I meet a lot of people from all walks of life that often ask me, "I wonder if I don't have a curse over my life, cause it seems I just keep getting sick all the time", or "I just seem that no matter what I start, it always end up as a flop," or, they say, "It seems all my family have suffered from the same tragedy or disease".

Well my dear friend, first I want to remind you that we all go through challenges every day of our life. Life brings challenges to every one alike, whether poor or rich, young or old, black or white! However if you are still not satisfied and have wondered if there by any chance could really be a curse operating over your life, family, business etc... than I trust that this article will help you get on the right path to obtaining your freedom you so desire! It is a freedom that Christ Jesus guarantees to all those who truly follow Him and make Him Lord and Savior over their life!

CURSES AND BLESSINGS

THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

What is a Curse?

Have you been praying and praying and you still have not seen any satisfying results in your life?

Have you been experiencing an unusual time in your life or in your family where one sickness comes exactly after the other, seemingly with no rest or tangible difference?

Have you ever felt that some how you cannot keep going higher with the things of business, career and success because some thing invisible seems to keep hindering you?

Have you ever prayed and you felt as if you prayer did not rise any higher than the ceiling?

Have you experienced something that has caused you to wonder if you are operating under a curse?

Have you ever felt a sense of hopelessness in your life and in despair you wonder if there is ever a way out of your present situation?

Have you found yourself in a place where you just work and work to make a living and try to pay your bills, but no matter what it seem that you are always in lack?!

I believe that the simplest way I can help you understand what a curse is, is this:

A curse is where the presence and the blessing of God have been lifted up from upon your life and the presence of satan and his oppression and curses have come to dwell!
Well my dear friend than if you have answered yes, you may be operating under an unseen negative, destructive evil force which the Bible calls a Curse!

The Answer or the remedy is always the same!

The answer is Jesus The Redeemer!

**Ignorance of the Word of God is The Worst Enemy!**

In Galatians 3:13-14, The Word of God (The Bible) says, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

We find that the answer to our problems is always Jesus because He is the only One who can redeem us from under the influence and power of a curse.

The First main tool that the devil uses to over power God’s people is their ignorance or more specifically, their ignorance or lack of knowledge of God’s Word. This will make you remain oppressed, depressed and possibly even possessed. So it is a MUST for every Christian to learn God’s Word. You can be one who runs from Church to Church in town every day but if you do not make a drastic decision to learn you will remain defeated. Knowledge does not come automatic, and the Knowledge of God’s Word most especially must be sought after with a passion.

Remember the popular words of Jesus, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." Matthew 7:7-8.

Hosea 4:6 says very explicitly, "My people (that is God’s people [not His enemies]) are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, because you have ignored the law of your God."

In writing to Christians, inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Peter wrote, "Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord!" 2 Peter 1:2

Have you noticed what the Holy Spirit is writing through Peter in this scripture? He is telling us that grace (God’s super natural ability helping you to accomplish that which in and of your self you cannot do) and Peace (Shalom: tranquillity of mind, healing, wholeness, salvation and prosperity) be yours as you continue to acquire knowledge! That is: God’s Knowledge, or we can say, knowledge of God and His Word! Grace and Peace are acquired and multiplied by the Word of God.

So my friend, you see how vital it is for you to know His Word, which is the map of your spiritual SAFE journey!

I have often told people every where I have travelled in the World a favourite quote of mine! This is, "What you do not know may be literally killing you."

Just as we test things like food and things that can put our well being in jeopardy or danger, for veracity and truth in the matter, so like wise we must also do in the spiritual realm.
God wants the Church to be the salt of this earth. Jesus told His followers to be the Salt of the earth.

Matthew 5:13, *You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.*

Salt preserves and in order for the Church not to lose its scope and preserve its true mission we must take the Word and feed upon it as we totally depended on it! (In actual fact any serious Christian knows that we depend on it!).

*Jesus answered, *it is written: *Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.* Matthew 4:4.

Scripturally speaking, The Church does not mean the building, but Church equals the people of God. And the people of God should be doing what Christ has taught us and more. It is unfortunate but it is true that for many people all that a church-experience will ever be to them is just attending some particular geographical place some where, sitting down and warming up the pew! Yukk!!!

