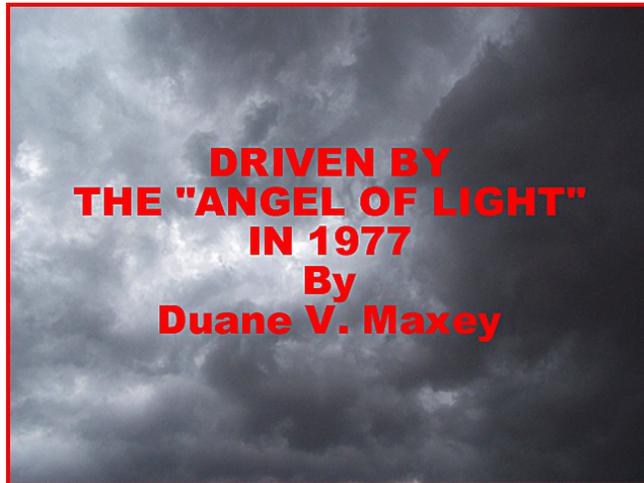


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**DRIVEN BY THE "ANGEL OF LIGHT" IN 1977**  
By Duane V. Maxey

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**"Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light" (2 Cor. 11:14).**

**"Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist stedfast in the faith . . . lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices" (1 Pet. 5:8-9; 2 Cor 2:11).**

**In the Summer and Fall of 1977, I WAS DRIVEN BY SATANIC, "ANGEL OF LIGHT" TEMPTATIONS which landed me out of the ministry and into "an horror of great darkness" (Gen. 15:12) -- from which I was not delivered until the Winter of 1983!**

**PARTICULARLY THE SUMMER AND FALL OF 1977 WERE PROBABLY THE MOST TRAUMATIC MONTHS OF MY LIFE! -- MONTHS THAT NOT ONLY DROVE ME FROM THE MINISTRY, BUT WHICH ALSO DROVE ME INTO GREAT SPIRITUAL AND MENTAL CONFUSION AND EMOTIONAL DISTRESS!**

I write the following, hoping that what I set forth will help some Christians to avoid the anguish and despair I suffered during this dark and painful period of my life.

Let me begin by warning every genuine Christian -- all those who KNOW they have been born again, and all those who KNOW they have been sanctified wholly: -- **NEVER, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, CAST AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE THAT YOU STILL HAVE THE HIGHEST STATE OF GRACE WHICH YOU HAVE RECEIVED, UNLESS YOU KNOW BEYOND ALL QUESTION THAT YOU HAVE WILLFULLY SINNED!!** If you DO, you may well end up suffering the same sort of horrible trauma that I suffered in 1977, the sad results from which I was not gloriously delivered until 6 years later!

In the Summer of 1977, I had been pastoring a certain church for 5 years, but, to my disappointment, we had NOT had a good revival in the church during all of that time.

Satan accused ME as the reason for this. He IS the "accuser of the brethren" (Rev. 12:10), and as such he began to come after me, relentlessly, telling me, "The fact that the church has not experienced the revival it so desperately needs is **BECAUSE OF YOU! YOU HAVE SINNED! YOU HAVE SINNED! YOU HAVE SINNED! YOU HAVE SINNED!**"

At that time I was still a single minister. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 says, "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: **BUT WOE TO HIM THAT IS ALONE WHEN HE FALLETH; for he hath not another to help him up.**"

Let me say right here also: -- **"WOE TO HIM (OR HER) THAT IS ALONE" HUMANLY WHEN THEY FALL UNDER THE ASSAULT OF "ANGEL OF LIGHT" TEMPTATIONS!** I do not believe that I married later than when it was God's will for me to marry, but, the fact IS, I WAS HUMANLY ALONE when Satan zeroed-in on me. Perhaps, if I had been married, I might have withstood his fiendish assaults with more strength, but, I was alone, and he took advantage of it!

Finally, one Sunday morning, I succumbed to Satan's withering accusations and stood before my congregation, laid the blame upon myself for the sorry condition of the church, and began seeking at my own altar.

