

What Others Are Saying about Dr. Kynan Bridges and
Unmasking the Accuser...

“Most believers I know have fallen into these deadly traps of slander, gossip, and offense. *Unmasking the Accuser* will stop the devil in his tracks and free you from a lifetime of diminished vision, anointing, and destiny.”

—Sid Roth

Host, *It's Supernatural!*

“Kynan Bridges has a wonderful ability to articulate biblical truth. He gets straight to the point, deals with the thorniest of issues, and applies God's remedy. *Unmasking the Accuser* is no exception as it exposes the root of so many issues and snares that rob us of victory. Read this practical book, receive the truth, and get ready to walk in a new level of freedom and power!”

—Aliss Cresswell

Director, Spirit Lifestyle and Morning Star Europe

“Why be duped by the devil? Dr. Kynan Bridges' book does a powerful job of unmasking the Accuser—Satan. You will be amazed by what the devil's been up to in your life and in your church! This book is an incredible tool for fighting the 'nice' sins inside the church that cause such division: slander, gossip, and offense. With kingdom authority and pastoral power, *Unmasking the Accuser* shows the danger of lending an ear to evil and shows the blessing of choosing Christ instead. The revelation in this book will expose Satan, challenge believers—and change your life!”

—Bishop George G. Bloomer

Best-selling author, *Witchcraft in the Pews*

Author, *Break Loose*

Pastor, Bethel Family Worship Center

Durham, NC

“*Unmasking the Accuser* discloses the subtle tactics that our enemy, the Accuser, deliberately uses to destroy us. Dr. Kynan Bridges provides a strategic plan to take back what you have lost in your authority and evict the Accuser permanently from your life. It is a powerful addition to your reference library.”

—Cindy Stewart

Author, *7 Visions, Believing God*, and *Believing His Word*
Pastor, The Gathering with Jesus
Tarpon Springs, FL

“God has given my friend, Kynan Bridges, profound insight into the enemy’s greatest weapon against you. In *Unmasking the Accuser*, Kynan exposes those nagging voices of insecurity, offense, guilt, and shame for what they really are—devices of the devil designed to steal your destiny. Get ready to experience restoration, healing, and freedom! Through in-depth teaching and powerful application, you’ll learn how to recognize, combat, and silence Satan’s slander to finally live in the victory of the Voice of Truth!”

—Kyle Winkler

Author, *Activating the Power of God’s Word*
Creator, *Shut Up, Devil!* App
www.kylewinkler.org

“I believe that Pastor Kynan Bridges’ new book, *Unmasking the Accuser*, actually provides the key that will help the church sustain the Holy Spirit outpouring she has long prayed and talked about. It has little to do with God sovereignly sending something from heaven; it has everything to do with being positioned to effectively steward the move of God, from generation to generation. Why do we see trickles of outpouring when Jesus prophesied of rivers? Simple. Because we’ve been called to direct the fight at the powers of darkness, not at each other. *Unmasking the Accuser* shines light on Satan’s favorite lie that, in my opinion, has crippled revival, destroyed churches, and paralyzed people from fulfilling their personal destinies. It’s that big of a deal. Pastor Kynan does a fantastic job at breaking down the different strategies of the devil and, ultimately, exposing the enemy’s timeless playbook. My prayer is this: that you would not read this like just another book, but you would literally act like, somehow, the devil’s handbook of age-old strategies has been placed in your possession. Imagine having exclusive insider knowledge

of the key tactics that the enemy of your soul plans to use against you. *Unmasking the Accuser* provides you with that! As you read it, I trust that you will start anticipating the devil's next move and have the winning advantage over his weapons of offense, gossip, slander, and deception!"

—Larry Sparks

Vice-president, Destiny Image

Author, *Breakthrough Faith*

lawrencesparks.com

"I first met Dr. Kynan Bridges when we each appeared as a guest on the same popular Christian television program. I came to recognize that Kynan is smart, articulate, charismatic, attentive, and humble. He's obviously anointed, but he's also a man who loves the Lord and genuinely cares about people. That day I was also blessed to get one of his books, and as I read it I found that in addition to all that, he's a gifted writer. I really liked that first book—and I really like this one! I believe *Unmasking the Accuser* will help you order your everyday conversation to glorify God, and will also help you to avoid or recover from hurts you may have sustained through the hurtful words of others. I would go so far as to say it's a must-read for every Christian. In these pages Kynan reveals the destructive power of slander, gossip, and offense, and shows us all how to avoid being stuck in their claws. As you read, take Kynan's powerful teaching to heart, and be set free in every way!"

—Karen J. Salisbury

Author, *How to Make the Right Decision Every Time*

and *Why God Why?*

www.karenjsalisbury.org

"*Unmasking the Accuser* is a book that exposes the enemy for the liar that he is. Through honest and insightful teaching, Dr. Bridges helps believers identify the voice of the enemy in their lives and invites the reader to live in the truth of who they are in Christ. I encourage you to read this book and personalize the prayers within that you may shut the mouth of the enemy over your life, hear God's voice with clarity, and live out His truth with conviction!"

