

FREQUENTLY ASKED  
QUESTIONS ABOUT  
SPIRITUAL WARFARE  
IN THE BIBLE

God's Answers about the Battle of the  
Followers of Christ against the Unseen  
Spiritual Forces of Evil - Volume 5

Jonathan Carl

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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN THE BIBLE

*God's Answers about the Battle of the  
Followers of Christ against the Unseen  
Spiritual Forces of Evil - Volume 5*

Dr. Jonathan Carl

JONATHANCARL

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Downloadable resources and helpful  
study videos freely available at:  
**[www.SpiritualWarfare.blog](http://www.SpiritualWarfare.blog)**

I am so thankful to God for His strength and truth in Jesus!

I love and am so grateful for my amazing wife Brittney and her loving, tireless support. Together we are blessed with some amazing daughters in Sophia, Lydia, Alia, and Mia! Our church family at South Fork has been incredible in their encouragement :) *Thank you all for putting up with my many hours of studying & writing for this work!*

Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV) “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. [11] Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. [12] For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

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[www.SpiritualWarfare.blog](http://www.SpiritualWarfare.blog)



Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV) “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. [11] Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. [12] For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

Life is hard. Life is full of struggles and suffering. We need the reminder that our primary battles are not physical, financial, emotional, or mental, but spiritual. We ultimately are in an ongoing spiritual battle.

What is “spiritual warfare”? Spiritual warfare, based on Ephesians 6:12, is “the battle of the followers of Christ against the unseen spiritual forces of evil.”

This resource is designed to help you find God’s answers about the battle of the followers of Christ against the unseen spiritual forces of evil.

Visit our website to find freedom and victory in your daily battles through Christ’s finished work on the cross. Share our free resources with others to help them as well!

[www.TrustworthyWord.co](http://www.TrustworthyWord.com)

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## TRUSTWORTHY WORD

Titus 1:9 “He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.” (ESV)

Trustworthy Word was born out of a desire to equip churches with free, downloadable handouts as a resource for biblical teaching on various topics. We wanted to see the people of God think deeply about the Word of God and realize the implications that come about as a result.

One of the great things that we have seen happen though is that members of our church (South Fork Baptist Church in Hodgenville, KY) have begun to use the site as a mobile resource when they are sharing the gospel or having bible-centered conversations.

Trustworthy Word has become a digital filing cabinet where with a few taps of the finger, we can quickly locate helpful resources both for our own spiritual growth and to engage those with whom we are having Christ focused conversations.

Our hope is that you too will find Trustworthy

Word as a digital discipleship and evangelism resource you can utilize in moments when you have your phone, tablet, or computer with you. You may enjoy using some of the free handouts to help guide your small group into a deeper walk with Jesus in Bible study. With just a few clicks we hope you begin to think deeply about the Word of God and see how that impacts your life.

## www.Bible.video - “The Video Bible”

@TheVideoBibleChannel



### Bible.Video

“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.” - 1 Timothy 4:13

Did someone read to you growing up? Did that time impact you? Help you? Grow you? Comfort you?

We feel that reading the Bible visually and audibly to one another is important and helpful too! What a joy it is to see print Bibles reaching the ends of the earth (through amazing groups like the Gideons and The International Bible Society and especially [www.NetBible.com](http://www.NetBible.com)).

How incredible it is that translations are made (Wycliffe) and digitally distributed ([Bible.com](http://Bible.com) and [BibleStudyTools.com](http://BibleStudyTools.com)) all over the world! In the past few decades, audio Bibles have also become numerous and more accessible through wonderful ministries like Faith Comes By Hearing.

Unfortunately, there isn't much of a presence currently of someone visually reading the Bible to another. We hope to help provide this through the “The Video Bible”!

We feel this is a needed resource for evangelism

and discipleship and we pray that it will be extremely effective! The biblical origins of both visually watching someone read and listening simultaneously is important to how we process and respond to the Word.

We hope to have the opportunity to help get complete bible translations free into the ears, eyes, minds, and souls of millions more over the years ahead via video.

[www.Catholic.blog](http://www.Catholic.blog)

The **CATHOLIC BLOG**

[www.catholic.blog](http://www.catholic.blog)

Ephesians 2:8–9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (ESV)

What does the Catholic Church really believe? Many people have their opinions, experiences, or second-hand information on Catholic beliefs but a true understanding of the Catholic faith is found in its *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

*The Catholic Blog* simply presents portions of the Catholic Catechism with relevant Bible verses and introspective questions to consider. This free resource will help you on your journey to consider the beliefs and practices of the Roman Catholic Church and examine for yourself, through tough questions, whether The Catechism of the Catholic Church is biblically valid and trustworthy.

*The Catechism of the Catholic Church* is a substantial document of significant history and tradition. If you have yet to read it, I encourage you to read it in its entirety. This guide should be a helpful start and reference! As you consider the “essential and fundamental contents of Catholic doctrine” (CCC, 11), I hope you will be like the Bereans of Acts 17:11 who always put the Bible first to test what they were learning.

The Bereans are described as “noble” after hearing the teaching of the Apostle Paul for two reasons:

1) getting into the Bible with “eagerness”

2) testing the teaching of the Apostle Paul in light of Scriptures to verify his truthfulness.

Similarly, may we evaluate what we see in The Catechism of the Catholic Church in the light of the Bible to “see if these things were so.”

Acts 17:11 “Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.” (ESV)

**A 3 Part Approach: Here is the approach you will find to this Bible study.**

**1) Interesting highlights and quotes** - Due to the massive volume of writings in The Catechism of the Catholic Church, I have picked quotes from the text that I think you will find most useful and fascinating.

**2) Relevant Scriptures** - Likewise, I selected passages of Scripture that I thought particularly helpful in evaluating and understanding the Catholic teachings. Both The Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Bible passages should be considered in their original context and setting. There are many more possible Catholic teachings and Biblical passages to consider but I hope this is a helpful start to your studies.

**3) Helpful Questions** - I have chosen not to insert opinions and assertions but instead propose tough questions that help us to think critically for ourselves about what we are reading.

My end goal and hope is that we all follow God's directive to us in 2 Corinthians 13:5 to "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!" (ESV). May we all have the joy of an eternity in the presence of Jesus!

***Here are the top 10 Catholic questions answered in this book with biblical answers:***

1. What is the Catechism of the Catholic Church?
2. What is Sin According to the Catholic Catechism? Do Different Sins Need Different Sacrifices?
3. Does Salvation Come through Catholic Mass? Does Giving Money to Church Help Us?
4. Is Catholic Baptism Necessary for Salvation? What about Confirmation?
5. Is Catholic Eucharist Necessary for Salvation? What about Penance?

6. Was Mary Always Saved? Did Mary Never Sin? Is Mary the Cause of Salvation? Was Mary a Virgin Her Entire Life? Did Jesus Have Any Brothers? Is It True that Mary Never Died? Did Mary Ascend to Heaven?
7. Are Images of Jesus, Mary, Saints, or Angels Helpful or Harmful? Do Relics & Rosaries have Power?
8. Should We Pray to Mary and Saints? Is it OK to Pray to Angels?
9. Will I Go to Purgatory? Do Indulgences Help Us?
10. Can Marriages Be Annulled? What about Catholic Divorce and Remarriage?

Whether you are Catholic, considering Catholicism, or just curious to understand the Catholic Church better, this Bible study will be a great help to you. Download *A Biblical Study of The Catechism of the Catholic Church* free at [www.Catholic.blog](http://www.Catholic.blog)

# INTRODUCTION

Titus 1:9 “He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.” (ESV)

*This book is different than many others that you might read. The vast majority of the content is simply Bible verses and references.* This approach, with lots of bullet points, is intentional in order to help you clearly hear and see God’s truths and not merely human opinion. May this work be a helpful resource for your study of God’s Word. May it help you increase in your love and awe of your Savior. If you aren’t yet a follower of Christ, may the Lord save you through the reading of His Word throughout it!

I have used these resources in teaching my church, small groups, pastors, seminary students, and doctoral students about the subject of spiritual warfare. The source of these writings has been from my own studies, counseling with church members, and sermons. These subjects have arisen from some of the most important conversations that I have had in pastoral ministry for over a decade. I hope and pray that this work serves as a tool for the Lord to use in helping His children through His Spirit and Word.

Ultimately, I have written this for the Lord. He has grown me so much through the years and I pray that this work is faithful to honor and glorify Him. I have also always told my wife and daughters that I wrote this for them as well. I love them so much and if they were the only ones to read this, then I would count it a success!

I do hope that this is a useful Bible study resource for many around the world. I have made these chapters, videos, and the book (and other books too) in its entirety, freely downloadable and accessible at [www.SpiritualWarfare.blog](http://www.SpiritualWarfare.blog) and also at [www.TrustworthyWord.com](http://www.TrustworthyWord.com). It has been a joy of mine to see so many souls find Scriptural counsel online at The Spiritual Warfare Blog and Trustworthy Word over the years and I pray that it continues to aid many more until the Lord returns!

In Christ,  
Jonathan Carl

Ephesians 6:17 “take the helmet of salvation,  
and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”



# OUTLINE

Here is a brief outline of the sections of this book and Scriptural reminders of their importance. The links below contain video lectures to help you as well!

This book is a compilation of 10 other books you can find here:

[www.spiritualwarfare.blog/free-books](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/free-books) and  
[www.amazon.com/author/jonathancar1](http://www.amazon.com/author/jonathancar1)

- *God and Satan: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible*
- *Angels and Demons: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible*
- *Believers & Unbelievers: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible*
- *Heaven, Hell and Salvation: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible*
- *Frequently Asked Questions about Spiritual Warfare in the Bible: God's Answers about the Battle of the Followers of Christ against the Unseen Spiritual Forces of Evil*
- *Putting on God's Armor of Light: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible*
- *Resisting Satan's Schemes: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible*
- *Prayer and Fasting: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible*
- *Biblical Health: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible*
- *Evangelism and Missions: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible*

## 1. God & Satan

[www.spiritualwarfare.blog/god-satan](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/god-satan)

Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (ESV)

Ephesians 6:10 “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.” (ESV)

The story of the Bible is not a story about spiritual warfare. The story of the Bible is the story of God. As we clearly focus on who God is (His names and characteristic) and what He has done (miracles), our enemies and struggles will seem so much smaller. Although God is the Bible's primary focus, He reveals much to us about our chief enemy in Satan. Don't miss out on what God has to tell us about our enemy's names, character, and tactics that we be best prepared to live lives that enjoy and honor our Creator.

## 2. Angels & Demons

[www.spiritualwarfare.blog/angels-demons](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/angels-demons)

Colossians 1:16 “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.” (ESV)

2 Corinthians 11:14–15 “And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. [15] So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.” (ESV)

God's created angels are important in the storyline of history. In Scripture God shares many stories that explain their purposes and abilities. This section will help you to rightly understand the mostly unseen angelic beings, both faithful (angels) and fallen (demons).

## 3. Believers & Unbelievers

[www.spiritualwarfare.blog/believers-unbelievers](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/believers-unbelievers)

1 John 3:10 “By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.” (ESV)

Matthew 12:35 “The good person out of his good treasure brings

forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.” (ESV)

Humanity is divided by those who follow Jesus in faith (Christian believers) and those who follow Satan, the world, and their fleshly sin (unbelievers). It is essential to understand the identities of both groups as well as the evidences of their character and works. There is no neutral ground in this battle of the followers of Christ against the spiritual forces of evil. Here are some truths to help us be aware of who we are and rightly see the world around us with a spiritual understanding.

#### **4. Heaven & Hell and Salvation**

[www.spiritualwarfare.blog/heaven-hell](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/heaven-hell)

Romans 10:1 “Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.” (ESV)

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (ESV)

Matthew 7:21–23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. [22] On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ [23] And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’” (ESV)

God speaks clearly to us both about eternal life (Heaven) and eternal death (Hell). He wants believers to look forward to being in His presence in Heaven and also wants unbelievers to be warned of the danger of eternal suffering in Hell. Salvation is God’s offer and work through Christ and He has much to tell us in the Scriptures. Here are some truths about Heaven, Hell, and God’s work of salvation.

#### **5. Spiritual Warfare Passages in the Bible**

[www.spiritualwarfare.blog/bible](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/bible)

Ephesians 6:12–13 “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. [13] Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.” (ESV)

God warns believers about the ongoing battle between His followers and the devil’s followers. He wants us to rightly understand the underlying issues of our struggles that we may daily rely on God’s strength and not our own. Here are some important truths to understand about spiritual warfare.

#### **6. Putting on God’s Armor of Light**

[www.spiritualwarfare.blog/armor](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/armor)

Romans 13:12 “The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.” (ESV)

1 Thessalonians 5:8 “But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.” (ESV)

God calls us to go into battle covered in His armor of light and wielding the “sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.” This section will help you to hear God’s commands and wisdom of how to live life in a way that takes into account the reality of our spiritual battles.

#### **7. Resisting Satan’s Schemes**

[www.spiritualwarfare.blog/schemes](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/schemes)

Ephesians 6:11 “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.” (ESV)

2 Corinthians 2:11 “so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.” (ESV)



James 4:7–8 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” (ESV)

God wants us to be informed of our enemy’s strategies and tactics. We have a responsibility and urgent call to resist the attacks of our enemies. In this section we will hear many of the ways God shares of how to resist Satan’s temptations and deception.

### **8. Prayer and Fasting**

[www.spiritualwarfare.blog/prayer](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/prayer)

Ephesians 6:18 “praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints” (ESV)

God cares for us by growing and changing us through our time with Him in prayer and fasting. As we receive God’s Bible truths, we get to respond to Him and ask Him for knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and help in our times of need.

### **9. Biblical Health**

[www.spiritualwarfare.blog/health](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/health)

3 John 2–4 “Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. [3] For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. [4] I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” (ESV)

God speaks to us wholistically through the Scriptures, desiring us to be healthy spiritually but also physically, mentally, emotionally, financially, relationally, and sexually. He wants us to fulfill His purposes for us in our homes, workplaces, churches and wherever we go. This section will help you to evaluate your

health, identify strengths and weakness, and walk forward in God’s truths for life.

### **10. Evangelism and Missions**

[www.spiritualwarfare.blog/missions](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/missions)

Ephesians 6:18–20 “praying ... also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, [20] for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.” (ESV)

The Christian life is a life called to love in action. We must be on the offense in sharing the hope of the Gospel news of Jesus Christ. This section will encourage and equip you to tell others about the loving life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### **11. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

[www.spiritualwarfare.blog/faqs](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/faqs)

1 Peter 3:15 “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect” (ESV)

Colossians 4:5–6 “Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. [6] Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” (ESV)

Ephesians 4:11–14 “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, [14] so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.” (ESV)

JONATHANCARL

There are many other questions you may have that this book has not yet answered. This section will answer a few of those questions but will also challenge you to think biblically through other questions and scenarios you have already faced or that you may face in the future.

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN THE BIBLE

Free Video Lectures @  
[www.spiritualwarfare.blog/  
bible](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/bible)

Ephesians 6:12–13 “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. [13] Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.” (ESV)

God warns believers about the ongoing battle between His followers and the devil’s followers. He wants us to rightly understand the underlying issues of our struggles that we may daily rely on God’s strength and not our own. Here are some important truths to understand about spiritual warfare.

"St. Paul at Ephesus" by Gustave Doré



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

What is "spiritual warfare" though? Spiritual warfare, based on Ephesians 6:12, is "the battle of the followers of Christ against the unseen spiritual forces of evil."

### 6 Important Biblical Truths About Spiritual Warfare

**1. Satan is real.** Demons are real. There is a real battle, a conflict that is largely unseen. Satan and his demons are at war with the followers of Christ and are constantly seeking avenues to attack God's children, sometimes directly, but oftentimes through the world and our fleshly desires. *We cannot ignore the reality of the unseen world and unseen beings.*

"Satan is the greatest intelligence agent in the world. ... Study Satan's tricks, and acquaint yourself with his tactics." William Gurnall

**2. God is real.** Jesus is God. Salvation is offered as a divine rescue from slavery to sin and Satan. Without Jesus being in control of your life there is no hope. Christians must not live in fear, but must walk in the peaceful and powerful presence of God's real and present Holy Spirit. Treasure Jesus.

"A false interpretation of Scripture causes that the gospel of the

Lord becomes the gospel of man, or, which is worse, of the devil."  
Jerome

**3. God is a warrior.** No government, no leader, no nation, and no demon stands a chance when it opposes God's work. Satan is on a leash and can only do what God allows. Lucifer's days are numbered and his eternal destruction and punishment are certain.

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright. O LORD, save the king! May he answer us when we call." (Psalm 20:7-9 ESV)

**4. God is with us.** This is our hope. This is our promise. We must daily renew our minds with the truth and powerful presence of the Holy Spirit. Jesus will never leave us or forsake us and nothing and no-one (the devil and his demons included) can separate us from His loving grip. Greater is He who is in us, than He who is in the world (1 John 4:4).

"Like a good chess player, Satan is always trying to maneuver you into a position where you can save your castle only by losing your bishop." C.S. Lewis

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9 ESV)

**5. We have responsibility.** We must submit to God and resist the devil. Christians must fill their minds with God's truth, that they may recognize the subtle yet significant errors and lies of the evil one. We do not wrestle with flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:11-12). We have personal accountability to turn away from sin and to walk in righteous and obedient living.

"The devil can counterfeit all the saving operations and graces of the Spirit of God." Jonathan Edwards

**6. Our primary weapon is the Word.** Read the Bible. Love the

Bible. Speak the Bible. Pray the Bible. It is our "sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17) and how we are able to discern between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Satan will not stop sending his accusing thoughts and tempestuous attacks. We must not stop listening, loving, and obeying the voice of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Bible.

"The trumpet still plays the notes of war. You cannot sit down and put the victory wreath on your head. You do not have a crown. You still must wear the helmet and carry the sword. You must watch, pray, and fight. Expect your last battle to be the most difficult, for the enemy's fiercest charge is reserved for the end of the day." Charles Spurgeon

# SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN EPHESIANS

“Satan wants you to mess up, give up,  
and puff up.” Chuck Lawless

**Here are some important lessons about spiritual warfare from  
the book of Ephesians:**

## **1) KNOW WHO YOU BELONG TO (EPHESIANS 1)**

- God - Father, Son, Spirit
- Blessed, Blessing, Beloved
- Sovereign, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Eternal
- Immeasurable Greatness of His Power
- Far Above All Rule, Authority, Power, and Dominion
- Above Every Name that is Named - Forever
- All Things Under His Feet
- Head Over All Things to the Church

## **2) KNOW WHO YOU ARE (EPHESIANS 1:1-14)**

- Part of God's Will
- Saints - To the saints who are in Ephesus
- Faithful
- Given Grace and Peace
- Blessed
- Chosen for Holiness
- Lovingly, Purposefully Adopted
- Freed and Forgiven
- Infinitely Rich
- Secured

## **3) UNDERSTAND THE BATTLE**

- Remember Your Past (Ephesians 2:1-3)
- Rejoice at God's Intervention (Ephesians 2:4-9)
- Remain in Your Purpose (Ephesians 2:10)
- Rest In Union with Christ & His Peace (Ephesians 2:11-22)

## **4) BE PURPOSED AND PREPARED**

- As Gospel Light (Ephesians 3:1-13)
- Strengthened and Empowered in Christ's Love (Ephesians 3:14-21)

## **5) ENGAGE THE ENEMY**

- In and Through Your Church (Ephesians 4:1-16)
- In Your Changed and Maturing Life (Ephesians 4:17-5:10)
- In Your Marriage (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- In Your Family (Ephesians 6:1-4)
- In Your Workplace (Ephesians 6:5-9)
- Against the Enemy (Ephesians 6:11-12)
- Armored for Battle (Ephesians 6:10-20) – GOD IS YOUR ARMOR
- Personally Invested In Disciple-Making (Ephesians 6:21-24)



# TOWARDS A BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Spiritual warfare is a reality in life, families, and ministry. This dissertation's definition of spiritual warfare is based off Ephesians 6:12: "the battle of the followers of Christ against the unseen spiritual forces of evil." Many approaches to spiritual warfare primarily place their focus upon demonic manifestations when speaking of Satan's attacks. Scripture reveals a much broader and more comprehensive strategy of how the devil and his demons attack believers.

The Bible refers to believers having three main enemies: the flesh, the world, and the devil (Eph 2:1-3). When believers feel attacked in life or ministry, they often try to discern the source of their difficulty, oppression, or temptation. These investigations are often unfruitful as "Scripture reveals that it is difficult- if not impossible- to separate the temptations that arise from these three sources."<sup>1</sup> No matter what specific source the opposition arises from, Christians have individual responsibility for their sin while their spiritual success rests solely on Christ's power.<sup>2</sup>

Scripture clearly attributes some instances of spiritual conflict directly to Satan. By considering these examples, believers can be aware of the Evil One's schemes and strategies so that they "would not be outwitted by Satan" (2 Cor 2:11) while advancing the Gospel in their evangelistic and disciple making callings

(Matt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8).

## **Approach and Delimitations**

My approach is to briefly look at scriptural instances of Satan's attacks. The categorization of the biblical texts helps to reveal the enemy's strategy against believers. An understanding of Satan's strategy allows Christians to be wise to the enemy's ways so that they can better walk with and serve Christ through evangelism and discipleship. Space does not allow for a comprehensive or in-depth treatment of this topic. Nevertheless, this section functions as a simplified, biblical overview of how the enemy attacks, demonstrating the biblical reality of spiritual warfare. If space allowed, these passages would be explored to greater depth and more Scriptures would be considered and evaluated.

## **Spiritual Warfare in the Scriptures**

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded (Jas 4:7-8)

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. (2 Thess 2:9-10)

Satan stands against Christian believers and will do anything to attempt to stop the advance of the kingdom of God. The Lausanne Movement's 1993 Statement on Spiritual Warfare states that evangelism "involves an inescapable element of spiritual warfare."<sup>3</sup> Since "biblical church planting is evangelism that results in new churches," church planters can expect to encounter the devil's attacks as they evangelize the lost.<sup>4</sup> Whether in church planting, cross-cultural evangelism

(missions), or near-culture evangelism, evangelistic efforts can anticipate demonic resistance. The battle for souls is very real and will continue to rage until Christ returns. Christians must understand and have “a healthy respect for the unseen world.”<sup>5</sup>

The devil and his demons are so powerful that man-centered efforts towards evangelism and discipleship will fail for “only spiritual weapons can prevail, especially the Word and the Spirit, with prayer.”<sup>6</sup> Satan’s powerful attacks against believers and ministers are often in the areas of “discouragement, distractions, or disqualifications.”<sup>7</sup> Despite the power of the opposition and deception, Christians must remain in the truth of God’s possession of them (1 John 4:4) and are called to submit to and draw near to God while resisting Satan through righteous lives and minds (Jas 4:7-8).

#### **God’s Role Vs. Satan’s Role Vs. Our Role**

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. (Gen 50:20)

Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him. And Saul's servants said to him, “Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you. Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well.” (1 Sam 16:14-16)

And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him. (1 Sam 16:23)

Again the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, “Go, number Israel and Judah.” (2 Sam 24:1)

But David's heart struck him after he had numbered the people. And David said to the Lord, “I have sinned greatly in what I have

done. But now, O Lord, please take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have done very foolishly.” (2 Sam 24:10)

So the Lord sent a pestilence on Israel from the morning until the appointed time. And there died of the people from Dan to Beersheba 70,000 men.” (2 Sam 24:15)

And Micaiah said, “Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing beside him on his right hand and on his left; and the Lord said, ‘Who will entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?’ And one said one thing, and another said another. Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, saying, ‘I will entice him.’ And the Lord said to him, ‘By what means?’ And he said, ‘I will go out, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.’ And he said, ‘You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do so.’ Now therefore behold, the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the Lord has declared disaster for you.” (1 Kgs 22:19-23)

Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel. (2 Chr 21:1) Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. (Job 2:1)

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.” (Jas 1:12-15)

Across the Scriptures there is a seemingly complicated interaction between the roles and responsibilities of God, His people, and His enemies. In some instances, God removes His presence and sends evil spirits (demons) as a punishment (1 Sam 16:14-23, 1 Kgs 22:19-23). In some situations God uses human evil towards His good plans (Gen 50:20). On numerous occasions

across Scripture, God directly punishes His people through His own hand or through the use of His angelic beings. At other times God directs, allows, or permits Satanic and demonic attacks that are seemingly disconnected from serving as any sort of punishment (Job 1-2, Paul in 2 Cor 12:7-10). Still, in other instances there is a very real and simultaneous interaction between God's hand, Satan's hand, worldly temptations, and human sinfulness that result in both individual and corporate suffering (2 Sam 24:1-15, 2 Chr 21:1). In spiritual warfare situations, Christians often desire to discover a single source and solution for their problems, but are reminded from these passages that the interaction between sources is often different in each case, but the solution is always to actively "wage the good warfare" (1 Tim 1:18) of the Christian faith.

