

Program 7

Satan's Entrance into Humanity and His Role in God's Plan.

The necessity of opposites

1--**Rev. 12:9**—"The great Dragon, that old serpent, Devil, and Satan who deceives the whole world."

2--**Rom. 8:20-21**—"God, subjected the creation unto vanity in hope of delivering them from the bondage of corruption into glorious liberty of the sons of God."

3--**Rom. 11:32**—"For God hath concluded them all in Unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all."

4--**1 Cor. 11:19**—"There must be heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you."

5--**Heb. 5:8**—"Though he were a son, yet he learned obedience by the things he suffered."

6--**Matt. 4:3**—"Jesus was led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil."

7--**Mark 1:12**—"The Spirit drove him into the wilderness."

THE LAW OF OPPOSITES: Everything in the universe functions by pairs of opposites, the one gaining definition by its necessary opposite and utilizing the other to manifest itself !

I recently drew a picture for you and I put it in the square above. Can you tell me what it is? Come on, it took me a long time to do, so what is it? Okay, I'll tell you: *It is a polar bear in a snow storm!* Why can't you see it? It's because there is no contrast. The polar bear is white and the snow is white—there are no opposites! The polar bear cannot be seen because there is no contrast. Without contrast we could not distinguish anything from anything else. Everything would all be a vague blur.

Nothing exist without its opposite: to say yes to one thing is saying no to something else. To love one thing is to hate its opposite. To be somewhere is not being somewhere else. All of life functions by pairs of opposites, one fading to the background while what we experience and is actualized comes to the foreground. Actually, what we see, what we do, and

what we experience gets its known reality by what we do not see, what we do not do, and what we do not experience. Learning is the same way. We learn a profession through the arduous process of learning what doesn't work regarding our profession, and then replacing it with what does work.

We persons cannot have consciousness of a thing or a truth except it be discovered by the interaction of opposite. "For nothing in this universe can be realized or have definition except by its opposite. And everything in the universe functions as well, by pairs of opposites, the one gaining definition by its necessary opposite and utilizing the other to manifest itself." So the way we function, the way things are manifested, and the consciousness we gain all unfolds to us by a dialectic process of one swallowing up the other in order to gain its realization.

Light can only be seen by "swallowing up" (II Cor. 5:6) darkness...Sweetness can only be tasted by swallowing up its opposite bitter... Hot is experienced by swallowing up cold...Our decisive yes gets its strength and is birthed into being by swallowing up its opposite counterpart no....And this goes right to our personal consciousness as well...Children know not to touch a hot stove, because they have learned by experiencing its burns....A child will not go into a busy street, because they have learned the difference between safe and not safe...As Christians we only know God's wonderful grace and liberation because we have known our wretched law-bound selves...we know Christ in us, because we have known Satan in us....And so on and so on. So exploring one is fully exploring the other.

"When the Creator in His purpose of love and grace brought into existence His own 'opposite,' created beings in His own likeness, that their emptiness should be swallowed up by His fullness, their weakness manifest His strength, their darkness radiate His light, He foreknew and foresaw what might and did happen. A great rift would appear in the harmony of His universe. As all negatives are the hidden, submissive partners to their positives, as the female to the male, as minors to majors, in the union of the two all life in thought and action being reproduced, so were we to be as the created to our Creator, as bride to Bride-groom, as servants to Master, as sons to Father. But as free selves, we could do what no other pair of opposites could do, we could refuse to keep this "first estate" of creature to Creator; we could aspire to be as God, the minor as the major, the darkness as light, the weakness as strength; and we could upset the equilibrium of our world. This is what God foresaw that we should do, and Lucifer and his angels before us. It meant the appearance of a whole principle of evil not in existence before, a negative that defied its positive and would replace it, a darkness that would be as light, an evil that would claim to be the good, a devil (and man) who would be God. The prophet boldly said of God that He "created evil"

(Isaiah 45:7), and it is true in the sense that a created being has the potentiality, the freedom to refuse to keep its own estate, and in refusing, to bring into manifestation the negative kingdom of evil as a power.¹”

Since nothing can be known or discovered in a conscious way except by opposites, then in God’s unfathomable wisdom He put his innocent little children in a perfect garden, perfect environment, perfect temperature, and continual supply of food, however, there was one hitch, a evil tree. Why was it so wise to allow evil to be in this perfect garden? God allowed it because until the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil,” there were no opposites. Nothing but positive yes’s: Yes, you have dominion over everything (whatever that meant to them), yes, you may name the animals, yes, you are perfect (whatever that meant to them), yes, you can eat of every tree...Yes, yes, yes, but, wait a moment, *NO... YOU MAY NOT EAT* of one tree. What a set up. All yes’s, and only one no. Don’t we humans usually take our positive, “YES”S” for granted, while we maximize our negative “NO”S”?

A person cannot be a fully functioning person without exercising our God-given freedom of choice...Saying *yes* to one thing, automatically means *no* to another. The two trees provided the tension of alternatives which would provoke choice. Adam and Eve were innocent childlike beings, almost non-persons having an embryonic consciousness. Without exercising their royal capacity, choice, they would remain practically unconscious, unknowing beings. God’s plan from the beginning was to have fully functioning sons, not unaware babies.

Just like the polar bear in the snowstorm, without opposites there would be no definition, or distinguishable understanding of opposites, and therefore, no maturity of personhood.

Let us think about the trees in the garden. There were *two* trees in the garden. One was “*The Tree of Life*,” and the other was the opposite tree, “*The Tree of Death*.” Why didn’t I call it what the Bible calls it, “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil”? I renamed it because death, not knowledge, is the opposite of life. Then why did God call it the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil?”

¹ The Deep Things of God; by Norman Grubb page 85