

FREEDOM FROM CURSES (Part 1)

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WHAT IS A CURSE?

A curse is a negative statement uttered to self or another's injury. A curse is a word, phrase or sentence calling for the punishment, injury or destruction of something or somebody.

A curse is an enchantment or evil divination against another with the intent of causing harm.

A curse is the cause of misfortune or ruin. Curses are forces in the unseen realm and they have power to bring evil to come to pass.

- Curses imprison people and their destinies.
- Curses produce frustrations and embitter the cursed.
- Curses cause failure and disappointment.
- Curses produce bad luck and generate hatred towards the cursed.
- Curses make man toil without success.
- Curses make men to live an aimless and wandering life.
- A curse can make a man to lose all he has labored for all his life in a chain of events that one cannot really explain.
- A curse can make a man to lose his employment, important documents and permits and close doors against the man.
- Curses make men grind their teeth in agony and pain. It makes life unbearable and unnecessarily tough and difficult.
- Curses make men take wrong decisions that will complicate, create problems, destroy their marriages, relationships, business, jobs, and make them lose their marriages business, jobs, good friends, clients and everything going for them.
- Curses make men to hit invisible obstacles when they are almost succeeding in their pursuits.
- Curses close doors of blessing and progress and make poverty become a man's experience.
- Curses make man to put in much effort and get little out of it.
- Curses make a man's immune system to collapse, thereby opening him up for sicknesses and diseases.
- A curse can give one an incurable disease that will defy all medications and treatment.
- Curses make men to die before their time.
- Curses make men to lose their honor and make them slaves and prisoners – They suffer oppression.
- Curses increase the risk of failure and disappointment.
- Curses build strongholds on a man's life and his lineage – It transfers to all in his or her lineage.

Isa 42:22

22 But this is a people plundered and looted, all of them trapped in pits or hidden away in prisons. They have become plunder, with no one to rescue them; they have been made loot, with no one to say, "Send them back."

NIV

THE REALITY OF CURSES

Curses are real. The Bible is filled with accounts of those who were cursed and the fulfillment of those curses. These are written down as examples and as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.

1 Cor 10:11

11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.

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1. Jacob cursed Reuben for sleeping with Bilhah his concubine and it came to pass.

Gen 35:21-22

21 Israel moved on again and pitched his tent beyond Migdal Eder. 22 While Israel was living in that region, Reuben went in and slept with his father's concubine Bilhah, and Israel heard of it.

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Gen 49:1-4

49:1 Then Jacob called for his sons and said: "Gather around so I can tell you what will happen to you in days to come. 2 "Assemble and listen, sons of Jacob; listen to your father Israel. 3 "Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, the first sign of my strength, excelling in honor, excelling in power. 4 Turbulent as the waters, you will no longer excel, for you went up onto your father's bed, onto my couch and defiled it.

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1 Chron 5:1-2

5:1 The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (he was the firstborn, but when he defiled his father's marriage bed, his rights as firstborn were given to the sons of Joseph son of Israel; so he could not be listed in the genealogical record in accordance with his birthright, 2 and though Judah was the strongest of his brothers and a ruler came from him, the rights of the firstborn belonged to Joseph)-

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2. Joshua cursed any man who will attempt to rebuild the city of Jericho and it came to pass.

Josh 6:26

26 At that time Joshua pronounced this solemn oath: "Cursed before the LORD is the man who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho: "At the cost of his firstborn son will he lay its foundations; at the cost of his youngest will he set up its gates."

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1 Kings 16:34

34 In Ahab's time, Hiel of Bethel rebuilt Jericho. He laid its foundations at the cost of his firstborn son Abiram, and he set up its gates at the cost of his youngest son Segub, in accordance with the word of the LORD spoken by Joshua son of Nun.

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It took about 575 years to fulfill the curse. The curse never died. It was waiting for the day someone will arise to rebuild the city so it can fulfill itself. And it did just as Joshua decreed.

3. Elisha the prophet of God cursed the king's officer that he will see the miracle of God's provision for Judah, but he will not taste out of it when he doubted God's ability to make provision such that the cost of food items will fall drastically as Elisha predicted.

2 Kings 7:1-2

7:1 Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD. This is what the LORD says: About this time tomorrow, a seah of flour will sell for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria." 2 The officer on whose arm the king was leaning said to the man of God, "Look, even if the LORD should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?" "You will see it with your own eyes," answered Elisha, "but you will not eat any of it!"

