

## Chapter 1: The Kingdom of Darkness

The Kingdom of Darkness. What does that phrase evoke in you? When we hear the term, many might think of a far-off, mythical realm with fire and brimstone. But in truth, the kingdom of darkness is not just a place; it's a condition of the heart, a way of life that stands in direct opposition to the Kingdom of God. It's the domain where Satan and his fallen angels reside, but more critically, it's where the forces that wage war on human souls gather strength.

This chapter will guide you through what the Bible calls the kingdom of darkness, its traits, and how it infiltrates lives—especially relationships and marriages. With scriptural references and real-life applications, we will pull back the curtain on this dark domain to expose its characteristics. When we know the enemy, we can defend ourselves better, and in doing so, we begin to recognize the true nature of God's light and His plan for us.

### **The Fall of Satan: The Birth of Darkness**

To understand the kingdom of darkness, we must begin with Satan, the fallen angel. Originally created as one of God's most beautiful and powerful angels, Lucifer, whose name means "light-bringer," had an exalted position in heaven. However, he allowed pride to consume him. He desired to ascend higher, even to take the place of God.

The prophet Isaiah gives us insight into Satan's fall from grace:

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." – Isaiah 14:12-14. KJV.

Lucifer's rebellion was rooted in pride, a characteristic that still permeates his kingdom today. In his fall, he took with him a third of the angels, now known as demons, and from that moment, the kingdom of darkness began its work against the Kingdom of God. Satan's ultimate goal? To oppose everything that God stands for and to draw as many people as possible away from His light.

### **The Traits of the Kingdom of Darkness**

Satan's influence over his followers—and even those who unwittingly walk in his ways—manifests through various traits. These traits are spiritual sicknesses that invade the heart and mind, disrupting not just personal lives but marriages and relationships as well. Let's delve into these characteristics:

**Hatred** – Hatred is the most evident trait of the kingdom of darkness. Where God is love, Satan fosters hate. Jesus said:

“Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.” – Matthew 5:43-44. KJV.

Satan encourages division, bitterness, and animosity. In relationships, hatred often manifests as unforgiveness, anger, and bitterness. Small issues are magnified into insurmountable obstacles, and partners become enemies.

**Lying** – Jesus made it clear in John 8:44 that Satan is the father of lies. He told the Pharisees, “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” KJV.

In marriages, lying destroys trust, the foundation of any relationship. Lies may start small—hidden purchases, undisclosed feelings—but they snowball into a loss of confidence and intimacy. Satan knows that when trust is broken, reconciliation becomes nearly impossible without divine intervention.

**Stealing** – Satan is not only a liar but also a thief. Jesus warned in John 10:10, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.”

Satan’s primary mission is to steal our joy, peace, and unity, especially in marriages. He does this by planting seeds of doubt, jealousy, and competition between partners. Where God intends marriage to be a reflection of His relationship with the Church, Satan works to steal the joy and oneness that God designed.

**Fighting** – Conflict is inevitable in any relationship, but when it spirals into constant fighting, it’s a hallmark of the kingdom of darkness. James asks, “From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?” – James 4:1. KJV.

In marriages, Satan stirs selfishness, causing one or both partners to prioritize their desires above the unity of the relationship. Fighting becomes a habitual way of handling disagreements, and reconciliation is rare. Peace, which is a fruit of the Spirit, becomes distant.

**Lust** – 1 John 2:15-16 The Bible warns us against the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. These are not from the Father, but from the world. Lust is a key weapon in the arsenal of the kingdom of darkness. It comes in many forms, whether it's lust for power, lust for material possessions, or sexual lust.

In marriage, lust outside of the marital bond can be incredibly destructive. Satan uses pornography, adultery, and infidelity to destroy the sanctity of the marriage bed. Hebrews 13:4 states: “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” KJV.

**Pride** – 1 John 2:16 Pride is perhaps the most insidious of all. It was pride that caused Lucifer’s fall, and pride continues to be the downfall of many. In relationships, pride prevents partners from apologizing, seeking help, or submitting to one another in love. Pride elevates self above God and spouse, causing division.

The Bible is clear on this point: “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.” – Proverbs 16:18. KJV.

