

“WHEN DARKNESS IS FOUND IN YOUR LIGHT”

his heart which gave Satan the right to demand of God permission to dwell there, and sift Peter like wheat.

5. Lets look at this area of darkness in Peter’s heart.
 - a. The story goes that after eating the Passover, Jesus told His disciples that one of them was going to betray Him.
 - b. The Word then continues by saying, **“And they began to discuss among themselves which one of them...was going to do this thing”**. (Luke 22:23).
 - c. During this serious discussion the subject changed and they began to say in verse 24, **“And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them wasgreatest.”**
 - d. What a change in conversation, they went from an attitude of shock and dismay to an argument concerning who among them was greatest.
 - e. It was almost like Jesus had read his will and the disciples were arguing over who would take his place.
6. I believe that Peter was in this group and because of his high visibility among the disciples, Satan fanned him with an air of superiority that led to an attitude of presumption and boasting.
 - a. Peter , being lifted up by pride, was being set up for a fall. **“Pride,”** the Scripture tells us **“...cometh before a fall”** (Prov 16:18).
 - b. Our God’s hands were tied by Peter’s willful decision to maintain darkness in his heart. Had not God given Satan and his hierarchy over to darkness?

{LESSON NUMBER 9} {8/16/2009}

“DISCOVERING THE PROBLEM – THE OPEN DOOR”

“DARKNESS IN THE HEART”

IX. This place of darkness in Peter’s heart is the **“OPEN DOOR”** to the devil

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that we all hear so much about!

- A. Now that we know that “pride” as a place of darkness in Peter’s heart is what caused the “**open door**” to the enemy, let us now look at three different reasons for this happening.
1. Please remember, Peter committed to spiritual warfare while maintaining a “place of darkness in his heart.” You have reviewed the results and seen the failure of a great man of God.
 2. Below are the three primary reasons for his failure!
 3. ***First of all, Peter gave place to the devil.*** In Eph. 4:27 we are told, **“Neither give place to the devil.”**
 - a. The Greek word for “place” is topos (top’-os) and means, any space marked off, as it were from surrounding space and held by someone.
 - b. The believer gives place to the devil by actions that produce in his mind strongholds.
 - c. An example of this is found in Eph.4:28-32 AMP: **“Let the thief steal no more, but rather let him be industrious, making an honest living with his own hands, so that he may be able to give to those in need. V29, Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God’s favor) to those who hear it. V30, And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God [do not offend or vex or sadden Him], by Whom you were sealed (marked, branded as God’s own, secured) for the day of redemption (of final deliverance through Christ from evil and the consequences of sin). V31, Let all bitterness and indignation and**

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wrath (passion, rage, bad temper) and resentment (anger, animosity) and quarreling (brawling, clamor, contention) and slander (evil-speaking, abusive or blasphemous language) be banished from you, with all malice (spite, ill will, or baseness of any kind). V32, **And become useful and helpful and kind to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding, loving-hearted), forgiving one another [readily and freely], as God in Christ forgave you.”**

- d. If the believer continues in this type of life style he will end up surrendering his heart to a place of darkness.
- e. This is clearly shown in Eph. 5:8-10 Amp: **“For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of Light [lead the lives of those native-born to the Light. V9, For the fruit (the effect, the product) of the Light or the Spirit consists in every form of kindly goodness, uprightness of heart, and trueness of life. V10, And try to learn [in your experience] what is pleasing to the Lord [let your lives be constant proof of what is most acceptable to Him].”**
4. ***Second he had fellowship with the darkness in his heart.*** In Eph. 5:11 we are told, **“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but , rather, reprove them.”**
5. The Greek word for fellowship is sugkoinoneo (soong-koy-no-neh’-o) and means to communicate with by being a partaker together.
6. Even after Christ had informed them that one of them was going to betray him, Peter soon engaged in an argument over who was going to be the greatest in the kingdom.
 - a. This proves that he was having fellowship with the “stronghold of

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pride” locked in his mind.

(1) The above idea is supported by Scripture in 1 John 1:6 AMP:
“[So] if we say we are partakers together and enjoy fellowship with Him when we live and move and are walking about in darkness, we are [both] speaking falsely and do not live and practice the Truth [which the Gospel presents].”

- b. Why did this happen to Peter?
 - c. Because he did not follow the advise Paul gave in verse 11b, **“... but instead [let your lives be so in contrast as to] expose and reprove and convict them.”** (Amp.)
 - d. The **“them”** in the above scripture in which we are to expose, reprove and convict were the **“enterprises of darkness”**
 - e. Paul first said that we must “reprove” which means that we must subject the **“enterprises of darkness”** [as a photographic film] to the action of light.
7. This is clearly shown in Eph. 5:13, **“But when anything is exposed and reproved by the light, it is made visible and clear; and where everything is visible and clear there is light.”**
- a. The word reprove means to rebuke by voicing or conveying disapproval.
 - b. The actions of exposing and reprovng lead to convicting, which means to show or declare to be blameworthy of condemning.

“THE OPEN DOOR – WHEN UNDERSTANDING IS DARKENED”

B. All of all of the above failures of Peter caused his understanding to be darkened and blindness to come to his heart, thus the **“Open Door”** to Satan.