#### **Wage the Good Warfare**

This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme. (1 Tim 1:18-20)

The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. (Luke 8:12)

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Cor 4:3-4)

And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. (2 Cor 11:14-15)

The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the

kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. (Matt 13:38-39)

Christians are not to remain passive in the battle between Satan's followers and Christ's followers. In understanding the role of the church, it is essential to know that it is "not primarily about techniques." Disciple making Christians are "venturing into 'occupied territory' only to be greeted by forces, seen and unseen, conspiring to work against any work of God."<sup>8</sup> Satan desires to keep the lost blinded and deceived so that they do not experience God's truth and light. Believers are called to engage in spiritual warfare so that the gospel light penetrates the darkness of the world.

There are no sideline strategies for believers, but all "must be prepared for spiritual warfare."<sup>9</sup> One of Satan's avenues is through false teachers, as Paul points out in his publicly rebuking and discipline of Alexander, Hymenaeus, and Philetus. These false teachers not only make "shipwreck" of their own faith, but also "are upsetting" the faith of others (1 Tim 1:20; 2 Tim 2:17). God reminds his children that spiritual warfare is both a necessity and a reality in this age, but by drawing near to God they may "wage the good warfare" against the kingdom of darkness.

#### **Take Up the Full Armor of God**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet,



having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Eph 6:10-17)

When believers begin to understand the reality of spiritual warfare and their call to engage the enemy they will more diligently prepare for combat. Ephesians 6:10-20 is one of the most commonly-referenced passages for understanding spiritual warfare. Clinton Arnold explains it with statements concerning the importance of understanding the reality of the demonic, the availability and necessity of God's power, and the primacy of prayer and one's identity in Christ.<sup>10</sup> Christians must not ignore the "presence, influence, power, and hostility" of Satan's realm, but should protect themselves, their families, and their churches from Satan's ongoing attacks.<sup>11</sup>

God's full armor provides the only protection for a believer. When Christians draw near to God in "intimate fellowship," they will be "able to stand against the schemes of the Evil One" and be "ready for any spiritual opposition."<sup>12</sup> Taking "up the whole armor of God" practically works out through a daily walk with Christ by internalizing his truths and living dependently on his strength.

### **Pray Continually**

. . . praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. (Eph 6:18-20)

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thess 5:16-18)

Continual prayer is not simply "preparation for the battle; prayer is the battle."<sup>13</sup> Just as communication reveals the true health of a marriage relationship, "private prayer is the revealer of the true spiritual condition of the human heart."<sup>14</sup> If believers "neglect communication with their heavenly Father, they are risking disaster."<sup>15</sup> The more intimately Christ followers get to know their Father through "a disciplined prayer life," the more access they will have to the Lord and his powerful work in their lives, families, and churches.<sup>16</sup> In addition to personal prayer, the believer needs to pray specifically for both new and mature believers while soliciting prayer for themselves.<sup>17</sup>

### **Keep Them from the Evil One**

Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs. (2 Cor 2:5-11)

When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. (1 Cor 5:4-5)

I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. (John 17:15)

A believer's initial response to the enemy's presence in this world might be to desire flee the battle in order to be with Christ in heaven. Although heaven is the ultimate destination for believers in Christ, their temporal call is to remain in this world while limiting Satan's access to their lives and ministries. Darrin Patrick warns of the real encounters with the Evil One, saying "if you don't think demons are real, try planting a church! You won't get very far in advancing God's kingdom without feeling resistance from the enemy."<sup>18</sup>

Despite Satan's attacks, Christians can be effective through a "dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit."<sup>19</sup> Becoming aware

of Satan's schemes helps a believer to more faithfully walk and humbly serve in the power of God with "wisdom," "boldness," and "perseverance."<sup>20</sup> Christians should not seek encounters with Satan, but when such encounters occur, believers can stand confidently in their identification with Christ.

### **Conquerors through Christ**

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:37-39)

he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:21)

"Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips. (Job 2:10)

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:17-20)

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matt 16:18)

But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. (1 Thess 2:17-18)

No matter how spiritual warfare manifests itself in the life of

an individual or church family, believers "have great power to see their ministries thrive—if they depend on God."<sup>21</sup> No matter the way Satan attacks, a believer or church will mature if they prioritize a God-dependency.<sup>22</sup> Although God has not removed the believer from the battlefield, He has equipped the Christian to advance, fight, and stand confidently with the understanding that nothing can separate them from their relationship with Him. In the midst of Satan's attacks, the believer can trust, like Job (Job 1:21, 2:10), that God is still in control "of the frequency and intensity of the conflict you encounter."<sup>23</sup>

### **Worldly and Fleshly Attacks**

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (1 John 2:15-17)

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? (Jas 4:1)

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30-31)

Although Satan does attack believers and churches directly, it often appears through attacks from the world and the flesh. In this section passages will be considered that explore some of the directions of conflict from the enemy. Just as God commands believers to love Him and love others, Satan seeks to turn our attention away towards a self-centered love. He does this by shifting our strength (action), soul (desires), heart (emotions), and mind (thoughts) away from God and others, both in private and in public.

### **Sin: Self-Centered Action or Inaction**

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil (Eph 4:26-27)

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (1 John 3:8-10)

So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light (Rom 13:13)

each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (Jas 1:14-15)

We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. (1 John 5:18)

Chuck Lawless argues that “spiritual warfare isn’t about naming demons; it’s about so living a righteous life that our very life threatens the Enemy.”<sup>24</sup> Sin is part of the “enemy’s strategy is to derail effective leaders” and churches.<sup>25</sup> Satan’s role as tempter does not negate believers’ accountability for their decision to sin.<sup>26</sup> This responsibility is seen in biblical pastoral qualifications describing “a man who is free from any serious character blights, is respected by those who know him, and is widely known to live a godly life.”<sup>27</sup> Although such biblical qualifications may seem unrealistically high, their design is to prepare the pastor for spiritual warfare and to model for all believers who to stand firm in this evil day (Eph 6:13). Prayer is often highlighted as the main weapon Christians have in their battle against the Evil One. Although God repeatedly emphasizes

prayer in spiritual warfare, a believer’s holy living through internalized truth makes such prayers Christ-empowered (Eph 4:25-32; 1 Thess 5:16-22). Following God’s call to love Him and others with strength (Mark 12:30-31) manifests itself in righteous, God-produced obedience as a living faith (Rom 12:1; Jas 2:17).

### **Soul Temptations: Pride**

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Cor 12:7-10)

He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. (1 Tim 3:6-7)

God allowed Satan to attack Peter so that Peter realized that “he could not stand on his own.”<sup>28</sup> In the midst of life successes, many Christians may swell with prideful belief, thinking that they are responsible for God’s powerful work. Paul warned of such a pride, cautioning not to rely on “rhetorical strategies and techniques, and certainly not on social or psychological factors” but to trust in the “power of God, which is present in the preaching of the gospel of the crucified and risen Jesus Christ.”<sup>29</sup> When Satan sees believers’ pride in their own perceived strengths, he attacks “because he already has us in our weaknesses.”<sup>30</sup> Pride reveals itself in not only one’s strengths, but also in their weaknesses. Failures may reveal

that Christians have often quenched the Spirit's work by their prideful independence of and disobedience towards God.<sup>31</sup> Pride is ultimately a self-love of the soul, in place of God's call to first love Him and to love others second.

### **Heart Temptations: Anxiety, Suffering, and Finances**

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. (1 Pet 5:6-9)

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (1 Tim 6:9-10)

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. (Heb 13:5)

God's call is often to "places where results, humanly speaking, are meager."<sup>32</sup> These places in life when minimal results are seen can also be times of hostility rather than sympathy or neutrality.<sup>33</sup> Satan uses circumstances to try to target believers through emotional responses such as "fear, depression, worry, criticism, competitiveness, and jealousy."<sup>34</sup> These real or perceived circumstances can serve to isolate the Christian from their only source of hope, joy, strength, protection, and provision in Christ. Believers must diligently root themselves in God's Word so that their identity in Christ remains on the forefront of their minds and hearts.

### **Mind Temptations**

But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a

hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." (Matt 16:23)

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Rom 12:2)

One of Satan's best avenues of attack is to tempt believers to have their minds set on the things of man rather than the things of God. Just as God "never bypasses our mind," Satan's strategy is to deceive believers into thinking and following their own inclinations and minds.<sup>35</sup> Christians must test their thoughts, strategies, plans, and ideas with God's Word to ensure that their leadership is in line with God's good, pleasing and perfect will. Such a renewal of a believer's mind "begins with genuine repentance" that leads to being rooted in truth.<sup>36</sup>

### **Private Temptations: Marriage and Family**

For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. (1 Cor 7:4-5)

One of Satan's desires is to privately destroy not only the believer, but also his marriage and family, in order to derail the believer's public witness. Sexual temptation is a primary method of attack that the devil uses, hence God's warnings to married couples that they must be sexually intimate regularly. Christians must ensure that they do not "focus well on their spiritual lives" to the neglect of their marriages and families.<sup>37</sup> Just as God designed pastors to lead churches, He also ordained husbands to "take the lead in emotional, social, and sexual connection with their wives."<sup>38</sup> The Christian must not be unaware of Satan's tactics; he must be prepared for his marriage



and family to “experience mental, moral, and physical attacks from the Evil One.”<sup>39</sup> If Satan can wound or kill Christians’ marriages or families, he can effectively paralyze them from evangelistic ministry and disciple making through their church. Believers must prioritize their love of their families and wives so that they may stand firm together against the devil’s schemes.

#### **Public Temptations: Church Ministry**

Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel. (1 Chr 21:1)

After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” . . . So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.” (John 13:21-27)

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.” (Luke 22:31-34)

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.” (Acts 5:1-4)

Christians have unique pressures that can lead to temptations to publicly misrepresent oneself to one’s church, denomination, or contributors.<sup>40</sup> The range of ethical dilemmas is numerous,

but the underlying heart issue is one of self-worship rather than God-worship. Whether the heart issue results in the misrepresentation of numerical growth, giving, or of one’s spiritual health, the desire to be approved by man rather than God is a dangerous lie. Believers must first test themselves to see whether they are in the faith and secondly to ensure that they are not just hearers, but doers of God’s Word (2 Cor 13:5; Jas 1:22-27).<sup>41</sup> Satan desires to see hypocrites in churches because he realizes that he can use the failures of a few to cause many to stumble.

#### **Summary of a Biblical Understanding of Spiritual Warfare**

All Christians must recognize that “the life of the disciple is the life of constant spiritual warfare.”<sup>42</sup> This understanding leads a believer to both acknowledge and anticipate real Satanic attacks upon their lives, families, and ministries.<sup>43</sup> Christians should accordingly prepare, pray, and walk uprightly such that the devil has no opportunity to gain a foothold for attack.<sup>44</sup> Through their ongoing walk with God, the believer will be best equipped to depend on God for His power and strength in advancing the Gospel through evangelism and discipleship.

<sup>1</sup>Neil Anderson and Robert Saucy, *God's Power at Work in You* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2001), 282-83. <sup>2</sup>Ibid., 284. <sup>3</sup>A. Scott Moreau, ed., *Deliver Us from Evil: An Uneasy Frontier in Christian Mission* (Monrovia, CA: World Vision International, 2002), xvii. <sup>4</sup>Jervis David Payne, *Discovering Church Planting: An Introduction to the Whats, Whys, and Hows of Global Church Planting* (Colorado Springs, CO: Paternoster, 2009), 4. <sup>5</sup>Tom Nebel and Gary Rohrmayer, *Church Planting Landmines: Mistakes to Avoid in Years 2 through 10* (St. Charles IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2005), 102. <sup>6</sup>Alan Nichols and Billy Graham, eds., *The Whole Gospel for the Whole World: The Story of the Second Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization, Manila, 1989* (Charlotte, NC: Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, 1989), 116. <sup>7</sup>Nebel and Rohrmayer, *Church Planting Landmines*, 103. <sup>8</sup>Jim Griffith and Bill Easum, *Ten Most Common Mistakes Made by New Church Starts* (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2008), 16. <sup>9</sup>Ibid. <sup>10</sup>(1) “There are powerful, invisible, spirit beings that attack believers with the intent of hurting them, causing them to lapse into sin, or making them ineffectual for God’s kingdom purposes.” (2) “The goal of depending on the power of God is to resist the varied attacks of the evil one

and to advance the kingdom of God into the world.” (3) “God’s power is truly available to his people.” (4) “Prayer is the essence of spiritual warfare and the most important means by which believers are strengthened by God.” (5) “It is vital to understand our new identity in Christ as a deep level and to live out of that new identity as a means of overcoming the impact of various forms of demonic assault.” Clinton E. Arnold, *Ephesians*, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, vol. 10 (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010), 470- 75. <sup>11</sup>Joel Rainey, *Planting Churches in the Real World* (Smyrna, DE: Missional Press, 2008), 124-25, 129. <sup>12</sup>Payne, *Discovering Church Planting*, 75-77. <sup>13</sup>Nebel and Rohrmayer, *Church Planting Landmines*, 101.<sup>14</sup>Darrin Patrick, *Church Planter: The Man, The Message, The Mission* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010), 63.<sup>15</sup>Payne, *Discovering Church Planting*, 73. <sup>16</sup>Nebel and Rohrmayer, *Church Planting Landmines*, 112. <sup>17</sup>Payne, *Discovering Church Planting*, 74; Griffith and Easum, *Ten Most Common Mistakes Made by New Church Starts*, 17. <sup>18</sup>Patrick, *Church Planter*, 64. <sup>19</sup>*Ibid.*, 59. <sup>20</sup>Jervis David Payne, *The Barnabas Factors: Eight Essential Practices of Church Planting Team Members* (Smyrna, DE: Missional Press, 2008), 23. <sup>21</sup>Nebel and Rohrmayer, *Church Planting Landmines*, 107. <sup>22</sup>*Ibid.*, 109. <sup>23</sup>Rainey, *Planting Churches in the Real World*, 122. <sup>24</sup>Charles Lawless, *Discipled Warriors: Growing Healthy Churches That Are Equipped for Spiritual Warfare* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2002), 214. <sup>25</sup>Nebel and Rohrmayer, *Church Planting Landmines*, 107. <sup>26</sup>Patrick, *Church Planter*, 147. <sup>27</sup>*Ibid.*, 46. <sup>28</sup>John MacArthur, *Standing Strong: How to Resist the Enemy of Your Soul* (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 2006), 34. <sup>29</sup>Eckhard Schnabel, *Paul the Missionary: Realities, Strategies and Methods* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008), 371. <sup>30</sup>Rainey, *Planting Churches in the Real World*, 124. <sup>31</sup>Roland Allen, *Missionary Methods: St. Paul’s or Ours* (London: Robert Scott, 1912), 126. <sup>32</sup>James Engel and William Dyrness, *Changing the Mind of Missions: Where Have We Gone Wrong?* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 88. <sup>33</sup>Eckhard Schnabel, *Early Christian Mission: Jesus and the Twelve* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004), 671. <sup>34</sup>Nebel and Rohrmayer, *Church Planting Landmines*, 106. <sup>35</sup>Neil Anderson, *Discipleship Counseling* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2003), 87. <sup>36</sup>Anderson and Saucy, *God’s Power at Work in You*, 136. <sup>37</sup>Patrick, *Church Planter*, 102. <sup>38</sup>*Ibid.*, 46. <sup>39</sup>Payne, *Discovering Church Planting*, 77. <sup>40</sup>Patrick, *Church Planter*, 23. <sup>41</sup>*Ibid.*, 26. <sup>42</sup>Payne, *Discovering Church Planting*, 77. <sup>43</sup>*Ibid.* <sup>44</sup>Payne, *The Barnabas Factors*, 17.

## TOWARDS A MODERN UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Two prevalent modern approaches to spiritual warfare are truth encounters or power encounters.<sup>1</sup> Truth encounter approaches often emphasize the individual’s personal responsibility for seeking truth to counter the lies of Satan. Power encounter approaches tend to characterize spiritual warfare as a battle that necessitates direct, confrontational encounters between spiritual leaders and demons through practices such as exorcism and territorial spirit identification and prayer.<sup>2</sup> Although attention to spiritual warfare seems to go through periods of emphasis and disinterest, Scripture, church history, and modern treatments all recognize that there are ongoing attacks of the devil and his demons against the church and Christian believers.<sup>3</sup>

Many western Christians fall into categories of either looking down on spiritual warfare “with disdain,” remaining unaware of spiritual warfare, questioning spiritual practices, blindly accepting the spiritual warfare views of their leaders, or dismissing “new approaches as unbiblical and therefore unacceptable.”<sup>4</sup> Scott Moreau categorizes evangelical approaches to spiritual warfare into seven types of encounters. This author takes those categories and consolidates them into the

five approaches below.<sup>5</sup> Four of the author's categories closely parallel the structure of Christ's command in Mark 12:30-31 to love the Lord our God with all of our heart (relational encounter), soul (truth encounter), mind (mind encounter), and strength (power encounter).

### **An Avoidance Strategy**

Believers who advocate for no encounters with demons are those by whom "demonic confrontation is viewed with suspicion."<sup>6</sup> These typically Western believers have been so "influenced by a naturalistic worldview that only admits the reality of what can be seen or touched or heard, deny[ing] that demons exist today."<sup>7</sup> John MacArthur describes this group as one who fails "to understand that the Christian life is a fierce spiritual battle."<sup>8</sup> Walter Wink also describes this group's materialistic worldview as deriving from a theology that does not allow for an understanding of angels, spirits, Satan, demons, or the active spirit realm at all.<sup>9</sup> Wink also mentions that the best way to discover the weakness of a system "is to discover what it excludes from conversation."<sup>10</sup> Those who resist any discussion and consideration of spiritual warfare risk being caught off guard in the midst of an attack. Scripture and church history emphasize resisting and standing firm against Satan's activity and influence in this world. John reminds believers to "test the spirits" that "have gone out into the world," thus implying that those who are in Christ should never ignore the spiritual battle raging around them (1 John 4:1).

### **A Relational Strategy**

Jeremiah warns us that "the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?" (Jer 17:9). In spiritual warfare there is a group of practitioners that is often referred to as spiritual healers who "explore the healing of deep hurts through a variety of therapeutic means (prayer, counseling, medical intervention)."<sup>11</sup> This relational encounter category has no prescribed approach, but they generally seek

to "explore the healing of deep hurts through a variety of therapeutic means."<sup>12</sup>

Charles Kraft explains the difference of his deliverance ministry by their claims that "complete healing does not come unless both the emotional and spiritual components of a person's problems are addressed."<sup>13</sup> Kraft advocates "dealing primarily with the emotional garbage but also with the spiritual 'rats' (demons)."<sup>14</sup> In stating this, Kraft argues that demons are not the main problem, but the emotional garbage that attracts them. Accordingly, he cautions against a counseling-only or deliverance-only approach, instead arguing for the use of both relationships and power to confront Satan and his demons.<sup>15</sup>

Relational encounter practitioners must be on their guard against reducing the problems of their counselees to a mere emotional, flesh focused problem. Jeremiah asserts and reminds that the Lord searches the heart and tests the mind (Jer 17:10). Believers must likewise help those who have been deceived into thinking and feeling Satan's lies.

### **A Mind Strategy**

Theologians and bible scholars most commonly assume a mind encounter approach to spiritual warfare, but their writings "vary widely in perspective."<sup>16</sup> These writings provide helpful perspectives with spiritual warfare but often avoid spiritual warfare phenomenology and experiences. Some authors do engage in and provide cross-cultural analysis where they are able to "examine issues of spiritual warfare in light of cultural frames."<sup>17</sup> Academic treatments of spiritual warfare are greatly needed in order to consider requests such as a perceived need for a hermeneutic that

a) Allows culture and experience to play a role in the formulation of our understanding and theology of spiritual conflict. The basis and test of such a theology is Scripture, as faithfully interpreted by the Spirit-guided hermeneutical community of the global church. b) Allows an examination of



issues that arise in Christian experience not directly addressed in Scripture. c) Accepts the fact that the Holy Spirit has surprised the church by acting in ways not explicitly taught in Scripture (Acts 10 and 15) and may be doing so again.<sup>18</sup>

Paul Hiebert challenges those who engage spiritual warfare through their minds to humbly recognize that their “understandings of Scriptures are partial and biased.”<sup>19</sup> Hiebert continues by emphasizing that scholars should never forget to “constantly test our theological interpretations against biblical teachings, [so that] they become increasingly rooted in the biblical message itself.”<sup>20</sup> The Apostle Paul reminds believers that the conflicts in their lives are not merely a “war according to the flesh” and that the “weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh” (2 Cor 10:3,4). Paul also follows this with affirmation of the mind encounter approach as part of spiritual warfare when he pens that “we destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised up against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ” (2 Cor 10:5). Encountering spiritual warfare with the mind is an important aspect that can serve as a biblical corrective to those who uphold merely phenomenological and experienced-based approaches. Mind encounter practitioners can lay a vital theological foundation, but they also must be aware of the biases of their own worldview and experiences.

### **A Power Strategy**

The power encounter approach is commonly regarded as the most controversial as they seek to “integrate experience in testing doctrinal formulations.”<sup>21</sup> The emphasis power enthusiasts place on experience leads to a wide spectrum of praxis and belief. The category of power encounter is defined by the fact that its practitioners “recognize reality of demonic work in Christians and advocate a direct confrontational deliverance approach.”<sup>22</sup>

Deliverance practices and methodologies range from the

heretical, syncretistic, debatable, and mostly-biblical. In order to support power encounters, these believers point to Paul’s writing to the church at Corinth where he says that “kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power” (1 Cor 4:20). Others justify their approach by referencing where Christ states, “whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do” (John 14:12).

Many power encounter leaders have isolated themselves from many others in the evangelical community in their passionate promotion of their experiences and perceived successes. C. Peter Wagner demonstrates such isolationist hyperbole through his emphasis on territorial spirits and proclaiming that ignorance of these spirits is maybe “the most widespread danger of all among the evangelical community.”<sup>23</sup> A scriptural warning concerning pride is a helpful reminder for power-encounter practitioners, that they should “not think of yourself more highly than you ought” (Rom 12:3), and that they should test their experiences in light of Scriptural commands and examples (Acts 17:11).

**Methods.** Much of the theological concern over the confrontational approach to spiritual warfare in evangelistic ministry derives from their faulty use of Scripture. Many in this category seem to “appeal to pragmatism” and demonstrate a “willingness to consider ideas and follow practices that are admittedly extra-biblical.”<sup>24</sup> Sometimes their knowledge is found by “by interviewing the demons in demonized persons,” through a “natural capacity or spiritual gifting,” by “supernatural insights,” or in “special revelation.”<sup>25</sup>

At times, power advocates “assume that the beliefs about spirit realities held by practitioners of occult and animistic/folk religions correspond to reality.”<sup>26</sup> Spiritual warfare through power encounter often demonstrates faulty epistemological principles as their “truths are accredited, justified, and propagated by means of anecdotes culled from many



sources.”<sup>27</sup> These problems compound through retrospective attempts “to link the doctrines to Scripture . . . in support of their doctrines . . . alternate interpretations are rarely entertained. They seem to disregard clear passages which do not agree with their assertions.”<sup>28</sup> This sort of epistemological and hermeneutical approach leads to significant theological problems regarding the authority and perspicuity of Scripture and further isolates them from much of the evangelical community.

**Focus.** Those concerned with power encounters often demonstrate “an excessive and unhealthy fascination with demons.”<sup>29</sup> They are even criticized by their own members such as C. Peter Wagner who cautions against “overemphasizing power” by referencing Jesus’ caution not to rejoice because the spirits are subject to you (Luke 10:20).<sup>30</sup> Due to their continual focus on Satan, demons, and spirits, the perception is that their focus is on the enemy more than on God. It is a helpful exhortation and corrective to “never go looking for demons, but if one appears under your feet, tread on it!”<sup>31</sup> Power encounter emphasis on methodologies and strategies often lead them towards a man-centered approach to evangelism.

