

31. The present active participle of **κατέχω (katéchō)** is durative; it denotes action begun in the past and continues to the present.
32. This durative action began in the past at the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 and will continue until the Rapture of the church, yet future.
33. This means that the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit is an ongoing part of the plan of God in the Church Age.
34. The active voice indicates that the Holy Spirit produces the action of restraining “lawlessness” through His various ministries executed through the souls of positive, Spirit-filled believers.
35. The restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit becomes kinetic power only when it is applied by the positive volition of advancing believers. Here’s the process:
 - (1) **Common Grace** by which the Holy Spirit explains the saving grace of God to the unbeliever.
 - (2) **Efficacious Grace**: The Holy Spirit takes the nonmeritorious faith response of the unbeliever and makes it effective for salvation and eternal life.
 - (3) **Filling of the Holy Spirit** is status quo spirituality in which the believer has his thoughts, decision-making, and behavior patterns guided by the Holy Spirit’s recall of resident doctrine.
 - (4) **Teaching ministry** takes the infinite knowledge of God recorded in Scripture and makes it understandable to the finite mind of the believer.

- (5) **Multitasking ministry** which coordinates information and analyzes it in light of doctrine already stored in the *kardía*. Once a new concept is established as *epígnōsis*, it is associated with other related doctrines to form a constellation thus enlarging the doctrine for its application to life and circumstances.

It is from this inventory that the Holy Spirit is able to recall pertinent doctrines for application. The larger the inventory, the greater the historical impact of the believer.

The Holy Spirit can only recall what the individual retains in his inventory of ideas.

- (6) **Restraining:** The Holy Spirit utilizes the doctrinal content of all believers to check the advance of Lucifer and his cosmic concepts during the Church Age.

36. **PRINCIPLE:** As goes the pivot, so goes the client nation.
37. The Restraining Ministry of the Holy Spirit functions through the souls of positive volition believers who possess an ever-increasing inventory of doctrinal ideas.
38. When a significant number of believers are making the spiritual advance, then their thinking, decision-making, and application coordinates with the divine decree to produce prosperity for the client nation.
39. When an insufficient number of believers are making the spiritual advance, then their thinking, decision-making, and application are overwhelmed by the heathen majority's application of the cosmic lie resulting in a historical downtrend in the client nation.

40. We live in the intensified stage of the Angelic Conflict. In order to “fight the good fight of faith” (1 Timothy 6:12), the believer must condition his mind and soul toward the obligation to become a “good soldier of Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 2:3).
41. It is through the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit that the positive believer has maximum historical impact in his generation.
42. Some of the principles associated with this doctrine are mentioned in this excerpt from *The Angelic Conflict*:

Through the filling of the Holy Spirit, the believer can now “walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4) and fulfill God’s plan. The Holy Spirit supplies the spiritual IQ for learning God’s instruction (1 Corinthians 2:12–13). This spiritual provision, called the grace apparatus for perception (GAP [also Operation Z]), enables every believer to learn Bible doctrine regardless of human IQ, cultural background, or environment, so that he might fulfill the mandate to “grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). The Holy Spirit enables every believer to retain, recall, and apply the doctrine learned (John 14:26). Bible doctrine is the material the Holy Spirit uses to manufacture the virtues of Christ in the believer’s soul. Every day that the believer learns and applies Bible doctrine, his thinking is renovated according to the thinking of Christ (Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 2:16; Ephesians 4:23). The more the believer thinks with divine viewpoint, the more he emulates the integrity and capacity for life that Christ demonstrated in His humanity (Ephesians 5:1–2; 1 John 2:6). (p. 68)

This supernatural manner of living is *the unique spiritual life of the Church Age*. When believers “walk by [means of] the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16), they have an inexhaustible supply of spiritual strength, an unseen power that surpasses any human ability, talent, genius, or achievement (1 Corinthians 2:5). This divine system transforms them from spiritual babies to spiritual adults, from untrained combat recruits to triumphant Christian warriors. Tactical victory is secured on the battlefield of their souls through a consistent, positive attitude toward perception and application of doctrine—a dedicated pursuit of advancing to spiritual maturity.¹ (pp. 68–69)

¹ R. B. Thieme, Jr., *The Angelic Conflict* (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2012), 68–69.

43. The principles and biblical references in this excerpt provide the insight necessary to understand how the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit works with relation to the Angelic Conflict.
44. The greater the inventory of ideas possessed in a believer's soul, the greater power he projects as a "Christian warrior."
45. "The Holy Spirit enables every believer to retain, recall, and apply the doctrine learned" to the exigencies of the Cosmic War. This is the system by which the Holy Spirit, in concert with the divine decree, restrains Lucifer and the fallen angels during the Church Age.
46. Extract all believers from the equation and "deceitful spirits" are given free rein to employ the "doctrines of demons" throughout the devil's world during the Tribulation. (1 Timothy 4:1)
47. Until that day arrives, believers must grow in grace in order to provide the Holy Spirit with the doctrinal application necessary to become effective combatants in the Invisible War.

2 Thessalonians 2:7a - For the mystery of lawlessness is already operational; only He Who now restrains will continue to restrain ... (EXT)

48. The verse continues with the temporal conjunction **ἕως (héōs)**: "until," which refers to the Rapture of the Church.
49. This conjunction indicates that there is a point when the Holy Spirit's indwelling and filling ministries will be terminated with the withdrawal of all believers away from the earth and into heaven.
50. That the Holy Spirit's restraining ministry is being discussed is indicated by the ablative of separation in the phrase **ἐκ + μέσος (ek + mēsos)**: "He is taken out of the way."

51. The pronoun makes reference to the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit being removed due to the exit resurrection of the Church.
52. Verses 6 and 7 must now be understood as one unit:

2 Thessalonians 2:6 - And now you know what thing [the power of the Holy Spirit] restrains [under rules of engagement²] him [Lucifer & later the Beast Dictator] now [Church Age] so that he will be revealed in his dispensation [Tribulation].

2 Thessalonians 2:7a - For the mystery of lawlessness is already operational; only He Who now restrains will continue that ministry of restraint until He is taken out of the way. (EXT)

² “Restrain: to prevent from doing; to limit, restrict, or keep under control; to limit the force, effect, development, or full exercise of; suggests holding back by force from acting or going to extremes” (*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed., s.v. “restrain”).