—Katherine Ruonala

Katherine Ruonala Ministries

www.katherineruonala.com

UNMASKING
THE
ACCUSER

UNMASKING
THE
ACCUSER
HOW TO FIGHT SATAN'S **FAVORITE LIE**

KYNAN BRIDGES



WHITAKER
HOUSE

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UNMASKING THE ACCUSER: HOW TO FIGHT SATAN’S FAVORITE LIE

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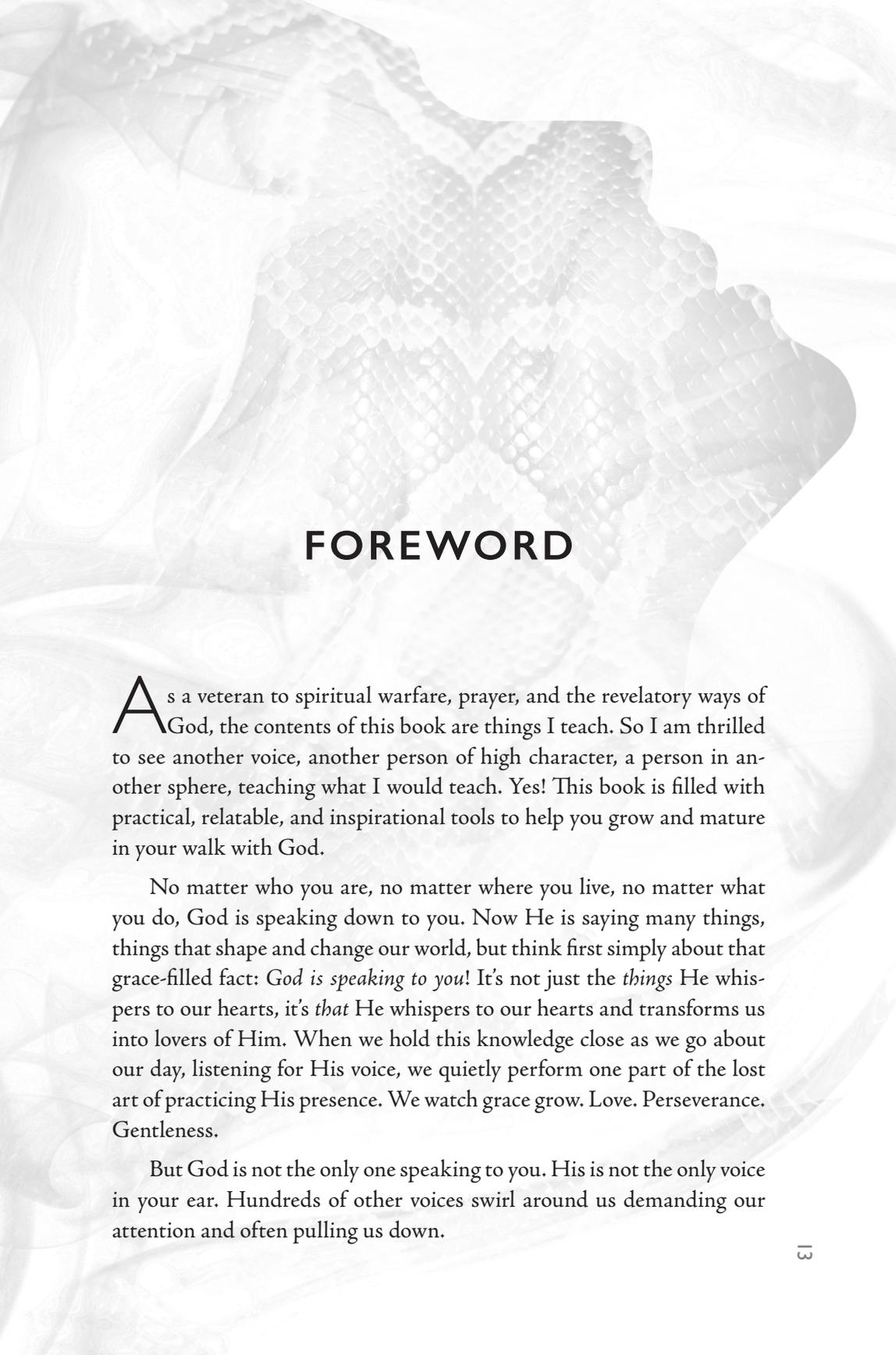
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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to the Lord Jesus Christ,
the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
I also dedicate it to Gloria Bridges—my lovely, awesome, and
virtuous wife, the mother of my four children,
and my number-one partner and supporter in life and ministry;
I love you more than words can express.
And I dedicate it to all those who have been hurt by the church.
My prayer is that you will find healing and restoration in the
pages of this work.
God bless!

