

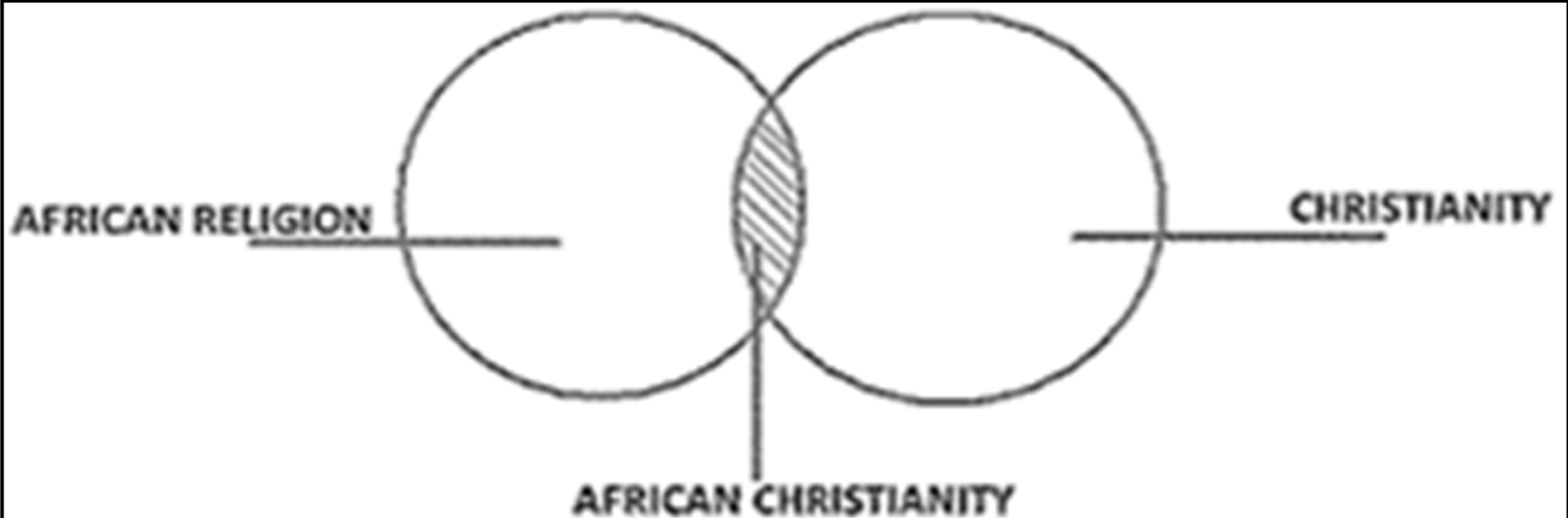
The Python Principle

Identifying Satanic Footprints

Seminar in African Traditional Religions
AFTR/MSSN 721

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July 11, 2019

Course Goal: To facilitate understanding differences and opportunities for witnessing.



Your Goal: To understand, master apply and use all to serve others.



My Goal: Give you an additional tool for your spiritual toolbox.

What's in your Spiritual Toolbox?



The Python Principle



The Python Principle is the ancient satanic principle where the devil effectively, continually uses people, places and systems to deceptively accomplish his will.

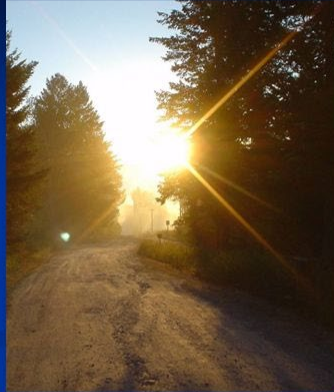


The Python Principle (Four Characteristics)

- **The Python Principle is a Deadly Satanic Strategy used in the Past, Present and Future. It is...**
 - **Diabolic:** When a person, especially a professing believer, is used to effectively do the work of Satan.
 - **Deceptive:** When one artfully practices, influence in support of unrighteousness opposed to righteousness.
 - **Duplicitous:** When one apparently believes the Gospel truth but is actually an agent of an evil spirit or Satan.
 - **Destructive:** When one may or may not be aware of their hypocrisy and satanic connections but they successfully are a medium for the forces of darkness.

