and soldiers! I would surely hate to think I was on the battlefield facing the enemy all alone by myself.

 So, having said all this, There are over 171,000 words in a dictionary with over 600,000 definitions. I took only two words that affects every one of us and I personified them! They are the words **Discontentment** and **Discouragement**! In this story that I made up in allegory form, I gave each one their own character. So, we see the first character as **Mr. Discontent** and the other character as **Mr. Discouragement**. Let’s now enter the story:

**MR. DISCONTENT**

 I had two visitors to pay me a visit recently. The first one visited me early in the week and the other one came later. The first Visitor came on a Monday morning, a day after the Sunday church service the day before. I hadn’t been up very long when I heard a knock at my door. It was one of those knocks that you knew that someone definitely wanted your attention. Knock, knock, knock - Surely whoever is at my door is really wanting something! So, I went to answer the door, and when I opened it, Lo there stood **Mr. Discontent**! As he stood there looking and peering at me through the glass, I could tell he was a lone figure who showed a spirit of dissatisfaction. He couldn’t hide it, it was written all over his face. Well, I wonder what he wants? As I looked at him through the glass door, his face showed no excitement. It was glum with not a hint of true happiness. His frown was already speaking! He asked me if he could come in. He said he had a few things on his mind that he would like to discuss and talk about. I don’t know why, but I unlatched the door and pushed it open for him and he immediately walked right in. By me opening the door he took it for granted that he was welcome and felt right at home! He headed straight over and took a seat at my table!

 Sad to say, I hadn’t taken the time to pray and read my Bible that morning and as a matter of fact, I had been struggling lately in my prayers. I just wasn’t getting anywhere and making that connection with God like I use to. It was like I didn’t have the deep inward desire to really push through to get a hold of the Lord and be in His presence. I hadn’t been having that excitement in serving God for a while. Since **Mr. Discontent** could sense my spiritual weakened condition, it prompted him to open up and start talking. Little did I know that he had me in his crosshairs. With his sly evil boldness and confidence, he was now aiming at my very soul with his deceitful words. Sadly, I sat there in my spiritual lull and listened as he poured out his feelings of Discontentment. It was plain to see that this visitor came to criticize and shine a bad light on others. His goal was to isolate me and pull me away from God and His people and away from Church. As I listened, it was plain that nothing suited him. He must have told me a half dozen things that he didn’t like. His words and feelings that he shared quite honestly seemed pretty persuasive the way he described them. You see, he was aiming at the cord that held the Church and if he could fray it and cause it to break, then he could pull me away from God and cause others to fall too. If he could succeed here, he would be able to get me away from people who loved me and I would lose that inward spiritual strength and desire!

 You could surely feel **Mr. Discontent’s** dissatisfaction. He wasn’t satisfied about this, and he wasn’t happy about that. He found fault with people – with this one and with that one. He sat at my table and told me about the things he thought wasn’t right and how they ought to be different. He didn’t like how things were going and running. He just didn’t agree with certain people. He was careful to point out their flaws. After sitting there and listening to him a while, he was slowly causing me to see things the way he saw them and to feel the same way he was feeling. I don’t know why I was sitting there listening to **Mr. Discontent!**

 Why had I let him in? Here he is at my very table. The more he talked, the more sense it made to my carnal unspiritual mind. Seeing that I was listening and taking it all in, he stayed quite a while till his awful spirit was brushing off and building inside of me. This ungodly spirit from Satan and Hell was playing on my prayerlessness and emptiness. At first, **Mr. Discontent** was doing all the talking, but after a while I found myself joining him in the conversation and agreeing. I was becoming a victim and did not even realize it!

 O God, why could I not see through all this and where it was leading? This unholy visitor was aiming at God and His Church to conquer and divide. He was endeavoring to pull me out. He knew it had worked on many other unwary souls, so now he has come for me. I’m finding that I am in the same boat he was in, seeing the faults and flaws of others, criticizing and judging them! And now here we are both paddling together, talking about the same people and the same things that we did not like or agree with and running God’s precious people down.

 I should have noticed that the whole time that **Mr. Discontent** was at my table, the joy of God’s presence was absent, it was missing! I did not feel the Lord, the spirit in my house was tight, Hell was grating at my table and I felt on edge! Finally **Mr. Discontent** said he had to go. Rising up from the table, I followed him to the door. He turned and shook my hand and thanked me saying that he enjoyed his visit. As he turned and walked out the door, you could see on his face an unearthly smile of accomplishment, a glee of success in getting me to believe and agree with all that he said.

