

## **THE ACCURSED THING**

There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you." (Joshua 7 : 13).

Beyond the external appearance, deceiving behaviour, behind people's warm and sympathetic attitude, beautiful actions and kind words, warm handshakes, smiles, hugs and a religious facade can be found hidden : An accursed thing !

Imitations of reality, false diabolical manifestations, false doctrines, false evangelists, false pastors whose master is the father of lies and hypocrisy : Satan.

Be careful ! The spirit of the antichrist is already among us, taking advantage of even the slightest opportunity to deceive and trick us, to divide us, to break up couples married for many years, suggesting divorce and even suicide as a convenient solution to hopelessness.

You are asking yourself why is it that your Church is barren ? Why is there no longer anyone baptized in the Holy Spirit ? Why are there no more real manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit? Very few souls saved by grace ? Is God able to send among you precious thirsty souls, longing for justice, truth and holiness ?

"It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles..." (1 Corinthians 5 : 1).

Let us not try to understand why there is an obvious drought in the Churches, even though there is a ROYAL feast on the table, a feast prepared by God – there is no one to serve ! No bread of life, no water of life, the flock has lost all hope, the enemy is seizing our spiritual goods. Instead of pursuing and chasing him away, we flee from him, we tolerate his presence, we tolerate THE ACCURSED THING !

"That one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, to deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (1 Corinthians 5 : 1-5).

Verse 13 : **PUT AWAY FROM AMONG YOURSELVES THAT WICKED PERSON.**

"There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you." (Joshua 7 : 13).

The cleansing of the temple has begun. The Master of the harvest throws his sickle down on the Earth because the harvest is ripe. He kicks out the merchants in the temple.

Thieves can be found among your pastors, your evangelists, your committees. There are prisoners to the power of darkness, liars, effeminate, lewd, idolaters, greedy, drunkards, unfaithful, unjust, flatterers, proud and false prophets.

"Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. (1 Corinthians 11 : 28-31).

As I was writing this message, the Spirit of prophecy descended upon me and this is what I wrote (*prophecy is a gift of the Spirit, an exhortation inspired by the Holy Spirit and must always be given harmoniously with the Scriptures*). "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit **withal**. (1 Corinthians 12 : 7).

The time has come, my people, flee this chaff that has grown among you; be ye sanctified, return to your first love, pray and I will move, I will take away THE ACCURSED THING from among you. I will give you once again that which you once had, that which you have abandoned on the side of the road, I will let you see the riches that I had once entrusted you with. You will re-discover these forgotten treasures along your pathway. Repent, my elected people, my chosen ones.

Lift up your heads and consider the greatness and the magnificence of my promises. Why do you wait to proclaim the Good News, this message I have entrusted you with. You have fallen asleep on the road traveled by my witnesses since my resurrection, they who have paid the price and who have followed me despite the obstacles. They who have sacrificed their lives to find a better one. They who are among you but you ignore because you have lost your sight. They have not chosen the easy route, they have not sought their own glory, but they have honored me and loved me, not by words but in deeds.

WHAT MORE MUST I ADD TO WHAT I HAVE ALREADY GIVEN YOU ? Have you deeper desires to better know Me ? To seek Me, to know the power of my resurrection ? Am I able to find among you souls thirsty for the Spirit, for justice and love ? Return to Me and I will set you free from the desires of the flesh; I will set you free. You will shed tears of joy when you will re-discover the unction that was yours when your name was written in the Book of life.

You will abandon your works which, to Me, are unknown fires on my altar. I will enable you to diminish and rekindle humility similar to that of a child. You will be like my servant David who danced before the Ark of alliance, you will no longer be ashamed of Me. You will become giants concerning spiritual matters and not giants in a lost world. What does it profit a man to be honored by this world yet be excluded from attending the Lamb's wedding feast ?

Let everyone who seeks Me draw nigh to Me, even he who is light-years away from the Heavenly Kingdom. I say to you : I will forgive in an instant and will transform you so that you would become my friends.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (Ephesians 6 : 10-13).

Joshua and the children of Israel had miraculously crossed the Jordan river to enter into the Promised land, like we, who have been saved, have crossed over from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of light with Jesus, our Guide and Saviour.