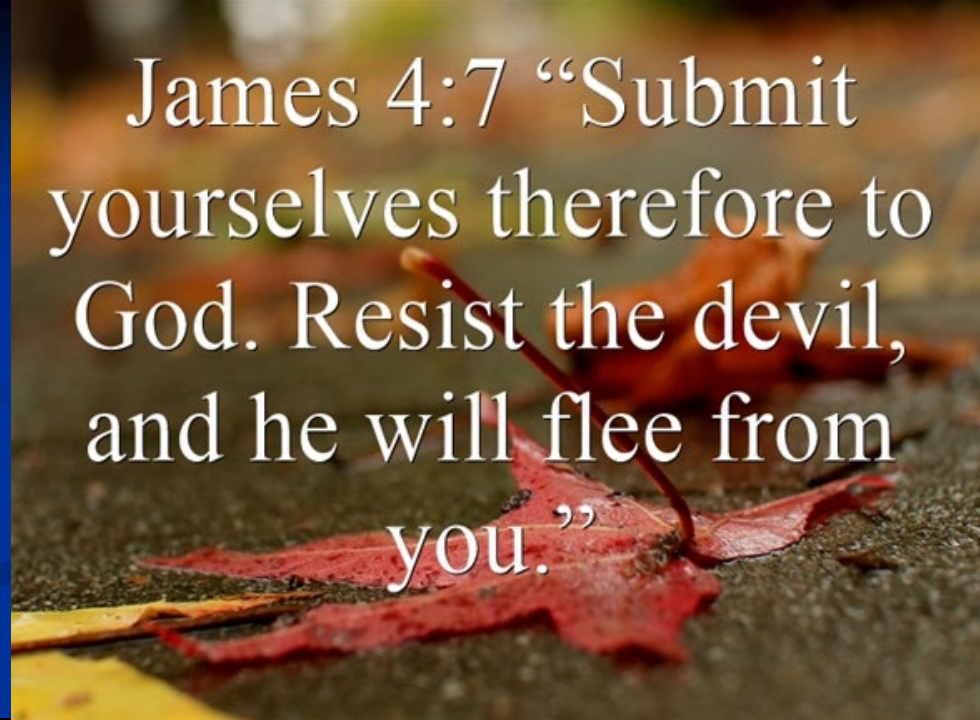
1 John 1:5

This then is the message which we have learned of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.



Satan needed to copy or emulate God, he needed to appear as God, he needed to appear as an angel of light.

James 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”



BEWARE: ANOTHER GOSPEL, ANOTHER JESUS, ANOTHER SPIRIT

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

For if he that cometh preacheth ANOTHER JESUS, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive ANOTHER SPIRIT, which ye have not received, or ANOTHER GOSPEL, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him. (2 Corinthians 11:3-4 KJV)

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto ANOTHER GOSPEL: (Galatians 1:6 KJV)

2 Corinthians 11:14

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.



Transformed: Strong's 3345
To transfigure or disguise.

Cooperation with the Python Spirit

- **The modern-day Python agent often assumes a benign and supportive posture to truth.**
- Ellen White refers to this cooperative human-demonic activity:
 - “Satan has many in his employ, but is most successful when he can use professed Christians for his satanic work.
 - “And the greater their influence, the more elevated their position, the more knowledge they profess of God and His service, the more successfully can he use them. Whoever entices to sin is his agent”

(5T 137).

Impact of Python Cooperation

- **If the Python spirit controls a person's life through the power of the Holy Spirit then, destruction and eternal loss is the outcome.**
 - Revelation 21:8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (NKJV)
 - Revelation 22:15: "But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie." (NKJV)

Resisting the Python Principle: *in four parts...*

1. The Context

2. The Confrontation

3. The Controversy

4. The Conquest

1. The Context



Gospel Enters Europe (Acts 16)

- Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey, Acts 15-16.
- 2nd Missionary Journey, circa. 4 ys. A.D. 50-54.
- Macedonian churches est. during this time.
- Encounters with far-reaching impact.
- Paul sail to Caesarea at tour end (18:22).



Europe Team Formed (1-5)

- **Paul and Silas visit Derbe, Lystra, Iconium (1-3).**
 - Team visits churches established during 1st Missionary Journey and later start new one.
- **Paul meets Timothy, who has a good reputation, his mother is Jewish (Eunice, Tim. 1:5), father is Greek; Paul mentors him. 2**
 - They then took Timothy with them on Team.
 - Passed through the cities, taking the apostolic decree (15:23-29) and strengthening the churches.