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2 Kings 7:17-20

17 Now the king had put the officer on whose arm he leaned in charge of the gate, and the people trampled him in the gateway, and he died, just as the man of God had foretold when the king came down to his house. 18 It happened as the man of God had said to the king: "About this time tomorrow, a seah of flour will sell for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria."

19 The officer had said to the man of God, "Look, even if the LORD should open the floodgates of the heavens, could this happen?" The man of God had replied, "You will see it with your own eyes, but you will not eat any of it!" 20 And that is exactly what happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gateway, and he died.

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Elisha cursed some youths that were jeering at him. 2kg 2:23-25.

So many people today are laboring under one curse or the other. May be you are one of them. You need to pay close attention and discover the curse working in your life, and deal with it.

A CURSE WITHOUT A CAUSE (REASON) CANNOT WORK.

Prov 26:2

2 Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest.

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A Curse without a cause will not work. Therefore, for every curse that anyone is experiencing in his life there is a cause. And when that cause is discovered, and taken care of the curse is broken.

Satanic curses most of the time are placed on people without a cogent reason. Because they love wickedness, they break the law of placing of curses and attack and afflict innocent people for stupid and flimsy excuses that they present as reasons for placing curses. This is the reason why Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power to deliver them that are oppressed and wrongly afflicted of the devil.

Acts 10:38

38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

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Not all curses answer to prayer. Some, you have to locate the cause and deal with it either through repentance, restitution or peacemaking before the curse is broken.

Achan for instance brought a curse on Israel by taking for himself an accursed thing which the LORD has instructed them through Joshua that they should not touch. Because of Achan, Israel suffered defeat in the hands of Ai for God had abandoned them to their enemies. Their prayers alone could not change the situation, until Achan was discovered, he and his family and the accursed things he took was destroyed. It was after this, the curse was lifted.

Joshua 7

7:1 But the Israelites acted unfaithfully in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the LORD's anger burned against Israel.

2 Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, "Go up and spy out the region." So the men went up and spied out Ai.

3 When they returned to Joshua, they said, "Not all the people will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary all the people, for only a few men are there." 4 So about three thousand men went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, 5 who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted and became like water.

6 Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the LORD, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads.

7 And Joshua said, "Ah, Sovereign LORD, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan! 8 O Lord, what can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies? 9 The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?"

10 The LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? 11 Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. 12 That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.

13 "Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: That which is devoted is among you, O Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove it.

14 "'In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe that the LORD takes shall come forward clan by clan; the clan that the LORD takes shall come forward family by family; and the family that the LORD takes shall come forward man by man. 15 He who is caught with the devoted things shall be destroyed by fire, along with all that belongs to him. He has violated the covenant of the LORD and has done a disgraceful thing in Israel!'"

16 Early the next morning Joshua had Israel come forward by tribes, and Judah was taken. 17 The clans of Judah came forward, and he took the Zerahites. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward by families, and Zimri was taken. 18 Joshua had his family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken.

19 Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and give him the praise. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me."

20 Achan replied, "It is true! I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: 21 When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath. 23 They took the things from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites and spread them out before the LORD.

24 Then Joshua, together with all Israel, took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the gold wedge, his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent and all that he had, to the Valley of Achor. 25 Joshua said, "Why have you brought this trouble on us? The LORD will bring trouble on you today."

Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them. 26 Over Achan they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from his fierce anger. Therefore that place has been called the Valley of Achor ever since.

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In 2 Samuel 1:21, David placed a curse on mountain Gilboa because it was there king Saul and his son Jonathan was killed.

2 Sam 1:21

21 "O mountains of Gilboa, may you have neither dew nor rain, nor fields that yield offerings [of grain]. For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul—no longer rubbed with oil.

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That is over 3000 years now. But till date, that mountain has nothing green on it. No rain falls there. It's eternally dry as it were, just because of a curse placed on it.

Ask God to search you and reveal the curse upon your life and the cause (Reason for the curse).

Ps 139:23

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

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A greater percentage of our problem is self caused. Even the devil cannot perform except we let him or rather give him a place.

Eph 4:27

27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

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If we will make up our minds to discipline ourselves by making sure we live our lives the way God wants us to live, curses will be averted. When we live contrary to God's laws and commandments, we bring curses upon our lives, and we blame someone or the devil for our misfortune.

TYPES OF CURSES

There are many types of curses. We are going to be dealing with all of them in this study.