CONTENTS

Foreword by Dr. James W. Goll	13
Preface.....	17
Acknowledgments	19
1. Who's in Your Ear?	21
2. Accusing the Accuser.....	33
3. The Power of Slander.....	45
4. Say No to Gossip.....	57
5. The Spirit of Offense.....	69
6. Don't Take the Bait	85
7. A More Excellent Way	101
8. Beware of Balaam and Absalom	115
9. The Assassin's Creed	129
10. Satan's Agenda	141
11. The Grace Space	151
12. Be Not Deceived.....	167
13. The Law of Honor	181
14. My Brother's Keeper	195
15. When Church Hurts	207
16. Healing the Wounds of the Past	221
About the Author	237



FOREWORD

As a veteran to spiritual warfare, prayer, and the revelatory ways of God, the contents of this book are things I teach. So I am thrilled to see another voice, another person of high character, a person in another sphere, teaching what I would teach. Yes! This book is filled with practical, relatable, and inspirational tools to help you grow and mature in your walk with God.

No matter who you are, no matter where you live, no matter what you do, God is speaking down to you. Now He is saying many things, things that shape and change our world, but think first simply about that grace-filled fact: *God is speaking to you!* It's not just the *things* He whispers to our hearts, it's *that* He whispers to our hearts and transforms us into lovers of Him. When we hold this knowledge close as we go about our day, listening for His voice, we quietly perform one part of the lost art of practicing His presence. We watch grace grow. Love. Perseverance. Gentleness.

But God is not the only one speaking to you. His is not the only voice in your ear. Hundreds of other voices swirl around us demanding our attention and often pulling us down.

We all know it, if we're honest. Instead of leaning back into the sure sway of the Spirit, we find ourselves lending an ear to things we shouldn't. Backbiting. Pettiness. Gossip. Complaining. If you've been around Christians, you unfortunately know exactly what I'm talking about. Who among us hasn't been in a situation where words caused wounding beyond comprehension? In my years of ministry through God Encounters Ministries, I have seen it over and over. So where does all this wounding come from?

The answer is more uncomfortable than most of us are willing to admit. More personal than we want to confront. My friend Dr. Kynan Bridges masterfully speaks a word of truth over the discord and disunity seeping into the precious body of God-followers by demonstrating that when we lend an ear to slander and gossip, we are welcoming in the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan. He is the one planting accusations and deceit inside our minds through the lips of even well-meaning people! *The devil uses our words to wound*. What a wake-up call!

Words are powerful, powerful as a double-edged sword, and we can either use them for great good or for great harm. If we're not careful, we can wreak havoc with our words, especially when from one mouth proceeds both blessing and cursing. (See James 3:10.) The words we listen to affect the words we speak, and the words we speak affect every single person who crosses our path. That's why *Unmasking the Accuser* is a desperately needed prophetic book for us today, with the potential to radically change every single word spoken in our lives—impacting our eternal destinies.

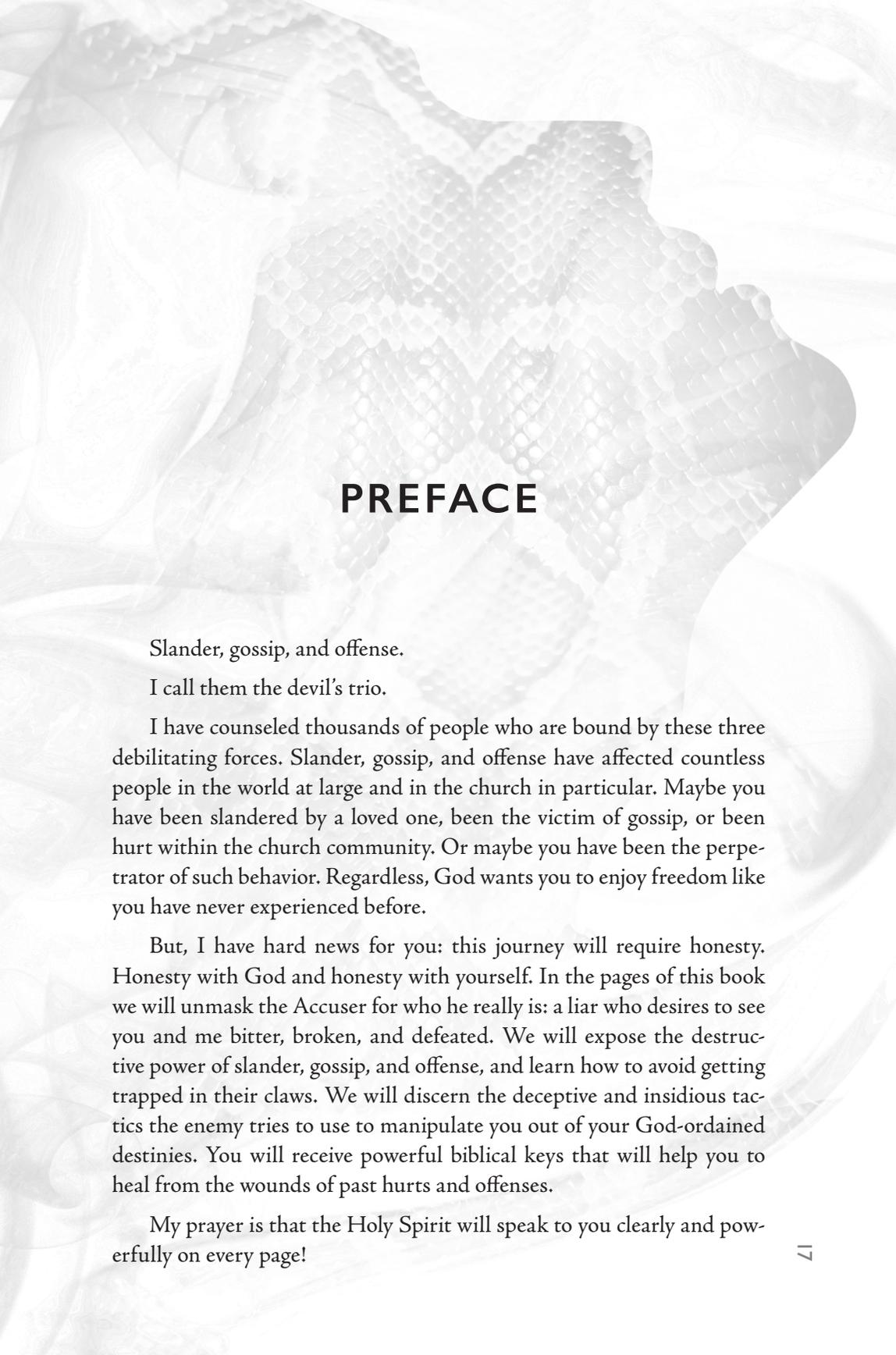
I encourage you to take the words of this book and let them shine a bright light of clarity into the conversations of your life, as they have shone into mine.

