

More on Bitterness

References of Pastor Henry Wright

Taken from his book "A More Excellent Way" (AMEW) 2009 update

Or from his book "Bitterness"

Note: Bracketed areas added by Pastor Bob Adkins



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1. **A Review of the Principality of Bitterness** (AMEW 2009 pg 135-136)

Hebrews 12:15 (KJV) Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

- a. Bitterness corrodes like acid, eating away at our soul. It poisons first the mind then the body. It is often marked by cynicism and animosity towards others. Bitterness is a strong man kept in place by several underlings. each underling is given entry into our lives by the one preceding it. The severity of the evilness of each underling is progressive in nature.

Unforgiveness would say, "I am not willing to forgive the offense against me. I will remember what has been done to me." This unforgiveness invites bitterness to become part of our lives, entertaining the next six spirits.

Resentment is a feeling of ill will. It says, "I do not like him. I will never forgive him for what he did to me." resentment keeps unforgiveness in place.

Retaliation will not come and speak his peace. "It is time to get even. He should pay for what he did... I am going to get even with him."

Anger and Wrath wait on retaliation to become strong and then they will break out. Anger can be both seen and felt.

Hatred will come forth with the idea of elimination and it sounds like this: "He does not deserve to live. He does not deserve to be on this planet."

Violence is anger and hatred in action t might take the form of striking, throwing things, screaming, and physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

Murder may be actual murder or premeditated, which is murder in the heart, or murder with the tongue, such as gossip.

Why is Bitterness Sin?

By holding onto bitterness, you are telling God He is not needed in this situation. You have placed yourself in His shoes by judging someone else for what they have done, either to you or to someone close to you. Your heart says "God, I will execute judgment here." But, Scripture clearly tells us vengeance belongs to the Lord (Romans 12:19)

[Romans 12:19-20 (KJV) Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore if thine

enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.]

God's word states that unless we forgive those who trespass against us, God will not forgive us our sins (Matthew 6:15; Mark 11:26). this is why bitterness (which is rooted in unforgiveness) must be eliminated first.

[Matthew 6:15 (KJV) But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Mark 11:26 (KJV) But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.]

2. Bitterness and His Armor

Notes from Bitterness pg 14-27 **RE: Bitterness and His armor**

- a. **[Hebrews 12:15 (KJV) Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;]**

"Hebrews 12:15 says, Strong man is my name, Bitterness is my game.

Luke 11 says, I trust in my armor.

Ephesians 6 says, Our battle is not with flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, spiritual wickedness in high places.

The Bible says unless you bind a strong man, you cannot spoil his house. He is very smart because he is a principality. He knows how to get you because he has gotten many like you for hundreds and hundreds of years and he is very skillful.

Luke says,"

Luke 11:20-23 (KJV) But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you. ²¹ When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: ²² But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils. ²³ He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth.

- b. [We do not have to fear because]

"There is only one who can get him [the strongman] out and that is someone stronger. Who is stronger? Jesus. Who is stronger? The Father. Who is stronger? the Holy Ghost. Do you know who else is stronger? Someone coming along anointed with the Holy Ghost in the name of the Lord

Jesus to cast him out. In Mark it says believers shall cast out devils.

Mark 16:17 (KJV) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Jesus said in Luke 11 when the evil spirit is in his place of abode in you, he is a strong man and he is very content his armor is going to keep him in a place of superiority in your life. He is the prince of Bitterness, he is the architect, but he has some workers going after you and they want you, too."

c. [The underling spirits of Unforgiveness, Resentment, Retaliation, Anger / Wrath, Hatred, Violence and Murder are all part of what gives the strong man of Bitterness his hold on you, they are the armor of Bitterness.]

d. "Resolution

In order to defeat the strong man, you have to understand his armor. You have to understand what is in front of him that is involved in your life that you have to deal with so he can be dealt with and you can be free..."

"You do not have to have a resolution with a person who has injured you in order for you to be free because the resolution comes from God. If you say, "I will give up Bitterness when I have a resolution with the person who hurt me," then you are in idolatry to that person. ..."

"The strong man is banking on the fact that Unforgiveness will act as a flash card forever to allow the Retaliation, Resentment, Unforgiveness, and Anger and Wrath to continue to work in you. Your healing and your freedom depend on all roots of Bitterness being dealt with in your life."

e. "Unforgiveness is a fruit

"Unforgiveness is a fruit of Bitterness... You must be able to forgive. Bitterness comes before Unforgiveness every single time. Bitterness is the root. Unforgiveness is the fruit of the root."