They are:

1. The curse of God

2. Parental curse
3. The curse of the Law
4. The curse of sowing and reaping
5. The curse of bitterness
6. Inherited or Generation curse
7. The curse of the prophets
8. The curse of Satan

THE CURSE OF GOD

a. The first thing I want to establish is that God curses. This is the highest and strongest curse. It opens the door for satanic curses and afflictions to prevail. Because it is by the highest authority it is the strongest curse which no man of God can set you free from. Only genuine repentance and faith in Jesus Christ sets one free from it.

Gen 3:16-19

16 To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." 17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."
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Gen 12:3

3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."
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b. Salvation through Christ saves man from the curse of God, for the curse of God is upon the wicked already.

Prov 3:33

33 The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous.
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Heb 2:3

3 how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.
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c. Willful disobedience attracts the curse of God. (Willful disobedience is being aware of what is right and deciding to do the wrong thing).

1 Sam 15:22-23

22 But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."
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James 4:17

17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

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d. The curse of God will come on any born again Christian who is willfully disobeying God.

Gal 6:7

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

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e. When you don't embrace the word of holiness, you can't escape the curse of God.

There are therefore two levels:

- There is no hope for someone who is not born again at all.
- Anyone who is born again and is not abiding in the Vine will still be suffering from the curse of God.

Practical righteousness therefore is your way out of the curse of God. Living life the way he commands it will make a man walk free from the curses of God all the days of his life.

1 Peter 3:13

13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?

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Isa 54:17

17 no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD.

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- The curse of the law is different from the curse of God. Jesus according to Galatians 3:13-14 has delivered us from the curse of the law. But you will notice that that didn't change the curse God placed on man and woman through Adam and Eve. This is a proof that there is a difference between the two.

Repentance from acts of disobedience breaks the curse of God. Salvation through Christ and abiding in Christ and his word frees man from the curse of God.

THOSE WHOM GOD CURSES:

1. The curse of God is on him who puts his trust in man.

Jer 17:5-6

5 This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD. 6 He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes.

He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.

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When God is no longer your sufficiency, you come under the curse of God. You begin to go up and down, with nothing to show at the end of it all. But, if he is your confidence and you absolutely trust in him and not in man, then, you will see his power manifest in your life and your face will radiate his glory.

Ps 34:5

5 Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.

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Ps 118:8-9

8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. 9 It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.

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Because you are looking far away, that's why you are getting farther from the blessing. See God as your source and look up to him. If God is not your confidence then there is a curse in place in your life. If God is not your hope, your future is not certain. Do not allow anyone or thing to take the place of God in your life.

Destroy your alternatives and depend absolutely on God.

Jer 17:7-8

7 "But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. 8 He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

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2. If you are robbing God, you are under the curse of God.

Zech 5:2-4

2 He asked me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a flying scroll, thirty feet long and fifteen feet wide." 3 And he said to me, "This is the curse that is going out over the whole land; for according to what it says on one side, every thief will be banished, and according to what it says on the other, everyone who swears falsely will be banished. 4 The LORD Almighty declares, 'I will send it out, and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of him who swears falsely by my name. It will remain in his house and destroy it, both its timbers and its stones.'"

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Mal 3:8-10

8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. 9 You are under a curse-the whole nation of you-because you are robbing me.

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You either give your tithe to God willingly, or the devourer takes it from you. And he will normally take more than is supposed to be the tithe. In fact God's word says you pay a percentage charge on whatever you rob him of. To whom? The devourer!

Prov 6:30-31

30 Men do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his hunger when he is starving. 31 Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold, though it costs him all the wealth of his house.

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Everybody tithes - only very few to the Lord, and many to the devourer. If you don't tithe, things will never stop being tight for you. And because it is a curse of God, no prophet can break it. Every curse of God demand absolute repentance and obedience, or the curse remains.

3. Watch your tongue for your tongue can bring the curse of God upon you.

Ps 34:11-13

11 Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. 12 Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, 13 keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies.

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Prov 18:21

1 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

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Matt 12:36-37

36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

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There are many ways by which people bring curses upon their lives with their tongue:

- When a man curses his father or mother.

Prov 20:20

20 If a man curses his father or mother, his lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness.

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- Lying provokes affliction. Flattery leads to ruins, though they both look like ordinary things, yet, very destructive; and attracts a curse.

Prov 26:28

28 A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

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Job 32:22

22 for if I were skilled in flattery, my Maker would soon take me away.

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Rom 16:18

18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

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Prov 6:16-19

16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, 19 a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

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Prov 12:19

19 Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.

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Flattery means to please by praising greatly without being careful to say only what is true. When what your mouth is saying is different from what your heart is saying, you are a flatterer, and you're heading for ruins.