If we are to passionately pursue the fire of the Spirit, we must lay aside every voice but His. It will take discernment: Sometimes, our heavenly Father speaks through the words of the people around us. And, as Dr. Bridges wrote, "Sometimes Satan speaks in the first person." But this book will be your guide to unmasking the powerful lies that come from the mouth of devil and discerning the truth that comes from the mouth of God. Instead of letting lies in the front door of our mind, let us participate in a great, international, supernatural conversation that flows forth the words of our holy God, not the words of the Accuser of the brethren.

Imagine how much less slander, gossip, and offense there would be in our lives—in our world! Imagine the joy of our Creator as He would watch us spread blessings and transformational power instead of cursing and stagnating criticism. Imagine the healing, reparation, and reconciliation that would spring up in the hearts of believers. I am excited about this book. Can you tell?

Once again let us be the sweet fragrance of Christ to all the nations. Speak life!

—*Dr. James W. Goll*
Founder, God Encounters Ministries
Author, *Hearing God's Voice Today*,
The Seer, *Passionate Pursuit*, and others



PREFACE

Slander, gossip, and offense.

I call them the devil's trio.

I have counseled thousands of people who are bound by these three debilitating forces. Slander, gossip, and offense have affected countless people in the world at large and in the church in particular. Maybe you have been slandered by a loved one, been the victim of gossip, or been hurt within the church community. Or maybe you have been the perpetrator of such behavior. Regardless, God wants you to enjoy freedom like you have never experienced before.

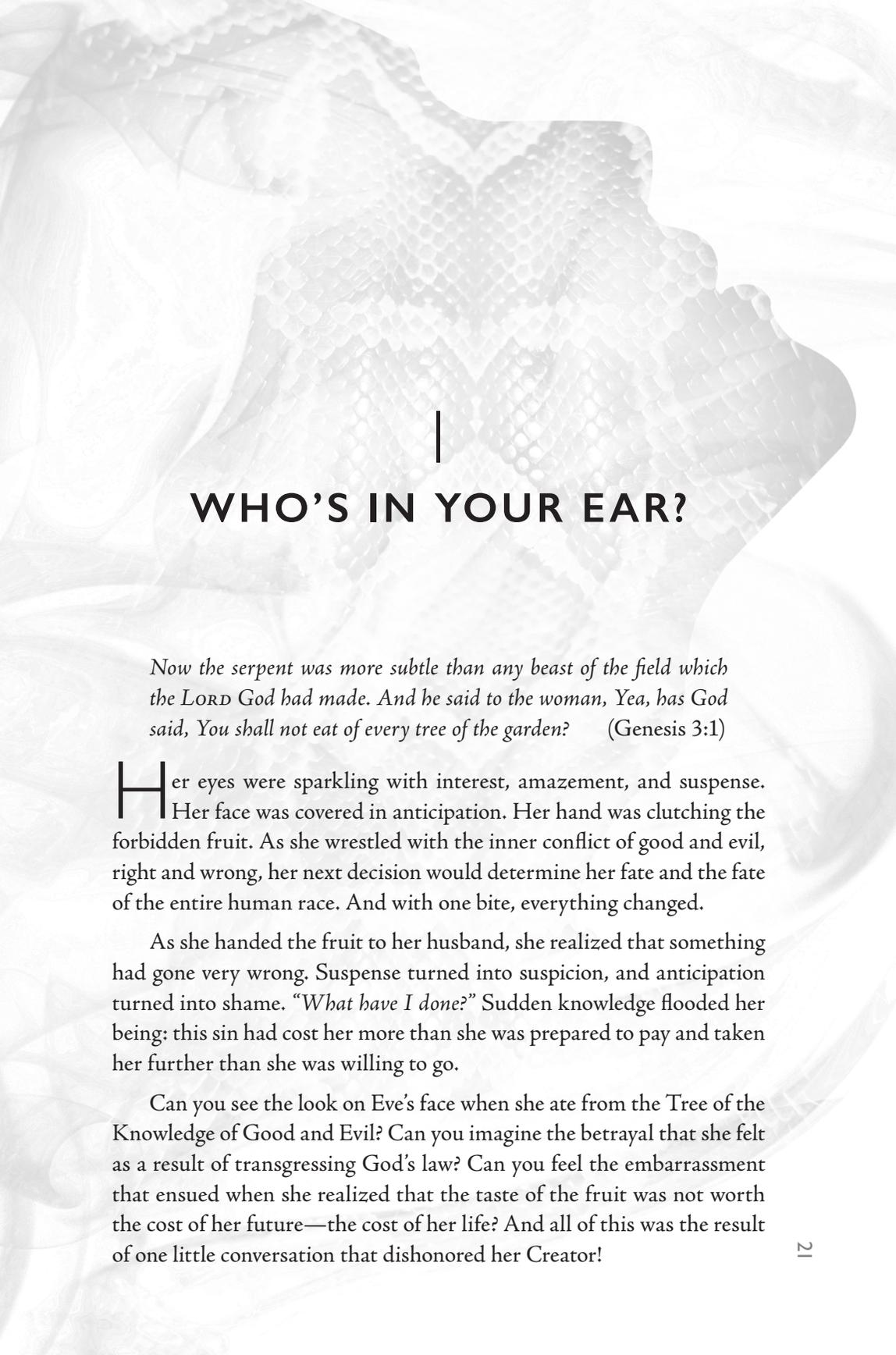
But, I have hard news for you: this journey will require honesty. Honesty with God and honesty with yourself. In the pages of this book we will unmask the Accuser for who he really is: a liar who desires to see you and me bitter, broken, and defeated. We will expose the destructive power of slander, gossip, and offense, and learn how to avoid getting trapped in their claws. We will discern the deceptive and insidious tactics the enemy tries to use to manipulate you out of your God-ordained destinies. You will receive powerful biblical keys that will help you to heal from the wounds of past hurts and offenses.