*Jesus tells you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.* John 14:12.

### Curses and Blessings

In Malta we are very familiar with words like Sahta and Maghmul which invariably mean evil curses. Let us begin with explaining Blessing. In this way you will notice that any thing that is opposite to blessing is Curse! Blessing (Hb: Barakâ€™ or berakahâ€™ is the opposite of a cursing qelalahâ€™)

A Curse is the opposite of blessing and funnily enough curses work in parallel to blessings. A curse is a spell to cause harm and evil. Curses come most of the time through words and the same applies for blessing. A curse is an invisible barrier to keep you away from what God has for you (His plans).

Let us look at an example from the Scripture.

In Jeremiah 17: 5, 7, curse comes from a violation of a Covenant and the blessing comes from our trust in the Lord.

In Jeremiah 17: 5, it says, *Thus says the LORD, *"Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength [confidence], And whose heart turns away from the LORD.*

Compared with:

* Jeremiah 17:7, *"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD and whose trust is the LORD.*
can give them. Now follow me here in what I am trying to say. Though one may believe that the
doctor or hospital can help him, yet just believing that still won’t get him the cure that he needs.
He would need to go there personally and get diagnosed to see what kind of treatment he needs to
get. Though the end result is always the same, yet every sickness, pain or injury is treated different
each time!

Although they know about the doctor and what he can do, this is not enough. The same is applicable
in the spiritual realm in that knowing about Jesus is not enough but we have to go to him and receive
the different kinds of treatment according to the spiritual “sickness” that we are suffering from.
Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the Son of The Living God is always the sure answer and cure to what ever
curse may have been assailing you but you need to be led by the Holy Spirit in how you must treat it,
even more especially as certain curses are not as obvious as others!

I want you dear reader to know that I am a firm believer that there are times and instances in the
scripture where people who turned to Jesus have been set free from sin, satan and any curse that
may have been operating over them, instantly! I have experienced that even in my meetings where
God honoured us with the power of His Holy Spirit and allowed us to witness His mighty Hand deliver
people from under the bondage of satan and curses.

I am a firm believer in the supernatural New Birth of the Christian. While this remains true, it is also a
truth to mention that there are believers who have gotten Born Again by the Holy Spirit (See John
3:1-8) yet they were not set free completely and instantly from curses that may have come over them
through either past generations curses or past self inflicted curses. The reason why this is, I believe
because some times though they have received Jesus in their life they are still in ignorance or in
rebellion in certain areas about their spiritual life. (This is generally regarded as a baby immature
Christian-who may still be walking carnally. See 1 Corinthians 3:1-5)

One classic example is this: If a person who have just became Christian still continues to hold
unforgiveness or hatred against another person, he is opening him/herself wide to the attacks of
satan which will result in curses operating in his life! There are many examples of similar situations!

Another Example: One can just have experienced the Lord in his or her life and been set free from
demonic oppression during a miracle-healing service for example. (We see many people like this in
our meetings) He just experienced the miracle of the new birth and joy has filled his heart! Let us say
that this person used to practise wija-board or have had a history of going to psychics and mediums.
Unless this person stops his past practise he will open up his heart for curses again, and the second
time around it will be at least (7x) seven times worse! (Read Luke 11, Leviticus 18-20, 2 Chronicles
33:6, 2 Kings 23:24 etc) Well the Bible clearly says that people who practise such things are in
rebellious sin and open their life for curses to operate in and over them!

In the Hebrew language there are different words to define curses and the same word is used for
blessings, e.g., Barak means blessing but can also be used in the negative to mean curse.

The most obvious way of ridding oneself of curses is by turning whole heartedly to Jesus and truly
make Him Lord of all in his or her life (Read 2 Corinthians 5:17)! Than he/she must get rid of all the
tools, idols-statues, books etc that served as a tool for satan to oppress you though them! In the
Bible God is very clear concerning Idols! He hates them and the moment we pray or bow before
them we have just cursed that idol and a demonic presence have come to inhabit it! Whether it be a
statue of Buddha, or a statue of a known Saint it is the same thing! If you have bowed and burned
incense or lit a candle or prayed before it you have cursed it—there is no way you can pray to God to bless your idol because God hates idols! If You want to read what God thinks about Idolatry read this article by clicking on this article:  http://www.nationsforchrist.org/nfc/m ... section/item.php?itemid=9

In Acts 19, we see of people who were mediums and psychics and operated in witchcraft.