**Summary.** Many within the power encounter camp communicate a prideful and isolationist understanding of spiritual warfare. These believers need to reevaluate their use of Scripture and not forget that God has breathed it out and that it is all profitable (2 Tim 3:16) while remembering that their own fallen nature is prone to Satan’s deceitfulness. Finally, power practitioners should ensure that their hope is set on Christ (1 Pet 1:13) and not themselves or the spirits. By drawing near to him (Jas 4:8) who is greater than the one in the world (1 John 4:4), Christians can have confidence and experience lasting power in Him.

#### **A Truth Strategy**

The approach of encountering demons through a focus on

truth happens by “teaching people truth and its application rather than direct demonic confrontation.”<sup>32</sup> There are several different perspectives within this category, but most do not seek out or actively engage the enemy during their encounters. These Christians may hear or witness a demonic manifestation, but their response is usually to ignore it or to rebuke it to silence so that their evangelistic work may continue. This form of engagement is modeled after Paul’s annoyance with and concise verbal exorcism of the divining slave girl in Philippi (Acts 16:16-18).

Truth practitioners do not doubt that they must wrestle “against dark spiritual forces,” because “the kingdom of darkness is still present, and the devil still ‘prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour’ (1 Pet 5:8).”<sup>33</sup> This view may sound similar to power practitioners, but the difference is in that they do not see themselves as the agent of change. They view the agent of change as the Holy Spirit coming into the lives of unbelievers. This truth approach focuses on how sin entraps, ensnares, and enslaves people. Like Jesus’ command in John 8:31-32, they prioritize the Bible as truth that leads to freedom found alone in Christ.

**Methods.** Truth encounter methodologies are focus on the authority believers have in Christ. Wayne Grudem points out that “authority over demonic spirits was not limited to Jesus himself, for he gave similar authority first to the twelve (Matt. 10:8; Mark 3:15), and then to seventy disciples. . . . authority over unclean spirits later extended beyond the seventy disciples to those in the early church who ministered in Jesus’ name (Acts 8:7; 16:18; Jam. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8-9).”<sup>34</sup> This Christ-based authority is sufficient.

Truth proponents do not focus on discovering new techniques or special insights into the enemy as Jesus “simply drove the demons out on the basis of his own authority (Mark 1:21-27; 9:14-32).”<sup>35</sup> Believers must be proactive in spiritual growth so

that they are prepared for the day of battle, understanding that “spiritual warfare is not about reacting to the Enemy—it is about putting on the armor of God.”<sup>36</sup> This approach sees spiritual warfare defined not only by preparation, but also by direct evangelism that takes “the gospel of light into the kingdom of darkness.”<sup>37</sup> Scriptural principles drive the truth encounter approach to the Bible as an all-sufficient guide to Christ’s authority and the Holy Spirit’s power.

**Focus.** While power encounter specialists invest a great deal of time evaluating and understanding the enemy, truth encounter believers spend time looking at a God who is sovereign. They see that “the battle between God and Satan is not one of power (Job 1:1-12, Judges 9:23-24),” for Satan is on a leash with God-prescribed limits to his actions and ability.<sup>38</sup> While some “warfare strategies often focus more on our power” than on human weakness in light of God’s strength (2 Cor 12:9), truth encounter proponents uphold the “the necessity of spiritual disciplines as armor against Satan’s wiles.”<sup>39</sup> Ongoing sin identifies us with Satan (1 John 3:8) while Christ’s mercy and grace identify us as righteous and holy in the sight of God (Titus 3:3-7). Accordingly, the truth encounter focus in spiritual warfare is not for “demonology specialists, but men of God” who help bring souls from darkness into light (John 8:12), from death to life (Ps 56:13), and from wandering to truth (Jas 5:19,20).<sup>40</sup>

**Summary.** The truth encounter approach to spiritual warfare applies God’s truth to all aspects of life by putting off the lies of Satan and putting on the living Word of God in Christ. Truth encounter members do not actively seek to dialogue or have power encounters with the enemy, but they believe in his real activity and actively resist the devil by standing firm through the armor of God and prayer. Truth encounter advocates place special emphasis on wielding “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph 6:17) as Christ did against Satan (Matt 4:1-11). Whereas other approaches are focused on demonic

forces or on the humans themselves, the truth encounter approach seeks to be theocentric in every aspect of the battle. Believers are exhorted to be bold and courageous as they engage the enemy in evangelism and discipleship through the blood of Christ.

### A Summary of Strategies

We know from Scripture that Satan is “a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44) so it should not surprise us that he would attempt to lead us to rebel against God in our heart, soul, mind, and strength contrary to Christ’s command in Mark 12:30. As Satan tries to deceive believers in these ways, they must put on Christ’s truths through Scripture and put off Satan’s lies. Scripture is the foundation and test in evaluating understandings, applications, and interactions between the mind encounter, relational encounter, power encounter, and truth encounter specialists in their approaches to spiritual warfare. Although the truth encounter approach, which Anderson advocates, seems to be the most biblically and theologically correct strategy, there are helpful contributions from the relational, mind, and power strategies. These categories have more overlap in belief and practice than they realize or care to admit, and would benefit through increased dialogue, clarification, and interaction with the other approaches.

<sup>1</sup>James K. Beilby and Paul Rhodes Eddy, eds., *Understanding Spiritual Warfare: Four Views* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012), 38. Many spiritual warfare works offer differing groups of approaches to spiritual warfare. Beilby and Eddy utilize four categories of a “World Systems Model” (47- 88), “Classical Model” (89-123), “Ground-Level Deliverance Model” (129-172), and “Strategic-Level Deliverance Model” (173-210). They describe Anderson’s model as a “bridging effort between ‘power encounter’ versions of the deliverance model and the classic model” (38). <sup>2</sup>“Central to this model is the conviction that demonic entities can take up residence in people’s lives and that exorcism- or ‘deliverance’ ministry- in one form or another is frequently required for their liberation and healing. . . . centers on the ideas of territorial spirits, spiritual mapping, and identificational repentance. This approach to spiritual warfare- commonly known as strategic- or cosmic-level spiritual

warfare—can be seen as emerging from, and thus sharing the basic convictions of, the deliverance model, while further developing it in significant ways. It also shares some intriguing elements with the world systems model.” Ibid., 36-43. <sup>3</sup>“Exorcism practice seems ‘to diminish in the Middle Ages,’ but is still referenced among the Germanic tribes, Norwegians, Thomas Aquinas, Bonaventure, Martin Luther, the Catholic Church’s 1614 *Rituale Romanum* (exorcism guidelines), and other sources.” Tormod Engelsviken, “Historical Overview 3,” in *Deliver Us from Evil Consulation* (Nairobi: Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, 2000), accessed January 4, 2014, <http://www.lausanne.org/all-documents/historical-overview-3.html>. <sup>4</sup>Moreau, *Deliver Us from Evil*, viii. <sup>5</sup>Ibid., 117-19. Moreau’s categories are (1) Traditionalists (2) Experience-based Warriors (3) Evangelical Confronters (4) Theologians and Biblical Scholars (5) Spiritual Healers (6) Truth-Encounter Advocates and (7) Cross-Cultural Spiritual Conflict Analysts. Interestingly, Moreau groups himself in three of the categories: Theologians and Biblical Scholars, Truth-Encounter Advocates, and Cross-Cultural Spiritual Conflict Analysts. <sup>6</sup>Ibid. <sup>7</sup>Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994), 419. <sup>8</sup>John MacArthur, *Standing Strong: How to Resist the Enemy of Your Soul* (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 2006), 9. <sup>9</sup>Walter Wink, *Unmasking the Powers: The Invisible Forces that Determine Human Existence* (Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1986), 1. <sup>10</sup>Ibid. <sup>11</sup>Moreau, *Deliver Us from Evil*, 118. <sup>12</sup>Ibid. <sup>13</sup>Kraft, *Confronting Powerless Christianity*, 57. <sup>14</sup>Ibid. <sup>15</sup>Kraft, *Confronting Powerless Christianity*, 57. <sup>16</sup>Moreau, *Deliver Us from Evil*, 118. <sup>17</sup>Ibid., 119. <sup>18</sup>Ibid., xxvii. <sup>19</sup>Paul G. Hiebert and Frances F. Hiebert, eds., *Case Studies in Missions* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1987), 18. <sup>20</sup>Ibid. <sup>21</sup>Moreau, *Deliver Us from Evil*, 118. <sup>22</sup>Ibid. <sup>23</sup>C. Peter Wagner and Fredrick Douglas Pennoyer, eds., *Wrestling with Dark Angels: Toward a Deeper Understanding of the Supernatural Forces in Spiritual Warfare* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1990), 88. <sup>24</sup>Edward Rommen, ed., *Spiritual Power and Missions: Raising the Issues* (Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1995), 41; Moreau, *Deliver Us from Evil*, ix. <sup>25</sup>Rommen, *Spiritual Power and Missions*, 26, 51; Wagner and Pennoyer, *Wrestling with Dark Angels*, 33; Rommen, *Spiritual Power and Missions*, 53-55. <sup>26</sup>Rommen, *Spiritual Power and Missions*, 31. <sup>27</sup>Ibid., 36. <sup>28</sup>Ibid., 55. <sup>29</sup>MacArthur, *Standing Strong*, 10. <sup>30</sup>Wagner and Pennoyer, *Wrestling with Dark Angels*, 87. <sup>31</sup>Douglas and Graham, *Let the Earth Hear His Voice*, 896. <sup>32</sup>Moreau, *Deliver Us from Evil*, 119. <sup>33</sup>Neil T. Anderson, *The Bondage Breaker* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1990), 20. <sup>34</sup>Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 418-19. <sup>35</sup>Hiebert, *Case Studies in Missions*, 5. <sup>36</sup>Lawless, *Disciplined Warriors*, 18. <sup>37</sup>Ibid., 83. <sup>38</sup>Hiebert, *Case Studies in Missions*, 5. <sup>39</sup>Lawless, *Disciplined Warriors*, 16. <sup>40</sup>Douglas and Graham, *Let the Earth Hear His Voice*, 896.

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE LEVELS AND TACTICS

In evaluating spiritual warfare methods in evangelism, one must evaluate tactics that concern the unbeliever who hears and the believer who shares the gospel message. This section will also consider discipleship and sanctification issues in spiritual warfare. There is only space for a cursory engagement with and critique of each method. The previous spiritual warfare approaches show much overlap between their methods. In chapter five any approaches and methods relevant to Anderson will be examined in greater depth based off of this initial foundation of understanding.

### **The Hearer as Unbeliever or Believer**

The primary concern for all hearers is their spiritual condition. Their spiritual condition can be often confused or overlooked if a demon manifests itself or if the individual demonstrates oppression or possession behaviors. These events can cause questions concerning personal claims of Christian-allegiance.<sup>1</sup> Other complications arise in considering past occultist ties, unconfessed sin, or demonic allegiances that have not been renounced. Some theories advocate that past sins may allow Satan to have permission or special access to that individual. Discerning whether a hearer is a lost soul in need of evangelism or a saved soul in need of discipleship is

complicated by the ambiguity which surround the meaning of the word *Christian* in many contexts today. If one wishes to include within the category of believer so-called nominal



Christians or those who may no longer consider themselves to be believers but are part of traditions which still regard them as Christian, owing to a previous profession of faith or baptism, then perhaps one can argue for the domination of such “Christians” by demons. However, such modern ways of defining the term *Christian* do not take seriously enough the lines of demarcation which the New Testament draws between believers and unbelievers.<sup>2</sup>

As seemingly difficult as it may be to determine the validity of one’s faith claims, the essential element to be shared is the gospel news through the Biblical texts as the “sword of the Spirit” (Eph 6:17). The hearer must be encouraged and exhorted to “examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” (2 Cor 13:5). Scriptural truth clarifies that there are two types of people: “children of the devil” and “children of God,” and that one’s true allegiance and state can be evidenced by their life (1 John 3:10).

Believers and unbelievers both need to hear gospel truths, but only true believers will respond in genuine repentance, belief, and life-changing faith that works itself out in visible, progressive change. Billy Graham claims that “our world is on fire, and man without God cannot control the flames. The demons of hell have been let loose.”<sup>3</sup> Many Christians have tried to devise methods to engage these demons. These methods must be tested and evaluated in light of Scripture in order to understand if they are God’s methods and possible vehicles for His power. Only a believing hearer has hope in any spiritual warfare encounter.

#### **Therapeutic Level Warfare**

Spiritual healing, faith healing, or physical healing ministries are types of therapeutic level spiritual warfare. This approach is to alleviate physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual harm done

by demons. This category of spiritual warfare does not engage in evangelistic ministry and avoids the topic of salvation.<sup>4</sup> Their focus is on helping people to “have their lives in order” instead of recognizing that their real need lies in the fact that “they have not trusted in Christ as Savior and Lord. Their souls are ‘unoccupied’—that is, the Holy Spirit does not indwell them. Thus they are open to demonic invasion (Matt 12:43-45).”<sup>5</sup>

Therapeutic advocates argue, “with rare exceptions, the New Testament references to suffering relate to demonic attacks, persecution . . . or divine judgment, not to human illness.”<sup>6</sup> Therapeutic-type warfare must avoid the delusion of trying to do reparative surgery on a dead soul. John states that believers must remain “faithful unto death” despite demonic suffering, being reminded of Christ’s gift of life (Rev 2:10) and not focused on temporary solutions.

When Paul asks God for deliverance three times from “a messenger of Satan” (2 Cor 12:7-10) sent to harass him and keep him humble, God responds that “my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor 12:9). Paul’s response is not in persisting in seeking therapeutic relief from the demonic, but to “for the sake of Christ” to be “content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities” (2 Cor 12:10) by remembering in self-weakness flows divine-strength. Without salvation, no amount of therapy will solve one’s spiritual needs. With salvation, there must be a point of release that trusts God’s provision or withholding of comfort and relief.

#### **Occult Level Warfare**

Occult warfare describes a variety of activities and people directly connected with active worshiping of Satan and his demons. Such a differentiation between Satan-worshippers and “regular” unbelievers is unhelpful and unbiblical. The spiritual condition of members of the occult is no different from the spiritual condition of kind, nominal Christians. Paul describes

humanity as all having been “dead in the trespasses and sins . . . following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air” (Eph 2:1-2). Despite the common effects of Adam and Eve’s original sin upon all mankind (Rom 5:12-19), some warfare proponents endorse a view of engaging different levels or types of demons.

Charles Kraft goes so far as to describe at least eight different types of evil spirits: family, occult, ordinary, territorial/institutional/religion, vice, household/geographical/cultural items, and ancestral.<sup>7</sup> Kraft and others thus deduce that since there are different types of demons, there must be different methods of warfare for each type. Although demonic forces may manifest themselves differently in occult and non-occult persons, biblical spiritual warfare methods remain unchanged. God’s Word shows that there is only one suit of armor, the armor of God, that must be put on daily and saturated with constant prayer (Eph 6:10-20). All non-believers are in a condition of spiritual deadness, following Satan as his children in an active state of rebellion against God, but are never beyond the saving grace and power of Christ.

### **Ground Level Warfare**

Ground level spiritual warfare is the category that most people think of when they hear the term spiritual warfare. Kraft defines this warfare as that which “takes place in human contexts, in contrast with warfare that takes place largely in the air.”<sup>8</sup> Ground warfare draws the most attention through the attention of media and popular culture in the form of possession or demonization encounters.

**Exorcism and deliverance.** Demon possession of unbelievers is often the aspect of ground level warfare that is viewed as most spectacular. It is clear from Scripture that demon possession occurred in a variety of ways. Some people were delivered of these demons on their own faith, others on the faith of others (Mark 9:23- 24), and sometimes without any expressed desire

to be rid of the demon.<sup>9</sup> While some restrict such occurrences to the Bible, Millard Erickson points out “there is no reason to believe that demon possessions are restricted to the past.”<sup>10</sup>

Exorcists are widely criticized. Dramatic demonstrations and exaggerations often lead towards pride-filled ministries and enriched bank accounts. Experiences and anecdotes typically direct exorcism methodology instead of Scripture. Some exorcists seek “demons for information to use in expelling them” or ask for special revelation from God in the form of “words of knowledge.”<sup>11</sup> These exorcism methods are cause for concern for “Satan disguises himself as an angel of light” (2 Cor 11:14) in order to lead people away from the all-sufficient source of knowledge in the Bible.

Specific exorcism methods are important to consider. Although there may be a “tremendous need for a deliverance ministry,” that does not validate all methods as biblical.<sup>12</sup> Scripture shows that both Jesus and his apostles “cast out demons without pronouncing an elaborate formula” and sometimes did it without even being physically present (Mark 7:24-30).<sup>13</sup> MacArthur cautions that the epistles never prescribe or “instruct believers to cast out demons” and that whenever they did, “the demon-possessed people were unbelievers.”<sup>14</sup> The dangers of attempting exorcism in one’s own methods and power are seen in failure (Mark 9:14-18) and in physical harm (Acts 19:11-20). Such a method-centered focus can also point people to the practitioner’s power and ability rather than to the power of God (1 Cor 2:1-5).

Those who exorcise must understand that “Satan, the great deceiver, may be encouraging interest in demon possession in hopes that Christians will become careless about other more subtle forms of influence by the powers of evil.”<sup>15</sup> The ultimate concern of an evangelist towards a hearer is not the presence of demons but rather the absence of Christ. Salvation, not exorcism, is the goal, understanding that if one accepts Christ,

they become “the temple of the living God” with which Satan has no portion (2 Cor 6:14-16).

**Ancestor spirits and ghosts.** The worship of ancestor spirits and interest in paranormal phenomenon are different but have a common fear and unhealthy desire to ascertain the future. Those who suffer from these fears seek to alleviate it in a variety of ways through rituals, sacrifices, idols, superstitious practices, and the consultation of a variety of practitioners (witch doctors, mediums, sorcerers, necromancers, etc.).

Ancestor worship practitioners see ancestors as “important mediators between humans and spirits” who defend and provide wisdom to their relatives.<sup>16</sup> Those who seek out ghosts often do so out of desires similar to occult practitioners: a “desire for knowledge,” “lust for power,” “need for comfort,” “protection,” or “spiritual satisfaction” to their unhealthy curiosities.<sup>17</sup>

Scripture wholly condemns the practice of consulting the dead (Deut 18:11), divination (Lev 19:26), sorcery (Deut 18:10), mediums (Lev 19:31), seeking ghosts (Ezek 13:20), witchcraft (Gal 5:20), astrology (Isa 47:13-14, Deut 4:19), spell casting (Deut 18:11), and interpreting omens (Deut 18:11). No spiritual being or encounter will ever satisfy a person’s desires. True, lasting satisfaction is only found through a saving relationship with Christ (Matt 5:6). Christ is the only true hope and power available to people who struggle with ancestor spirits or paranormal activity.

**Binding and loosing.** Spiritual warfare advocates often use the term “binding the strongman” with reference to Matthew 12:29. These spiritual warfare proponents assume that the “strong man refers to evil spirits” and that “it would seem reasonable that the principle could be applied to a nation or a city or a people group as well as a house.”<sup>18</sup> Wayne Grudem counters this power encounter interpretation with a clarifying thought about this passage: “Jesus had entered the strong man’s ‘house’ (the world of unbelievers who are under the bondage of Satan), and

he was plundering his house, that is, freeing people from Satanic bondage and bringing them into the joy of the kingdom of God.”<sup>19</sup> The task in binding and loosing should not be directed at the demonic, but rather efforts should be directed towards being used by God to set the prisoners of sin free through the blood of Christ (Zech 9:11).

**Rebuking.** When one senses a demonic presence, or experiences a demonic attack, many Christians utilize a process of rebuking. Rebuking usually involves the verbal confrontation of Satan and his demons. The practice derives from Scriptural instances where Christ rebukes both Satan (Matt 4:10, 16:23) and demons (Matt 17:18; Mark 1:25).<sup>20</sup> It can also be argued that rebuke is found in Paul’s condemnation and cursing of Elymas the magician (Acts 13:8-11) and his exorcism of the spirit in the soothsaying girl of Philippi (Acts 16:16-18). Zechariah 3:1-7 also describes God directly rebuking Satan by saying, “The Lord rebuke you, O Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?” An additional evidence of rebuking language is found in Jude 1:9 when the archangel Michael spoke to Satan saying, “The Lord rebuke you!” Although there are some biblical examples for a verbal rebuke of the demonic, these examples demonstrate that it occurs in limited instances. Biblical rebukes are not formulaic, are brief, and are solely focused on the power and name of Christ. If a believer chooses to practice rebuking Satan and his demons, the rebuke should be specific to the situation, directly to the manifesting demon or Satan, and not done “with a spirit of arrogance,” understanding that our power and authority rests in Christ, not ourselves.<sup>21</sup> Caution is urged in utilizing a rebuke, for both false teachers are condemned for their ignorant, hasty, pride-filled rebukes towards the demonic (2 Pet 2:10-13; Jude 1:8-11). If a believer chooses to speak aloud in a situation of spiritual warfare, he should not primarily address the enemy but rather focus his prayers and concerns towards God for His power and work in the saving and protection of souls.



**Naming.** Naming is a tactic believed to gain power or authority over demons by discovering their names. Advocates postulate that since Christ found the name of the demonized Gadarene to be 'Legion' (Mark 5:9,15), that one should likewise make the same practice with both individual and territorial spirits.<sup>22</sup> "Legion" may be more descriptive of the plurality and multiplicity of the demons rather than a demon's specific name. Even if that was one particular demon's name, Christ's awareness of its name gave him no additional power or ability to exorcise it, for He already possessed in His own nature and name, the sufficient power for exorcism as the Creator of all angelic beings (Isa 45:22-23; Rom 14:11). Identifying names of demons is not suggested, practiced, or recommended anywhere else in Scripture so it is unwise to make much of this method.

**Repentance issues.** Some warfare practitioners make special mention of the importance of believers confessing and repenting of every known sin in fear that they may have given Satan a special gateway into their lives. They utilize long lists of possible sins and prayers of repentance and renouncement of Satan's lies.<sup>23</sup> They point to Acts 19:18 where believers came out after coming to faith, "confessing and divulging their practices." Repentance is clearly important both in conversion and sanctification, but there are particular cautions that must be made to those who emphasize repentance and renouncement in spiritual warfare. Unbelievers should realize that repentance is necessary for salvation (Acts 2:38, 3:19, 20:21), but that once one is in Christ, "there is therefore now no condemnation" (Rom 8:1). Danger lies in repentance becoming a ritual or formula and not sincerely from the heart. There should not be an unhealthy fear of one's own limited ability to remember past sins, as if salvation is dependent on verbal confession of each and every past sin.

**Vulnerability.** Many are concerned with perceived levels of vulnerability to demons. Some argue that vulnerability can

occur through "contact with physical objects," "the curses of others," "genealogical transmission," or due to "geographic location."<sup>24</sup> This view states that one should not be "outwitted by Satan" since one can anticipate and be aware of his "designs" (2 Cor 2:11).<sup>25</sup> In this passage Paul is not suggesting a cat and mouse game with Satan but rather, as seen in the context, is explaining that Satan seeks to destroy unity in the church through a lack of forgiveness (2 Cor 2:5-10).

Nevertheless, vulnerability to items and locations continues as an issue that arises in spiritual warfare. Many are convinced that "demons can and do attach themselves to objects, to houses, or other buildings, to animals and to people."<sup>26</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:18-20 is often referenced as support of this view in light of food being sacrificed to idols. In consideration of 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, however, it is seen that the conscience, not the food, is the issue as it might cause concern in leading others astray. These passages do caution against provoking God to jealousy through carelessness in casually taking part in activities dedicated to demons.