WHO WAS THIS UNHOLY VISITOR? Did I not realize nor perceive who this was that visited me and why? He was an Agent of Satan, a spirit well trained with an organized plan to cause me to stay home and not want to go to Church and serve God. This ungodly spirit came to make me Discontent and pull away from precious Brothers and Sisters and cause my downfall. When **Mr. Discontent** left, I closed the door behind him. I went in and tried to Pray and read my Bible and get my mind on the Lord, but I found I was spiritually dead and dry. I was irritated, and empty. This spirit had taken something good out of me. I had no joy! There was a presence that **Mr. Discontent** left behind that I could not shake, for Behold – NOW IT WAS ME - I WAS DISCONTENT.

The enemy had sown his seeds well. I couldn’t see the good for the bad. I was now unhappy and not satisfied about things. I wallowed and struggled in this spirit and it ate on me for days – I had been hijacked in my mind! Surely this visit and conversation had done something to me that I needed to recover from and get victory over fast!! For days I was entertaining these thoughts in my head until I heard another knock at my door! Almost a week has passed, now it’s Saturday morning, just one day before Sunday Church service. Hummm! Now another visitor? O what timing! I was already down low and struggling. What’s this one wanting?

**MR. DISCOURAGEMENT**

Whoever this visitor is at my door is, he’s eagerly wanting to come in my house too. He’s knocking with persistence – his visit must really be important. I just wonder,,,,,, – did **Mr. Discontent** send him, telling him that he had great success in tearing me down earlier in the week and it would be just the right time for him to visit with his propaganda? Well, I don’t know but I’ll go and answer the door and check out who’s wanting to talk with me.

I went to my door and when I opened it, I peered through the glass and Lo, there stood **Mr. Discouragement!** As I looked into his eyes, he smiled and acted like he was really glad to see me. BUT,,,,,,, there was just something sinister behind his smiling face that I wasn’t fully aware of nor was I ready for! Isn’t that interesting that **Mr. Discouragement’s** arrival at my door was well timed? **Discontentment** had visited me just a few days earlier! He had done his clever work of sowing his seeds of discord and painting a bad picture in my mind about everything and everyone. All I could see now were Faults. Small things were completely blown out of proportion – mountains were made out of mole hills. Now here stands **Mr. Discouragement** and he’s wanting to come in for a little visit too. Little did I know – the Devil had sent this Dark Power also with a message to deliver!! Will I invite, will I open, will I listen?

I don’t know why but I was already down, so I just opened the door and in walked **Mr. Discouragement.** When he entered, he courteously shook my hand but guess what? He made a bee-line straight to my table! He came on business too! He pulled out a chair and sat down, and Lo, it was the very same chair that **Discontent** had sat in a few days earlier! It didn’t take me long to figure out that this visit was not altogether about others this time, it was all about ME – directed straight at me! It was Hell’s effort to deliver the final blow to my heart and Salvation. But O God, why did I not realize what was happening to me? Could I not see through it all and understand that there was a battle going on for my very soul and that I stood in grave danger of losing out – losing everything I had gained and hoped for in the Lord? Will this spirit succeed in robbing me of my Faith and take the Love for God and others away forever? Will he sever that last strand of commitment that had me tied to Church and the assembly of the saints where I draw my Hope, victory and strength?

I’ll have to say that for the last few weeks and months I had been doing good, I was happy and getting in the services. I had a desire to serve the Lord and God’s love filled my heart. I loved the Lord and I loved everybody. I was very close to my brothers and sisters and was gladly a part of them. I fit right in and was content. I was drawing strength. It was easy to testify and sing and worship the Lord and get in with the others and rejoice. The Unity was sweet, the bond strong and the joy overflowed **until Discontent** showed up! I should have never listened to him!

But now after **Discontentment’s** visit, things have drastically changed in my spiritual life! My views and feelings of others are different. It’s sad for me now to say – the devil had come to visit me and I didn’t even realize it. I was deceived by it all. **Discontentment** had come first to do his work of undermining me and set the stage in my spiritual life for **Discouragement** to come and do his clever work. I never saw it coming. Satan’s attacks are so clever and well organized. I sure wish with all my heart that I had stayed prayed up. **Discontentment** had surely weakened me – NOW **Discouragement** had come to finish the job of taking me down and out! O God, give me DISCERNMENT, please open my eyes to see and understand the sly workings of these spirits of deceit. O Jesus, would you bring me back before this goes too far and before it’s too late! I don’t want to lose out on God!!

**Discouragement** could see the effects of **Discontent** in my eyes. He could sense I was not happy spiritually. When he perceived my weakened condition, he took swift advantage of it and got right to the point. He opened up with Hell’s evil message that he was sent to deliver. As I sat there and listened, this visitor’s awful presence filled the room. It was a depressing spirit sent from the father of lies – the Devil! Another emissary, an agent from the dark lower regions of Hell was now at my table to take everything good out of me, to take my hope, take away my confidence and leave me with nothing good to believe in. I’ll be honest, his message took the very air out of me that left me helpless and hopeless. Now I was feeling – what’s the use?! Why go on? I’ll just stay home!