[As we have already studied] "If you do not forgive your brother his trespass, his Bitterness and his roots of Bitterness which have defiled you in all categories, then you have set yourself in a place where God cannot forgive you of your trespass..."

[We must understand that forgiveness here is not that God takes back your salvation that was given to you by the sacrifice of Christ upon the Cross. We are not talking about backsliding and loosing salvation, (however things could lead to this), we are talking about forgiveness of the trespass against God that allows an open door for a curse from the enemy to light upon you.]

"God forgives all manner of sin. If you are sons of God, you must be able to forgive as your Father

in heaven forgives. Because you have a new nature, you forgive..."

"Bitterness is banking on the fact when you are ready to forgive, old Unforgiveness will pull up a flash card of voices, sights and sounds and smells reminding you of what they did to you.

If that is not enough, resentment says, "Now, let me help you really feel it right here."

You really feel it, don't you?

"But I am trying to forgive them." "No, you really resent it."

Retaliation then says, "Yeah, besides you didn't get even, did you? They need to pay."

Then Anger says, "Yeah, and I am going to go tell them just what I think, and if I do not tell them, I will tell someone else."

Then Hatred says, "Yeah, I am not only going to get even, I am not only going to retaliate, but I am going to cause them some damage. I hate them."

The Voice of violence sounds like this: "You know I hate you so much, I am just going to punch your lights out... I am going to tear you apart. I am going to tear your house apart. I am going to do some physical damage."

3. Sanctification (Bitterness pg. 28-37)

- a. [The second subject in Henry Wrights book on Bitterness is Sanctification. We have previously studied this topic and notes from this study are available]
- b. "The number one scripture you ought to have next to John 3:16 is Mark.

Mark 11:25-26 (KJV) And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. ²⁶ But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

John 3:16 (KJV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

- c. Hebrews says to follow peace with all men.

Hebrews 12:14-17 (KJV) Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: ¹⁵ Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled; ¹⁶ Lest there *be* any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. ¹⁷ For

ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

The writers instructs his readers to follow peace with all men, and holiness. "

- d. "Many people struggle with holiness. "Well, I do not measure up to God. You know God is perfect and I am not perfect, and oh well, so what, forget it. "... Isaiah said holiness is a highway that is traveled.

Isaiah 35:8 (KJV) And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it *shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*.

... Holiness is a progressive movement in a certain direction, by which your nature is transformed from Satan's nature into God's nature.

4. The "Mind-Body Connection" or More Accurately "Spirit, Soul and Body Connection"

- a. AMEW 2009 pg 192-195 RE: **Limbic System**
"...in ministry we call it **the spirit, soul and body connection**.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (KJV) And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A principal gland in the limbic system is the hypothalamus. In fact, it is called the brain of the endocrine system. Although it directly answers to the pituitary, which is another gland involved in the limbic system, it is actually the hypothalamus that integrates the autonomic nervous system as well as the endocrine system. "

"... psychology says the soul is comprised of two compartments: conscious and collective unconscious..." [In scripture we find] "*spirit, soul and body* as referenced in 1 Thessalonians 5:23 above. **What psychology is calling the collective unconscious is in fact the "spirit of man."**

"... from the textbook *Principles of Anatomy and Physiology* by Gerald J. Tortora and Nicholas P. Anagnostakos, Harper & Row, 2nd edition, 1978:

Hypothalamus Gland

1. It controls and integrates the autonomic nervous system, which stimulates smooth muscle, regulates the rate of contraction of cardiac muscle, and controls secretions of many

- glands. Through the autonomic nervous system the hypothalamus is the main regulator of visceral activities. It regulates heart rate, movement of food through the digestive tract, and contraction of the urinary bladder.
2. It is involved in the reception of sensory impulses from the viscera.
 3. It is the principal intermediary between the nervous system and endocrine system -- the two major systems of the body. The hypothalamus lies just above the pituitary, the main endocrine gland. When the hypothalamus detects certain changes in the body, it releases chemicals called regulating factors that stimulate or inhibit the anterior pituitary gland. The anterior pituitary then releases or holds back hormones that regulate carbohydrates, fats, proteins, certain ions, and sexual functions.
 4. It is the center for the mind-over-body phenomenon. When the cerebral cortex interprets strong emotions, it often sends impulses along tracts that connect the cortex with the hypothalamus. The hypothalamus then directs the impulses via the autonomic nervous system and also releases chemicals that stimulate the anterior pituitary gland. The result can be a wide range of changes in the body activities. For instance, when you panic, impulses leave the hypothalamus to stimulate your heart to beat faster. Likewise, continued psychological stress can produce long-term abnormalities in body function that result in serious illness. These are so called psychosomatic disorders. Psychosomatic disorders are real. "
 5. "It is associated with feelings of rage and aggression.
 6. It controls normal body temperature. Certain cells of the hypothalamus serve as a thermostat - a mechanism sensitive to changes in temperature. If blood flowing through the hypothalamus is above normal temperature, the hypothalamus directs impulses along the autonomic nervous system to stimulate activities that promote heat loss. Heat can be lost through relaxation of the smooth muscle in the blood vessels and by sweating. Conversely, if the temperature of the blood is below normal, the hypothalamus generates impulses that promote heat retention. Heat can be retained through the contraction of cutaneous blood vessels, cessation of sweating, and shivering.
 7. It regulates food intake through two centers. The *feeding center* is stimulated by hunger sensations from an empty stomach. When sufficient food has been ingested, the *satiety center* is stimulated and sends out impulses that inhibit the feeding center.
 8. It contains a *thirst center*. Certain cells in the hypothalamus are stimulated when the extracellular fluid volume is reduced. The stimulated cells produce the sensation of thirst in the hypothalamus.