A final vulnerability reference is given in Acts 19:19 where new believers burned their magic books. This action was not for fear of demonic power but rather served as a public act of repentance (renunciation and confession) of their changed lives. These scriptural examples are not about vulnerability to items or locations, but are about the changed heart Christ desires to see in believers.<sup>27</sup>

**Genealogical connections.** Some claim that Satan has claims on people through multiple generations due to the sins of their ancestors. Kraft states that he uses "the power of Christ to break generational curses, vows, dedications and rights given to the enemy through sin by the person's ancestors."<sup>28</sup> Other advocates of generational sin point to passages such as Exodus 20:5, 34:7; Numbers 14:18; and Deuteronomy 5:9. This concept of demons passing through generations is one which "occasionally appears

in animistic religions,” but that is not taught by Scripture.<sup>29</sup> Chuck Lawless and John Franklin point out that God is the actor in these passages, not Satan, and that the cross of Christ broke all curses so that the “old has passed away” and believers are free from the condemnation of their past (2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 8:1).<sup>30</sup>

### **Strategic Level (Territorial Spirits)**

Strategic level spiritual warfare is an approach that confronts demonic spirits that are geographically assigned and of a higher power and responsibility among Satan’s workers. The concept behind this methodology is that if you can identify and map these demons you will gain a knowledge that helps you to free a particular geographical area from demonic oppression. This battle is viewed as happening in the air, but one that still affects believers on the ground. Emphasis is on repentance from the corporate sin in a particular nation or culture.

Strategic level warfare also upholds warfare prayer as a weapon that allows the gospel to go forth where it would not otherwise be able to take root. Some of these theories come from “tribal views of spiritual warfare” and although they are found in intertestamental Judaism, they are not supported within the New Testament.<sup>31</sup> Chuck Lowe comments on the Reformers’ views, that “for Calvin, no less than for Luther, Scripture provides all that is needed for spiritual warfare.”<sup>32</sup>

Territorial spirits are the main focus of strategic level spiritual warfare. This concept comes from the references to the Princes of Persia and Greece in Daniel 10:13, 20, 21; 12:1-2. Strategic level spiritual warfare advocates contend that “Satan does indeed assign a demon or a corps of demons to every geo-political unit in the world and that they are among the principalities and powers against whom we wrestle.”<sup>33</sup> Strategic level warriors also believe that as they come to know and understand the identities and rankings of the geo-political gods they can better pray against them so that they can free “those who are perishing” from “having their minds blinded by

the god of this age” (2 Cor 4:4).<sup>34</sup> They consider their interaction with territorial spirits to be “major league warfare” in contrast to personal deliverance ministries and emphasize the need for expertise in this field, or “Satan will eat you for breakfast.”<sup>35</sup>

Some of these strategic level spiritual warfare methods were known, but not practiced, during the middle ages.<sup>36</sup> Others point out that there is “little biblical warrant for a number of the teachings and practices associated with some forms of spiritual conflict which focus on territorial spirits.”<sup>37</sup> Wayne Grudem reinforces this point by stating,

in no instance does anyone in the New Testament (1) summon a “territorial spirit” upon entering an area to preach the gospel . . . or (2) demand information from demons about a local demonic hierarchy, (3) say that we should believe or teach information derived from demons, or (4) teach by word or example that certain “demonic strongholds” over a city have to be broken before the gospel can be proclaimed with effectiveness.<sup>38</sup>

Strategic level spiritual warfare is mere speculation derived and reinforced by anecdotal evidence. A believer’s effectiveness in gospel sharing is solely dependent on Christ’s power.

### **The Believer as Proclaimer**

Believers must be concerned with spiritual warfare in their own lives in order to be used effectively in evangelistic ministry and disciple making. Christians are reminded in Scripture of their need to “stand firm” (Eph 6:13) and “resist” (Jas 4:7) the devil. Satan’s testing of Job teaches Job to have an “increased awareness of God’s greatness and his own sinfulness” and of the “the necessity of submitting to God’s sovereign purposes.”<sup>39</sup> MacArthur points out Satan’s sifting of Peter being instructive for in Peter’s realization that “he could not stand on his own.”<sup>40</sup> Christians’ purpose is to love and glorify God and to make His glory and love known to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8; Matt 28:19; Mark 12:30,31). Biblical methods in spiritual warfare are seen in putting on the full armor of God daily and petitioning



the Lord in prayer (Eph 6:10-20) so that he might provide the workers for the harvest (Luke 10:2).

Satan desires to disrupt and hinder the Christian witness. The devil opposed Paul as he sought to visit the church of Thessalonica. Both “the evangelist and the work of evangelism is opposed on every hand by tremendous spiritual forces.”<sup>41</sup>

The harassment of Christian witness is also seen in Paul’s description of his thorn in the flesh (2 Cor 12:7), a “messenger of Satan.” Whether this was an actual demon or some sort of physical or mental suffering is not significant. It is important to notice that in his suffering “Paul didn’t attempt to bind, rebuke, or cast out this satanic messenger. He simply prayed to the Lord for its removal. Certainly God was able to do as Paul prayed, but He chose not to.”<sup>42</sup> Paul’s trust in God’s sovereignty is essential to understanding a biblical view of spiritual warfare.

Satan also wants to hinder Gospel work by giving practitioners “a false sense of victory in spiritual warfare.”<sup>43</sup> Lucifer wants believers to follow a ritualistic model for spiritual warfare, rather than an approach that is defined by Scripture and truth. Believers must realize that “conducting spiritual warfare by formula doesn’t work” for they “are not waging war according to the flesh,” but have divine power (2 Cor 10:3-4).<sup>44</sup>

**Summary of a Modern Understanding and Application of Spiritual Warfare** Evangelistic ministry intensifies spiritual warfare as “all evangelism involves spiritual warfare with the principalities and powers of evil.”<sup>45</sup> In disciple making, Satan and his demons attack in order to “oppose the spiritual progress of God’s people (Eph 6:12).”<sup>46</sup> Although there are many strategies and tactics in this war, manmade designs will fail and “only spiritual weapons can prevail, especially the Word and the Spirit, with prayer.”<sup>47</sup> Scripture is the test of all contemporary and popular developments in spiritual warfare. Christian believers must engage non-believers and believers with truth through the Spirit’s power “to proclaim and demonstrate the gospel” and to

“prevail over the forces of darkness.”<sup>48</sup>

“Whether the demonic part is 0 percent, 5 percent, 10 percent or 50 percent does not make any difference...the critical part is submitting to God. Resisting the devil is simple if there are no unresolved issues between us and our heavenly Father.” Neil Anderson, (*Discipleship Counseling*, 148)

<sup>1</sup>Moreau, *Deliver Us from Evil*, xxvi. <sup>2</sup>Ibid., 54. <sup>3</sup>Billy Graham, “Why the Berlin Congress?,” in *The World Congress on Evangelism* (Berlin: Wheaton College, 1966). <sup>4</sup>One will see some similarities in this approach to Anderson’s lack of evangelistic appeal. <sup>5</sup>MacArthur, *Standing Strong*, 28. <sup>6</sup>C. Peter Wagner, *How to Have a Healing Ministry without Making Your Church Sick* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1988), 255. <sup>7</sup>Kraft, *Confronting Powerless Christianity*, 59-60. <sup>8</sup>Kraft, *Confronting Powerless Christianity*, 200. <sup>9</sup>Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985), 473-74. <sup>10</sup>Ibid., 474. <sup>11</sup>Ibid. <sup>12</sup>Douglas and Graham, *Let the Earth Hear His Voice*, 894. <sup>13</sup>Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 474. <sup>14</sup>MacArthur, *Standing Strong*, 25-26. <sup>15</sup>Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 474. <sup>16</sup>Hiebert, *Case Studies in Missions*, 24. In one example demonstrating the widespread influence of ancestor worship, over 90 percent of the Chinese in Taiwan “do not want to become Christians because they must give up ancestor practices.” <sup>17</sup>Douglas and Graham, *Let the Earth Hear His Voice*, 895. <sup>18</sup>Wagner and Pennoyer, *Wrestling with Dark Angels*, 78. <sup>19</sup>Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 418. <sup>20</sup>John Franklin and Chuck Lawless, *Spiritual Warfare: Biblical Truth for Victory* (Nashville: LifeWay Press, 2001), 153-54. <sup>21</sup>Franklin and Lawless, *Spiritual Warfare*, 153-54. <sup>22</sup>Wagner and Pennoyer, *Wrestling with Dark Angels*, 84. <sup>23</sup>Anderson, *The Bondage Breaker*, 199-252. <sup>24</sup>Anderson, *The Bondage Breaker*, 14-18; Rommen, *Spiritual Power and Missions*, 19. <sup>25</sup>Wagner and Pennoyer, *Wrestling with Dark Angels*, 76. <sup>26</sup>Ibid. <sup>27</sup>It is important to note that the Holy Spirit’s power is described as flowing in faith through objects such as Jesus’ cloak (Luke 8:44), handkerchiefs/aprons (Acts 19:12), and even shadows (Acts 5:15). <sup>28</sup>Kraft, *Confronting Powerless Christianity*, 216. <sup>29</sup>Rommen, *Spiritual Power and Missions*, 67. <sup>30</sup>Franklin and Lawless, *Spiritual Warfare*, 155-58. <sup>31</sup>Hiebert, *Case Studies in Missions*, 3; Chuck Lowe, *Territorial Spirits and World Evangelisation: A Biblical, Historical and Missiological Critique of Strategic-Level Spiritual Warfare* (Fearn, Scotland: Mentor/OMF, 1998), 84. <sup>32</sup>Lowe, *Territorial Spirits*, 97. <sup>33</sup>C. Peter Wagner, ed., *Territorial Spirits: Insights on Strategic-Level Spiritual Warfare from Nineteen Christian Leaders* (Chichester, England: Sovereign World, 1991), 52. <sup>34</sup>Wagner and Pennoyer, *Wrestling with Dark Angels*, 75. <sup>35</sup>Ibid., 86-87. <sup>36</sup>Lowe, *Territorial Spirits*, 88. <sup>37</sup>Moreau, *Deliver Us from Evil*, xxvi. <sup>38</sup>Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 421. <sup>39</sup>MacArthur, *Standing Strong*, 31. <sup>40</sup>Ibid., 34. <sup>41</sup>Graham, “Why the Berlin

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Congress?" <sup>42</sup>MacArthur, *Standing Strong*, 33. <sup>43</sup>Wagner and Pennoyer, *Wrestling with Dark Angels*, 86. <sup>44</sup>Lawless, *Discipled Warriors*, 214. <sup>45</sup>Nichols and Graham, *The Whole Gospel for the Whole World*, 116. <sup>46</sup>Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 472. <sup>47</sup>Nichols and Graham, *The Whole Gospel for the Whole World*, 116. <sup>48</sup>"Cape Town Commitment—a Declaration of Belief and a Call to Action," in *Lausanne 3: The International Congress on World Evangelization* (Cape Town, South Africa: The Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, 2010), 6.

## BIBLE VERSES ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- Scriptural accuracy is the primary concern of this and any critique of a work on spiritual warfare.
- We must evaluate writings to determine if they consistently present the whole scriptural message on spiritual warfare, or if they omit, overemphasize, or present any areas in an imbalanced manner.
- Furthermore, we must examine their usage of particular biblical passages to understand if the author accurately communicates the biblical meaning.

***Here are some of the most helpful Scriptures and passages to prioritize in understanding Spiritual Warfare in the Bible:***

Genesis 3:1,4 "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"... 'You will not surely die,' the serpent said to the woman."

Deuteronomy 7:25-26 "The carved images of their gods you shall burn with fire. You shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them or take it for yourselves, lest you be ensnared by it, for it is an abomination to the LORD your God. And you shall not bring an abominable thing into your house and become devoted to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is devoted to destruction."

2 Chronicles 7:14 “if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land”

#### Job 1 & 2

Job 1:7-12 “The LORD said to Satan, ‘From where have you come?’ Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.’ And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?’ Then Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.’ And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.’ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.”

Job 1:20-22 “Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.’ In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.”

Job 2:2-6 “And the LORD said to Satan, ‘From where have you come?’ Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.’ And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason.’ Then Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse

you to your face.’ And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.’”

Job 2:9,10 “Then his wife said to him, ‘Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.’ But he said to her, ‘You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?’ In all this Job did not sin with his lips.”

Job 33:29-30 “Behold, God does all these things, twice, three times, with a man, to bring back his soul from the pit, that he may be lighted with the light of life”

Job 35:9 “Because of the multitude of oppressions people cry out; they call for help because of the arm of the mighty.”

Job 37:14 “Hear this, O Job; stop and consider the wondrous works of God.”

Job 42:1-3,6 “Then Job answered the LORD and said: ‘I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know... therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

Job 42:12 “And the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning.”

#### Matthew 4

Matthew 4:10-11 “Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.”

Matthew 10:1 “He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.”

#### Matthew 12:22-32

Matthew 12:28-30 "But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. "Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house. 'He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters'"

Matthew 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away"

Matthew 26:53 "Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"

Mark 1:27 "The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him."

Mark 5

Mark 5:19-20 "Jesus did not let him, but said, 'Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.' So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed."

Mark 9:14-29

Mark 9:28-29 "After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, 'Why couldn't we drive it out?' He replied, 'This kind can come out only by prayer.'"

Luke 10:17-20 "The seventy-two returned with joy and said, 'Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.' He replied, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. *I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.* However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but *rejoice that your names are written in heaven.*'"

Luke 11:24-26 "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first.'"

Acts 10:38 "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him."

Acts 19:11-26

Acts 19:14-16 "Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded."

Acts 19:18-20 "Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily."

Romans 8:1-2 "***Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*** because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death."

Romans 8:15 "***For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship.*** And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"

Romans 8:26-27 "26In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our



weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."

Romans 8:31-39 "What, then, shall we say in response to this? *If God is for us, who can be against us?* He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: 'For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.' **No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**"

Romans 12 & 13

Romans 12:1-2 "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. "

Romans 12:9, 11-12 "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good...Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

Romans 12:19-21 "Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Romans 13:1-2 "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves."

Romans 13:11-14 "And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature."

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 "And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve."

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 "So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For

the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Galatians 6:1,2 “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:7,8 “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.”

Ephesians 2:1-7 “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. **But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.** And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 2:12-13 “remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:26-27 “In your anger do not sin’: Do not let the sun

go down while you are still angry, and ***do not give the devil a foothold.***”

Ephesians 6:10-20 “***Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ***And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.*** With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Hebrews 13:5-6 “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?’”

James 1:12-15 “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown

of life that God has promised to those who love him. When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

James 1:22-25 "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does."

James 2:10, 18-19 "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it...But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder."

James 4:3-9 "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you

up."

James 5:13-16 "Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

James 5:19-20 "My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins."

1 Peter 5:8-9 "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings"

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 4 & 1 John 4:2-4 "This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. ***You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.***"

1 John 4:6,10-15 "We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood... This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved

us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.

1 John 5:18 ***“We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.”***

2 John 9 & 10 “Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.”

Revelation 12:10-12 “Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. ***They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*** Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

Revelation 20 “And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short

time...Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. ***And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”***



# SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

*Here are some of the most helpful Scriptures and passages to understand Spiritual Warfare from the New Testament:*

Genesis 3:1, 4 – Satan the Serpent

Genesis 50:20 – Relationship between Evil and Good

Leviticus 16:6-10 – God’s Atoning Sacrifices

Leviticus 17:7 – Demonic Sacrifices

Leviticus 19:26 – Omens and Fortunes

Leviticus 19:31; 20:6,27 – Mediums and Necromancers

Deuteronomy 7:25-26 – Idols

Deuteronomy 18:10-12 – Human Sacrifices, Divination, Fortunes, Omens, Sorcerer, Charmer, Medium, Necromancer, Inquires of the Dead

Deuteronomy 32:16-18 – Sacrifices to Demons

1 Samuel 16:14-16, 23 – Harmful spirit from the Lord

1 Samuel 28 & 1 Chronicles 10:13-14 – Saul and the Medium of En-Dor

2 Samuel 24:1; 2 Samuel 24:10, 15; 1 Chronicles 21:1 –

## Numbering of Israel

1 Kings 22:19-23; 2 Chronicles 18:19-27 ; Jeremiah 14:14 – Micaiah’s Vision and the Lying Spirit, Lying Vision, Worthless Divination, and the Deceit of their Own Minds

2 Kings 6:11-23 – Elisha and his servant – horses and chariots of fire

2 Chronicles 7:14 – Repentance

2 Chronicles 33:1-13 – Manasseh’s evil but eventual repentance

Job 1 and 2 – Satan’s Access to God and Attack of Job

Job 4:12-21 – Eliphaz’s Nighttime encounter

Job 33:29-30; Job 35:9; Job 37:14; Job 42:1-3,6; Job 42:12 – Job’s Progression

Psalms 106:36-38 – Idol and Demonic worship connected together and with human sacrifice

Psalms 115:4-8 – Idols and their futility

Isaiah 8:19-22 – Futility of Mediums and Necromancers

Isaiah 9:6 – Names of God

Isaiah 14:3-23 – Fallen from Heaven

Isaiah 26:13-15 – Dead described as “shades”

Isaiah 29:4 - “Like the voice of a ghost”

Ezekiel 13:17-23 – Magic Bands, Veils, Hunting for Souls

Ezekiel 28:11-19 – King of Tyre

Daniel 2:10-11, 17-19, 27-30, 45 – Inability of Demons and Humans to Read Minds and Dreams

Daniel 4:34 – Nebuchadnezzar and reason

Zechariah 3:1-7 – The Lord’s Rebuke of Satan

# SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

*Here are some of the most helpful Scriptures and passages to understand Spiritual Warfare from the New Testament:*

Matthew 4:1-11—Satan's Temptation of Jesus

Matthew 10:1 – Disciples' Authority to Drive Out Demons, Heal

Matthew 12:28-30 – Driving Out Demons & “Strong Man”

Matthew 12:43-45 (also Luke 11:24-26) – Must be filled with God

Matthew 16:23 – Jesus' Rebuke of Peter

Matthew 17:14-20 – Jesus' Healing of a Boy with a Demon

Matthew 24:35 – Eternal Nature of God's Words

Matthew 26:53 – Jesus' Access to Angels

Mark 1:23-28 – Casting Out of a Demon in a Galilean Synagogue

Mark 1:32-34 – Many Demons Cast Out

Mark 5:19-20 – God's Mercy Seen in Casting Out Demons

Mark 9:28-29 – Demon driven out by Jesus through prayer

Luke 8:1-2 – Mary Magdalene had seven demons, women with Jesus healed of evil spirits and physically as well

Luke 10:17-20 – 72 return

Luke 11:24-26 (also Matthew 12:43-45) – Empty House

Luke 22:31-32 – Jesus' Prayer for Peter

John 13:2 – Devil and Judas

Acts 5:3-5 – Satan and Ananias

Acts 5:12-16 – Healed of unclean spirits

Acts 8:4-8 – Unclean spirits coming out

Acts 8:9-13 – Simon the magician

Acts 10:38 - Jesus “healing all who were under the power of the devil” (part of comprehensive gospel presentation by Peter in Acts 10:34-43)

Acts 13:8-11 - Elymas the magician

Acts 16:16-18 – Girl harassing Paul and others

Acts 19:11-12 – God's power through Paul and handkerchiefs and aprons

Acts 19:14-16 – Seven sons of Sceva

Acts 19:18-20 – Repentance, Confession, Burning of Magic Books

Romans 3:23 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:1-2 “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.”

Romans 8:15 “For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’”

Romans 8:26-27 "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."

Romans 8:31-39 – Security of the Believer

Romans 10:9-10 "because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

Romans 12:1-2 – Bodies offered as living sacrifices

Romans 12:9, 11-12 "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good . . . Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

Romans 12:19-21 – Do not be overcome by evil

Romans 13:1-2 – submission to government

Romans 13:11-14 – put on the armor of light

1 Corinthians 5:4-5 – "deliver this man to Satan"

1 Corinthians 7:5 – sexual intimacy in marriage and Satan's temptation

1 Corinthians 10:20-22 – pagan sacrifices to demons

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 – manifestation of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:27-31 – roles and gifts within the church

1 Corinthians 14:20 – infants in evil, mature in thinking

1 Corinthians 15:24-26 "Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put

all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death."

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 – forgiveness and Satan's designs

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 – god of this world

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 "And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve."

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 "So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." NOTE: Paul's use of "messenger" is the Greek word *angelos*, which in his 33 other uses of it in the Scriptures it is translated "angel."

Galatians 4:3 "enslaved to the elementary principles of the world."

Galatians 5:1 "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

Galatians 6:1-2 – restore and keep watch

Galatians 6:7-8 – sowing and reaping

Ephesians 2:1-7 - former followers of Satan

Ephesians 2:12-13 – once without God

Ephesians 4:26-27 – anger and Satan's foothold

Ephesians 6:10-20 - the armor of God  
Colossians 2:6-8 – captive to philosophy, deceit, tradition, elemental spirits  
Colossians 2:15 – disarmed and shamed  
1 Thessalonians 2:17-18 – Satan's hindering  
1 Thessalonians 3:5 - tempter  
2 Thessalonians 2:9-11 – the lawless one and Satan's activity  
1 Timothy 1:18-20 – wage the good warfare, handed over to Satan  
1 Timothy 3:6-7 – conceit and the condemnation of the devil  
1 Timothy 4:1-2 – deceitful spirits and teaching of demons  
1 Timothy 5:11-15 – young widows and Satan's tactic  
2 Timothy 2:24-26 – escaping the snare of the devil  
2 Timothy 3:16-17 – Scripture's profitability  
Hebrews 2:14-15 –destroying the devil and delivering the slaves  
Hebrews 13:5-6 – God's protective presence  
James 1:12-15 – source of temptation  
James 1:22-25 – hearing and doing the Word of God  
James 2:10 – guilt under the law  
James 2:18-19 – demonic belief in God  
James 3:15-16 – earthly, unspiritual, demonic wisdom  
James 4:1 – passions at war  
James 4:3-9 – resist the devil  
James 5:13-16 – confession, prayer, and healing  
James 5:19-20 – turning a sinner

1 Peter 5:8-9 – devil is prowling like a lion  
2 Peter 2:10-13 – blaspheming the glorious ones  
1 John 1:9 – confession and forgiveness  
1 John 3:8-10 – children of the devil  
1 John 4:1-6 – test the spirits  
1 John 4:10-15 – love and acknowledgment of Jesus as the Son of God  
1 John 4:18-19 – no fear in love  
1 John 5:14-15 – ask according to His will  
1 John 5:18 – born of God, evil one does not touch  
2 John 9 and 10 – abide in the teaching of Christ  
Jude 1:8-10 – Michael, the devil, blaspheming the glorious ones, and rebuking language  
Revelation 2:9-10 – Smyrna, synagogue of Satan  
Revelation 2:13 – Pergamum, Satan's throne  
Revelation 2:24 – Thyatira, deep things of Satan  
Revelation 3:9 – Philadelphia, synagogue of Satan  
Revelation 9:20-21 – worship of demons and idols  
Revelation 12:7-12 – war in Heaven  
Revelation 16:13-14 – demonic spirits  
Revelation 18:2 – fallen is Babylon  
Revelation 20:1-10 “And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until



the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

"Truth is so obscure in these times, and falsehood so established, that, unless we love the truth, we cannot know it." Blaise Pascal

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE END TIMES?

### **20 Things Jesus Wants to Tell You About the End Times (Matthew 24 & 25)**

Jesus' disciples asked Him about His second coming and the end times. They wanted to know when it would happen and what signs to expect. Here are 20 of the most important truths Jesus gives us about the end times. Are you ready for His return?

#### **The Question - What Is the Timing & What Are the Signs of Jesus' Return?**

Matthew 24:3-5 "As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?'"

#### **1. People Will Try to Convince You They Are Jesus or Prophets From God- They Will Deceive Many**

- Matthew 24:4, 11, 23-26 "And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. [5] For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. ... [11] And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ...[23] Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. [24] For false

christ and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. [25] See, I have told you beforehand. [26] So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it."

- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 "Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, [2] not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. [3] Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, [4] who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. [5] Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? [6] And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. [7] For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. [8] And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. [9] The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, [10] and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. [11] Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, [12] in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

- Revelation 13 - The Beast

## **2. There Will Be Many Wars, Famines, Widespread Disease, & Earthquakes to Precede Jesus' Return**

- Matthew 24:6-7 "And you will hear of wars and rumors of

wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. [7] For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places."

- Luke 21:10-11 "Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. [11] There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.'"

## **3. Expect a Long, Difficult, Painful Season of Suffering Before Jesus Comes**

Matthew 24:8 "All these are but the beginning of the birth pains."

## **4. Faithful Christians Will Suffer, Endure Hatred, and Be Killed But Will Endure to the End**

- Matthew 24:9, 13 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. ...But the one who endures to the end will be saved."
- Matthew 10:21-23 "Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, [22] and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. [23] When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

## **5. Faithless, Nominal "Christians" Will Turn From Christ & Turn Against One Another**

Matthew 24:10, 12 "And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. ... [12] And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold."