Jericho, a fortified city, was the first obstacle to find itself in Israel's way. By obeying God's plan and through faith, they marched around the city's stone walls, measuring forty feet in height. On the seventh day, according to God's word, they marched around the fortified city seven times. At the sound of the trumpet, the impossible took place as the stone walls came crumbling down. Israel overcame the city and defeated their enemies. Likewise we, when saturated with our first love, we followed God's plan and by faith overcame the enemy of our souls.

Israel's second obstacle was the city of Ai which, at first glance, seemed an easy target to overcome. Joshua issued this statement :

Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai, and they returned to Joshua and said unto him : Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few. So they went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai. And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men. (Joshua 7 :2-5).

In the face of this defeat, Joshua and the children of Israel went in consternation. They even regretted having crossed the Jordan. This stunning defeat put them to shame and humiliated them. How many among us have experienced defeat, have been discouraged and have abandoned everything ?

And the Lord said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face ? Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of THE ACCURSED THING... Thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the ACCURSED THING from among you. (Joshua 7 : 10-11,13).

I have a gut feeling that many Christians keep lying on their faces or on their defeats. The time has come to ask God to undertake a spiritual cleansing.

Like in the days of Israel, Christians flee in front of the enemy : the Lord has given us authority over the power of the enemy.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4 : 7).

In his second letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul warns us of the obstacles that we presently have to face.

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away... For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. (2 Tim 3 : 1-5 and 4 : 3-4).

We wrongly tell someone that once he has said the sinner's prayer, he is saved. In many churches, salvation has become too easy a thing, a bargain sale. Is it any wonder that renowned men of God tell us that in many Evangelical Pentecostal churches today, sometimes fewer than 50% of the people are converted ?

Salvation through grace is not "fast food". To be born-again is not merely accepting a new doctrine, though it be the truth, but a LIVING EXPERIENCE !

The Catholic church names its saints as if man should take God's place. We tell someone who utters the sinner's prayer from the tip of his tongue that he is born-again. Where are the tears of joy, this glorious testimony, this assurance and the divine transformation ? It is not surprising to hear Christians talk like the world does, walk and behave like the world, enjoy worldly pleasures and find their happiness once a week in church while living like the world the rest of the time.

It is not our privilege to tell someone : "You have been saved !" He who receives this amazing gift should be the first to recognize it. **For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation** (Romans 10 : 10). The person having received this marvelous experience, this transformation, should be the one to herald it.

Accepting to be water baptized before experiencing this "new birth" makes one a dry sinner going in and a wet sinner coming out, nothing more.

We ask for revival, a victory over the power of darkness, signs, wonders and miracles. If there is **THE ACCURSED THING** among us or in our lives, it is impossible to be victorious over the enemy. The enemy is rampant over us at this time, knowing he has but a short time left. The biggest battle in the history of humanity is being carried out right under our eyes; corruption is everywhere.

Jesus made a promise to the church of Philadelphia : **Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth** (Rev. 3: 10).

**And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the ELECT'S sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.** (Matt 24 : 22-25).

How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation ? How shall we escape the terrible threats the future has in store for us ? The Spirit bears witness to our spirit that our places of fellowship, built by man, as big as they may be, as beautiful and comfortable and, if possible, as majestic as the Temple in Jerusalem, will be destroyed if there is **THE ACCURSED THING** among us and in us.

We seek after revival ? Are we aware that a revival could empty a ten-thousand member Church in a few days and open up a few hundred more ? Do we realize that such a revival in 2011 could mean a complete makeover of our lifestyle ? Imagine the worse case scenario and you are still very far from reality. Corruption is everywhere, in every area. Human beings are being sold as sex slaves; others, living in extreme poverty, sell their organs and those of their children.

Revival is not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord. We are the Temple of God. As long as the accursed thing is in our lives, forget the wedding gown, forget the wise virgins. There is not sufficient oil in our lamps. Forget our white robes, forget about having our names written in the Lamb's Book of life. *"Once saved, always saved"*. We have forgotten the most important thing : **HOLINESS!** Without which no man shall see the Lord (Hebrews 12 : 14).