After you have said something behind someone; and when you see him you say something else completely different or a direct opposite of what you previously said about the person, you're a flatterer and heading for ruins.

4. Woe (cursed) to the man who is at ease in Zion.

Amos 6:1

6:1 Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!

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Jer 48:10

10 "Cursed be the one who does the Lord's work negligently, And cursed be the one who restrains his sword from blood.

NAS

Eccl 9:10

10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

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The curse of God is on the man or woman who is doing nothing for the growth and success of the kingdom of God on the earth. And those who are not doing whatever they are doing for God with all their heart and might. Do not be a bench warmer in God's house. Do something for God.

5. Rebellion against the authority which God has established in the family and church brings a curse.

1 Sam 15:22-23

22 But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."

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Matt 12:25-26

25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.

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1 Cor 11:3

3 Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

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6. The one who swears falsely attracts a curse on him or herself.

Zech 5:2-4

2 He asked me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a flying scroll, thirty feet long and fifteen feet wide." 3 And he said to me, "This is the curse that is going out over the whole land; for according to what it says on one side, every thief will be banished, and according to what it says on the other, everyone who swears falsely will be banished. 4 The LORD Almighty declares, "I will send it out, and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of him who swears falsely by my name. It will remain in his house and destroy it, both its timbers and its stones."

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I want to restate the fact that only repentance from acts of disobedience breaks the curse of God. Prayers without genuine repentance will not free you from the curse of God. Salvation through Christ and abiding in Christ and his word frees man from the curse of God. You must forsake your sins in repentance and surrender to Jesus Christ to obtain mercy and be freed. You don't command this kind of curse to be broken, you ask for mercy from the Father to remove his hand of judgment from your life.

Prov 28:13

13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

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SUCCESS TIT-BITS

1. **For every seed sown, there is a harvest. The harvest will come in form of favor.**
2. **Today started yesterday and tomorrow starts today. Yesterday's seed is today's experience; tomorrow's experience is today's seed.**
3. **The favors of tomorrow will be the harvest of the seeds of today.**
4. **The problems you solve for others will create doors of favor for you. Be a problem-solver.**
5. **When a man's ways please the Lord he makes his enemies to be at peace with him.**
6. **An act of kindness from you will attract acts of kindness towards you.**
7. **Do unto others what you will have them do unto you. Like, begets like.**
8. **What you make happen for others, God will make happen for you.**
9. **God will always cause men to sow into your life what you have sown into people's life, same measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over.**
10. **Men shall spend for him that knows how to spend for others.**
11. **You can set the stage for favor to come to you when you start sowing the seeds of favor today.**
12. **Tomorrow's favor is a harvest of the good seeds sown today.**
13. **Recognize and value favor.**
14. **Appreciate favor. Learn to say thank you to favor.**
15. **Protect relationships that show favor.**
16. **Sow favor:**
 - **Recommend someone.**
 - **Open a door for someone.**
 - **Stop a lie from being spoken against someone.**

- Any other act of kindness that has no selfish interest behind it is a seed of favor.

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

TWELVE THINGS YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT FORGIVENESS

- 1. If you forgive others, your own forgiveness is guaranteed.**
- 2. Forgiveness will enable you love those who hurt you and even those who hate you.**
- 3. Forgiveness keeps you connected to God.**
- 4. Forgiveness helps you not to keep record of wrongs.**
- 5. Forgiveness establishes God's protection around the forgiver.**
- 6. Forgiveness nourishes love.**
- 7. Forgiveness keeps love from getting sour.**
- 8. Forgiveness strengthens and builds relationship.**
- 9. An unforgiving character is the worst character a man will manifest.**
- 10. It is to the credit of a man to forgive and overlook an offence.**
- 11. Forgiveness is the healing balm of relationships. It helps to heal broken hearts – internal hurts and wounds.**
- 12. Unforgiving thoughts are unhealthy thoughts that destroy the health of the thinker without warning.**

RENEWING THE MIND

- 1. The mind of man is the power house of man.**
- 2. Man's thoughts influence, control and direct the course of his life.**
- 3. The picture you have in your head you will become.**
- 4. The picture you have in your head you will attract.**
- 5. The picture you have in your head you will pursue.**
- 6. The mind is the creative tool of God and man. When you understand this, your life will take on a new meaning.**
- 7. Your mind is your secret weapon.**
- 8. Every product is a creation of thoughts.**
- 9. Great thoughts produce great life.**
- 10. Positive thoughts produce positive life, while a negative thought will always produce a negative life.**
- 11. Thinking is breathing life. He that does not think is dead. And what you think is what you live out.**