

**Ecclesiastes 7:8 KJV** - *[8] Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.*

We are now in that season we refer to as “ALMOST” the end of the year. On Sunday we talked about the importance of endings and how a properly executed ending provides closure and context, preparing us to enter into the new year with spiritual consciousness and clarity.

- **PowerPoint:** A properly executed ending to this year provides closure and context, preparing us to enter into the new year with spiritual consciousness and clarity.

As we begin these last two months of 2019 and assess areas in our lives where we came close to a goal but didn’t quite get there. It is a place called “Almost”.

- ❖ **Maybe It Was:** Marriage, Education, Finances, Business, Ministry Initiatives, Or Making the Most of Our Time.

This month we are asking the Holy Spirit will teach us how we can move past “I almost” to “I did”, and focus on taking an honest personal assessment of “where we are now and projecting where we would like to be at the beginning of the year.

**These are the 7 Areas of Personal Assessment (Where am I?):**

- 1: Spiritually
- 2: Emotionally
- 3: Physically
- 4: Intellectually
- 5: Vocationally
- 6: Relationally
- 7: Financially

The holidays can be a dangerous time for saints, because many people lose their spiritual focus almost completely during the holidays. With all that is going on in the world and in our nation right now, we cannot afford to lose our spiritual footing and our spiritual focus during this holiday season.

**Psalms 11:1-4 KJV** - *[1] In the Lord put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain? [2] For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart. [3] If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? [4] The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.*

➤ **PowerPoint: Message Bible Translation (Psalm 11:1-4):**

*1] I've already run for dear life straight to the arms of God. So why would I run away now when you say, 2] the evil bows are bent, the wicked arrows Aimed to shoot under cover of darkness at every heart open to God. 3]The bottom's dropped out of the country; good people don't have a chance. 4] But God hasn't moved to the mountains; his holy address hasn't changed. He's in charge, as always, his eyes taking everything in, his eyelids Unblinking, examining Adam's unruly brood inside and out, not missing a thing.*

**Daniel 4:3,17 KJV** - *[3] How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation. 17] This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.*

➤ **PowerPoint: Whenever a saint given spiritual authority by God is out of position, Satan will fill that void with a Serpent.**

**Genesis 3:1-6 KJV** - *[1] Now the serpent was more **subtil** than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*

**Subtil = Aruwm=**

- A. Cunning
- B. Shrewd
- C. Crafty
- D. Sly
- E. Sensible

2] And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

➤ **PowerPoint: Saints are not called to conversations with Serpents.**

There are some spirits a saint CANNOT conversant with. There are some conversations that you cannot receive into your spirit. PERIOD! Jesus did not carry on conversations with Satan. In Matthew chapter 4, Jesus quoted the scriptures to him in response to his suggestions, and rebuked him.

**Matthew 4:3-11 KJV** - [3] *And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4] But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 5] Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6] And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7] Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 8] Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; [9] And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10] Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11] Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.*

- **PowerPoint: The only thing a saint needs to say to Satan is what God has already said. IT IS WRITTEN.**

**Genesis 3:3-5** - *But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*

- Eve is making what will ultimately prove to be a fatal mistake. She is giving the Serpent too much information. The Serpent began his conversation with Eve in verse number one, not with a comment with a question because he is observant but he is not omniscient. To a large extent Satan only knows what we show and tell him. That is why it is always prudent to keep people who don't mean you NO GOOD out of your house and out of your business.

*4] And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*

- **PP: The first comment a person makes to you that contradicts the word of God, should be the end of that conversation.**

**There are 4 characteristics common to people speaking under a Satanic influence.**

- 1: They Are CHARISMATIC
- 2: They Are CUNNING
- 3: They Are CONTROVERSIAL
- 4: They Are CONVINCING

- If what they are saying does not line up with the scriptures 100% you do not need to be listening to them, because they will deceive you! STOP LISTENING.

*5] For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 6] And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

- **PowerPoint: If Satan feels as though he cannot get directly to you, he will work through someone who he knows controls the strings of your heart.**
- **PowerPoint: When a person is sent by God into your life, it is to the intent that you may live with them, not die FOR them.**

**Proverbs 17:22 KJV** - *[22] A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.*

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7,13 KJV** - *[4] Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5] Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6] Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7] Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 13] And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*