9. It is one of the centers that maintain the waking state and sleep patterns. "
- b. "...the hypothalamus gland is the facilitator and the originator of the following life circumstances: *all expressions of fear, anxiety, stress, tension, panic, panic attacks, phobia, rage, anger, and aggression*. These are all released and facilitated by this one gland. *It only responds to you emotionally and spiritually... It is a responder to thought. It is a responder to the environment of your life*. It will only produce what is happening deep within the recesses of *your soul [mind] and your spirit*. "
- c. "The *limbic system* is the connection between your cerebrum where your brain is, down through to your hypothalamus. *It is the connection between your psyche (thought) and physio (the body). It is the connection between soul [mind] and body*. Everything concerning thought travels right down this connection... Just as fear can put you into *fight or flight*, peace can bring you into peace.

Jesus said this..."

John 14:27 (KJV) Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

"... Who is Jesus called? The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). He is the architect and He is the designer of our peace. Amen!

Isaiah 9:6 (KJV) For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

The Bible says that perfect peace belongs to those whose minds are fixed or stayed on the Lord.

Isaiah 26:3 (KJV) Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

The antidote to fear is fellowship with the Godhead. Second Timothy 1:7 tells us..."

2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV) For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Power represents the Holy Spirit, love represents the love of the Father and a sound mind represents the Word of God, Jesus. If you are filled with fellowship of the love of God the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, fear does not have a shot at you. *If you are listening to fear, you are not listening to God.* "

d. The limbic system functions in the emotional aspects of behavior related to survival. When you do not feel loved you have been victimized, when you do feel secure, you fight for survival. When you have been rejected by a parent or by anyone else, when you do not feel loved, when you feel violated, you are always looking over your shoulder for when the next hit is going to come. You are in *fight or flight*." [Fight or flight then plays its toll on the body, increased heart rate, high blood pressure, muscle tension, increased hormones that over time harm your body, missed sleep, over exertion and the list goes on and on.]

e. AMEW 2009 pg 284 RE: **Mind-Body connection**

" Your homeostasis (equilibrium in the body with respect to various functions and chemical composition of fluids and tissues) is controlled by the release of various hormones. You are very chemical in your creation. You are very nuclear, you are very sexual, you are very spiritual, but you are also very chemical. You have a number of organs and glands, particularly in the endocrine system, which secrete a particular chemical. It goes like this: a squirt here, a squirt there..."

" And your enemy knows he can control the rate of your squirts by your thoughts and by your soul and by your spirit. Your enemy knows things like bitterness and guilt and fear, if allowed to remain within your consciousness, can be used to control you. When your spiritual dynamics are compromised by the enemy in a manner in which he can control your body and your chemistry, then he can put depression or any other psychological or biological malfunction on you when he feels like it.

He can do this because depression, by definition, is no more and no less than a chemical imbalance in the body induced externally or internally.

The enemy knows that if he can get you "unspiritual" and he can manipulate you in areas of lack of sanctification, then he can control your very thought process.

When Satan can control your thought process, he can also control your chemistry. When you have serotonin deficiencies, you do not feel good about yourself because there is a deficiency of the chemical God created in you to make you feel good chemically. For every thought you have, conscious or unconscious, there is a nerve transmission, a secretion of a hormone or neurotransmitter somewhere in your body to react to it.

When you start listening to fear, you start listening to self-hatred, you start listening to rejection, then your body secretes chemicals in response to those spiritual attacks that are counterproductive to your peace.