*When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honour. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.*

Acts 19:17-20

These people accepted Jesus, they got saved and they also showed true repentance by burning up every thing that held them in bondage to the things of satan. They burned their books and tools. They burned every thing which was evil in God’s sight!

The problem with Churches at large today is that there is no power because there is no true Gospel being preached! You cannot convince me that you are hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ for real and you still feel comfortable living in your sin and rebellion against God! That kind of church is serving Satan’s purpose indirectly, and you are not being helped at all to discover your purpose and destiny that God has for you In Christ! God doesn’t call idolatry and the psychic network and man made religion, a human weakness; He calls it Evil and He bottom-line hates it!

God breaks curses and releases the blessing through Christ and He has given the same authority to every person who have surrendered his or her life totally and completely to Christ-CHRISTIAN-Christ-like!!!(Not religious) Where a Curse is broken there should immediately follow the release of the Blessing!

Eg; Matthew 18:18  "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Deal with the obvious. For the rest ask the Holy Spirit

In cases which are not so obvious, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to show us. Trying to dig deeper to find out the answers in the natural will make you vulnerable and expose you to the devil who can take advantage and accommodate you. So, I highly encourage you to be Holy Spirit led and always have the Bible as your guidance!

Like in many countries all over the world, in Malta, before Christianity was established few years after Christ (Read Acts 28), many people worshipped false gods™ such as Baal and the Goddess of Fertility. Generations of people were under a curse â€’ gods™ and that is clearly stated in the Bible. If you may be wondering why this is so, I highly encourage you to read the Book of Exodus, Joshua, Deuteronomy, Jeremiah, Isaiah and the letters of Saint Paul in the New Testament! I will give you one very clear example: God hates idol worship—He hates the bowing down and praying before and to idols no matter what ‘pet’ name you may give them! (Sorry to tell you that the tradition immersed churches are not going to volunteer this information when there is directly linked to the reverence to idols, literally hundreds of thousands of dollars! Come on...???)
Deuteronomy 32:16-18, â€œThey made Him jealous with their foreign gods and angered Him with their detestable idols. They sacrificed to demons, which are not God-gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your fathers did not fear. You deserted the Rock, who fathered you; you forgot the God who gave you birthâ€•.

Exodus 20:3-6, â€œYou shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments.â€•

Therefore some curses are hereditary and hidden and these require the discernment of the Holy Spirit to be dealt with successfully. I want to give you a word of caution here! Please DO NOT go on thinking and wondering whether you have a curse or not unless you sense the Holy Spirit leads you to deal with it! Donâ€™t let the enemy-the devil play with your mind and if you have received prayer against a specific curse, receive your healing and release by faith and start thanking God that Jesus has set you free and you have made up your mind to believe it because His Word says it! Ref: Galatians 5:1.

(At this point I want to encourage any person reading this article to realise that God has designed for you to be a part of a body of believers some where, where you can grow in the Lord and be all that God wants you to be. Donâ€™t be a singled out Christian expecting to live successfully as a Christian cut off from the whole body of Christ! Prayerfully seek a Church or Fellowship where they preach the uncompromised Word of God and they honour the work and presence of the Holy Spirit! This is how you can stay safe and grow in maturity in your Christian walk!)

Who created curses and where do curses originate from?

The devil does not create anything. He is not a creator but a counterfeiter and copies what already exists to deceive us. Everything comes from God. A curse is the pronouncement of judgement where obedience has been violated. I should put it this way to be more accurate; A curse comes where a Covenant is Violated! Jeremiah 11:1-3, â€œThe word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, "Hear the words of this covenant, and speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and say to them, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Cursed is the man who does not obey the words of this covenant."'â€• NKJV

When God created Mankind in the Garden of Eden (Gen 1:26-28), God clothed Mankind with His Glory. In Colossians 1:26-28 we find that the moment we receive Christ in our lives He clothes us back with Glory.