MACEDONIA

Amphipolis

Philippi

Berea

Apollonia

Troas

Thessalonica

Corinth

Athens

Cenchrea

Ephesus

Iconium

Lystra

Derbe

Antioch

SYRIA

Caesarea

Jerusalem

**Paul's Second
Missionary Journey
(Acts 15:40 – 18:22)
50-54 A.D.**

Macedonian Call Accepted (6-15)

- They went through Phrygia and Galatia; prohibited from preaching in Bithynia, then Troas.
- The Vision in Troas (9-10)
 - Macedonia man pleads with Paul for help (9)
 - Paul to companions, “the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them” (10)... go to Macedonia
- Travel to Samothrace, Neapolis, Philippi (11-34)
 - They stay in Philippi and encountered two women, the crowds, prison and the jailer.

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**Paul's Second
Missionary Journey
(Acts 15:40 – 18:22)
50-54 A.D.**

Philippi named after
Philip of Macedon.

- An important city, a Roman colony. (i.e. – a military position for the defense on the border of empire).

European Campaign Begins

- Paul, along with Silas, Luke and Timothy had sailed from Troas on the Aegean Sea to Neapolis, the port of **Philippi**.
- **Historic Moment: Gospel reached Europe.**
- Paul encountered his first recorded demonic encounter on his second missionary journey.

Encounter wasn't in Africa but in Europe!

Resisting the Python Principle

1. The Context

2. The Confrontation

3. The Controversy

4. The Conquest

2. The Confrontation



Two Decisive Encounters (11-15)

- **First, Paul speaks and witnesses to women, meets prominent citizen Lydia (13-14).**
 - Lydia a seller of purple from Thyatira (14); The Lord opened Lydia's Heart (14); Paul stays with family of Lydia (15)
- **Second, Paul continues to go to river for prayer and Slave Girl with spirit follows him (16-18).**
 - Slave girl (demon possessed) with "Python Spirit" (Oracle at Delphi) brought masters profit by her fortune telling and predictions.



Confrontation of Good and Evil: Real Time

- **First**, we see conversion of Lydia (Acts 16:11-15) and the good it did for the Team and new Church
- **Second**, we are confronted with an unnamed demon possessed woman (Acts 16:16-24).
 - Doubly enslaved, to human master and demon master.
 - Greek: she had Python spirit (16:16): spirit of divination.
 - She followed Paul and apostolic team claiming to support, affirm their Gospel while—attention to herself.

Person of Satan—1

What are some of the attributes of Satan?

1. We wrestle not against **flesh and blood**, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against **spiritual wickedness** in high places. (Eph. 6:12)
2. The Bible consistently refers to evil beings as "spirits":
...he cast out the **spirits** with [his] word... (Matt. 8:16);
...he gave them power [against] **unclean spirits**... (Matt. 10:1)
...in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing **spirits**... (1 Tim. 4:1)
...For they are the **spirits** of devils, working miracles... (Rev. 16:4)
3. Satan himself is transformed into an **angel** of light. (2 Cor. 11:14)
4. Are they not all ministering **spirits**, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation? (Heb. 1:7,14)

Person of Satan—2

What are some of the attributes of Satan?

- Bible authors believed that angelic beings are "spirits", though they can take on a physical state. Ellen White refers to such a time:
- "I **was then shown Satan** as he was, a happy, exalted angel.
- "Then I was shown him as he now is.
- "He still bears a kingly **form**. His **features** are still noble, for he is an **angel fallen**. But the expression of his **countenance** is full of anxiety, care, unhappiness, malice, hate, mischief, deceit, and every evil. That **brow** which was once so noble, I particularly noticed. His **forehead** commenced from his **eyes** to recede backward. I saw that he had demeaned himself so long, that every good quality was debased, and every evil trait was developed. His eyes were cunning, sly, and showed great penetration. His **frame was large**, but the **flesh hung loosely** about his **hands** and **face**.
- "As I beheld him, his **chin** was resting upon his **left hand**. He appeared to be in deep thought. A smile was upon his countenance, which made me tremble, it was so full of evil, and Satanic slyness."

(Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 1, p. 27)

Satan's Use of the Python Principle

- "Satan uses men and women as agents to solicit to sin and make it attractive. These agents he faithfully educates to so disguise sin that he can more successfully destroy souls and rob Christ of His glory.
- "Satan is the great enemy of God and man. He transforms himself through his agents into angels of light. In the Scriptures he is called a destroyer, an accuser of the brethren, a deceiver, a liar, a tormentor, and a murderer.
- "Satan has many in his employ, but is most successful when he can use professed Christians for his satanic work. And the greater their influence, the more elevated their position, the more knowledge they profess of God and His service, the more successfully can he use them. Whoever entices to sin is his agent."