**Fornication and Adultery** – These two sins are intertwined in the kingdom of darkness. Fornication (sexual relations outside of marriage) and adultery (infidelity within marriage) are rampant in our world today. They destroy trust, break hearts, and ultimately lead many marriages to ruin. The Bible warns us about the dangers of sexual immorality:

“Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.” – 1 Corinthians 6:18. KJV.

Satan knows that sexual immorality not only breaks the sacred covenant of marriage but also brings spiritual and emotional harm. Marriages suffer when fidelity is compromised.

**Idolatry** – Idolatry isn’t just the worship of statues or other gods; it’s anything we place above God in our hearts. In the context of marriage, idols can take the form of career ambitions, hobbies, material possessions, or even other people. Colossians 3:5 tells us to put to death whatever belongs to our earthly nature: “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.” KJV

When one or both partners in a marriage elevate something above God, the relationship suffers. Idolatry in any form pulls us away from God’s design for our lives and marriages.

**Lack of Self-Control** – In contrast to the fruit of the Spirit of self-control (Galatians 5:22-23), Satan encourages impulsiveness. Marriages suffer when partners act on every impulse, whether it’s spending money recklessly, reacting in anger, or pursuing fleeting pleasures. Without self-control, a marriage can quickly unravel.

**Trucebreakers** – Trucebreakers are those who cannot keep their word or maintain their commitments. This trait is the very antithesis of God’s character, who is faithful and true to His

promises. In marriages, broken promises lead to mistrust and insecurity. When one partner constantly breaks their word, it undermines the foundation of the relationship.

**Unthankful and Unholy** – A lack of gratitude is a significant marker of the kingdom of darkness. Unthankfulness leads to a lack of appreciation for one's spouse, and unholiness invites the ways of the world into the marriage.

Romans 1:21 says, "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." KJV. When we fail to honor God in our relationships, our hearts and homes become darkened by ingratitude and sin.

**Lovers of Pleasure Rather Than Lovers of God** – The Bible warns us in 2 Timothy 3:4 that in the last days, people will become "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." KJV. In marriages, this can manifest as prioritizing personal desires and comfort over the well-being of the relationship or the will of God.

**Covetousness** – Covetousness is the desire for what others have, whether it be possessions, status, or relationships. This leads to dissatisfaction and envy, which can poison a marriage. Exodus 20:17 clearly commands, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's." KJV.

**Despisers of Those Who Are Good** – When individuals or couples become despisers of those who strive to live righteously, they step further into the kingdom of darkness. Satan uses this trait to turn hearts cold against those who exemplify God's love.

**Without Natural Love** – One of the most devastating traits of the kingdom of darkness is the absence of natural affection. The Bible speaks of a time when people will be "without natural affection....." (2 Timothy 3:3). KJV. Marriages crumble when natural love, the love designed by God, is replaced with selfishness, bitterness, or indifference.

**Having the Form of Godliness but Denying Its Power** – The Bible warns us about those who "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof....." (2 Timothy 3:5). KJV. In relationships, this can manifest as appearing outwardly righteous while harboring darkness within. It's a dangerous deception that leads to hypocrisy, and Satan delights in such duplicity.

### **The War Between Light and Darkness**

As we examine these traits of the kingdom of darkness, it's clear that Satan's strategies are aimed at destroying relationships, especially marriages. But as children of God, we are not left

defenseless. Ephesians 6:12, reminds us that “we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world.” KJV.

We must remember that Jesus has already overcome the kingdom of darkness. He said, “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” – John 16:33. KJV.

#### Conclusion: **Exposing the Darkness**

To defend ourselves and our marriages, we must first expose the kingdom of darkness for what it truly is—a kingdom built on lies, deception, and destruction. By recognizing these traits and countering them with the truth of God’s Word, we can stand firm against Satan’s schemes.

As we move forward in this book, we will explore how to fight back against these traits with the light of God’s love, truth, and grace. Darkness cannot stand where light shines, and as long as we walk in God’s truth, the kingdom of darkness will have no hold over us. Let us choose daily to walk in the light, guarding our hearts and relationships from the influence of Satan.