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Unless otherwise noted, scripture quotations are from the HOLY BIBLE, Authorized King James Version.

Introduction

Many Christians do not readily attest to the fact that Satan or his forces have much power. Some say that the enemy is toothless and powerless. Others believe that the victory at the Cross renders the enemy absolutely harmless to the Christian today. The Bible, however, does speak about the enemy and his higher ranking forces as being extremely powerful. In fact, the Bible says the enemy is and will continue to release great deceptions in the last days.

Matthew 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Mark 13:5-6 And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you: [6] For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

There are many within the church that are called to a ministry that the Bible speaks of as being one of correction and restoration. The apostle Paul writes about spiritual people called the pneumatikos and how the enemy would attempt to overtake them in what the Scripture identifies as a fault. This concept is mentioned in the book of Galatians.

Galatians 6:1Brethren, 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.

It is of utmost importance for us to take notice that God is speaking to those classified as the brethren. He is not referring to those that are not born again. Most of us when we hear the phrase "overtaken in a fault" probably begin to think about every little detail of someone's life. Or, we begin to think about those things in others' lives that we would like to fix or on which we would like to focus.

Definition of a Fault

When the Spirit of the Lord began to speak to me about this concept, I personally had not thought much about it. There are some invaluable lessons that the Lord revealed to me in studying this topic of being overtaken in a fault. What does it actually mean to be overtaken in a fault? Overtaken or prolambano means to take in advance, eat before others have an opportunity, or to anticipate or surprise. Paraptoma or fault in this verse refers to a side-slip, lapse or deviation, unintentional error, or willful transgression. The defining of these two Greek words paints a clear picture as to the meaning of the concept being discussed. God is identifying specific ways that the enemy will attempt to stop or hinder a person from moving forward in their individual or corporate purpose in Him. The enemy is very determined in his attempts to cause a person of person to deviate from the purpose of God.

To help us get a better picture of the Greek term paraptoma, we must look at other verses in which this word is used. This word speaks about how people should respond to the issue of faults. As we journey through the Scripture it is my prayer that God will give us the ability to hear what His Spirit is saying to the Church.