(5T 137:4)

Resisting the Python Principle

1. The Context

2. The Confrontation

3. The Controversy

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3. The Controversy



The Python Principles

Causes and Manifestations

Causes

Causes of Demonization?—1

See *Dealing with Demonic in the African Context*, book (adapted), page 9-13.

1. ***Spiritualism:*** Those who dabble with spiritualism or to use more modern terminology, with witchcraft or occult activity of any kind, are placing themselves in such a great danger that it is beyond the ability of human beings to free themselves (MR 13, no. 1000).
2. ***Life-Style Issues:*** When people live intemperate and frivolous lives Satan can gain a foothold that results in a perversion of the human nature (MH 145).
3. ***Addictions:*** When a person becomes addicted to a perversion or vice Satan can take control of that person's life (DA 716).
4. ***Belief in False Doctrines:*** When people today accept and believe teachings and doctrines that go against biblical truth they provide a foothold for the influence and control of Satan. Such false ideas warp the human character and can lead to Satan gaining "power over the human mind" (RH, October 22, 1895).

Causes of Demonization?—2

See *Dealing with Demonic in the African Context*, book (adapted), page 9-13.

5. ***Voicing Doubt and Unbelief:*** People who not only have doubts and struggle with believing biblical truth, but who verbalize those doubts attract the attention of Satan and his angels and help create an atmosphere where they can be overcome by the evil one (1T 430).
6. ***Willful Departure from God's Commandments:*** People who go against God's law place "themselves under the control of Satan." Many people play around with sin, believing they can break free whenever they want, however, willful disregard for God's law places people at great risk for becoming helpless captives of evil spirits (MH 92, 93).
7. ***Not Restraining Thoughts and Feelings:*** Christians who do not restrain their thoughts and feelings are in danger of being influenced by evil angels. It seems that Christians who do not practice self-control over their thoughts and feelings are in reality inviting evil angels to have a measure of control over them (5T 310).

Manifestations

How Evil Spirits Manifest?—1

See *Dealing with Demonic in the African Context*, book (adapted), page 14-15.

1. ***Demons Can Speak Through Their Victims:*** Ellen White uses the example of the demoniac who tried to cry out to Jesus for help, but instead of being able to say what he wanted, the spirits “put words into his mouth” (MH 94).
2. ***Demons Live in People:*** Human bodies become the habitation of demons and these satanic agencies manipulate the human senses, nerves, and organs to indulge in the vilest lusts (MH 145).
3. ***People’s Faces Can Reflect Demonic Presence:*** When people are demonized the very faces of people can be contorted and can reflect the expression of evil spirits (MH 145).
4. ***Satan Offers Temporary Benefits before Destroying His Victims:*** Ellen White is very clear that Satan and his evil angels often benefit and build people up, not because they want to help them, but in order to eventually destroy them (RH October 22, 1895).

How Evil Spirits Manifest?—2

See *Dealing with Demonic in the African Context*, book (adapted), page 14-15.

5. ***Evil Spirits Cause Sickness:*** Disease and sickness can be caused among believers by the “power of Satan or evil spirits” (SG 2:139).
6. ***Ellen White suffered attacks from evil angels:*** They caused excruciating pain in various parts of her body, with pain jumping from her ear, to her arm, to her jaw, and then to her brain: “legions of evil angels were in that room, and if I had not clung by faith to the Lord, I do not know what might have become of me” (TDG 36).
7. ***Satan Cures Diseases Causing People to Worship Him:*** Ellen White warns that people in the world converse with and receive “instructions from this demon-god, and act . . . according to his teachings.” He cures disease and is perceived as “a benefactor of [the human] race” to the point where people are so deceived that they worship him (Ev 604).