My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will speak to you clearly and powerfully on every page!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First of all, I want to take a moment and acknowledge my precious Lord Jesus Christ. It is through Him that I am able to write this and all books. To my wife—you mean more than life itself. Thank you for standing with me through the years. To my ministerial staff, thank you! To my church family (Grace & Peace Global Fellowship), who have been instrumental in praying for and supporting this project—thank you! To the team at Whitaker House—thank you for your hard work and prayerful support in helping to get this message to the world: I am grateful for all that you do. Special thanks to the production and editing team, including Christine Whitaker, Judith Dinsmore, and Cathy Hickling at Whitaker; Crystal Dixon, Patricia Holdsworth, Camilla Hippolyte, Gloria Bridges, and the entire Kynan Bridges Ministries Team, to name a few.

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge great men and women of the faith who have impacted my life and ministry in a positive way (either directly or indirectly), including: Pastor Wayne C. Thompson, Dr. Mark Chironna, John G. Lake, Derek Prince, Dr. Charles Stanley, Oswald Chambers, Smith Wigglesworth, John Wesley, Jack Coe, Oral Roberts, Kathryn Kuhlman, R.W. Shambach, Sid Roth, Pastor Marlin D. Harris, Mike Bickle, Hank and Brenda Kunneman, Joan Hunter, Dr. E. V. Hill, Marilyn Hickey, Pastor Tony Kemp, Dr. Douglas Wingate, Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke, Dr. Rodney Howard-Browne, Dr. T. L. Lowery, and Dr. Myles Munroe.



WHO'S IN YOUR EAR?

Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, Yea, has God said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? (Genesis 3:1)

Her eyes were sparkling with interest, amazement, and suspense. Her face was covered in anticipation. Her hand was clutching the forbidden fruit. As she wrestled with the inner conflict of good and evil, right and wrong, her next decision would determine her fate and the fate of the entire human race. And with one bite, everything changed.

As she handed the fruit to her husband, she realized that something had gone very wrong. Suspense turned into suspicion, and anticipation turned into shame. “*What have I done?*” Sudden knowledge flooded her being: this sin had cost her more than she was prepared to pay and taken her further than she was willing to go.

Can you see the look on Eve’s face when she ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? Can you imagine the betrayal that she felt as a result of transgressing God’s law? Can you feel the embarrassment that ensued when she realized that the taste of the fruit was not worth the cost of her future—the cost of her life? And all of this was the result of one little conversation that dishonored her Creator!

That is not just the story of Adam and Eve's fate in the garden of Eden. It is also the story of Satan's favorite lie. So many believers have fallen for this lie, time and again, that the story of the church has begun to sound like a broken record. Countless, like Adam and Eve, accept a narrative from the enemy that robs them of their peace of mind, their joy, and even their future, as they run to embrace the lie that real knowledge can be found outside of God. The lie that it's OK to listen to any voice other than His. The lie that lending an ear to the Accuser's slander and gossip, letting it boil into offense, is somehow innocent and harmless.