## **6. Everyone Will Hear of Jesus, Submit to & Honor Him, & Be Held Accountable for Their Lives**

Matthew 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be

proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

- Isaiah 45:23 “By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:24–28 “Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. [25] For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. [26] The last enemy to be destroyed is death. [27] For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. [28] When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.”
- Philippians 2:9–11 “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
- Romans 14:11–12 “for it is written, ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’ [12] So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.”
- Revelation 5:13 “And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, ‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!’”

#### **7. Daniel’s Prophecies Fulfilled - Temple’s Destruction & Desecration with the Image of the Antichrist (The Abomination of Desolation)**

- Matthew 24:15-20 “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), [16] then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. [17] Let the one who is on

the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, [18] and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. [19] And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! [20] Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath.”

- Daniel 9:26-27 “Desolations are decreed. [27] And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”

#### **8. Unprecedented Suffering**

Matthew 24:21-22 “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. [22] And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.”

#### **9. Impossible to Miss - Visible to All**

- Matthew 24:27-28, 30 “For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. [28] Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. ... [30] Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”
- Acts 1:11 “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

#### **10. Sun, Moon, & Stars Darkened**

Matthew 24:29-31 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”

#### **11. Faithful Christians Will Be Gathered Together From Across**

**the World**

- Matthew 24:31 “And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”
- 1 Corinthians 15 - The Resurrection of the Dead
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 - The Coming of the Lord

**12. The Suffering Has Begun - The Kingdom Is Already Here But Not Yet Fulfilled**

- Matthew 24:32-34 ““From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. [33] So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. [34] Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.”
- Matthew 3:2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

**13. The World & Skies Will Change - But God’s Word Remains Constant and True**

Matthew 24:35 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

**14. The Timing of Jesus’ Return Is Secret but Will Be Sudden Be Spiritually Ready**

Like the Days of Noah - Matthew 24:36-44 - “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. [37] For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. [38] For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, [39] and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. [40] Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. [41] Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. [42] Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. [43] But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was

coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. [44] Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

**Be Faithfully Working**

The Faithful and Wise Servant - Matthew 24:45-51 - “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? [46] Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. [47] Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. [48] But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ [49] and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, [50] the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know [51] and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**Be Actively Watching**

The Parable of the Ten Virgins - Matthew 25:1-13 - “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ [7] Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. [8] And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ [9] But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ [10] And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. [11] Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ [12] But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ [13] Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”



**15. Don't Waste Your Life - Invest In Eternal Things**  
**A Wasted Life Evidences A Path Towards Hell - Dishonoring the Master**  
**An Invested Life Evidences A Path Towards Heaven - Honoring the Master**

The Parable of the Talents - Matthew 25:14-30 "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. [15] To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16] He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. [17] So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. [18] But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. [20] And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' [24] He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' [26] But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the

talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. [29] For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [30] And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

**16. When Jesus Returns All Will Be Judged and Sent to Heaven (Eternal Life) or Hell (Eternal Punishment) -**

The Final Judgment - Matthew 25:31-46 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. [32] Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. [33] And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. [34] Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. [35] For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [36] I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' [37] Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? [38] And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? [39] And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' [40] And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' [41] "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. [42] For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, [43] I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' [44] Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' [45] Then he will answer

them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46] And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

- 2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."
- Hebrews 9:27-28 "And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, [28] so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him."

### 17. Jesus' Judgement Is Inescapable

The Parable of the Weeds Explained - Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 "Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." [37] He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. [38] The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, [39] and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. [40] Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. [41] The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, [42] and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. [43] Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

- Matthew 8:11-12 "I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, [12] while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

### 18. Many Falsely Believe Themselves to Be Saved

I Never Knew You - Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. [22] On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' [23] And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"

### 19. Lack of Forgiveness to Others Evidences A Path Towards Hell

Matthew 18:34-35 "And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. [35] So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

### 20. Jesus Is With His True Followers Always, To The End of the Age

Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**If you knew the end times were here, how would your priorities change?** We never know when our last day of life will be, so we must seek to make the most of each day, always ready for Jesus' return.

You may not get additional opportunities to change your priorities. The time to change is now. We are urged to "repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2). Don't delay, this may be your last day.

- Have you submitted your life to Jesus' control?
- Are you following Him faithfully every day?
- Do you trust Jesus more than yourself?
- Does your life evidence a love of God?

JONATHANCARL

Prioritize Jesus by attending church every Sunday. We are blessed with many biblically faithful churches that will encourage and strengthen our faith in these difficult and dark days. Get in and stay in the Bible daily so you are in love with and led by your Savior's voice.

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN CHURCH HISTORY

“numerous accounts of demonization and exorcism as well as descriptions of the deceptive work of demons in pagan religions fill the writings of the church fathers.” Clinton Arnold

This survey of the historical writings, characters, and confessions of the Christian Church reinforces the importance of having an historical understanding of spiritual warfare. Early Christian references to the demonic can be found in the writings of Justin Martyr, Theophilus of Antioch, Tertullian, Hippolytus, Origen, Athanasius and many other early church fathers. Not only is spiritual warfare documented constantly “through the whole time period of the ancient church,” but spiritual warfare is also seen during the Middle Ages, the Reformation, and the early post-Reformation.

*More research and a free full book on the topic are available at [www.SpiritualWarfare.blog](http://www.SpiritualWarfare.blog)*

Exorcism practices seem “to diminish in the Middle Ages,” but are still referenced among the Germanic tribes, Norwegians, Thomas Aquinas, Bonaventure, Martin Luther, the Catholic Church's 1614 *Rituale Romanum* (exorcism guidelines), and other sources. The existence and activity of the devil and demons are widely evidenced and commonly believed across the history of the church until the post-Enlightenment era.

**Ante-Nicene Church Fathers**

Who were the Ante-Nicene Church Fathers? They were church leaders before the First Council of Nicaea (AD 325) and they were both numerous and diverse. They almost all show some concern in addressing spiritual warfare issues among Christians and the church. Here are some short summaries and descriptions of how the early church fathers interacted with the demonic:

**Clement of Rome** - Clement of Rome, or Pope Clement I, is believed to have been a disciple of Peter and a co-worker with Paul (Phil 4:3; AD 57) and one of the first leaders of the church. In his letter to the church at Corinth, Clement references the war-like nature of the call for Christians to “act the part of soldiers” in following the commandments of Christ. (Clement, First Epistle of the Blessed Clement the Disciple of Peter (ANF 1:5)) [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/clement-of-rome](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/clement-of-rome)

**Mathetes** - The Epistle of Mathetes to Diognetus (c. AD 130) is an early writing. The author or recipient of the letter is unknown, but Mathetes “was possibly a catechumen of St. Paul or of one of the apostle's associates” and “is, perhaps, the first of the apologists.” References the serpent multiple times. His references surround the serpent's attempts to deceive and place false knowledge into the lives of believers. [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/mathetes](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/mathetes)

**Polycarp** - Polycarp (AD 69-155) was a disciple of John and other apostles, in contact with many eyewitnesses of Christ, and an early leader of the Christian church. Mentions little concerning spiritual warfare, but does point to the fact that “whosoever does not confess the testimony of the cross, is of the devil.” “Whosoever does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, is antichrist”, that “whosoever perverts the oracles of the Lord to his own lusts, and says that there is neither a resurrection nor a judgment, he is the first-born of Satan.” Does not reinforce any specific encounter approaches. Reveals that there is significance in understanding that all humanity is allied with either Christ or the devil. [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/)

polycarp

**Ignatius** - Ignatius was an early church father (AD 30-107) linked with the Apostle John, Eusebius, and Polycarp. “Scarcely possible to exaggerate the importance of the testimony which the Ignatian letters offer to the dogmatic character of Apostolic Christianity.” (John Bonaventure O’Connor, “St. Ignatius of Antioch,” in The Catholic Encyclopedia 7 ). Includes seven credible letters but early church history reveals eight additional writings that are likely later, spurious forgeries, two credible letters and three spurious letters contain spiritual warfare language. Refers to Satan as literally warring against him. Ignatius fights back through “meekness, by which the devil, the prince of this world, is brought to nought. The Epistle of Ignatius to the Trallians refers to Satan as the “wicked one” , “put on your guard” and to “forsee the snares of the devil.” Asserting that “all evil spirits have departed from the servants of God”. He is “an enemy to these [spirits]” in destroying “all the devices of these [evil spirits].” Clarity and certainty with which Ignatius describes demonic spirits shows that he believes the battle is real holds that believers should actively oppose Satan and his demons.

Spurious writings communicate many more references to spiritual warfare, particularly to the power encounter approach. “I salute the sub-deacons, the readers, the singers, the doorkeepers, the labourers, the exorcists, the confessors.” (Ignatius, The Epistle of Ignatius to the Antiochians (ANF 1:110)). Mary of Cassobelæ to Ignatius, describes some “who were possessed of a wicked spirit as being false in their speech, and deceivers of the people” as well as referencing the “deceit of the demons.” Activity of both the demons and the possessed focuses on deception. The Epistle to the Philippians, contains perhaps the most references to Satan in many of the ancient church writings with half of the chapter titles directly referencing Satan Despite the biblical nature of many of the spiritual warfare references in the



fraudulent writings, their inconsistencies lend little weight to an early date. These spurious writings, with additional emphasis on exorcism, possession, and spiritual warfare, cause concern that there was an attempt to over-emphasize and influence theology and practice where the early church did not. [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/ignatius](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/ignatius)

**Barnabas** - The Epistle of Barnabas is a writing whose authorship is circumspect in many ways. Its dating is early, but its veiled authorship leaves some wondering as to its actual importance and significance. "Before we believed in God, the habitation of our heart was corrupt and weak, as being indeed like a temple made with hands. For it was full of idolatry, and was a habitation of demons, through our doing such things as were opposed to [the will of] God." [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/barnabas](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/barnabas)

**Justin Martyr** -(AD 110-165), a Gentile born in Samaria, was a philosopher who came to Christ upon witnessing the "extraordinary fearlessness which the Christians displayed in the presence of death." In the arena of spiritual warfare, Justin Martyr provides the most significant insight into the Christian understanding of spiritual warfare in the early church.

Justin Martyr - *The First Apology*

- "since of old these evil demons, effecting apparitions of themselves, both defiled women and corrupted boys, and showed such fearful sights to men, that those who did not use their reason in judging of the actions that were done, were struck with terror; and being carried away by fear, and not knowing that these were demons, they called them gods, and gave to each the name which each of the demons chose for himself"
- "wicked and impious demons."
- demons are accusers who seek to "divert you from reading and understanding" the writing and teaching of Christian leaders

- manifestations through "appearances in dreams" and "by magical impositions" to subdue hold mankind as "slaves and servants."
- asserts that the believer is to "stand aloof from them (i.e. demons)" and "embrace chastity" while dedicating themselves to God and valuing Him above all other things
- Putting on righteousness is a key emphasis of Martyr's approach to spiritual warfare
- Justin expounds on how "the demons still mislead men" through the example of the Samaritans Simon and Meander, "who did many mighty works by magic, and deceived many, and still keep them deceived"
- Simon appeared before the Roman people and senate during the reign of Claudius Cæsar, leading to his deification and honor through a statue
- shows an integration of manifestation with deception through the examples of men
- asks for the destruction of Simon's statue as well as a reminder not to "be entangled by that man's doctrines" but rather to "learn the truth, and so be able to escape error"
- emphasizes a truth encounter approach to spiritual warfare but also upholds the importance of destroying objects of false, demonic worship
- explains how some of the false religions, specifically in the temples of Greek gods, are but demonic imitations of biblical worship.
- He evidences this imitation in the practices of washings, libations, burnt offerings, sprinkling, and shoe removal, directly connecting this with a mockery of Moses' encounter with God in the burning bush.

Justin Martyr - *The Second Apology*

- He describes "the evil demons" as hating Christians and endeavoring to keep unbelievers "subject to

themselves”

- specifically credits the demons as influencing human judges with the purpose of putting Christians to death.
- credits the “influence of the wicked demons” for the suffering and persecution of some “earnest men, such as Socrates,” while others such as “Sardanapalus, Epicurus, and the like, seem to be blessed in abundance and glory”
- Justin upholds each man’s personal responsibility for his actions, asserting, “each man by free choice acts rightly or sins.”
- Demonic influence towards sin occurs through a multitude of avenues, “partly by magical writings, and partly by fears and the punishments they occasioned, and partly by teaching them to offer sacrifices, and incense, and libations, of which things they stood in need after they were enslaved by lustful passions.”
- Justin reminds us that Christ was incarnate partially “for the destruction of the demons.”
- Justin points to the practice of exorcism. This is one of the earliest and most well attested references to the practice and office of exorcist. He describes “numberless demoniacs throughout the whole world, and in your city,” and how “many of our Christian men [are] exorcising them in the name of Jesus Christ, who was crucified under Pontius Pilate.” He points out how these Christians “have healed and do heal, rendering helpless and driving the possessing devils out of the men, though they could not be cured by all the other exorcists, and those who used incantations and drugs.”

#### Justin Martyr - *The Dialogue with Trypho*

- This work is historically significant as “it is the first elaborate exposition of the reasons for regarding Christ as the Messiah of the Old Testament, and the first systematic attempt to exhibit the false position of

the Jews in regard to Christianity.”

- characterizes Satan principally as a liar, “as therefore the devil lied at the beginning, so did he also in the end.”
- Satan’s battle is clearly to “to deceive and lead astray the mind of man into disobeying the commandments of God, and gradually to darken the hearts of those who would endeavour to serve him, to the forgetting of the true God, but to the adoration of himself as God.”
- call for believers to “pray to be kept by Him from strange, i.e., from wicked and deceitful, spirits.”
- before conversion, believers served such demons, but now they have the power of Jesus’ name that “even the demons do fear; and at this day, when they are exorcised in the name of Jesus Christ, crucified under Pontius Pilate, governor of Judæa, they are overcome.”
- describing non-believers, Justin categorizes them alongside the demonic, as both refuse to obey the will of God and “do the works of the devil.”
- he affirms that there is no middle ground or neutral territory in spiritual warfare.
- that false religious practices originate with the devil and are but imitations of God’s great work
- points biblically to the Magi in Egypt and the false prophets in Elijah’s days but then connects such false worship to Greek gods such as Bacchus son of Jupiter, Semele, Hercules, Jove of Alcmene, and Æsculapius.
- reminds the believer of his authority in Christ they “exorcise all demons and evil spirits, have them subjected to us.”
- this authority to overcome and subdue the evil spirits is effective over “every demon.”
- Such authority is only definitively extended in the name of Christ, never in the names of “kings, or righteous men, or prophesy, or patriarchs” and only possibly if exorcised in the name of “the God of

Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”

- reminds Trypho of how other Jewish and Gentile exorcists attempt exorcism with craft, but to no avail

#### Justin Martyr - a summary

- exposes a comprehensive and thoroughly biblical understanding of spiritual warfare
- demonic possession and exorcism did not cease with the apostolic age but continued into the early church
- power of Christ’s name and the knowledge of truth while condemning human-crafted techniques in spiritual warfare
- some of Justin’s other writings reveal some spiritual warfare themes, the Apologies and The Dialogue with Trypho presents an accurate understanding of his views and practices
- [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/justin-martyr](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/justin-martyr)

**Irenæus** - (AD 120-202) was a young leader in the church, a student under Polycarp, who quickly rose against the Gnostic heresies

- Against Heresies, Irenæus connects the heresies to the work of the devil to include a similar reference as Justin Martyr did to Simon Menander.
- Satan is “accustomed to lie against God, for the purpose of leading men astray.”
- work from the beginning was to murder and lie, and “the truth is not in him.”
- “Thus, then, the mystic priests belonging to this sect both lead profligate lives and practise magical arts, each one to the extent of his ability. They use exorcisms and incantations. Love-potions, too, and charms, as well as those beings who are called ‘Paredri’ (familiars) and ‘Oniropompi’ (dream-senders), and whatever other curious arts can be had recourse to, are eagerly pressed into their service.

They also have an image of Simon fashioned after the likeness of Jupiter, and another of Helena in the shape of Minerva; and these they worship. In fine, they have a name derived from Simon, the author of these most impious.” Irenæus, Irenæus Against Heresies (ANF 1:348)

- length and subject of Irenæus’ work might lead one to believe he might make more spiritual warfare references
- Irenæus’ focus is principally on directly addressing the Gnostic heresies, he indicates an understanding of the underlying problem.
- [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/irenaeus](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/irenaeus)

**Hermas** - The Pastor of Hermas (c. AD 160) was “one of the most popular books, if not the most popular book, in the Christian church during the second, third, and fourth centuries. It occupied a position analogous in some respects to that of Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress in modern times.”

- authorship is not certain, but its writing was early and its influence was immense. Origen considered it “divinely inspired,” while “Irenæus quotes it as Scripture,” and Eusebius mentions that many considered it an “admirable introduction to the Christian faith”
- second book of The Pastor of Hermas has three “commandments” with overtly spiritual warfare focused titles.
- The sixth Commandment is titled, “How to Recognise the Two Spirits Attendant on Each Man, and How to Distinguish the Suggestions of the One from Those of the Other.”
- The seventh Commandments is titled, “On Fearing God, and Not Fearing the Devil.”
- The twelfth Commandment is titled “On the Twofold Desire. The Commandments of God Can Be Kept, and

## Believers Ought Not to Fear the Devil.”

- . The sixth Commandment describes believers as inhabited by two angels, the angel of righteousness and the angel of iniquity
- . “understand them, and trust the angel of righteousness; but depart from the angel of iniquity, because his instruction is bad in every deed.”
- . best understood to describe the spiritual battle for our minds. The writer seeks to inspire the reader to awareness of and resistance to Satan’s temptations both in deceit and in behavior
- . seventh Commandment to encourage the believer not to fear the devil, “for, fearing the Lord, you will have dominion over the devil, for there is no power in him.”
- . fear the Lord in such a way that one not only avoids “that which is evil,” but does “that which is good.”
- . proper understanding of the power of the Lord is essential to a biblical understanding and application of the fear of the Lord.
- . twelfth Commandment of Hermas again encourages the believer not to fear the devil because he cannot “hold sway over the servants of God, who with all their heart place their hopes in Him.”
- . argues that the devil can wrestle against believers but true believers will resist the devil strongly and cannot be overthrown
- . Satan has no way of entering into (possessing) believers and instead goes into those whom are empty (non-believers)
- . the “angel of repentance” reminds believers that he was sent to be with those “who repent with all your heart, and to make you strong in faith.”
- . In the midst of repentance, there is not only strengthening, but there is healing of “former sins” by Christ
- . No matter the “threats of the devil,” the believer must

“fear them not at all, for he is powerless as the sinews of a dead man.”

- . Apart from Justin Martyr, the writer of The Pastor of Hermas provides the most depth and understanding to seeing the spiritual warfare beliefs and practices of the early church
- . [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/hermas](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/hermas)

**Tatian** - Tatian (AD 110-72) was an Assyrian believer and a student of Justin Martyr who eventually lived in Antioch.

- . Address of Tatian to the Greeks, he depicts demons in a frenzied attack against mankind, attacking through attempts to pervert their minds.
- . describes these demons as sometimes making themselves seen, exhibiting themselves in a way that leads men to fear or honor them
- . Demons, Tatian holds, “depart in terror” when “smitten by the word of God” which then leads to the sick being healed.
- . Tatian describes people entering into relationships with visiting demons
- . Those struggling with sickness, love, hatred, and revenge seek demonic assistance under false promises and assurances
- . [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/tatian](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/tatian)

**Tertullian** - (c.AD 145-220) was an early and extensively published author in the church

- . In his premier work, Apology, he affirms the existence of demons, saying that they are well known by both believers and philosophers
- . Socrates himself as self-attesting to a relationship with a demonic spirit from childhood
- . subtleness while unashamedly seeking the ruin and destruction of mankind through disease, calamity, and temptations



- “we are not cognizant of their actions save by its effects” due to their invisible and intangible nature
- the only “authority and power we have over them is from our naming the name of Christ, and recalling to their memory the woes with which God threatens them at the hands of Christ.”
- with this fear of Christ’s judgment that demons do become “subject to the servants of God” and “at our touch and breathing . . . they leave at our command the bodies they have entered, unwilling, and distressed, and before your very eyes put to an open shame.”
- Historian, Henry Kelly, explains that “No one was more aware than Tertullian of the demonic influences that surrounded the people of his day.
- “Tertullian did not indicate the existence of, or feel the need for, any special rite designed to set men free from the demonic influence when they became members of the Christian community—in addition, that is to the act of renunciation, and, of course, baptism itself.”
- Tertullian, in his lengthy description on repentance and baptism, places great emphasis on the confession of sins
- “They who are about to enter baptism ought to pray with repeated prayers, fasts, and bendings of the knee, and vigils all the night through, and with the confession of all bygone sins, that they may express the meaning even of the baptism of John: ‘They were baptized,’ saith (the Scripture), ‘confessing their own sins.’ To us it is matter for thankfulness if we do now publicly confess our iniquities or our turpitudes: for we do at the same time both make satisfaction for our former sins, by mortification of our flesh and spirit, and lay beforehand the foundation of defences against the temptations which will closely follow. ‘Watch and pray,’ saith (the Lord), ‘lest ye fall into temptation.’”
- Tertullian’s description of exorcism is consistent with

- an emphasis on the power of Christ’s name with minimal focus on human power techniques
- The power lies in the truth of God contained in the name of Christ.
- The vast scope of Tertullian’s writings necessitates much greater attention than this section allows.
- [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/tertullian](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/tertullian)

**Minucius Felix** - contemporary of Tertullian who penned Octavius (c.AD 210) as a feigned dialogue between a pagan and a Christian

- describes the work of demons at several points, describing both their possession and mental attacks.
- describes in detail how the demons are connected with idols, statues, mediums, oracles, and predictive signs
- demons “are both deceived, and they deceive.”
- These false spirits “weigh men downwards from heaven, and call them away from the true God to material things”
- vividly describes demonic possession, exorcism, and dialogue as well, explaining how they have communicated themselves as the gods of the Greeks and seek to keep unbelievers away from Christians.
- describes a plethora of power-encounter type approaches to spiritual warfare while reinforcing that their goal is to deceive and distract humanity away from the truth of God
- “They disturb the life, render all men unquiet; creeping also secretly into human bodies, with subtlety, as being spirits, they feign diseases, alarm the minds, wrench about the limbs; that they may constrain men to worship them, being gorged with the fumes of altars or the sacrifices of cattle, that, by remitting what they had bound, they may seem to have cured it. These raging maniacs also, whom you see rush about in public, are moreover themselves prophets without a

temple; thus they rage, thus they rave, thus they are whirled around. In them also there is a like instigation of the demon, but there is a dissimilar occasion for their madness. . . . A great many, even some of your own people, know all those things that the demons themselves confess concerning themselves, as often as they are driven by us from bodies by the torments of our words and by the fires of our prayers..."

