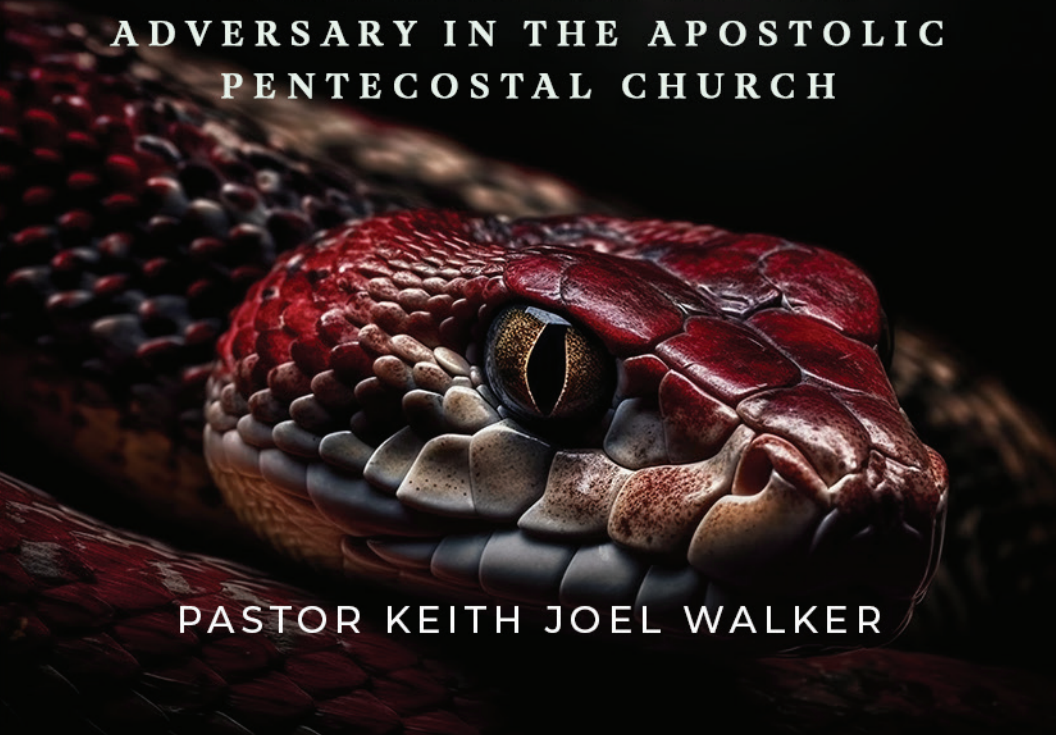




THE SUBTLE  
*Serpent*

UNMASKING THE SECRET  
ADVERSARY IN THE APOSTOLIC  
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

A detailed close-up photograph of a snake's head, showing its scales in shades of red, black, and tan. The snake's eye is visible, and its mouth is slightly open, revealing its tongue.

PASTOR KEITH JOEL WALKER



# THE SUBTLE SERPENT

Unmasking the Secret  
Adversary in the Apostolic  
Pentecostal Church

*Written by*  
Pastor Keith Joel Walker

## Introduction:

- **Purpose of the Booklet:** This booklet aims to equip Apostolic Pentecostal believers with biblical insights and spiritual tools necessary to recognize and combat the secret adversaries infiltrating church communities. Understanding these adversaries is crucial for maintaining the spiritual health and unity of the church.
- **Overview of Spiritual Warfare:** Within the Apostolic Pentecostal tradition, spiritual warfare is a significant aspect of faith. It involves the ongoing battle against spiritual forces that seek to disrupt the work of God. Scriptures such as Ephesians 6:12 remind us that our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces of evil.

### *Chapter 1*

#### Understanding the Secret Adversary

- **Definition and Characteristics:**
- **Hebrew and Greek Definitions:**
- The Hebrew word for adversary is “שׂטָן” (satan), meaning “opponent” or “accuser.”
- The Greek word is “ἀντίδικος” (antidikos), meaning “opponent” or “accuser.”
- A secret adversary is a spiritual entity or influence that subtly infiltrates the church to sow discord, deception, and division. Characteristics

include deceit, manipulation, and masquerading as righteousness. The adversary often works through individuals who appear godly but deny the power of God (2 Timothy 3:5).

- **The Role of Deception:** Deception is a primary weapon used by adversaries to lead believers astray. As seen in 2 Corinthians 11:14, Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light, illustrating how deception is used to mislead even the elect. Apostolic doctrine emphasizes the importance of spiritual discernment to uncover such deceptions.

## *Chapter 2*

### Old Testament Fables and Allegories

- **Genesis 3 - The Serpent's Deception:** This allegory of temptation highlights how the serpent deceived Eve, leading to the fall of humanity. It illustrates the adversary's cunning nature and the importance of adhering to God's word to resist temptation.

- **1 Kings 18-19 - Jezebel's Influence:** Jezebel's manipulation and promotion of idolatry represent the seduction of power and control. Her influence over Israel led them away from God, serving as a warning against allowing such adversaries to gain a foothold in the church.

- **Numbers 16 - The Rebellion of Korah:** This story illustrates division and defiance against divine authority. Korah's rebellion against Moses highlights

the danger of allowing pride and dissent to disrupt God's chosen leadership.

- Daniel 10 - The Prince of Persia: This passage reveals the unseen spiritual battle and the power of prayer and fasting. Daniel's perseverance in prayer led to angelic intervention, emphasizing the importance of spiritual disciplines in overcoming adversaries.
- The Trojan Horse: An allegory from history, the Trojan Horse represents deception and infiltration. The Greeks used it to secretly enter Troy, illustrating how adversaries can disguise themselves to gain entry and cause destruction from within.