In Romans 3:23 we see how the Glory of God is lost when we sinned. We, in Adam were clothed in Glory, in the fullest measure of Godâ€™s blessings, but since Adam sinned we also came under the curse through Adam becauseâ€œâ€œI have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness- the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed and revealed to the saints-Christians. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of
It is a pity that so many Christians are running every where hoping to experience the mystery of Christ, while not realising that Christ in His fullness dwells in them!

**Mankindâ€™s first curse**

Indirectly and directly Adam and Eve obeyed Satan instead of God and they became naked of the Glory God had given them. They were stripped of Godâ€™s glory and were clothed with Satanâ€™s sinful nature and the first curse on Mankind began. In Genesis 3:14-19 the curse was put on Adam and Eve and on the serpent. The sin committed by Adam and Eve made them loose their abundance which is what is found in the glory. Read Romans 5:12-17.

Having Christ in us is the hope of glory. If you are a Christian you are His tabernacle. God does not inhabit things made out of manâ€™s hands. (Read Acts 17) The moment you have Godâ€™s blessing on your life, you are experiencing the restoration of the glory which Adam was stripped from in the garden of Eden when he sinned and rebelled against God to obey satan instead! In Christ you are protected but once you rebel you open your self to curses again. What God blesses cannot be cursed. You curse it if you want to or allow it to with your ignorance or will full sin! (Read Numbers 22-23) A genuine relationship with Jesus prevents you from being open to the devilâ€™s deceit. With his deceit the devil leads you into the place where he can have a legal right for curses to operate over you and against you. The devil simply comes to occupy where you have left void of Godâ€™s blessing!

**Mankindâ€™s first blessing**

God blesses, enlarges, makes higher, better. Curses are the opposite as they devalue and make light and lessens what God wants to bless and magnify! Curses can operate on a person, a couple, a family, animals, business, town or a whole nation or even the whole world. Jesus came to this world to save it from under the curse through His death on the cross.

In Genesis 1: 28-30, God blessed Adam and Eve, their relationship between them to be fruitful and enjoy abundance and He also blessed the animal kingdom and through Adam and Eve. This is in stark parallelism to Mankindâ€™s first curse explained above. Spiritual death followed and God no longer walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. **They died spiritually and experienced separation from God presence.** In Godâ€™s presence they were an epitomy of health but after the fall they became sick and suffered pain and lack. Man and woman who ruled together were now in a situation where man ruled over woman.

**Full blessing restored through Jesus**

1. **Through Jesus, God restored back to us the relationship just as it was in the beginning with Adam and Eve!**

Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace
through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy (consecrated and separated unto Him) in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation; if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servantâ€” Colossians 1:15-23

2. We can now pray in the mighty name of Jesus and believe for healing. We can also live a healthy life and overcome sickness with the power of Christ Jesus. We can also overcome lack and poverty and be restored to prosperity.

â€œBeloved, I pray that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well (healthy), even as [I know] your soul (mind, will and emotions) keeps well and prospersâ€”3 John 2 Amplified Bible.

â€œLet them shout for joy and rejoice, who favour my vindication; And let them say continually, “The LORD be magnified, Who delights in the prosperity of His servant.” Psalm 35:27 NAS.

3. Christ restores man and woman equally again.

â€œFor you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promiseâ€”Galatians 3:26-29

A prayer for Blessing

In Numbers 6:24, 25 God gave a prayer of Blessing to be prayed and spoken over all the Children of Israel however in Christ that belongs to every Christian as well.

â€œThe Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peaceâ€”

Begin practicing by praying the above blessing on your self and all your family! Speak blessings and not curses. Let your mouth be a fountain of life and healing rather than a polluted spring out of which comes every form of spiritual virus. This should not be!

Matthew 15:18-20, â€œBut the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man ‘unclean.’ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man ‘unclean’; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him ‘unclean’.â€”NIV

James 3:6, â€œThe tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hellâ€”NIV
James 3:9-10, NIV

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

Proverbs 6:2, NIV

If you have been trapped by what you said, ensnared by the words of your mouth...

(Compiled by Anthony Zarb Dimech)