**Bad Mistake #1 -- I cast away my confidence. And, dear soul, if Satan can get you to do that, and to begin seeking for grace that you have, THEN HE WILL BEGIN LEADING YOU FARTHER AND FARTHER DOWN THE DARK, CONFUSING PATHWAY OF ONE "ANGEL OF LIGHT TEMPTATION" AFTER ANOTHER!**

**Bad Mistake #2 -- Not having broken out into the light by Campmeeting and Conference time, I sought at the public altar during Camp time, but my darkness**

**and total confusion only increased deeper and deeper, into GREATER AND GREATER DISTRESS!!**

**Let me warn you, dear tempted Preacher or Christian suffering such "Angel of Light Temptations": -- if Satan can get you to doubt your experience and begin seeking for what you have, HE WILL LEAD YOU DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO DARK CONFUSION, AND -- SADLY -- LISTEN TO ME!!! -- YOUR CHRISTIAN FELLOW CHRISTIANS WILL ALSO BEGIN TO DOUBT YOU!!!**

**THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED TO ME!!!**

**WORST MISTAKE #3 -- SATAN TOLD ME I HAD TO CONFESS A CERTAIN THING, (which was not a sin, but which he told me was a sin) to one of the feeble brethren in my congregation.**

**THIS WAS DISASTROUS!!! -- Although I had received a recall to that church a short time before, several in the church decided that they were going to get rid of me -- at least one of whom I suspect was carnal, for when visiting in the home of her and her husband, she told me repeatedly and negatively, "WE ARE GOING TO HAVE ANOTHER PASTOR!"**

**Meantime, God gave me a verse of Scripture, letting me know, that the few who were determined to oust me would succeed, but that there efforts were NOT of HIM. Here is the Scripture God gave me: Isaiah 54:15 -- "Behold, they shall surely gather together, BUT NOT BY ME: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake."**

**To this day, I feel that if I had been given another month or two God might have brought me out into the clear, but, THE FACT IS, SATAN HAD GOTTEN ME TO PRETTY MUCH SELF-DESTROY THE POSSIBILITY OF THAT HAPPENING.**

**Satan had succeeded in his fiendish efforts, and, even though the majority of those in the congregation wanted me to stay, the several who wanted me ousted succeeded in having that done.**

**I felt like I had been hit in the pit of my stomach with a sledge-hammer when I was told that I must leave. The day I left, I called my sister's place in a near-by town to bid her and her husband good-bye, and while making that call, I broke down and wept. I was in great emotional distress and mental confusion.**

**God had called me to pastor in the denomination of that church. Now, suddenly, I was forced to leave with a very small sum of money -- I think less than about \$300 dollars, with no place to go, with no possibility of taking another church, and with no job in sight.**

Without relating everything leading up to it, I will just say that God finally helped me to get on my feet financially, but from September of 1977 until the Winter of 1983 I dwelt in "an horror of great darkness" spiritually.

**THANKS BE UNTO JESUS FOREVER!** in the Winter of 1983 God brought me back up out of that horrible pit into the most glorious, complete, and clear triumph I had experienced for years! And, one of the dear servants of God who had felt compelled to ask for my resignation in 1977 became one of my biggest boosters, and soon helped me to get back into the ministry in 1984 -- in that same denomination!

Besides warning "Angel of Light" tempted souls to **NEVER, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, CAST AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE, UNLESS YOU KNOW BEYOND ALL DOUBT THAT YOU HAVE SINNED**, I would like to share with readers of this file something that God showed me when He brought me back out on top.

Proverbs 14:10 says, **"THE HEART KNOWETH his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy."**

After one has received the witness of the Spirit to his or her Salvation or Sanctification, the "feel-able" and ecstatic part of that witness will not continue forever. Soon, the recipients of that initial witness will have to begin to "walk by faith," and "reckon themselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God."

In such times, **HOW CAN ONE KNOW** that he or she still has the last, highest state of grace received??

Two ways:

1) By the fact that you know you have not knowingly, willfully sinned against God since receiving that grace, and

2) By **YOUR HEART KNOWLEDGE!** -- Hallelujah! **"THE HEART KNOWETH!"** The initial witness of the Spirit did not come to your **HEAD**, but to your **HEART!**

If you continue to **KNOW, DEEP DOWN IN YOUR HEART THAT YOU HAVE NOT WILLFULLY BROKEN WITH GOD, THEN "YOUR HEART KNOWS"** (in spite of all accusations of Satan) that you're still saved, you're still sanctified, you're still walking in the light, and **"the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth you from all sin!"**

In conclusion: -- **PLEASE, PLEASE! DEAR BEWILDERED AND TEMPTED SOUL!** don't cast away your confidence unless you **KNOW**, beyond all doubt, that you have willfully sinned. When, in spite of every accusation of hell, **YOUR HEART KNOWS** that you have not willfully sinned, **THEN BELIEVE IT, CLING TO IT!** -- and don't go down that dark, and confusing, "Angel of Light" pathway into distress and defeat!!!

**I pray that this little article will help a number of souls to avoid what I went through! -- Duane V. Maxey, Las Cruces, New Mexico, April 30, 2011.**

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**THE END**