- "... Saturn himself, and Serapis, and Jupiter, and whatever demons you worship, overcome by pain, speak out what they are; and assuredly they do not lie to their own discredit, especially when any of you are standing by. Since they themselves are the witnesses that they are demons, believe them when they confess the truth of themselves; for when abjured by the only and true God, unwillingly the wretched beings shudder in their bodies, and either at once leap forth, or vanish by degrees, as the faith of the sufferer assists or the grace of the healer inspires. Thus they fly from Christians when near at hand, whom at a distance they harassed by your means in their assemblies. And thus, introduced into the minds of the ignorant, they secretly sow there a hatred of us by means of fear. . . . Thus they take possession of the minds and obstruct the hearts, that men may begin to hate us before they know us; lest, if known, they should either imitate us, or not be able to condemn us."
- [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/minucius-felix](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/minucius-felix)

**Origen** -(AD 185–254) was an early leader of the church at Alexandria, helping to develop many of the foundational doctrines of the early church. Although some of his hypotheses would later be exposed as incorrect and heretical, his writings and teachings are of immense value to understanding the theology of the early church

- Origen de Principiis, he describes the devil and his

demons and how "the Church has laid down that these beings exist" but "had not explained with sufficient clearness" what they are or how they exist"

- describes a renunciation of the devil in baptism, "We come to that moment when we made these promises, this declaration to the devil. Each of the faithful recalls when he came to the waters of baptism, when he received the first seal of the faith and approach the fount of salvation, the words that he pronounced then; he recalls his renunciation of the devil. He promised to resort to none of his pomps and his works and not to submit to any of his servitudes and his pleasures"
- Contra Celsus, Origen references the exorcisms that Christ performed and refers to how Christians of the day powerfully performed exorcisms through the "grace which is in the word of Christ," rather than through the wisdom and learning of men
- emphasizing the power of prayer in exorcism of both humans and animals
- directly connects false religions and their worship in idols, altars, and temples to direct demonic worship
- "Because for the most part it is unlettered persons who perform this work; thus making manifest the grace which is in the word of Christ, and the despicable weakness of demons, which, in order to be overcome and driven out of the bodies and souls of men, do not require the power and wisdom of those who are mighty in argument, and most learned in matters of faith." Origen, Contra Celsus (ANF 4:395, 613)
- "For ourselves, so far are we from wishing to serve demons, that by the use of prayers and other means which we learn from Scripture, we drive them out of the souls of men, out of places where they have established themselves, and even sometimes from the bodies of animals; for even these creatures often suffer from injuries inflicted upon them by demons." (Origen,

Contra Celsus (ANF 4:639))

- “Hence we are determined to avoid the worship of demons even as we would avoid death; and we hold that the worship, which is supposed among the Greeks to be rendered to gods at the altars, and images, and temples, is in reality offered to demons” (Origen, Contra Celsus (ANF 4:640))
- [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/origen](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/origen)

**Cyprian** - (AD 200-258) was the “spiritual son and pupil of Tertullian” but also known as the “Ignatius of the West.”

- Treatises, he begins by emphasizing the unity of the church. He argues that as Satan’s schemes are thwarted, such as when Christians leave false religions, he attacks in new ways through infiltration and division.
- Cyprian specifically describes these enemy attacks as occurring through “flattering and deceiving” and by Satan equipping his own ministers to invade the Christian church.
- Cyprian’s awareness of the reality of spiritual warfare continues to reveal itself throughout his work in reference to the enemy and his ongoing, strategic attacks
- [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/cyprian](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/cyprian)

**Eusebius** - Eusebius of Cæsarea (c.AD 260-340) was especially known for his historical accounts of the early church

- His writings offer early and extensive accounts of the office of exorcist when referencing the existence of “52 exorcists” during the time of a Roman bishop named Cornelius (c.AD 250)
- Eusebius references how a convert named Novatian, who would eventually become a presbyter, was delivered of Satan’s possession by the exorcists.
- Eusebius describes Novatian’s possession spatially,

saying Satan “entered and dwelt in him for a long time” but does not relate how that possession manifested itself.

- He also describes how following his exorcism he became sick to the point of death. Novatian’s illness continued, but was relieved immediately following his baptism which is described as “irregular” due to it being conducted by affusion as a “clinical baptism”
- “but Satan, who entered and dwelt in him for a long time, became the occasion of his believing. Being delivered by the exorcists, he fell into a severe sickness; and as he seemed about to die, he received baptism by affusion, on the bed where he lay; if indeed we can say that such a one did receive it.”
- “There is no reason to doubt that Novatian received clinical baptism, as here stated by Cornelius. This does not imply, as is commonly supposed, that he was of heathen parentage, for many Christians postponed baptism as long as possible, in order not to sacrifice baptismal grace by sins committed after baptism. We do not know whether his parents were heathen or Christians. Upon the objection to Novatian’s ordination, based upon his irregular baptism.”

Eusebius - The office of exorcist.

- “Eusebius also references exorcists being persecuted along with other leaders of the churches in “Asia Minor and Syria during the time of the emperor Diocletian (c.AD 284-305).”
- “What was to be seen after this exceeds all description. A vast multitude were imprisoned in every place; and the prisons everywhere, which had long before been prepared for murderers and robbers of graves, were filled with bishops, presbyters and deacons, readers and exorcists.”
- 19th century explanatory note: “Explanatory Note number 2125: ‘The Exorcists likewise constituted one

of the inferior orders of the clergy; but although we find exorcism very frequently referred to by the Fathers of the second century, there seems to have been no such office until the third century, the present being the earliest distinct reference to it. In the fourth century we find the office in all parts of the Church East and West. Their duty was to take charge of those supposed to be possessed of an evil spirit; to pray with them, care for them, and exorcise the demon when possible.' See Bingham, *ibid.* chap. 4." (Arthur C. McGiffert "The Life and writings of Eusebius of Cæsarea" (NPNF2 1:3))

- Eusebius graphically describes this time of persecution, explaining, "What was to be seen after this exceeds all description. A vast multitude were imprisoned in every place; and the prisons everywhere, which had long before been prepared for murderers and robbers of graves, were filled with bishops, presbyters and deacons, readers and exorcists, so that room was no longer left in them for those condemned for crimes."

#### Eusebius - Martyrdom of exorcists.

- One of the first martyrs was Procopius who was "a lector, interpreter, and exorcist in the church."
- Alphæus was another martyr who was "a reader and exorcist in the church of Cæsarea."
- One of the more graphic accounts is of Romanus, another exorcist who also served as a deacon in the parish of Cæsarea. Romanus's execution in Antioch is described with great detail for his level of boldness and courage in facing death
- "Being arrested for his boldness, he proved a most noble witness of the truth, if there ever was one. For when the judge informed him that he was to die by fire, he received the sentence with cheerful countenance and most ready mind, and was led away. When he

was bound to the stake, and the wood piled up around him, as they were awaiting the arrival of the emperor before lighting the fire, he cried, "Where is the fire for me?". . . Having said this, he was summoned again before the emperor, and subjected to the unusual torture of having his tongue cut out. But he endured this with fortitude and showed to all by his deeds that the Divine Power is present with those who endure any hardship whatever for the sake of religion, lightening their sufferings and strengthening their zeal. When he learned of this strange mode of punishment, the noble man was not terrified, but put out his tongue readily, and offered it with the greatest alacrity to those who cut it off"

#### Eusebius - Demonic sacrifices

- helpfully provides examples of the ongoing demon worship during the time of the early church
- He describes a human sacrifice at Cæsarea Philippi when a Christian named Astyrius boldly intervened for God to rebuke the demon in order to "bring the men's delusion to an end."
- Immediately following his request to God, his prayer was publicly answered as "the sacrifice floated on the surface of the fountain. And thus the miracle departed; and no wonder was ever afterward performed at the place."
- "Among these is also the following wonder. At Cæsarea Philippi, which the Phoenicians call Paneas, springs are shown at the foot of the Mountain Panius, out of which the Jordan flows. They say that on a certain feast day, a victim was thrown in, and that through the power of the demon it marvelously disappeared and that which happened was a famous wonder to those who were present. Astyrius was once there when these things were done, and seeing the multitude astonished at the affair, he pitied their delusion; and looking up to



heaven he supplicated the God over all through Christ, that he would rebuke the demon who deceived the people, and bring the men's delusion to an end. And they say that when he had prayed thus, immediately the sacrifice floated on the surface of the fountain. And thus the miracle departed; and no wonder was ever afterward performed at the place." (Eusebius, The Church History of Eusebius (NPNF2 1:783))

- [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/eusebius](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/eusebius)

***Much more research is available @ [www.SpiritualWarfare.blog](http://www.SpiritualWarfare.blog)***

Henry A. Kelly's *The Devil at Baptism* is also a helpful resource that describes apotropaic practice at one's baptism with the purpose of preventing future attacks or to diminish their power, directed against lapses into sin in the future.

## QUOTES ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- "The devil can cite scripture for his purpose." William Shakespeare
- "The devil is a better theologian than any of us and is a devil still." A.W. Tozer
- "The devil, the proud spirit, cannot endure to be mocked." Thomas More
- "Many do not recognize the fact as they ought, that Satan has got men fast asleep in sin and that it is his great device to keep them so. He does not care what we do if he can do that. We may sing songs about the sweet by and by, preach sermons and say prayers until doomsday, and he will never concern himself about us, if we don't wake anybody up. But if we awake the sleeping sinner he will gnash on us with his teeth. This is our work - to wake people up." Catherine Booth
- "The joy of the Lord will arm us against the assaults of our spiritual enemies and put our mouths out of taste for those pleasures with which the tempter baits his hooks." Matthew Henry
- "It is no marvel that the devil does not love field preaching! Neither do I; I love a commodious room, a soft cushion, a handsome pulpit. But where is my zeal if I do not trample all these underfoot in order to save one more soul?" John Wesley
- "The devil has his elect." Thomas Carlyle
- "The devil can counterfeit all the saving operations and

- graces of the Spirit of God." Jonathan Edwards
- . "Every devil has not a cloven hoof." Daniel Defoe
  - . "The devil divides the world between atheism and superstition." George Herbert
  - . "The enemy will not see you vanish into God's company without an effort to reclaim you." C.S. Lewis
  - . "Our Lord's determined purpose and design was to overcome the devil, not by the exercise of His power, but by means of His own self-abasement." Jerome
  - . "The devil loves 'curing' a small fault by giving you a great one." C.S. Lewis
  - . "The devil is nimble; he can run apace; he is light of foot; he hath overtaken many....They that would have heaven must run for it." John Bunyan
  - . "The world is a den of murderers, subject to the devil. If we desire to live on earth, we must be content to be guests in it, and to lie in an inn where the host is a rascal, whose house has over the door this sign or shield, 'For murder and lies.'" Martin Luther
  - . "Satan always rocks our cradle when we sleep at our devotions." Joseph Hall
  - . "Parts and parcels of truth are the most envenomed shafts which fly from the bow of Satan." William Howells
  - . "A false interpretation of Scripture causes that the gospel of the Lord becomes the gospel of man, or, which is worse, of the devil." Jerome
  - . "Like a good chess player, Satan is always trying to maneuver you into a position where you can save your castle only by losing your bishop." C.S. Lewis
  - . "My main ambition in life is to be on the devil's most wanted list." Leonard Ravenhill
  - . "Enemy-occupied territory-----that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in a great campaign in sabotage." C.S.

Lewis

- . "The trumpet still plays the notes of war. You cannot sit down and put the victory wreath on your head. You do not have a crown. You still must wear the helmet and carry the sword. You must watch, pray, and fight. Expect your last battle to be the most difficult, for the enemy's fiercest charge is reserved for the end of the day." Charles Spurgeon
- . "I have ever found that when I have thought the battle was over and the conquest gained, and so let down my watch, the enemy has risen up and done me the greatest injury." David Brainerd
- . "We must recognize that the Church's real battle is not with fellow Christians "but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age" (Eph 6:12). How we as a Church fight this cosmic battle is a cosmic matter, and the armor of God is our spiritual equipment that moves us forward to victory." Ramez Atallah
- . "Spiritual warfare is not about naming territorial spirits, claiming the ground, or binding demons. It is all about the gospel. It is to live a gospel life, to preserve gospel unity and to proclaim gospel truth. It is to do this in the face of a hostile world, a deceptive enemy and our sinful natures. And it is to pray to a sovereign God for gospel opportunities. Advance comes through godliness, unity, proclamation and prayer." Timothy Chester
- . "How shall we view the world of mission? In the first place, it is not an organizational or religious effort. World missions is not, strictly speaking, the work of the Church, but the work of God. World missions means the invasion of God into a hostile world - a world filled with fiendish forces, filled with demonized forces of hell in black array." L.E. Maxwell
- . "How then must we view world missions? Is it a job?

A business? A service? A mission? A commission? An assignment? A program? An investment? Perhaps in a measure, these things, but missions must be first a campaign, a conquest, a war. If it is not first that, it will never be realized in these other respects. World missions means war, total war and mobilization. The Governor General of this campaign is none other than the Captain of our salvation." L.E. Maxwell

- "Some say this is the greatest investment in which you can put your time, substance, and life. Nonsense! It's a war! I don't like to hear missions described as a business investment, for there are two implications that I believe are wrong. First, when someone asks me to make an investment, I expect in reasonable time some returns. In the second place, the implication is that what I have I can choose to do with as I will. And that's not so either. Total warfare means total commitment with no options and no returns, and past the point of no return." Francis Steele

## WILLIAM GURNALL QUOTES

- "God himself underwrites your battle and has appointed His own Son 'the captain of [your] salvation' (Hebrews 2:10)" William Gurnall
- "Head knowledge of the things of Christ is not enough; this following Christ is primarily a matter of the heart" William Gurnall
- "The soldier is summoned to a life of active duty, and so is the Christian. The very nature of the calling precludes a life of ease." William Gurnall
- "We have known many who have joined the army of Christ and liked being a soldier for a battle or two, but have soon had enough and ended up deserting." William Gurnall
- "Here is a word for Christians. Knowing your strength lies wholly in God and not in yourself, remain humble – even when God is blessing and using you most." William Gurnall
- "If you embezzle God's strength and credit it to your own account, He will soon call an audit and take back what was His all along." William Gurnall
- "If by negligence or choice you fail to put on God's armor and rush naked into battle, you sign your own death certificate." William Gurnall
- "It is not the man decked out in morality or philosophical virtues who will repel a full charge of temptation sent from Satan's cannon; it is the man suited up in armor –

- that is, in Christ." William Gurnall
- "Do not let anyone deceive you. Spiritual darkness can never be expelled except by union with Christ." William Gurnall
  - "Do not doubt for a moment that Satan will hurl all his fury at those who love God's Word." William Gurnall
  - "Thus thousands perish who supposed they were armed against Satan, death, and judgment – when all along they were miserable and naked." William Gurnall
  - "Satan is not particular what lie he tells you; one will work as powerfully as another if he can get you to believe it." William Gurnall
  - "Perhaps you are a parent with a family under your wing. They fare much as you do. If your heart is feasting on Christ, you will never find yourself in short supply when caring for their spiritual needs. On the other hand, if your own heart is malnourished, they will go hungry for spiritual food." William Gurnall
  - "If Satan was too crafty for man in his perfection, how much more dangerous to us now in our maimed condition." William Gurnall
  - "The devil especially likes to tempt when the Christian is newly converted." William Gurnall
  - "Do not look on temptation with a wandering eye if you do not wish to be taken by it, nor allow your mind to dwell on that which you do not want lodged in your heart." William Gurnall
  - "The more eminent your service for God, the greater the probability that Satan is at that very moment hatching some deadly scheme against you." William Gurnall
  - "He [Satan] labors to undermine repentance and overpraise good works." William Gurnall
  - "Satan is the greatest intelligence agent in the world." William Gurnall
  - "Study Satan's tricks, and acquaint yourself with his tactics." William Gurnall

- "Know your heart. Be intimately acquainted with yourself, and you will better know Satan's design against you." William Gurnall
- "Be prepared for another assault." William Gurnall
- "The strength of your sorrow is not what carries you to heaven – but true heart repentance." William Gurnall
- "Your perspective should be very different from the unregenerate." William Gurnall
- "First of all, renew your repentance, as if you had never repented. Put forth fresh acts of faith, as if you had never believed, and you will beat Satan at his own game." William Gurnall
- "Telling a trusting, godly friend of your struggles often brings relief. Satan knows this too well, so in order to more freely to rifle the soul of its peace and comfort, he frightens it into silence." William Gurnall
- "God is wiser in His creatures' weak sermons than Satan is in his deep plots." William Gurnall
- "If he had been truly repentant, his sorry for one sin would have broken his heart for the others also." William Gurnall
- "The saint who has been severely tested is best equipped to help other suffering saints." William Gurnall
- "Rest easy, worried Christian. The duel is not between the church and Satan, but between Christ and Satan." William Gurnall
- "Whether you like it or not, you must go into the ring with Satan." William Gurnall
- "The man who allows one sin to command another, and thus to rule his soul, cannot be God's champion." William Gurnall
- "Jerome says one love extinguishes another – that is, the love of Christ much quench the love of sin." William Gurnall
- "Nor trust too much in spiritual leaders. They too, are flesh, and their judgment is not infallible." William



Gurnall

- "Persecutors, whether by their tongues or their hands, are but the devil's instruments." William Gurnall
- "When reproached and persecuted by wicked men, look beyond them. Spend your wrath on Satan, who is your chief enemy. Men are only his puppets." William Gurnall
- "But his most powerful title of all is 'the god of this world' (2 Corinthians 4:4). It is given to him because sinners grant him a godlike worship, mistakenly holding him in reverence as the saints do God Himself." William Gurnall
- "He would not leave a soul on earth uninhabited if God did not call a halt to the procession. Christ's saving and keeping power is the only thing that protects anyone from this intruder." William Gurnall
- "If you are a saint, you do not need to fear that Satan will infiltrate your soul." William Gurnall
- "You are and always will be the chief object of his [Satan's] wrath. He wrestles with you at every opportunity." William Gurnall
- "The devil's rule is over those who are in a state of sin and ignorance, not over those who are sometimes sinful and ignorant." William Gurnall
- "Does he hear the truth in a powerful sermon? Satan will sit alongside him in the pew and whisper nonsense to distract him." William Gurnall
- "And if the sermon gets too hot, the devil will dull his senses and get him to doze until the service is over." William Gurnall
- "Suppose a man's conscience strains toward the truth. Satan may then send him to hear a cool preacher, whose senseless prattle will tickle his fancy rather than prick his conscience." William Gurnall
- "Those in darkness have no power to resist Satan. He rules the whole man, shaping his apprehensions and distorting his perceptions." William Gurnall

- "Christian, keep a loose grip on the material possessions you value most highly. Be ready at a moment's notice to throw them overboard, rather than risk the shipwreck of your faith." William Gurnall
- "Every ignorant soul is the willing slave of Satan." William Gurnall
- "Dear saint, do not be too proud to go back and learn the basic precepts of the Gospel if you have not yet mastered them." William Gurnall
- "What a clever trick on the part of Satan, to make us think that if we cannot see something, it does not exist!" William Gurnall
- "Christian, this is imperative for you to realize: When wicked or unclean thoughts first force their way into your mind, you have not yet sinned. This is the work of the devil! But if you so as much as offer them a chair and begin polite conversation with them, you have become his accomplice." William Gurnall
- "Do not pretend you want to be led into truth if you will not bother to study the whole Word of God." William Gurnall
- "Pride was the sin that turned Satan, a blessed angel, into a cursed devil." William Gurnall
- "Great gifts lift a saint up a little higher in the eyes of men, but they also tempt him to pride. Do not envy those with great gifts; instead pity and pray for them." William Gurnall
- "Where pride flourishes, the body of Christ suffers." William Gurnall
- "Never forget for a moment that you will be held accountable for the talents left in your care." William Gurnall
- "Steadfastly resist sins of the heart." William Gurnall
- "Even your good thoughts are not impervious to Satan's tampering." William Gurnall
- "Pride wants to grow where the best gifts have been

bestowed. So beware of pride!" William Gurnall

- "The Christian must practice the same indifference in keeping his earthly possessions as he did in getting them." William Gurnall

## NEIL ANDERSON QUOTES

I wrote my Ph.D. dissertation on Dr. Neil T. Anderson who is primarily known through his most popular books, *The Bondage Breaker* and *Victory Over the Darkness*. This comprehensive summation and evaluation of Dr. Anderson's writings is now published as a book and freely available for download at: [www.SpiritualWarfare.blog](http://www.SpiritualWarfare.blog)

***Here are some of the most helpful quotes from his writings.***

### BOOK ABBREVIATIONS:

- DC - *Discipleship Counseling*
- GPAWINY - *God's Power at Work in You*
- TCMH - *The Common Made Holy*
- FFA - *Freedom from Addiction: Breaking the Bondage of Addiction and Finding Freedom in Christ* by Neil T. Anderson and Mike & Julia Quarles, Regal Books, Ventura, CA
- SYCF - *Setting Your Church Free*
- TCCM - *The Christ Centered Marriage*
- HOFFIC - *Helping Others Find Freedom in Christ*
- WITL - *Walking in the Light*
- STOTD - *Stomping Out the Darkness*
- LFIC - *Living Free in Christ*
- VOTD - *Victory Over the Darkness*
- BB - *The Bondage Breaker*

- “Having the right message and method is not enough. You have to have the right people who are dependent on God.” (*Discipleship Counseling*, 12)
- “I believe that the ministries of counseling and discipling are the same in the Bible, although too often they have become separate and unrelated disciplines in the Christian community.” (*Discipleship Counseling*, 13-14)
- “Discipleship counseling is an attempt to meet people where they are and help them resolve their personal and spiritual conflicts so that can be established alive and free in Christ.” (*Discipleship Counseling*, 14)
- Foundational Principles:
  - “Scripture is the only reliable source for faith and practice (see 2 Timothy 3:16-17)” (*Discipleship Counseling*, 16)
  - “I believe that the message and method of discipleship counseling must be based on the finished work of Christ (see Colossians 1:27-2:10)” (*Discipleship Counseling*, 16)
  - “I rely totally on the present ministry of the Holy Spirit (John 16:7-15)” (16)
  - “We are limited by the faith of the counselees. We are not only saved by faith, we are sanctified by faith (see Galatians 3:1-5)” (*Discipleship Counseling*, 16)
  - “We all need the support of the Christian community and we all need to renew our faith and walk with God (see Hebrews 10:17-25)” (*Discipleship Counseling*, 16)
- “This battle between the father of lies and the Spirit of truth is fought primarily in the minds of all humanity” (*Discipleship Counseling*, 25)
- “There is no time when our minds, emotions, wills,

- personalities and relationships are not contributing factors. Likewise, our present condition always has some spiritual basis.” (*Discipleship Counseling*, 58)
- “There are a million ways into sin, but the way out is always the same” (*Discipleship Counseling*, 61)
- “Repentance and faith in God has always been the answer, so that means we have to take personal responsibility for our own attitudes and actions” (*Discipleship Counseling*, 62)
- “Whether the demonic part is 0 percent, 5 percent, 10 percent or 50 percent does not make any difference. The critical part is submitting to God. Resisting the devil is simple if there are no unresolved issues between us and our heavenly Father.” (*Discipleship Counseling*, 148)
- “To stay free, people need to know: (1) who they are in Christ; (2) the authority and protection of the believer; (3) the nature of the battle that is going on for their minds; and (4) how to walk by faith by the power of the Holy Spirit according to what God said is true.” (*Discipleship Counseling*, 167)
- “We are positionally sanctified by faith the moment we are born again because of what Christ has already done for us. We are progressively sanctified by faith when we are transformed by the renewing of our minds, which requires repentance and faith.” (*Discipleship Counseling*, 338)
- “I believe parachurch ministries like the one I founded are meant to come and go”(Anderson, *Rough Road*, 13)
- “our purpose is to equip the Church worldwide so they can establish their people, marriages, and ministries alive and free in Christ through genuine repentance and faith in God” (Anderson, *Rough Road*, 13)
- “Neil dares to suggest that the spiritual world impacts all we do, and he equips us to deal with these

challenges” by Sandy Mason (DC, 7)

- “Any part of my message that is true did not originate with me. If it is new, it is not true, and if it is true, it is not new.” (DC, 165)
- “I turned another significant corner when I discovered the spiritual battle that is going on for our minds and learned why it is so important to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.” (BB, 5)

### Theology

- “my Western education has skewed my worldview, which left me with an inadequate understanding of the spiritual world. Jesus did not come just to forgive our sins and give us life; He came to undo the works of Satan (see 1 John 3:8)” (DC, 8)
- “in my educational experience, Western rationalism and naturalism had dominated my thinking” (DC, 9)
- “If our theology is right, it should cause us to fall in love with God and one another, which is the great commandment” (DC, 40)

### God

- “To resolve personal and spiritual conflicts, we need to understand that God is the Wonderful Counselor, and that He will minister to the whole person and take into account all reality.” (BB, 254)
- “the invisible world is more real than the visible world” (WITL, 144)
- “the Holy Spirit enables us to discern good from evil” (WITL, 160)

### Man

- “these hurting Christians had only one thing in common: none of them knew who they were in Christ” (DC, 9)
- “I am often asked if little children can come under attack. The answer is yes.” (BB, 269)