### Additional Stories of Secret Adversaries:

1. The Trojan Horse (Greek Mythology): The Greeks used a deceptive ploy to enter the city of Troy, demonstrating how adversaries can infiltrate from within.
2. The Story of Judas Iscariot (Biblical Narrative): Judas' betrayal of Jesus from within His inner circle illustrates internal betrayal.
3. The Tale of Brutus and Julius Caesar (Roman History): Brutus' betrayal of Caesar highlights how trusted allies can become adversaries.
4. The Spy Who Came in from the Cold (Novel by

John le Carré): This novel involves espionage and betrayal, illustrating the theme of infiltration.

5. The Infiltration of Enemies in the Story of Esther (Biblical Narrative): Haman's plot against the Jews serves as an example of adversarial actions from within.

6. The Fifth Column (Spanish Civil War): The concept of a fifth column refers to internal groups working to undermine larger entities in favor of an enemy.

7. The Story of Absalom (Biblical Narrative): Absalom's conspiracy against King David illustrates the threat of internal betrayal.

### *Chapter 3*

#### New Testament Stories and Illustrations

- Acts 16:16-18 - The Spirit of Divination: Paul's encounter with the possessed slave girl demonstrates the power of discernment. Through the Holy Spirit, Paul identifies and casts out the spirit, highlighting the need for spiritual insight to address adversaries.
- Acts 5:1-11 - Ananias and Sapphira: This story of deceit within the church serves as a cautionary tale about the consequences of lying to the Holy Spirit. It underscores the importance of integrity and transparency in the church community.
- 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 - False Apostles: Paul warns

of false apostles who disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. This passage emphasizes the need for vigilance and discernment to protect the church from deceptive influences.

- Revelation 2:18-29 - The Jezebel Spirit in Thyatira: The letter to Thyatira warns against spiritual seduction and compromise. The Jezebel spirit represents false teaching and immorality, challenging the church to uphold purity and truth.
- The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing: An allegory of deception, this story illustrates how adversaries can disguise their true intentions. It serves as a warning to remain vigilant and discerning.

#### Scriptures of Jesus Casting Out Devils:

- Matthew 8:28-34
- Matthew 9:32-33
- Matthew 12:22
- Mark 1:23-26
- Mark 5:1-20
- Mark 7:24-30
- Luke 4:33-36
- Luke 8:26-39

### *Chapter 4*

#### Key Themes and Spiritual Tools

- Spiritual Discernment: The gift of discerning spirits (1 Corinthians 12:10) is crucial for identifying

adversaries. Apostolic doctrine teaches that the Holy Spirit empowers believers to discern between truth and deception.

- Empowerment by the Holy Spirit: Acts 1:8 and Acts 2:4 highlight the empowerment of believers through the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in tongues. This empowerment provides spiritual authority to confront adversaries.
- Authority Over Spirits: Believers are given authority to cast out demons (Mark 16:17-18, Luke 10:19). Apostolic teaching emphasizes exercising this authority in faith and obedience to God's word.
- The Power of Prayer and Fasting: Mark 9:29 underscores the necessity of prayer and fasting in spiritual warfare. These disciplines strengthen believers and invite divine intervention against adversaries.
- Unity and Protection: Ephesians 6:10-18 describes the armor of God as essential for defense against spiritual attacks. Apostolic doctrine encourages believers to put on this armor daily to maintain unity and protection.
- Strongholds:
- Hebrew and Greek Definitions:
- The Hebrew word for stronghold is “מִצְדָּה” (mitsdā), meaning “fortress” or “defense.”
- The Greek word is “ὄχυρμα” (ochyr ma), meaning “fortress” or “stronghold.”
- 2 Corinthians 10:4 describes the spiritual weapons



used to demolish strongholds, emphasizing the power of divine intervention in overcoming entrenched spiritual adversaries.

- **Gift of Prophecy and Tongues:** Through the gift of prophecy, the Holy Ghost uncovers sin and leaven in the Body of Christ. Prophetic preaching reveals the secret adversary that slithers like a snake into the church. The gifts of prophecy, tongues, and interpretation must operate in the local Apostolic Pentecostal church. Scriptures such as 1 Corinthians 14:1-5 and 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20 encourage believers to not quench or grieve the Spirit.

## *Chapter 5*

### Modern-Day Applications

- **Recognizing Adversaries Today:** Practical advice on identifying and addressing spiritual challenges in contemporary church settings. This includes being aware of false teachings, divisive influences, and deceptive practices.
- **Maintaining Church Unity:** Strategies for fostering a spirit of unity and protection within the congregation. Apostolic teaching emphasizes love, accountability, and mutual support as key components of a unified church.
- **Personal Testimonies:** Real-life stories of overcoming spiritual adversaries through faith and the power of the Holy Spirit. These testimonies serve

as encouragement and inspiration for believers facing similar challenges.

## Conclusion

- **Call to Vigilance and Empowerment:**

Encouragement for believers to remain vigilant, discerning, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. The conclusion reiterates the importance of standing firm in faith and resisting adversaries.

- **Final Prayer and Blessing:** A prayer for protection, discernment, and unity for the reader and their church community, invoking God's blessing and guidance.

## Appendix

- **Scripture Reference Guide:** A comprehensive list of scriptures cited throughout the booklet for further study.

- **Resources for Further Reading:** Recommended books and articles on spiritual warfare and discernment, providing additional insights and knowledge for interested readers.