The real truth is, *the conversation you give ear to can cost you everything.*

Eve and the Serpent

The plague of slander, gossip, offense, and bitterness cannot be solved overnight because it did not happen overnight. It began long before you and I were aware of its devastation; it began with the first man and woman on the planet. The beginning of the biblical account of humankind's fall is a little conversation between Eve and the Serpent.

Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, Yea, has God said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

The word *serpent* here comes from the Hebrew word *nachash*, which can also mean "divination." The conversation the Serpent (the devil) had with Eve was much more than a conversation. The Serpent was hissing a *divination* into Eve's ear, tempting her to seek knowledge of good and evil, of future and unknown things, by supernatural means. In other words, Eve was being seduced into seeking knowledge, wisdom, and insight outside of the confines of God's will. She was beguiled into believing that she was missing some very pertinent information concerning the happiness of her life. The Serpent was inviting her into territory that was outside of her jurisdiction and manipulating her expectations and her desires. God never made it Eve's business to know her future. It was her responsibility to know God's instruction, and it was God's responsibility to steward her future. But she wanted what God had. She wanted to know what God knew!

The Bible also tells us that the Serpent was subtle. This is the Hebrew word *aruw*, which means “shrewd, crafty, and sly.” This was never an innocent conversation, but a diabolical attempt to remove Adam and Eve from their position in the garden of Eden.

**SATAN’S LIE:
YOU’RE NOT AFFECTED
BY WHAT YOU HEAR.**

#WHOSINYOUREAR?



Have you ever wondered why Eve spoke to the Serpent to begin with? Why did she allow him to speak into her life? You’ve heard the saying, “Curiosity killed the cat.” Well in this case, curiosity brought the curse. She allowed the words the Serpent spoke to her to overrule the instructions God had given. What you hear is fundamental to your spiritual life because it is directly attached to your faith. Faith brings manifestation; whatever you accept into your ears will determine what you act upon in your life. What you hear will always work for you or against you, depending on what you let in. It will affect you, both in its quality and its quantity.

So who is in your ear? You need to know this: Satan, the devil, is a liar. He has been a liar from the beginning, and is incapable of speaking the truth. He is not a credible source of information because nothing he says is truthful, including what he says about you, and what he says to you. Do not lend your ear to the enemy!

Every time we allow the wrong voice to speak into our ears, it costs us something. When Eve listened, it cost her God’s glory, her peace of mind, and mankind’s position as vice-regents in the earth. Words are seeds, and Eve realized the hard way that every seed produces a harvest.

The Subtleness of Slander

Maybe you never looked at it this way, but the first transgression recorded in the Bible is not the eating of forbidden fruit; it is slander. *Slander* is defined as the action or crime of making a false spoken

statement damaging to a person's reputation. Whose reputation was being assaulted? Who was the first victim of this slander? God! The devil spoke lies about God in an attempt to malign His character in the eyes of Eve. The enemy of her soul wanted her to believe that God was not telling her the whole story. He wanted her to think that God was hiding something from her. In fact, the word for *Satan* (*shatan*) literally means, "one who breaks faith."

He slithered up to Eve and with his first words insinuated that God had made a ridiculous request. "*Yea, has God said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*" "Yea" implies, "Indeed, is it really true?" and notice that he says, "every tree." Now, I'll bet anything that Satan knew exactly what the rule was, but he subtly slandered God by making Him out to be a mean old guy with a garden full of beautiful fruit trees who won't even share *one*.

After Eve responds that they were only forbidden from eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, the Serpent becomes bolder. He directly contradicts God in order to cast suspicion on God's intentions and cause Eve to doubt. "*You shall not surely die,*" said the Serpent. The moment she took heed to this slanderous accusation against God, her spiritual eyes were darkened and she became deceived.

OUR CONVERSATIONS SHAPE OUR PERCEPTIONS, AND OUR PERCEPTIONS SHAPE OUR REALITY.

Have you ever looked at someone differently because of a conversation? Maybe someone told you something about a sister or brother in your church, and now you don't see him or her through the same innocent eyes anymore. Jesus said, "*Take heed what you hear: with what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you: and to you that hear shall more be given*" (Mark 4:24). Eve didn't heed—and now she wasn't seeing God through the same innocent eyes anymore, and neither would the rest of humankind.

The Sway of Gossip

Talking with Satan is never a good idea, unless you're using Jesus' words: "Get behind me, Satan." (See Matthew 16:23.) When Eve started

chatting with the Serpent, she was opening the door to all kinds of evil. At first she corrected him—“*We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden*” (Genesis 3:2)—but then she let the Serpent rub off on her a little. The Serpent had exaggerated the rules, and now Eve does too: “*But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die*” (verse 3). God never said not to touch it! Maybe Eve was just being extra cautious. But I think something else is happening here. She is buying Satan’s lie that God is a mean old guy. *He won’t even let us touch the fruit!* she thinks.

SATAN’S LIE: MAYBE GOD’S NOT RIGHT.

#WHOSINYOUREAR?