### Sin Problem: Mind

- “There is no time when our minds, emotions, wills, personalities and relationships are not contributing factors. Likewise, our present condition always has some spiritual basis.” (DC, 58)
- “just as our glands are regulated by our central nervous system, our emotions are primarily a product of our thoughts” (DC, 84)
- “God never bypasses our mind. He works through our minds, and we are transformed by the renewing of our minds” (DC, 87)
- “our emotions are essentially a product of our thoughts” (DC, 88)
- “Contrary to popular thinking, the dominant function of the heart is not emotional. Instead, the heart is first, the place that we think; second, where we will; and third, where we feel. . . . Rather than understanding the heart to be the seat of our emotions, it is better to understand the heart as the seat of reflection.” (DC, 113)
- “There is a huge difference between intellectual knowledge and truth that has entered the heart.” (DC, 113)
- “The real disease of the heart is its deceitfulness (Jeremiah 17:9)” (GPAWINY, 138)
- “Let’s not waste such a precious resource that God has made available to us – our minds quickened by the Holy Spirit to be able to discern good from evil, right and wrong” (WITL, 169)

### Identity in Christ

- “Understanding what it means to be a child of God is a core belief for every Christian” (DC, 69)
- “believers are called saints, holy ones, or righteous ones approximately 240 times” (DC, 71)



- . “nonbelievers are called sinners approximately 340 times” (DC, 71)
- . The “Being” Needs – “I am accepted in Christ,” “I am secure in Christ,” “I am secure in Christ” (DC, 75-76)
- . “before we received Christ, we were slaves to sin. Now because of Christ’s work on the cross, sin’s power over us has been broken. Satan has no right of ownership or authority over us. He is a defeated foe, but he is committed to keeping us from realizing that.” (BB,11)
- . “Tragically, most Christians never come to appreciate who they are in Christ” (LFIC, 7)
- . “Without exception, all the people I have counseled have had some unscriptural belief the enemy has used to keep them in bondage” (LFIC, 7)
- . “It is important to recognize faulty beliefs from our past, to renounced them as lies, and to reprogram and renew our minds with truth.” (LFIC, 7)
- . “We are no longer products of our past. We are primarily products of Christ’s work on the cross.” (LFIC, 10)
- . “Renewing our minds does not come naturally . . . We have to consciously know the Word of God so that we can understand who we are from God’s perspective.” (LFIC, 11)
- . “The most important believe we possess is a true knowledge of who God is. The second most important belief is who we are as children of God” (LFIC, 11)
- . “It is not what we do that determines who we are. It is who we are that determines what we do” (LFIC, 11)
- . “How do you live each day consciously aware and active as a child of God? First and foremost, through Bible reading, prayer, and fellowship. As well, this book can help you remember – on a daily basis – your wonderful position in Christ” (LFIC, 13)

### **Satan, Flesh, World – The Trifecta of the Enemy**

- . “Is Satan the cause of our temptations, or is the world, or our own sinful flesh? Scripture reveals that it is difficult- if not impossible- to separate the temptations that arises from these three sources, and to so may be erroneous” (GPAWINY, 282-83).
- . “Even though three enemies are involved in attempting to pull us away from God, it is important to note that the final responsibility for our sin rests on us” (GPAWINY, 284)
- . “Don’t assume all disturbing thoughts are from Satan. Where the thoughts come from – the television set, our memory banks, the pit or our own creative reservoirs – doesn’t matter as understanding that the answer is always the same. Choose to think the truth.” (FFA, 291-92)
- . “The father of lies can block your effectiveness as a Christian if he can deceive you in to believing that you are nothing but a product of your past – subject to sin, prone to failure, and controlled by your habits.” (BB,11)
- . “We should derive our methodology for dealing with the kingdom of darkness primarily from the epistles rather than the Gospels and the book of Acts” (BB, 255)
- . “There is some disagreement among Christians about how much method and theology we should extract from [Acts] . . . I stress caution in using examples of demonic expulsion from Acts as the sole basis for methodology . . . the Book of Acts does clearly reveal that demonic encounters continued after the cross and that evil forces continued after the cross and that evil forces continue to exist in opposition to the growth of the church. But this book of history does not constitute the final word on dealing with those forces.” (BB, 256)

### **Salvation**

- . “There are a million ways into sin, but the way out is

always the same” (DC, 61)

- “Repentance and faith in God has always been the answer, so that means we have to take personal responsibility for our own attitudes and actions” (DC, 62)

### **Sanctification**

- “The next circle indicates a need to exercise tolerance. People are in transition and at various stages of growth” (DC, 41)
- “There is no such thing as instant maturity. Growth will take place when the root issues are resolved.” (DC, 140)
- “We are positionally sanctified by faith the moment we are born again because of what Christ has already done for us. We are progressively sanctified by faith when we are transformed by the renewing of our minds, which requires repentance and faith.” (DC, 338)
- “our sanctification is first and foremost the work of God” (GPAWINY, 102)
- “When we fail to recognize the spiritual matters we are responsible for, then we set ourselves up for disappointment because we either think God isn’t at work in our lives or we are spiritual failures because things didn’t go the way we expected” (GPAWINY, 103)
- “Sanctification is the process of changing the heart, which is actually a change of the whole person (that is, the mind, emotion, and will or actions)” (GPAWINY, 116)
- “we are still contending with the world, the flesh, and the devil. Because we were created in God’s image, we have the capacity to choose whom we will serve- the god of this world , or the one and only Creator of all things” (GPAWINY, 129)
- “Scripture teaches that we are changed or sanctified by the truth. It is the truth that brings people to God and

then bears fruit in them” (GPAWINY, 134)

- “Renewing our mind begins with genuine repentance” (GPAWINY, 136)
- “No matter how long you are a Christian, your need to remain dependent on Christ stays constant.” (GPAWINY, 211)
- “understanding God’s will is critical since God’s will for our lives is our sanctification” (BB, 10)
- “five areas of application for each level: spiritual life, mind, emotions, will and relationships” (STOTD, 198)
- “In each area there is both a point of conflict and a step of growth” (STOTD, 198)
- “The point of conflict identifies how sin, the world, the flesh and the devil interfere in the discipleship process. The points of conflict indicate what must be resolved and replaced by specific steps of growth” (STOTD, 198)
- “help people experience freedom in Christ so they can move on to maturity and fruitfulness in their walk with Him” (STOTD, 205)
- “we need the peace of God by ordering our internal world” (WITL, 117)

### **Revelation**

- “Special revelation refers to the written Word of God” (DC, 24)
- “Jesus Christ is the ultimate revelation of God” (DC, 24)
- “the deliverer is Christ, and He has already come. Second, we should get our information from the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, who will lead us into all truth, and that truth will set us free.” (BB, 257-58)
- the Bible is the only infallible source” (WITL, 14)
- “we need to integrate truth into the very fabric of our lives, not simply memorize it” (WITL, 102)
- “He can guide us only if we have the knowledge of God’s Word and His will established in our minds” (WITL,

174)

- “The Bible doesn’t just give us a message, it gives us a method as well” (HOFFIC, 63)
- “I made the personal choice several years ago to understand who we are and how we can live productive lives based solely on the Word of God” (HOFFIC, 62)

### **Mental Health and Theology**

- “when research becomes prescriptive, implying what life and human behavior should be, it distorts the truth and becomes an enemy of the gospel” (DC, 27)
- “research may illustrate, but it does not validate special revelation” (DC, 28)
- “empirical research and rationalism have formed the basis for a secular liberal arts education in the Western world” (DC, 29)
- “Humanism in secular schools is being replaced by New Age philosophies” (DC, 29)
- “there are no absolutes in sociological, psychological or anthropological studies” (DC, 30)
- “We naturally interpret the world we observe from our own perspective. Wisdom, however, is seeing life from God’s perspective.” (DC, 31)
- “I am less committed to my theology now than I was when I finished seminary, but I am more committed to the truth than I ever have been, because I have seen it set people free. Theology is our attempt to systemize truth.” (DC, 32)
- “‘Ma’am, do you believe in evolution?’ Startled, she said, ‘Of course not.’ I continued, ‘You mean to tell me that you don’t accept the scientific explanation for the origin of species?’ Again she assured me that she did not. Then I asked her, ‘Do you accept without question the psychiatric explanation of mental illness?’ ‘Yes, I do,’ she answered. ...Although she did not buy into the scientific theory of evolution, she was willing to place her trust in secular psychiatry and psychology

and dismiss the possibility that the son could have a spiritual problem. Secular psychiatry can alleviate some suffering related to the natural realm, but without the aid of divine revelation, how can secular psychiatry and psychologists give us an adequate understanding of who we are and why we are here, explain the nature of our problems and describe a wholistic answer?” (DC, 43)

- “anxiety disorders are the number one mental health problem in the world today...depression is the common cold of mental illness and the second-most-common mental health problem” (DC, 66)
- “values and attitudes about life are formed in their minds in two primary ways. . . .prevailing experiences . . . traumatic experiences” (DC, 79)
- “most people do not have a healthy sense of who they are and many struggle with a poor sense of worth” (DC, 81)

### **Discipleship**

- “I believe that the ministries of counseling and discipling are the same in the Bible, although too often they have become separate and unrelated disciplines in the Christian community.” (DC, 13-14)
- “Discipleship counseling is an attempt to meet people where they are and help them resolve their personal and spiritual conflicts so that can be established alive and free in Christ.” (DC, 14)
- Foundational Principles:
  - “Scripture is the only reliable source for faith and practice (see 2 Timothy 3:16-17)” (DC, 16)
  - “I believe that the message and method of discipleship counseling must be based on the finished work of Christ (see Colossians 1:27-2:10)” (DC, 16)
  - “I rely totally on the present ministry of the Holy Spirit (John 16:7-15)” (16)

- “We are limited by the faith of the counselees. We are not only saved by faith, we are sanctified by faith (see Galatians 3:1-5)” (DC, 16)
- “We all need the support of the Christian community and we all need to renew our faith and walk with God (see Hebrews 10:17-25)” (DC, 16)
- “integrating God into the counseling process sets discipleship counseling apart from secular counseling” (DC, 96)
- “Caring and growing together as Christians is what being Christ’s disciples is all about.” (STOTD, 196-97)
- “Discipleship is the intensely personal activity of two or more persons helping each other experience a growing relationship with God” (STOTD, 197)
- “We have the awesome privilege and responsibility to be both teachers and learners of what it means to be in Christ, walk in the Spirit and live by faith.” (STOTD, 197)
- “In the same way, every Christian has the opportunity to be a peer counselor and to receive counsel in his Christian relationships.” (STOTD, 197)
- “A Christian cannot have an effective walk (Level III) if she is not moving into maturity (Level II), and she cannot approach maturity if she is not first rooted in Christ (Level I)” (STOTD, 198)
- “If your curriculum isn’t based on the Word of God and your program isn’t relational, then what you are doing isn’t discipleship” (VOTD, 216)
- “The missing link in discipleship is usually the personal interaction” (VOTD, 216)
- “Discipleship is a process of building the life of Christ into one another” (VOTD, 217)
- “a good disciple is a good counselor, and a good Christian counselor is a good disciple” (VOTD, 217)
- “Paul refers to three levels of maturity in Colossians 2:6-10 . . . rooted in Christ . . . built up in Christ . . .

- walking in Christ” (VOTD, 220)
- “Discipleship requires mental discipline. People who will not assume responsibility for their thoughts cannot be disciple.” (VOTD, 223)
- “The first goal of discipleship is to help those you disciple become firmly rooted in Christ” (VOTD, 222)
- “The second goal of discipleship is to accept God’s goal of sanctification and grow in the likeness of Christ” (VOTD, 223)
- “the third goal of discipleship is to help others function as believers in their homes, on their jobs and in society” (VOTD, 225)
- “Christian counseling seeks to help people resolve personal and spiritual conflicts through genuine repentance and faith in God.” (VOTD, 226)
- five practical tips: “help people identify and resolve root issues” (VOTD, 226) “encourage emotional honesty” (VOTD, 228) “share the truth” (VOTD, 228) “call for a response” (VOTD, 228) “help them be a part of the Christian Community” (VOTD, 229) “help people move from conflict to growth by encouraging them to develop healthy, supportive relationships” (VOTD, 229)
- “Progressive sanctification is a process that cannot be accomplished apart from the Christian community” (VOTD, 229)
- “Discipleship is an intensely personal experience between two or more people in the presence of Christ and centered in the Word of God” (HOFFIC, 63)
- “Most people’s problems are not primarily external, which could be resolved by learning to behave better. They are internal and resolved by being established in Christ, choosing to believe the truth and walking accordingly by faith.” (HOFFIC, 78)
- “Our first concern in discipleship/counseling is to get people connected to God.” (HOFFIC, 80)



- “Christ can resolve the conflicts that are keeping couples from having wonderful relationships together in Christ” (TCCM, 19)
- “If you are ready to put Christ back into the center of your lives and the center of your marriage and home, there is great hope for you” (TCCM, 19)
- “When we look to our marriages and families to find our sense of identity and worth, they become potential enemies. When we look to God to discover who we are and why we are here, then our marriages and families become the primary instruments God uses to conform us to His image.” (TCCM, 74)

### Responsibility in Christ

#### Individual

- “We are limited by the faith of the counselees. We are not only saved by faith, we are sanctified by faith (see Galatians 3:1-5)” (DC, 16)
- “whose responsibility is it to resist the devil, put on the armor of God, and take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ?” (DC, 101)
- “People’s lives are like houses where the garbage has not been taken out for weeks and spills have not been cleaned up. This attracts a lot of flies. The natural tendency is to focus on getting rid of the flies, because they are so distracting. People tend to swat flies instead of getting rid of the garbage. . . . A better solution is to get rid of the garbage and ignore the flies that will leave when the garbage is gone. Repentance and faith in God have been and will continue to be the answer in this present church age.” (DC, 108)
- “Even though three enemies are involved in attempting to pull us away from God, it is important to note that the final responsibility for our sin rests on us” (GPAWINY, 284)
- “People must assume personal responsibility for their

- actions to find their freedom in Christ.” (FFA, 292)
- “Because there are not instructions in the epistles to cast out demons does not mean that Christians cannot have spiritual problems. It means that the responsibility for living free in Christ has shifted from the specially endowed agent of authority to the individual believer.” (BB, 256)
- “Unless the individual assumes responsibility for his own freedom, he may end up like the poor fellow who was freed from one spirit only to be occupied by seven others who were worse than the first (Matthew 12:43-45)” (BB, 257)
- “I believe in intercessory prayer, but not if it takes the place of the individual’s responsibility to pray” (HOFFIC, 66)

#### Counselor

- “Having the right message and method is not enough. You have to have the right people who are dependent on God.” (DC, 12)
- “Fear has prevented many Christian encouragers and even pastors from dealing with this spiritual issue” (DC, 107)
- Regarding power encounters... “In this type of deliverance ministry, the deliverer is the pastoral agent and is getting information from the demons. Why would we believe them? . . . The deliverer is Christ and He has already come.” (DC, 109)
- The counselor/encourager “will lead the counselees into all truth, and that truth will set them free.” (DC, 109)
- “Setting a captive free is better understood as a truth encounter because it is the truth that sets the captive free, and it is never our responsibility to defeat the devil. Jesus has already done that. The encourager has the privilege of facilitating this truth-

encounter process. This may explain why there are no instructions in the Epistles to cast out demons” (DC, 109)

- “the encourager is more like that of a facilitator who has the ministry of reconciliation” (DC, 110)
- “Discipleship counseling is not just a technique we learn; it is an encounter with God, who is the wonderful counselor.” (DC, 110)
- “I believe every committed Christian, especially pastors and counselors, can do what I do to help others resolved their personal and spiritual conflicts. Helping others find their freedom in Christ does not require the exercise of a special gift; it requires the loving application of truth.” (BB, 253)
- “The primary prerequisites for helping others find freedom are godly character and the ability to teach” (BB, 259)

### Church

- “God conveys himself and His truth to us through other believers” (GPAWINY, 236)
- “According to Scripture, we are not designed to grow in isolation from other believers; God intends us to grow together as part of a community” (GPAWINY, 236)
- “The relationship between fellowship and growth toward holiness becomes more obvious when we consider 1) our real nature as human persons, and, 2) how our personal growth is intertwined with that of others” (GPAWINY, 237)
- “Christian growth seeks the progressive conquering of the sin that alienates us so that God’s intention of human community may be more fully realized” (GPAWINY, 240)
- “Spiritual growth, then, is more than personal; it is communal” (GPAWINY, 247)
- “One of the ways in which we can minister to each

other is through prayer” (GPAWINY, 250)

- “It is too difficult for us to stand alone and be bombarded with the lies of the world” (GPAWINY, 252)
- “to see the truth modeled in another life can be more powerful than simply knowing it intellectually” (GPAWINY, 253)
- “the believer’s response to the flesh must begin with the recognition that the power to resist the self-centered life cannot come from self” (GPAWINY, 264)
- “just as sin can have detrimental effects in the life of an individual, it can also have disastrous effects to a corporate group” Dr. Robert Saucy, (SYCF,9)
- “the group can also sin collectively by failing to confront the sins of individuals and thereby engage in disobedience to the Lord of the Church” Dr. Robert Saucy(SYCF,9)
- “we believe that individual freedom must come to the leadership before organizational freedom can be accomplished” (SYCF, 15)
- “the unity of the true Church is essential to accomplish our mission on planet earth” (SYCF, 16)
- “we have often stressed our personal relationship with Christ at the expense of our corporate relationship to Him” (SYCF, 16)
- “the primary battle is not between differing theological schools, it is between Christ and Antichrist” (SYCF,17)
- “there is unity in the body of Christ because the Holy Spirit has made us one” (SYCF, 65)
- “as with individual disciplines, church disciplines must be centered in Christ as well” (SYCF, 59)
- “the problem comes when our confidence and dependence upon God shifts to confidence and dependence upon programs and strategies” (SYCF, 60)
- “many churches are in bondage; like people, churches need to resolve the issues that are critical between the

church body and the Head of the Church” (SYCF, 42)

### **Spiritual Warfare**

- “When I have asked Christian audiences all over the world if they have had a fearful encounter with some spiritual force, at least 50 percent have responded affirmatively” (DC, 52)
- “The Bible gives no indication that it is ever safe to take off the armor of God. . . Yet our tendency is to polarize into a psychotherapeutic ministry – which ignores the reality of the spiritual world – or some kind of deliverance ministry that ignores the total person and individual responsibility. I do not believe either paradigm is sufficient to deal with the whole person.” (DC, 58)
- “Whether the demonic part is 0 percent, 5 percent, 10 percent or 50 percent does not make any difference. The critical part is submitting to God. Resisting the devil is simple if there are no unresolved issues between us and our heavenly Father.” (DC, 148)
- “what enables victims to submit to God and resist the devil (James 4:7) is essentially a process of repentance” (BB, 6)

### **Spiritual Oppression**

- “This battle between the father of lies and the Spirit of truth is fought primarily in the minds of all humanity” (DC, 25)
- “Fear is the natural emotion we fear when our physical or psychological safety is being threatened” (DC, 51)
- “To eliminate a fear object in your life, all you have to do is remove one of its attributes. For instance, physical death is no longer a legitimate fear object for us, because God has removed one of the attributes. Although death is still imminent, it is no longer

potent because 'death is swallowed up in victory' (1 Corinthians 15:54)" (DC, 51)

- “Physical life is not the ultimate value – spiritual life is” (DC, 51)

### **Power Encounter**

- In counseling the spiritually oppressed... “When we lack the expertise and the patience, we resort to some kind of power mode to correct people of circumstances.” (DC, 173)
- “I have not attempted to cast a demon out of someone for several years. . . . I no longer deal directly with demons or dialogue with them. Nor do I permit their manifestation in counseling sessions. I only work with the person by helping him or her to assume responsibility to submit to God and resist the devil (James 4:7).” (BB, 258)
- “Dealing with the demonic should be seen as a truth encounter rather than a power encounter” (BB, 258)
- “God does everything ‘properly and in an orderly manner’ (1 Corinthians 14:40)” (BB, 259)

### **Truth Encounter**

- “In one sense, it does not matter whether the thought originated from the television set, your memory bank, your imagination or from the pit, because the answer is the same: We need to take ‘every thought captive to the obedience of Christ’ (2 Corinthians 10:5)” (DC, 49)
- “Anxiety is a fear of the unknown or fear without an adequate cause” (DC, 50)
- “Authority is the right to rule. Power is the ability to rule.” (DC, 105)
- “I am a child of God, the evil one cannot touch me. Sit down.” (DC, 106)
- “They fear being exposed and are scared to death that someone may find out what is really going on

inside.” (DC, 151)

- “The only way we can overcome the father of lies is not by human reasoning, nor by scientific research, but by God’s revelation – His truth” (GPAWINY, 141)

### **Steps to Freedom in Christ**

- “Establishing our freedom in Christ is one thing, maintaining that freedom is something else. Paul says, “It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery” (Gal. 5:1). In other words, we can fall back into legalism. We can also fall back into license” (DC, 166)
- “To stay free, people need to know: (1) who they are in Christ; (2) the authority and protection of the believer; (3) the nature of the battle that is going on for their minds; and (4) how to walk by faith by the power of the Holy Spirit according to what God said is true.” (DC, 167)
- “Who sets them free is Christ, and what sets them free is their personal response to Him” (DC, 201)
- “Their freedom will be the result of what they choose to believe, confess, forgive, renounce, and forsake. You cannot do these things for them” (DC, 217)
- The “Steps to Freedom in Christ” serves to “enable us to process our issues in the seven major areas where Satan robs us of our freedom” (FFA, 143) – Mike Quarles
- “Freedom is the assurance that your needs for security, significance, love, acceptance and worth are always met in Christ. They can’t be taken away by changing circumstances or personal bondages.” (FFA, 143) – Mike Quarles
- “you can work through them [the Steps to Freedom in Christ] on your own, because Jesus truly is the Wonderful Counselor” (BB, 6)

- “I was searching for a wholistic answer, rooted in God’s Word, centered on Christ and usable for all Christians everywhere. The tool that resulted is called the Steps to Freedom in Christ” (BB,6)
- “That is the primary purpose of the Steps to Freedom, to resolve the issues that are critical between ourselves and God” (HOFFIC, 80)

### **Methodology**

- “Some people do not want to resolve anything; they just want to argue. We cannot fall into the temptation of wanting to win the argument.” (DC, 110)
- “The deceiver will take a deceived person down 1,001 rabbit trails. We have to avoid going down these trails with them. . . . Experienced encouragers have learned to stay focused and keep the session moving in a meaningful direction.” (DC, 111)
- “What they are doing is just a result of what they are thinking and choosing to believe”( DC, 151)
- “If people are confronted with the truth and they do not repent, they either run from the light or try to discredit the source of the light.” (DC, 174)
- “Every work of Satan and every way of Satan has to be renounced in order for repentance to be complete.” (DC, 221)

### **False Guidance – Counterfeit vs. Real**

- “I have had many people under the influence of Satan say that Jesus is Lord, but when I ask them to say ‘Jesus is my Lord,’ they simply repeat ‘Jesus is Lord.’ The devil knows that Jesus is the Lord of the universe, but he will not profess Jesus as his Lord, nor will his followers.” (DC, 223)

### **Deception vs. Truth**

- “freedom does not come from swatting flies, it comes from taking out the garbage” (DC, 243)



- “there are many ways in which Satan, ‘the god of this world,’ seeks to deceive us. Just as he did with Eve, the devil tries to convince us to rely on ourselves and to try to get our needs met through the world around us, rather than trusting in the provision of our Father in heaven.” (BB, 21)

#### **Bitterness**

- “usually somebody they need to forgive and something they need to confess and renounce” (DC, 169)
- “We forgive in order to heal. . . . Forgiveness is a hard choice that includes (1) allowing God to surface the name of every offending person with their painful memories, (2) agreeing to live with the consequences of the other person’s sin without seeking revenge, and (3) letting God deal with the offending person in His way and His time.” (DC, 266)
- “Bitterness is to the soul as cancer is to the body.” (DC, 268)

#### **Pride**

- “Suicide is the final expression of control over one’s own life. The deception is the belief that death is the solution, the escape or the end of everything.” (DC, 323)

#### **Habitual Sin**

- “People do not have sex problems or drug problems or family problems; they have life problems that affect their relationship with God.” (DC, 149)
- “I was free to choose. I learned that I could say yes to sin or no to sin, but I quickly discovered that I didn’t feel dead to sin. Many times I felt very alive to it; but the truth is based on what God says, regardless of my feelings.” (FFA, 143) – Mike Quarles
- “We experience freedom when we choose to believe God, then act on the basis of the truth regardless of our

feelings” (FFA, 144) – Mike Quarles

#### **Ancestral Sins**

- “We are not guilty of our parents’ sins; but because they sinned, we will have to live with the consequences of their sins and will likely live the way we were taught by them unless we repent.” (DC, 145)
- “We are not guilty because of our parents’ sins. Yet because they sinned, we are vulnerable to what they have taught and modeled for us.” (DC, 332)

# WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT ENEMIES?

*In life we face many enemies. We must be aware of the sources, strategies, and solutions to our suffering so that we may live in victory and freedom in Christ.*

Ephesians 6:12 “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (ESV)

## Here Are 10 Important Truths To Know About Your Enemies:

### 1. They Exist in your Sinful Flesh.

- Romans 7:5 “For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.”
- Romans 8:13 “For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

### 2. They Exist in this Fallen World and Fallen Humanity.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN THE BIBL...

