One thing that freaks Satan out is not us analysing how much he tries to influence us, but us repenting; changing our mindset followed by our praises and positive thankfulness that Jesus saved us from self-destruction, that is what Satan cannot stomach. Then said Jesus to his disciples, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Mat.16:24) The first thing to follow Jesus is to deny ourselves and repent of our selfish deeds and then rejoice that Jesus saved us. We leave that negative stuff behind of how much Satan does this, that and the other, as we are new creatures in Jesus. (2Cor.5:17) We no longer need the judgments and tribulation of God to purify us before we can enter the Kingdom of God.

Jesus clearly said, the Kingdom of God is inside you. (Luke 17:21) We are already part of God's Kingdom that is his gift to us and we just have to say "thank



you" and accept it by faith.
When people asked Jesus who
will be the greatest in the
Kingdom of Heaven? He took a
little child and said unless you
convert and change your

thinking and become like a little child you cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. (Mat.18:3)

How does a little child behave? They learn to walk, they fall, they cry, they run to mummy and daddy, they play and are happy. They don't talk about how bad they are and how much Satan influences their life. They might argue or fight but the next moment they are again the best of friends and hold no grudges. They are family and part of mummy and

daddy's kingdom, for which they are thankful and happy, which fills their parents with such joy. That's what we should be like with our Creator.



"Yea, happy are those people, whose God is the LORD." (Psalms 144:15) "Neither be sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength." (Nehemiah 8:10)

God is love. "Perfect love eliminates fear: because fear torments." (1John 4:18) We torment ourselves thinking that we are not perfect enough, but God loves us just how we are. "For by grace are we saved through faith and not of ourselves, it is a gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast." (Eph.2:8,9) We should be thankful, just as a child is thankful for his parents and brings them joy, so we should be with God. However, do we prefer to look at our imperfections and how Satan influences our life and that only with God's judgment and tribulation we can be purified and enter into God's Kingdom?

Paul said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." (1Tim.1:15). Jesus died



for honest sinners, for people like you and me. We "ALL have sinned and fall short... but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus..." (Rom.3:23; 6;23) We don't

have to be worthy to receive this gift. We just have to accept it; open the package and show our sincerest appreciation by being thankful.

Someone in another movie said, "From now on I am willing to pursue the truth to gain God's Salvation."

We cannot gain God's salvation; it is the greatest gift that Jesus made available to us with his life. We don't leave the gift wrapped and say I am not worthy of this gift; I first need to get rid of



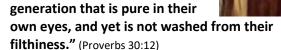
Satan's influence in my life. That does not make sense; we open the package and our thankfulness to Jesus, our Giver, will get rid of Satan. Just as when we first accepted Jesus and got saved. We were so happy that we found the truth and realized what Jesus did for us and how "he delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into his kingdom." (Colossians 1:13)

Someone quoted this to his fellow prisoner, "To gain more of the truth you must undergo more suffering." This glorifies suffering, while all we need to do to gain more truth is to read the Bible and let "his words which are spirit and life" (John 6:63) sink deep into our heart and commit these to memory.

**But we stray away from that first love** and want to become perfect so that God will be very thankful and happy for us being such "good" people.

That is called: Self-righteousness, or self-goodness. The prophet Isaiah says, "all our righteousness are as filthy rags". (Isaiah 64:6) In the original Hebrew this literally means 'the stinking rag of a menstruating woman'.

God's word also says, "There is a



All our so-called 'goodness' of trying to perfect ourselves, is a garment of 'filthy rags' that stinks and does not invite our dear husband, Jesus, to want to be close to us.

"For our Maker is our husband." (Isaiah 54:5)

At the Marriage Supper of the Lamb his chosen Bride is "arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." (Rev.19:8) Their righteousness or goodness was that they knew they had no goodness of their own. They relied solely on God's mercy, guidance, provision and protection.

Their trust in Jesus was the only righteousness they had. It was not the righteousness of self "I am now perfected and got rid of Satan's influences".

You and I can never defeat Satan, he is way too smart and will wrap us around his little finger. Our religion and us being good will never, ever, ever defeat him. Even Jesus when he was tempted by Satan did not say, "How dare you try to influence me; as I am God's son."

No, we read in Matthew chapter four how Jesus, every time when Satan tempted him resisted him with quoting scripture, "It is written... it is written... it is written."

If Jesus needed to quote scripture to defeat Satan,



how much more should we. The only way to defeat the liar is with the truth of God's word, the Bible.

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (not maybe some time in the future when you got rid of Satan's influences) You are blessed, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." (Let's break the analysing about all that is wrong with us, but let us rejoice and be exceeding glad) (Matthew 5:10-12)

"They departed from their persecutors, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for Jesus' name." (Acts 5:41) (for them the persecution was not God's judgment and tribulation, but they saw it as an honour that God bestowed on them.)

"O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise." (Ps.108:1)

There are hundreds of scriptures that talk about the victory coming with praise: huge armies were defeated, city walls came down, waters divided, the sun stood still, dead were raised, water came out of rocks, tens of thousands were fed; but the biggest miracle is that the Lord could change me and pulled me out of that black hole that I was creating for myself. It was not Satan that put me in a black hole. I went into it myself. The final decision always comes back to us personally. Not God nor Satan can ultimately decide for us.

We have that <u>free will of choice</u>. We can either listen to his lies or believe God's truth, the Bible, which is 100% absolute truth and not 99 percent.

If we think it is only 99 percent truth, then we leave a tiny crack in our armour through which Satan can lie to us. He is the very, very best liar in and out of this world because he is the father of lies. (John 8:44) He has been doing it for the last 6000 years and not without success. He makes lies look like the truth and the truth of the Bible look like lies.

That is why we should be thankful that Jesus defeated him. However, if we think that we can defeat Satan's lies in our life. We will be busy for many years to come because by the time we think we overcame that one lie; he will have ten others ready for us. And so, we keep battling and fighting his lies, fighting a losing battle and wasting our time and energy fighting the devil, instead of using our time and energy to be fishers of man that Jesus called us to be."

## A Prayer:

Dear Jesus we have all been trapped at some time or another in Satan's lies and have gotten our eyes off you. Please forgive us for thinking that you are judging us and sending us tribulation because we are not yet good enough to enter your Kingdom. So now we come to you and simply turn our life over to you. Please do with it whatever you think is best. Thank you for giving your life for me so that I can be forgiven and have your amazing peace in my heart. I will reread the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and I will download a study Bible so I will know the honest to God truth and freedom." (Jn 8:32)

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## To my dear Chinese brothers and sisters



I typed in my google search bar 'free Christian movies based on true stories'. I watched a couple of videos about the believers in China and the

persecution difficulties they face. I love their beautiful features; their tenacity to hold on to their faith is second to none and their



dogged determination to stay faithful God Almighty is amazingly admirable.

Yet, I was sadly surprised to see how the believers were occupied with discussing amongst themselves how much Satan had influenced and was influencing their lives, so that it almost became depressing.

I don't know if this is common among the Chinese believers or only this particular group of believers who follow the guidance given in the book "The



Word Appears in the Flesh" which is considered to be their word of God. There are also Bible scriptures in the

movies, so it is a bit of a mixture.

In this writing I will just stick to the <u>Holy Bible</u> as the word of God.