Now, it might seem a stretch to call this gossip, and, yes, it does look different from the gabfests in the grocery store. But there’s one important similarity here: Eve and the Serpent are casually talking about God and misrepresenting Him when they think He’s not in the room. Sounds like gossip to me! Slander and gossip opened the door to an alternative narrative, an alternate opinion. *Maybe God isn’t right*, Eve thought.

The moment she heeded the voice of the devil, her opinion became more important than what God said. As a result of broken confidence in the character of God, Eve no longer trusted His Word and no longer saw the need to keep His commandments.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also to her husband with her; and he did eat.
(Genesis 3:6)

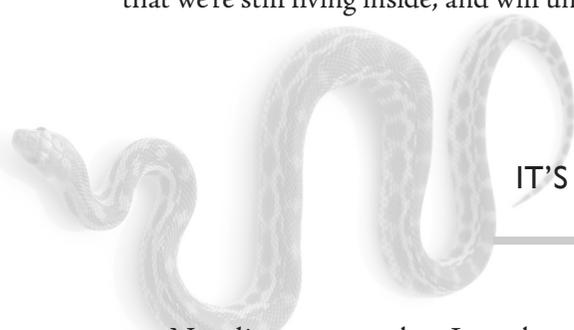
What changed? Why did the tree take on a different appeal than before? The answer is key to a very important spiritual principle: our conversations shape our perceptions, and our perceptions shape our reality. The moment Eve listened to the lies of the enemy, it changed the way she saw things. The conversations we entertain shape our worldview. This is why the Bible uses the term *divination* to describe what happened to Eve

in the garden of Eden. She was under the bewitchment of the enemy. As she looked at the tree, she was allured by its beauty and succumbed to her desire to experience its bliss. Words affect how and what we see!

The problem, as is so often the problem with our opinions, is that her opinion was based on falsehood. The tree would not make them like gods! She was *already* created in the image and likeness of God. What the devil promised her was already in her possession!

More Than a Conversation

I think you can see that the conversation between the Serpent and Eve was more than just a conversation! It was a life-altering exchange. Something was deposited within Eve that would affect her marriage, her children, and every person that came into the world after her. There was an eternal significance to that conversation. It set rolling a chain of events that we're still living inside, and will until the return of Christ.



SATAN'S LIE:
IT'S JUST A CONVERSATION.

[#WHOSINYOUREAR?](#)

Now listen to me when I say that this exchange in the garden is not so different from the conversations *we* have day in and day out. What would happen if we realized that every conversation we engage in deposits something deep within us that could affect us for days, months, and maybe even years and generations afterward? Jesus meant what He said when He told us, "*Take heed what you hear*" (Mark 4:24).

When God created Adam, He made him a speaking spiritual being. Mankind was distinguished from every other species on the earth because of the ability to articulate thoughts in an intelligible way. Just as God created the physical world through words, mankind was given the power to communicate, and by so doing shape his environment. Words shape our world. God made it this way for a reason. This is why the things people say have such a profound effect on our lives. This is why

slander and gossip are all tied up in our spiritual life, creating a web of lies, deceit, and destruction just like they did in the garden.

Merriam-Webster defines *conversation* as “an oral exchange of sentiments, observations, opinions, or ideas.” It comes from the Old French word *conversation*, which means: “living together, having dealings with others, or the act of living with.” What if you had to “live with” everything you conversed about? I can imagine Eve reflecting back hundreds of years later on the conversation she had with the Serpent, and what she would have done differently if she only knew what it would cost her.

Guard Your Heart!

The Bible admonishes us: “*Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life*” (Proverbs 4:23). Simply put, the Bible is telling us to guard our hearts. Why is this so important? Before we answer that question, we must first understand what the *heart* really is. The heart is the seat of our deepest longings, desires, thoughts, affections, passions, and emotions. It is the place from which we exercise our will. This verse tells us that “*out of it [flow] the issues of life*”; this phrase means that the heart is literally an outsource, escape, or exit.

Have you ever been to a movie theater? I am sure the answer is yes. What you see on the big screen is a projection of what is transpiring inside the booth. There is a small movie reel that illustrates every scene of the movie. The projector displays this in magnified form on the screen in front of you.

Your heart is like that movie projector. It interprets experiences and broadcasts them into your consciousness, affecting your entire life. The narrative of the heart will determine the attitudes and actions of your life. In the natural world, everything that shows up on the movie reel will be projected onto the big screen. In the spiritual world, if pain, trauma, hurt, and disappointment are allowed to make their way on the film of your heart, they will be broadcasted in magnified form on the “big screen” of our lives. Essentially, whatever we allow into our heart will flow out of our heart as we interact with others.

This is why the Bible tells us to diligently guard what comes in through the ear gates and the eye gates. Everything we talk about affects

our meditation, and everything we meditate upon gets into our hearts. Your meditation is your medication!

The problem is that we, like Eve, are very curious. All human beings have a deep susceptibility for interesting conversations about other people. Everywhere we look, there seems to be a juicy story about a recent scandal, or news of a dramatic love triangle, or a government cover-up being exposed. Unfortunately, the church has often followed the pattern of the world by producing what I call “Christian tabloids” that glory in exposing the same kind of drama within the circle of believers, just perhaps spiritualized. In my opinion, they are much worse than the secular tabloids because God has called the church to a higher standard than the world. He has called the church to His standard!