Why had I let **Discouragement** in? Also, why did I open the door to **Discontentment**? Why am I listening? It’s all been lies misconstrued by the enemy that has filled my head. Look at the shape I’m in now. I have let these two evil visitors talk me right out of the Blessings of God!

 I was doing so good. Why didn’t I realize that the Church and God’s people is the most precious thing on this earth? **Discontent** had sure painted a bad picture in my mind, But all of this was surely not the way God was seeing and feeling about it. The Lord is seeking to build His Church in Love and Unity! The Church is the Body of Christ on earth in whom all the building fitly framed together growth unto an Holy Temple in the Lord. We are members one of another that God is building together for an Holy habitation of God through the Spirit! He DOES NOT want us divided and separated! The Lord wants Unity from the least member to the greatest for we all are important to Him. A Holy Reverence for God and Love for one another must reign in the Church!

I sure wish I had kept up my prayer life and read my Bible daily in faithfulness to my Lord! None of this would be happening! Did I not realize that Church is my refuge, it’s my shelter and strength in times of trouble?

So, now **Mr. Discouragement** started talking and filling my ears. He said to me – “Now you know you don’t fit in down there, you’re not really wanted and you’re just not important. You don’t have anything to offer, others are better than you! Besides, people don’t have confidence in you. They’re not that friendly anyway. Can’t you tell that some of them shun you? So and so did the other night. They went around shaking hands and talking to others, but they walked right past you. Haven’t you noticed they don’t seem to recognize you? You can see it on their face – you’re just being left out! Just face it – you must not be important. Besides all that, haven’t you noticed that you don’t get blessed like you use too? How long has it been since you really felt the Lord in the Church services? Just look at you, look how empty you are – you’re unworthy! You don’t have anything to show and everyone knows it, they can see it. You’re not happy there anymore and you know it. Nobody cares about you! You know what? If I was you, I would just stay home.!” Finally **Discouragement** drove the final nail in that he came to deliver by saying – “Just face it – You’re not Saved! Why don’t you just quit!!”

When **Mr. Discouragement** finished speaking his mind and delivering his message, he got up from my table and said he was leaving. In a friendly but hypocritical gesture, he shook my hand and thanked me for giving him my time and listening to what he had to say. As he opened the door and stepped out, he turned one last time and said – “It was good talking to you, maybe I can come back for another visit some time and we’ll talk again!” When he walked down my steps and turned the corner, I felt like he had taken what was left of my heart with him and now I had nothing!! All the air was gone out of me. Now I felt completely unimportant and not good enough for God or anybody else. I felt like a total failure.

The master deceiver and enemy of my soul had been to my house like he has many others and had spread his poisonous lies to separate me from God and to cut me off from the fellowship of God’s people. He told me no one loved me – they don’t care! The enemy even told me that God had given up on me, that I had failed too many times and I just didn’t fit in anymore. All of this was the Devil’s destructive plan to isolate me and cause me to quit going to Church! He wanted me to give up my Faith, draw cold on God and backslide. (***End of story)***

Dear reader, there are many precious souls of dear friends and loved ones who have become victims of these two spirits of **Discontent** and **Discouragement.** They are now backslid far away from God and outside the fold walking in darkness. It didn’t have to end this way, and it doesn’t have to be this way now!! Believe me these spirits are strong and very much at work in this hour. They know how to blow things out of proportion and make them appear bigger than they really are. My heart is stirred within me as I typed this Newsletter. My earnest advice to everyone is: Please Pray and take time in the Word of God, to spend time in God’s Divine presence. Stay faithful to the House of the Lord where the Holy Ghost is moving! It’s where you draw strength! You can be lifted up, encouraged and renewed!

To you who may have been visited by these two demonic Visitors. If they are knocking at your door, I pray you shake them off! Don’t listen to them - GOD LOVES YOU and you have others who Love you and Care!! Jesus is Coming very soon and Heaven is just around the bend!! All our battles and struggles down here with the devil will soon be over and WE’LL BE HOME!! Don’t ever forget – God and the Good Holy Ghost is Bigger, Better, Stronger, and Sweeter and you can make it – “LOVE WINS!!”

**1Pet 3:8** ¶ Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren:

**1John 4:7** ¶ Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God;

**Eph 4:32** And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

**Heb 10:22** Let us draw near (to God) with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

 **23** Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

 **24** And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

 **25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. ***God Bless all my Readers!***