Hasten, REPENT, take the accursed thing that is in you and among you. The lust of the flesh, the love of this world and do not allow sin to reign in your mortal body. Come back to Jesus while it is still daytime. Return to Him whatever it is you took back once you were saved. Remember that wonderful day when you were forgiven, cleansed, saved by grace, when you found real joy, peace, happiness, and when, in an instant, you became a new creature.

**Therefore thus saith the Lord, if thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before me : and if thou take forth the PRECIOUS from the VILE... (Jeremiah 15 : 19).**

From atop Mt. Nebo, God allowed Moses to see the entire Promised Land and told him : **Thou shall not enter in.** Moses died at age 120, his eyesight not having diminished and his strength not weakened. Joshua was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid hands on him. The Lord ordered him to cross the river Jordan with God's chosen people, and enter into the Promised Land.

Joshua is a figure of Christ. Jesus was sent by God to lead us to eternal life, our Promised Land. Upon his death on the cross, the veil of the Temple was torn in two pieces, giving us access to the most Holy place. Therefore, with the anointing of the Holy Spirit, we have a direct access to the Throne of grace where Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**And the Lord said unto Joshua, see, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour**

**(Joshua 6 : 2)**

This is what Jesus has done for us : we have enemies, we do not struggle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

**That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him : the eyes of your understanding being**

enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. And he hath put all things under his feet... (Ephesians 1 : 17-22).

The mention of **THE ACCURSED THING** does not pertain only to the days of Joshua in Old Testament times. In the New Testament, we read the detailed account of Ananias and his wife Sapphira, a story resembling what a modern-day journalist could report when covering a major news event.

The difference found in the fifth chapter of Acts, verse one, is that it is a message, a warning given to us by the Holy Spirit ! It revolves around a diabolical plot, a secret plan involving two persons wishing to make a good impression in the Church. Likewise, Achan had hidden **THE ACCURSED THING** in his tent.

Because of one man, Israel was not able to triumph over its enemies. Through one man, Adam, sin entered the world. By one Man, the second Adam, Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega, came to save this world without hope.

**THE ACCURSED THING** – what is it ? It involves hiding something and lying to the Holy Spirit. They had sold a piece of property and with a hint of sincerity, they brought all their money to the disciples. However, secretly, they had kept a portion of it. In this instance, **THE ACCURSED THING** is the lie, the hypocrisy, the bait of wanting to gain, corruption. A man and his wife had entered into a secret conspiracy. How could one imagine seeing such a pact brought to light ? An impossibility, according to our human reasoning, but nothing is hidden from the sight of God, especially during a revival, when the Holy Spirit moves among men. It happened during an era when signs, wonders and miracles were abundant in the Church and the gifts of the Spirit were in operation.

We pray for an authentic revival, a return to the primitive Church. I believe such a revival could empty churches instead of filling them. Many new places where the divine flame would burn in the hearts would be born.

Peter told Ananias : **Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land ? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own ? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power ? Why hast thou conceived this thing, in thine heart ? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, tell me whether ye sold the land for so much ? And she said, yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, how is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord ? Behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost. (Acts 5 : 3-5; 7-10).**

The following verse declares : And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders

wrought among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch and the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

The accursed thing being taken away, in the following verses, we read : **and believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women. Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.** (Acts 5 : 14-15).

The word FORBIDDEN is translated into : The accursed thing.

The last two verses in the book of the prophet Malachi, which ends the Old Testament, contains this promise : **Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord; and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.**

Jesus came to deliver us from the curse of sin and to set us free from the slavery of the flesh, rendering us capable of walking by the Spirit !

The apostle Paul cries out in desperation : **Miserable I am ! Who will deliver me from this deadly body \*the flesh) ?**

Every Christian who tries to live for the Lord outside the established plan of God is doomed to fail. The apostle Paul's cry is addressed to a person in need of help. WHO WILL DELIVER ME ? Paul answers his own question : It is the Christ who died on the cross for our sins and resurrected to enable us to live a life of joy and victory. It puts an end to the fear of death and judgment.

**There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh; that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.** (Romans 8 : 1-4).

**The wages of sin is death (THE ACCURSED THING); but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.** (Romans 6 : 23).

AMEN

Evangelist Marcel Favreau