Your enemy knows you very well. *It is about time you know what your enemy knows about you so you can defeat him at the pass.* You do not have to be a victim nor do you have to be ignorant nor do you have to die of disease and go to heaven to find out why you died."

- f. AMEW 2009 pg 53 "You need to wake up! No more shadow boxing. Am I going to *resist* the devil today? ..." [I am going to do more than resist] "I am going to *defeat* the devil in my life. That is my enemy. I am going to defeat fear in my life because that is my enemy. I am going to defeat bigotry in my life because that is my enemy. I am going to defeat self-hatred in my life because that is my enemy. I am going to defeat anger in my life because that is my enemy. "

5. Interaction of Strong Men (Bitterness - Appendix pg 90-92)

- a. "If you are still struggling with Bitterness and Resentment and you do not feel like you are free, it is because Rejection is fueling it. Rejection can be an open door for Bitterness..."
- b. "...Rejection fuels Bitterness..."
- c. "... It is impossible to deal with Rejection unless you have Bitterness dealt with."
- d. "How are you going to deal with Rejection if you cannot forgive?..."
- e. "Rebellion is right beside it. We will deal with Witchcraft after Rejection. We will deal with Witchcraft because Witchcraft comes along and takes the Bitterness and takes the Rejection. Witchcraft is fueled by something else called Fear."
- f. "We have four principalities. We have Bitterness, Rejection, Fear and Witchcraft. Witchcraft is not a principality. Occultism is the principality. Witchcraft is the spirit that answers to it.

Occultism is the Word is an antichrist spirit. An antichrist spirit represents everything against the Word.

1 Samuel 15:23 (KJV) For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king."

- g. "Stubbornness is self-idolatry. You are god.

"Bless God, you are not going to make me do anything I do not want to do." ...

Bless God, nothing is going to happen unless you feel like it. "

- h. "Rebellion is the sin of witchcraft...it is an antichrist spirit because anything that will not obey the Word of God is anti-Word

If the Word says you must forgive your brother and you are not going to, that is an anti-Word thought. It is an anti-Word thought, it is an antichrist thought because the Word came and became

flesh as Jesus, the Christ." [refer to chapter 1 of John]

- i. "Witchcraft is fueled by Fear. Witchcraft is like Rebellion; so you have Fear. There is allot of overlap when it comes to the interaction of these principalities..."
- j. "Rejection fuels Bitterness. Bitterness is fueled also by Rejection, but they are separate.

Fear is not one with Rebellion. It is not one with Witchcraft. Rebellion and Witchcraft are one and the same. "

- k. "Fear is another principality that lines up with those to reinforce them. Witchcraft takes additional power from the principality of Fear. They are working together, but they are separate. "
- l. "They can be independent, but they are more powerful when they are together. Bitterness and rejection can work independently, but they are more powerful when they are entwined together. It is a greater bondage. "
- m. "Yet, Jesus' work on the cross overcame all.

6. Ministering Healing

- a. AMEW 2009 pg. 337-340 **RE: Sickness due to a Sin unto death**

"The fifteenth block to healing is *sometimes the sickness unto death*. In 2 Chronicles 21:4-20, we read the story of Jehoram. He once knew God, but turned away from Him. He killed his brothers and because of murder, he became sick and died. The bible says it was a sin unto death. There are certain sins in the Bible from which people will die.

2 Chronicles 21:4-20 (KJV) Now when Jehoram was risen up to the kingdom of his father, he strengthened himself, and slew all his brethren with the sword, and *divers* also of the princes of Israel. ⁵ Jehoram *was* thirty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. ⁶ And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, like as did the house of Ahab: for he had the daughter of Ahab to wife: and he wrought *that which was* evil in the eyes of the LORD. ⁷ Howbeit the LORD would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he had made with David, and as he promised to give a light to him and to his sons for ever. ⁸ In his days the Edomites revolted from under the dominion of Judah, and made themselves a king. ⁹ Then Jehoram went forth with his princes, and all his chariots with him: and he rose up by night, and smote the Edomites which compassed him in, and the captains of the chariots. ¹⁰ So the Edomites revolted from under the hand of Judah unto this day. The same time *also* did Libnah revolt from under his hand; because he had forsaken the LORD God of his fathers. ¹¹ Moreover he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit fornication, and compelled Judah *thereto*. ¹² And there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of David thy father, Because

thou hast not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat thy father, nor in the ways of Asa king of Judah, ¹³ But hast walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and hast made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to go a whoring, like to the whoredoms of the house of Ahab, and also hast slain thy brethren of thy father's house, *which were* better than thyself: ¹⁴ Behold, with a great plague will the LORD smite thy people, and thy children, and thy wives, and all thy goods: ¹⁵ And thou *shalt have* great sickness by disease of thy bowels, until thy bowels fall out by reason of the sickness day by day. ¹⁶ Moreover the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines, and of the Arabians, that *were* near the Ethiopians: ¹⁷ And they came up into Judah, and brake into it, and carried away all the substance that was found in the king's house, and his sons also, and his wives; so that there was never a son left him, save Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons. ¹⁸ And after all this the LORD smote him in his bowels with an incurable disease. ¹⁹ And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years, his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness: so he died of sore diseases. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning of his fathers. ²⁰ Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years, and departed without being desired. Howbeit they buried him in the city of David, but not in the sepulchres of the kings.