Resisting the Python Principle

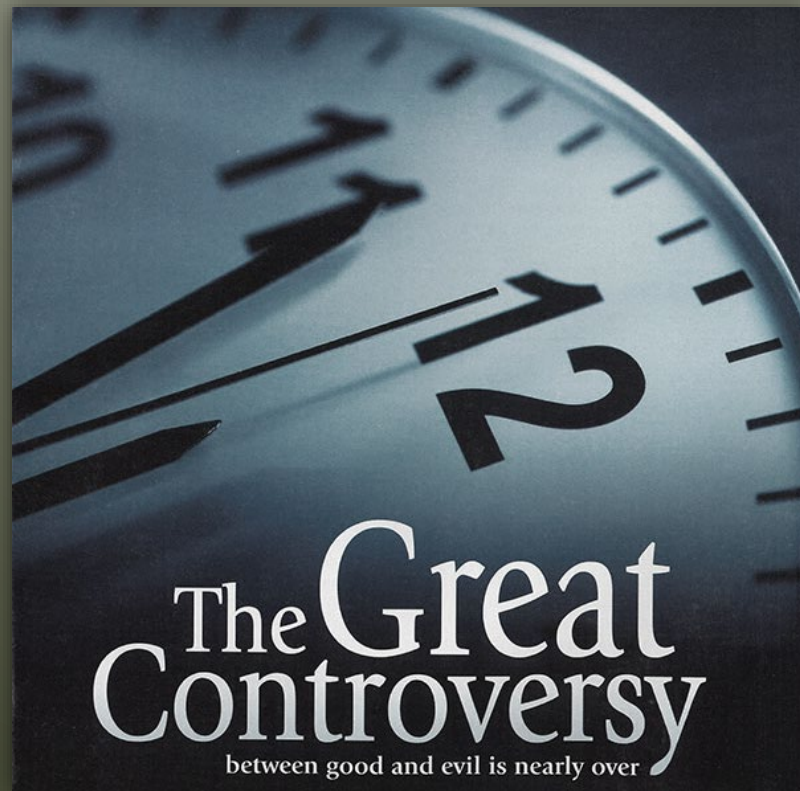
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4. The Conquest



THE
GREAT CONTROVERSY
BETWEEN
CHRIST AND HIS ANGELS, AND SATAN
AND HIS ANGELS.

~~~~~  
BY ELLEN G. WHITE.  
~~~~~

GREATER
IS
HE WHO IS
THAN IN ME
HE
WHO IS
IN THE 1 JOHN 4:4
WORLD.

Lessons

Emerging Truth—1st



- **First, whenever God's work progresses, it will be countered by satanic resistance.**
 - Devil will give no ground but he will deceive, fight for and seek to defend whatever he claims dominion over.
 - Demonic activity takes various forms, in multiple systems of belief.
 - It is evident in every corner of the world.

Emerging Truth—2nd



- **Second, this evil Python spirit continues today but takes different forms.**
 - Yes, the Python spirit refer back to Greek mythology where it guarded the Delphic oracle,
 - Now, it has come to symbolize the changing and ventriloquist activities of Satan and his evil spirits.
 - These evil spirits possess influence and ever seek to speak through willing subjects, whether they claim to be a believer or not.

Divine Solution



- **Third, all people need a Savior, a Source of truth and strength for victory in the battle with evil. Here are three essential principles:**
 - 1. **Study:** Everyone needs power to resist this demonic foe and the Bible gives that power (Psalm 119);
 - 2. **Submission:** all to Jesus, claim the power of God in your life; God is greater than Satan (1 John 4:4);
 - 3. **Spiritual Armor:** all of it, everyday, through heartfelt prayer (alone and with others), combined with your will, stand (Ephesians 6), until Jesus comes .

PLAN *of* SALVATION

Hear

The Gospel

Believe

In Christ

Repent

Of Sins

Confess

Faith in Christ

and

Be Baptized

Eight Breakaway Strategies for DECLARED Victory Over the Python...

1. **D**eclare your need: "I believe help me." Mark 9:24
2. **E**ager for saving: "*Lord, save me!*" Psalm 116:3-4
3. **C**onfess, repent, join-be baptized: Acts 2:37-38
4. **L**ink with the Spirit-be assured: John 20:21-23
5. **A**ccept Victory-Power-Freedom: Romans 10:9-10
6. **R**efuse the cord-throw off bondage: Psalm 129:4
7. **E**njoy the assurance, freedom: Psalm 51:12-13
8. **D**edicated to the right: Mat 3:8; Acts 20:26



We can Claim the Victory Over Evil Even as Christ's Victory Over His Death and Resurrection.

1. Victory over Satan
2. Victory over Death
3. Victory of Christ's word
4. Victory of the Gospel
5. Victory of Eternity



But thanks be to
GOD,

who gives us the

VICTORY

through our Lord

**JESUS
CHRIST**

1 Corinthians 15:57



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