Every time we listen to something slanderous, negative, or defamatory about someone else, those words go deep into the recesses of our heart, and can potentially bring damage to our lives. The Bible says: “*The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly*” (Proverbs 18:8). The word “wound” literally implies something “burned into” our consciousness. In other words, you cannot un-hear something. Be careful when someone is trying to slander another person to you. Be careful when you read Christian tabloids that make their money off of the latest scandal or moral failure in the church. These things are designed to damage your heart and prevent you from seeing things with purity and grace. To be pure is to be free from contaminants and befoulment.

What if you believed that every conversation you have is a seed that will produce an exponential harvest? Would you continue having the same conversations? No one can truthfully say that negative conversations do not contaminate. Even if you are not the one who initiates a conversation, even if you are just a listener, that conversation can still have a dramatic effect upon your life and your future!

The Fruit Is Offense

Now, I know I said that this is a demonic trio, not a demonic couple. Slander and gossip inevitably result in a third evil: offense. And it is offense that is destroying the church from the inside out.

As a young believer, I was very impressionable. I assumed that everyone had my best interest at heart and that everyone in the church was in

agreement with leadership. Why wouldn't they be? I found out the hard way that this is not always the case. At that time, I was actively involved in my church, and people knew it. One day a leader in the church told me that he wanted to meet with me after service. I was always happy to go to lunch with people in the church, and I really loved to eat. We went out and I was all excited.

But while I was sitting across from this minister enjoying our dinner, he began to say very negative things about the senior pastor. Apparently, he was offended by the senior pastor and was spreading this offense to me. I was so taken aback I didn't know what to say. I had a tremendous amount of respect for both individuals and I did not want to be argumentative. He knew that the things he said were really grieving me. I was confused, bewildered, and disappointed. Was he telling the truth? I did not see my senior pastor the way he was being portrayed in this conversation, but I also wanted to heed the words that were being spoken. The seeds of slander and gossip were fighting for space in my heart!

EVERY CONVERSATION IS A SEED THAT PRODUCES AN EXPONENTIAL HARVEST.

After a few more meetings with this minister, I felt a strong impression from the Lord to end the relationship and discontinue our meetings, and that is exactly what I did. Sadly, that particular person left the church and experienced much devastation in his personal life and ministry. Years later, he came back and apologized to the pastor for his actions. I am grateful that this pastor was eventually able to see the error of his ways and come to a place of reconciliation. From this experience, I learned a very valuable lesson. Be careful who and what you allow into your ears. What if slander and gossip had taken root in my heart? They would have produced the same fruit that was in the heart of this pastor: offense! That would have resulted in a downward spiral of my own! I believe that we can avoid the pitfalls of the enemy by taking stories such as these to heart.

You see, it's a deadly cycle. The natural cycle of a plant brings life: seeds grow into plants, the plants bear fruit which then drop seeds, and then a new plant grows from those seeds, and the cycle continues.

Slander and gossip also work in a cycle, but the cycle of these spirits brings death! Slander and gossip plant seeds in your heart, they grow and produce the fruit of offense and bitterness, and offense then spawns more slander and gossip in your heart and in the hearts of those around you.

There are no exceptions to this. None of us are exempt. All conversations sow seeds, whether good or evil, and evil conversations are destroying the church. We should learn the lesson from the garden of Eden that can potentially save us years of heartache, pain, and disappointment: don't listen to the devil!

For Discussion

1. How do our conversations affect our worldview?
2. If every conversation is a seed that produces an exponential harvest, what harvest will you be reaping from the conversations you had today? This week?
3. Every Christian, young and old, has to guard their hearts. How can you guard yours?

Testimony

A dear brother called me one day in distress. "Pastor, I want to inform you that I am leaving the church!" I was shocked because I thought all was going well with this man. "Why?" I quickly asked. "I am not getting along with a particular person," he responded.

As we began to talk, I realized that there was another issue underlying his desire to leave. Our conversation began to unmask the enemy's schemes. After an hour of talking on the phone, we both realized that the problem was not what it seemed to be. Most of it could have been summed up as a simple misunderstanding. With prayer and conversation we were able to fully rectify the problem. What would have happened if he had stormed out without knowing all the details or being able to speak about his grievance? A great

situation would have been unnecessarily sabotaged. This is why it is so important for us to pray, communicate, and be willing to hear a different side of the story. Now this individual is a treasured member of our church.

Prayer

Father, in the name of Jesus, I thank You for Your truth. I thank You that You have enlightened my heart about the conversations we have. Just as I was given instruction from Your Word, I receive Your instruction to steer clear of the knowledge from Satan, the Serpent of old. I declare that my mind is the mind of Christ. I declare that the powers of slander, gossip, and offense are broken off of my life. I declare that my conversations are edifying and enriching. Father, I ask that You give me Your heart concerning this issue. Every seed in me that does not bring forth good fruit, I uproot it right now. These things I ask in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.