In 1 John 5:16, it also talks about a sin unto death. What did John say? I would not that you pray for it.

1 John 5:16 (KJV) If any man see his brother sin a sin *which is* not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

I do not know what a sin unto death is, but it is a sin producing a disease unto death. It is a death sentence and praying for it to be healed is a waste of time.

I do not personally know what sin unto death is. this is a difficult Scripture, but this is how I understand it. If I see you sin a sin, but it is a sin not producing a disease that will kill you, then I shall pray God for you and He may heal you. *But if I see you sin a sin that is a sin producing a disease unto death, I shall not pray for you, because it is a sin unto death. Of the many diseases we have talked about in this teaching, many of them are unto death. Each one of them has a sin behind it. Unless the sin is dealt with, the disease will be a disease unto death. If I try to pray for a person, without the sin being dealt with, I am wasting my time. So before I pray, I have to be involved to deal with the "sin" issue first. Then I pray and minister around the sin issues. Many people are not healed after prayer because they do not understand this.*

Diseases coming out of bitterness and unforgiveness are diseases unto death. Here is where we have missed it. Rather than praying healing for these diseases, we must meet the person according to knowledge, as we are instructed in 2 Timothy 2:24-26 and Galatians 6:1 and then go to the person in live.

[2 Timothy 2:24-26 (KJV) And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient, ²⁵ In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if

God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;²⁶ And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will. Galatians 6:1 (KJV) Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.]

We must go in love because we want to remove the curse of death from their life. We must say to this person: according to the Word of God, I cannot pray for you [I cannot pray for your healing until we first address the spiritual root of your disease] But because I love you, I have come to you and I want to instruct you from the Word to bring repentance to you so you may recover yourself from the snare of this death penalty. Then when you have repented, I can come before God and ask His healing for you and He shall give it to you.

Sanctification for healing is the dimension not being taught today in the Church. The Church is not teaching why healing does not come. cancer is a disease unto death coming out of bitterness. Diabetes (Type 1) is a disease coming right out of self-hatred. There is disease after disease that carries a death sentence. But it does not have to be this way, does it?"

[Skipped paragraph dealing with why a minister should not pray for sin unto death until sin is dealt with. Note that Pastor Henry indicates that doing otherwise would result in 10% healings instead of 90%]

"One day someone said, "Well, it is the HIV virus." But I do not know if this is what it is. I have no idea. No one knows what it is. The point is this: Sometimes there are sins and sicknesses unto death. Second Kings 1:2-8 is the story of Ahaziah. He dabbled in sorcery and under the Law of Moses, sorcery, witchcraft and occultism brought a penalty of death. This individual died because his sin was unto death.

2 Kings 1:2-8 (KJV) And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that *was* in Samaria, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease.³ But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, *Is it* not because *there is* not a God in Israel, *that* ye go to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron?⁴ Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. And Elijah departed.⁵ And when the messengers turned back unto him, he said unto them, Why are ye now turned back?⁶ And they said unto him, There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us, Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, *Is it* not because *there is* not a God in Israel, *that* thou sendest to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? therefore thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.⁷ And he said unto them, What manner of man *was he* which came up to meet you, and told you these words?⁸ And they answered him, *He*

was an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It is Elijah the Tishbite.

7. Conviction versus Condemnation (Bitterness pg 34-37)

- a. "Conviction is of God; condemnation is of the devil."
- b. "Conviction is of God and if your hearts are convicted, then respond to conviction. If your hearts are condemned, it is the devil accusing you and we are not going to let him do that."

I want you to say with me,

Romans 8:1 (KJV) *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

- c. If you have this problem and you are submitting your life to God, you are starting to do something called "walking by the Spirit of God." If you allow something to rule your life and you are not interested in dealing with it, then condemnation comes. "
- d. "You have to make your peace with God in this area. God loves you and He has accepted you through Jesus. He wants this evil gone out of your life, because it separates you from His love and it separates you from your peace, and it separates you from other people."