- James 4:4 “You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

### 3. They Exist in Fallen Angels: Satan and his Demons.

- Revelation 12:9 “And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”

### 4. They Are Powerful.

- Matthew 24:24 “For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.”
- “the prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2)

### 5. They Are Persistent.

- Genesis 39:10 “she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.”
- Judges 16:16 “she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death.”

### 6. They Are Persuasive.

- Genesis 3:1,4 “Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ... “You will not surely die,’ the serpent said to the woman.”

### 7. They Are Defeated.

- 1 Corinthians 15:26 “The last enemy to be destroyed is death.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:57 “thanks be to God, who gives us

the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Colossians 2:15 “God disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in him.”
- 1 John 3:8 “The Son of God appeared to destroy the works of the devil.”
- Hebrews 2:14 “Christ took on human nature that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil.”

#### **8. They Are Limited in Power.**

- Job 1:12 “And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.”

#### **9. They Are Limited in Time.**

- John 12:31 “the ruler of this world be cast out”

#### **10. They Are Enslaved. Blinded. Unrighteous. Captive. Dead. Ignorant. Lost.**

- Galatians 4:3 “enslaved to the elementary principles of the world.”
- 2 Timothy 2:26 “they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.”

# YOUR ENEMIES' STRATEGIES & TACTICS: HOW TO AVOID BEING OUTWITTED BY SATAN

2 Corinthians 2:11 “so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.” (ESV)

#### **1. Deception with Lies and Accusations.**

- Revelation 12:9–10 “And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ... the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.”
- John 8:44 “You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he

speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

- 2 Thessalonians 2:10 “with all wicked deception for those who are perishing”

## 2. Desires of the World, Flesh, and Pride of Life.

- Ephesians 2:2 “in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience”
- Matthew 4:3 “the tempter came and said”
- 1 John 2:16 “all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.”
- James 4:1 “What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?”
- 1 Thessalonians 3:5 “somehow the tempter had tempted you”

## 3. Defeat by Intimidation.

- 1 Samuel 17:10 “the Philistine said, ‘I defy the ranks of Israel this day’”

## 4. Division.

- 1 Corinthians 1:10 “I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united”

## 5. Distraction.

- 2 Corinthians 12:7 “a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited”
- 1 Thessalonians 2:18 “we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.”

## 6. Destruction. Sickness.

- John 8:44 “the devil...was a murderer from the beginning”
- 1 Peter 5:8 “Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”
- Luke 13:16 “this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years”
- Acts 10:38 “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.”

## 7. Depression and Apathy.

- Job 2:9 “Then his wife said to him, ‘Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.’”

## 8. Disguise.

- 2 Corinthians 11:13–15 “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. [14] And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. [15] So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.”
- Matthew 7:15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”

## 9. False Worship

- Consulting the dead (Deut 18:11), divination (Lev 19:26), sorcery (Deut 18:10), mediums (Lev 19:31), seeking ghosts (Ezek 13:20), witchcraft (Gal 5:20), astrology (Isa 47:13-14, Deut 4:19), spell casting (Deut 18:11), and interpreting omens (Deut 18:11)



- 2 Thessalonians 2:9–10 “The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders”
- 2 Corinthians 11:3 “But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”

#### **10. Gospel- Opposed**

- 2 Corinthians 4:4 “the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”
- Mark 4:15 “And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.”

## **SOLUTIONS TO YOUR ENEMIES’ ATTACKS: 33 STEPS FORWARD**

### **1. Expect their Presence and Attacks.**

- John 15:18-20 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. [19] If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. [20] Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.” (ESV)

### **2. Prepare for Confrontation and Questions.**

- 1 Peter 3:15 “always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect”
- 2 Timothy 2:24–25 “And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth”

### **3. Prayer.**

- Ephesians 6:18 “praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints”
- 2 Corinthians 12:8–10 “Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of

Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

- Matthew 6:13 “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil”

#### 4. Understand God and His Good Purposes.

- 1 Kings 3:11 “God said to him, ‘Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right’”
- Romans 8:28 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”
- Genesis 50:20 “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

#### 5. Seek Wisdom Concerning their Strategies.

- 2 Corinthians 2:11 “so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.”
- James 3:13–18 “Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. [14] But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. [15] This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. [16] For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. [17] But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. [18] And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

#### 6. Love in Action.

- Philippians 2:3–4 “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”
- Luke 6:27–31 “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.”
- 1 John 3:18 “let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth”
- Romans 12:20–21 “‘if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

#### 7. Suffer with Endurance.

- Matthew 5:38–42 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ [39] But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. [40] And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. [41] And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. [42] Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.”
- 1 Corinthians 4:11–13 “To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands.

When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.”

- 2 Timothy 2:3 "Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus."

#### **8. Truth-Filled.**

- Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."
- Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

#### **9. Truth-Speaking.**

- Ephesians 6:17 "and take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"
- Ephesians 4:15 "speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way...into Christ"

#### **10. Gospel- Sharing.**

- Zechariah 9:11 "As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit."

#### **11. Silent Patience When Threatened, Slandered, & Abused.**

- 1 Peter 2:21–23 "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly."

#### **12. Bold Confrontation against Threats, Words, Lies, and**

#### **Actions.**

- 2 Corinthians 10:5 "We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ"

#### **13. Slow to Speak. Slow to Get Angry. Quick to Listen.**

- James 1:19–20 "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God."
- 2 Timothy 2:24–25 "The Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness"

#### **14. Humility. Meekness. Contentment.**

- 2 Corinthians 12:9–10 "he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

#### **15. Count Your Suffering to be Joy. There is Purpose in your Pain.**

- Matthew 5:10-11 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.'"

#### **16. Sometimes We Flee.**

- 1 Timothy 6:11 " But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness."

- 2 Timothy 2:22 “So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”
- 1 Corinthians 6:18 “Flee from sexual immorality.”
- Acts 9:25 “his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall”

### **17. Sometimes We Stand Firm. Sometimes we fight - physically, militarily, verbally, spiritually.**

- Hebrews 10:39 “But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.”
- Ephesians 6:13 “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.”
- Proverbs 24:17 “Do not gloat when your enemy falls... do not let your heart rejoice”
- 1 Samuel 17:48–51 “When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. [49] And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

[50] So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. [51] Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.”

- “A Christian’s Perspective on Killing” - [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/killing](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/killing)

### **18. Set an Example.**

- 2 Timothy 3:10-13 “ You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, [11] my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. [12] Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, [13] while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”
- Philippians 3:17–20 “Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. [18] For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. [19] Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. [20] But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (ESV)

### **19. Seek and Trust the Lord.**

- 2 Timothy 3:14-17 “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it [15] and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. [16] All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

### **20. Follow Jesus.**

- 2 Corinthians 4:7-11 “But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to



God and not to us. [8] We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; [9] persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; [10] always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. [11] For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh."

- Proverbs 16:7 "When a man's ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him."

### **21. Rejoice.**

- Hebrews 10:32–34 "But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, [33] sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. [34] For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one."

### **22. Forgive and Be Merciful**

- Luke 23:34 "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do"
- Luke 6:36 "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."
- Proverbs 24:17–18 "Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles, lest the LORD see it and be displeased, and turn away his anger from him."

### **23. Pursue Peace and Trust the Lord for Justice and Vengeance.**

- Romans 12:17-19 "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If

it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

- Romans 12:19–21 "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' [20] To the contrary, 'if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.' [21] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

### **24. Don't Join Them in their Evil.**

- 1 Peter 2:23 "When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly."
- Proverbs 1:10 "My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent."

### **25. Seek Your Strength and Protection in God.**

- Ephesians 6:11 "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."
- James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

### **26. Don't Worry.**

- Matthew 6:25 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life"
- Luke 12:25-26 "And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?"

### **27. Don't Envy.**

- Proverbs 23:17 "Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day."

- Proverbs 3:31–33 “Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways, [32] for the devious person is an abomination to the LORD, but the upright are in his confidence. [33] The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous.”

### 28. Don't Fear.

- Joshua 1:9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”
- Philippians 1:28 “and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.”

### 29. Listen and Obey.

- Joshua 1:7–8 “Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. [8] This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”
- 2 Corinthians 10:5 “Take every thought captive to obey Christ”

### 28. Grow.

- Philippians 1:6 “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”
- Romans 5:3–5 “Not only that, but we rejoice in

our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4] and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, [5] and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

- James 1:2–4 “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, [3] for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. [4] And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

### 30. Reorient Your Mind.

- Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”
- Philippians 3:13–14 “Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, [14] I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

### 31. Pursue Holiness

- Ephesians 4:27 “and give no opportunity to the devil.”
- 1 Peter 1:14–16 “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, [15] but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, [16] since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”
- 1 Peter 3:16–17 “having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. [17] For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.”

### 32. Stay Confident in God's Eternal Justice and Judgment

- Revelation 20:10 “the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”
- Revelation 12:11: “They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.”

### 33. Always Be Ready

- 1 Peter 5:8–10 “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. [9] Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. [10] And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”
- 1 Timothy 1:18–19 “This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith”

## YOUR ENEMY WANTS YOU...

Did you know? Have you forgotten? You have an enemy in Satan and he is persistently plotting his attacks against you. Don't let the Devil outsmart you. Here are six of Satan's strategies against you!

2 Corinthians 2:11 “so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.”

**1. God-less** - Your adversary, the Devil, wants you to be self-reliant. He wants you to focus on yourself; to trust in yourself, love yourself, improve yourself, and satisfy yourself. Satan desires for you to do life, and eternity, apart from a loving submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Only Jesus can set you free from your captivity to Satan. *Sincerely draw near to Jesus & submit to His authority!*

James 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (ESV)

**2. Bible-less** - Your tempter wants to deceive you. His subtle lies are designed to draw you away from the unchanging truths of Scripture. The Devil uses the culture of the world to conform you into his fallen image rather than pursuing the things of God. *Read, listen to, or watch the Bible!*

Matthew 16:22–23 Jesus “turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.'”

**3. Prayer-less** - Your enemy is fine with you talking to yourself in your head. Your accuser delights in you believing in a fake version of god: a god of your own imagination. The last thing your deceiver wants you to do is to respond to the biblical voice of God in humble prayer. *Pray the Bible daily!*

John 17:15 "I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one."

**4. Church-less** - Outside the church is described as Satan's realm (1 Corinthians 5:5), a place that brings real harm and suffering. Satan will feed you every excuse to avoid church on Sunday. He'd rather you watch church on-line than be in genuine face-to-face gathered Christian fellowship. *Be in a biblical church every week!*

2 Corinthians 11:3 "But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ."

**5. Love-less** - Satan spreads hatred of God and hatred among humanity. He will make every effort to divide you from God and from one another. The Devil feeds prideful arrogance and division in this world. *Choose loving forgiveness, patience, unity, kindness, gentleness, meekness, and humility.*

Ephesians 4:26-28 "do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil."

**6. Knowledge-less.** Satan wants you to ignore his present, ongoing attacks against you. Satan wants you to forget about his name, strategies, and work against you. Remember his names. Resist his strategies. *Daily put on the whole armor of God and rest in Jesus' strength!*

The Accuser. Your Adversary. Angel of the Abyss/Pit (Abaddon, Apollyon). The Antichrist. Beelzebul (The Prince/Ruler of Demons, Lord of Flies, Lord of Dung). Belial. Day Star (In Latin, Lucifer, son of Dawn). The Deceiver. The Devil. The Dragon. The

Enemy. The Evil One. The Father of Lies. King of Tyre (Anointed Guardian Cherub). A Murderer from the Beginning. Prince of Power of the Air. A Roaring Lion. The Ruler/god of this World/Age. Satan. The Serpent. Slanderer. The Tempter. The Thief. The Wolf.

Ephesians 6:11 "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."



# WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU ARE SURROUNDED BY EVIL?

Have you ever found yourself surrounded by evil, wickedness, darkness, or enemies? Attacked by a military force, coworkers, family, friends, or the demonic?

God has provided us eternal victory from our enemies through His Son, Jesus Christ. He is our hope and our life. Our physical bodies will one day die, yet if we love, trust, and follow Jesus, our spirits are alive forever.

- John 11:25–26 “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?’” (ESV)

Jesus warns us that as He has been hated and attacked in this world, we can likewise expect similar trials. Through His indwelling Spirit in believers, He provides help, peace, and powerful encouragement.

- John 15:18–20 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they

persecuted me, they will also persecute you.”

- John 16:33 “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

God has also spoken to us directly and shown us in His Son Jesus an example of faithful endurance for our times of need. Watch and follow Jesus, and He will encourage and guide you through your suffering. May His love overflow from you into the lives of others, even when you find yourself surrounded by evil.

- Romans 8:35–39 “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.’” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- Matthew 16:24 “Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’” (ESV)
- John 13:15 “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.”
- Colossians 3:13 “as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”
- 1 John 2:6 “whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”
- Ephesians 5:1–2 “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”
- 1 Corinthians 11:1 “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”

**1 Peter 2:20–21 “For what credit is it if, when you sin and are**

**beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps."**

## **Here Are 25 Ways Jesus Models For Us On How To Respond To And Endure In The Midst Of An Evil World:**

### **1. Surrounded by the World - While Rejected by His Creation, He Chooses to Shine Brightly for the Adoption of His Children**

- John 1:9–12 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (ESV)
- John 3:19–21 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

### **2. Surrounded In Bethlehem - Escapes as a Refugee to Egypt**

- Matthew 2:13–15 "Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of

Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'" (ESV)

### **3. At His Baptism - Surrounded & Encouraged - The Son Is Surrounded by His Father and the Holy Spirit**

- Matthew 3:16–17 "And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'"

### **4. When Receiving the News of John the Baptist's Death - He Withdraws for Time Alone with His Father**

- Matthew 14:13 "Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself."
- Matthew 14:23 "And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone"

### **5. At His Transfiguration - Surrounded & Supernaturally Glorified**

- Matthew 17:5 "He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.'"

### **6. In the Desert - Tempted by Satan's Deceitful Twisting of Scriptures, Yet Believes and Speaks the Truth**

- Matthew 4:3 "And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.'"

### **7. In the Desert - Surrounded by Ministering Angels in a Time of Weakness and Need**

- Matthew 4:11 "Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him."

### **8. Surrounded by Great Crowds with all Sorts of Suffering - Responds with Compassionate Miracles and Teaching**

- Matthew 4:23 “And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.”
- Matthew 9:35–36 “And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”
- Matthew 14:21 “And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.”
- Matthew 15:31 “so that the crowd wondered, when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel.”
- Matthew 15:38 “Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children.”

#### **9. Surrounded by Great Storm - Demonstrates Great Faith to Provide a Great Calm**

- Matthew 8:26 “And he said to them, ‘Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?’ Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.”

#### **10. Interrupted by Strong, Demon Possessed Men - Casts Out the Demons**

- Matthew 8:32 “And he said to them, ‘Go.’ So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters.”

#### **11. Surrounded by Arrogant Sinners - Witnesses to them and Forgives the Repentant**

- Matthew 9:12 “But when he heard it, he said, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.’”

#### **12. Surrounded by Apostles - Loves Them In Spite of Knowing They Would Abandon, Deny, and Betray Him**

- John 6:66–71 “After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you want to go away as well?’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.’ Jesus answered them, ‘Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.’ He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.”
- Matthew 26:47 “While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people.”
- Matthew 26:56 “But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left him and fled.”
- Matthew 26:69–70 “Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, ‘You also were with Jesus the Galilean.’ But he denied it before them all, saying, ‘I do not know what you mean.’”

#### **13. Surrounded by Opposition Trying to Destroy Him - He Never Cowers in Fear**

- Matthew 10:16–19 “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour.”
- Matthew 12:14 “But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.”

#### **14. Surrounded by Opposition Trying to Destroy Him - Has the Wisdom As When to Escape and Avoid His Enemies for the Continuation of His Ministry**

- Matthew 12:14–15 “But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him. Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all”
- Luke 4:29–30 “And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. But passing through their midst, he went away.”
- John 10:39 “Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.”
- John 7:1 “After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him.”

#### **15. Surrounded by Enemies Trying to Entrap Him - Keeps Speaking Boldly**

- Luke 11:53-54 “the scribes and Pharisees began to press him hard and to provoke him to speak about many things, lying in wait for him to catch him in something he might say”
- Matthew 22:15 “Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words.”

#### **16. Surrounded by False Accusations - Responds with Wisdom & Condemnation**

- Matthew 12:24–25 “But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, ‘It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.’ Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.”
- Matthew 12:31–32 “Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever

speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”

#### **17. Surrounded by False Accusations - Responds with Silence**

- Matthew 26:60–63 “many false witnesses came forward. ...the high priest stood up and said, ‘Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?’ But Jesus remained silent”
- Matthew 27:12–14 “But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him, ‘Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?’ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.”

#### **18. Surrounded by the Reality of His Impending Torture and Death - Stays Faithful Unto Death**

- Matthew 20:17–19 “And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, ‘See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.’”
- Matthew 27:22 “Pilate said to them, ‘Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?’ They all said, ‘Let him be crucified!’”
- Matthew 27:26–31 “having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the



robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

### **19. Surrounded by Evil Religious Leaders - Verbally Rebukes the Pharisees, Scribes, & Sadducees**

- . "You brood of vipers!" - Matthew 12:34
- . "An evil and adulterous generation" - Matthew 12:39,45; 16:4
- . "You hypocrites!" - Matthew 15:7; 22:18; 23:15, 27
- . "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God." Matthew 22:29
- . "child of hell" - Matthew 23:15
- . "blind guides," "blind men" - Matthew 23:16, 19
- . "whitewashed tombs" - Matthew 23:27
- . "Inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You fools!" - Luke 11:40
- . You "neglect justice and the love of God" - Luke 11:42
- . "You are like unmarked graves" - Luke 11:44

### **20. Surrounded by Corruption - Physically Attacks the Evil that Is Invading and Occupying His "House" (The Temple)**

- . John 2:15-17 "And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." (ESV)
- . Matthew 21:12-13 And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."

### **21. Surrounded by Soldiers - Sacrificially Lays Down His Life for**

### **Others**

- . John 10:14-15 "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep."
- . John 10:17-18 "For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."
- . John 15:13-14 "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you."
- . 1 John 3:16 "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers."

### **22. Surrounded by Temporary Things - Speaks Eternal Things**

- . Matthew 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."
- . Matthew 27:11 "Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You have said so.'"

### **23. Surrounded by Sorrow and Trouble - Prays Desperately and Dependently**

Matthew 26:38-39 "Then he said to them, 'My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.' And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.'"

### **24. Surrounded by Darkness and Death - Faithfully Continues Calling to His Father**

- . Matthew 27:45-46 "Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why

have you forsaken me?” (ESV)

### **25. Surrounded by Evil - Rejoices In & Remains Focused on His Eternal Purpose**

- Matthew 5:11–12 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”
- Matthew 5:39–42 “But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.”
- Matthew 5:44 “But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”

## **10 SCRIPTURES TO PRAY IN TIME OF WAR**

How should we respond in a time of war? What can we do when we feel so helpless? Where can we take our emotions of brokenness over all of the death and destruction?

In times of war we must be men and women of fervent fasting and prayer on behalf of those who are surrounded and suffering. Here are ten Scriptures to pray in this season of war:

### **1. PRAY FOR A DEMONSTRATION OF TRUE LOVE TOWARDS ENEMIES**

Matthew 5:44 “But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”

### **2. PRAY FOR REPENTANCE FROM WICKEDNESS**

2 Chronicles 7:14 “if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

### **3. PRAY FOR THE LORD’S SALVATION OF THE LOST**

Romans 10:1 “Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.”

### **4. PRAY HUMBLY AND DEPENDENTLY FOR GOD’S PROTECTION OVER THOSE IN DANGER**

Ezra 8:21–23 “Then I proclaimed a fast there ... that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods. ... So we

fasted and implored our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty”

**5. PRAY FOR THE ENDURANCE AND WITNESS OF GOD’S PEOPLE IN GOD’S POWER**

2 Corinthians 4:8–10 “We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.”

**6. PRAY FOR CHRISTIAN COURAGE, CONFIDENCE AND STRENGTH**

Isaiah 41:9–10 “I have chosen you and not cast you off; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

**7. PRAY FOR THE HONORING OF CHRIST IN LIFE & IN DEATH**

Philippians 1:20–21 “that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

**8. PRAY FOR TRUST IN JESUS’ FUTURE JUSTICE, WRATH, AND VENGEANCE**

Revelation 20:10 “the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

**9. PRAY FOR FAITHFULNESS UNTO DEATH**

Revelation 2:10 “Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

**10. PRAY FOR AN EAGER HOPE IN JESUS’ FUTURE RETURN**

Luke 21:27–28 “And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

## 22 GREAT BOOKS ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Here are some helpful books to consider if you are interested in reading more on the topic of spiritual warfare:

1. Anderson, Neil T. *The Bondage Breaker*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2000.
2. Anderson, Neil T. *Victory Over the Darkness: Realizing the Power of Your Identity in Christ*. Ventura, CA: Regal, 2000.
3. Arnold, Clinton E. *Power and Magic: The Concept of Power in Ephesians*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2001.
4. Arnold, Clinton E. *Powers of Darkness: Principalities and Powers in Paul's Letters*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 1989.
5. Arnold, Clinton. *3 Crucial Questions about Spiritual Warfare*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997.
6. Beilby, James K. and Paul Rhodes Eddy, eds. *Understanding Spiritual Warfare: Four Views*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012.
7. Brooks, Thomas. *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*. Lexington, KY: Feather Trail, 2010.
8. Boyd, Gregory A. *God at War: The Bible and Spiritual Conflict*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1997.
9. Cook III, William F. and Chuck Lawless. *Spiritual Warfare in the Storyline of Scripture: A Biblical, Theological, and Practical Approach*. Nashville: B&H, 2019.
10. Gilhooly, John R. *40 Questions about Angels, Demons, and*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN THE BIBL...

*Spiritual Warfare*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2018.

11. Gurnall, William. *The Christian in Complete Armour: Daily Readings in Spiritual Warfare*. Chicago: Moody, 1999.
12. Keller, Timothy. *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*. New York: Penguin, 2014.
13. Lawless, Chuck. *Disciplined Warriors*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2002.
14. Lightner, Robert. *Angels, Satan, and Demons*. Nashville: Word, 1998.
15. Longman, Tremper, and Daniel G. Reid. *God Is a Warrior*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
16. MacArthur, John F. *Standing Strong: How to Resist the Enemy of Your Soul*. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2012.
17. Moreau, A. Scott. *Essentials of Spiritual Warfare: Equipped to Win the Battle*. Wheaton, IL: Harold Shaw, 1997.
18. Nevius, John Livingston. *Demon Possession and Allied Themes: Being an Inductive Study of Phenomena of Our Own Times*. London: Forgotten Books, 2012.
19. Page, Sydney H. T. *Powers of Evil: A Biblical Study of Satan and Demons*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.
20. Rankin, Jerry, and Ed Stetzer. *Spiritual Warfare and Missions*. Nashville: B&H, 2010.
21. Rommen, Edward, ed. *Spiritual Power and Missions*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey, 1995.
22. Van Rheenen, Gailyn. *Communicating Christ in Animistic Contexts*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey, 1991.

An out-of-print book but the articles are available online at <http://www.lausanne.org> is Moreau, A. Scott, Tokunboh



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Adeyemo, et al, eds. *Deliver Us from Evil*. Monrovia, CA: MARC, 2002.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Free Video Lectures @  
[www.spiritualwarfare.blog/  
faqs](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/faqs)

1 Peter 3:15 “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect” (ESV)

Colossians 4:5–6 “Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. [6] Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” (ESV)

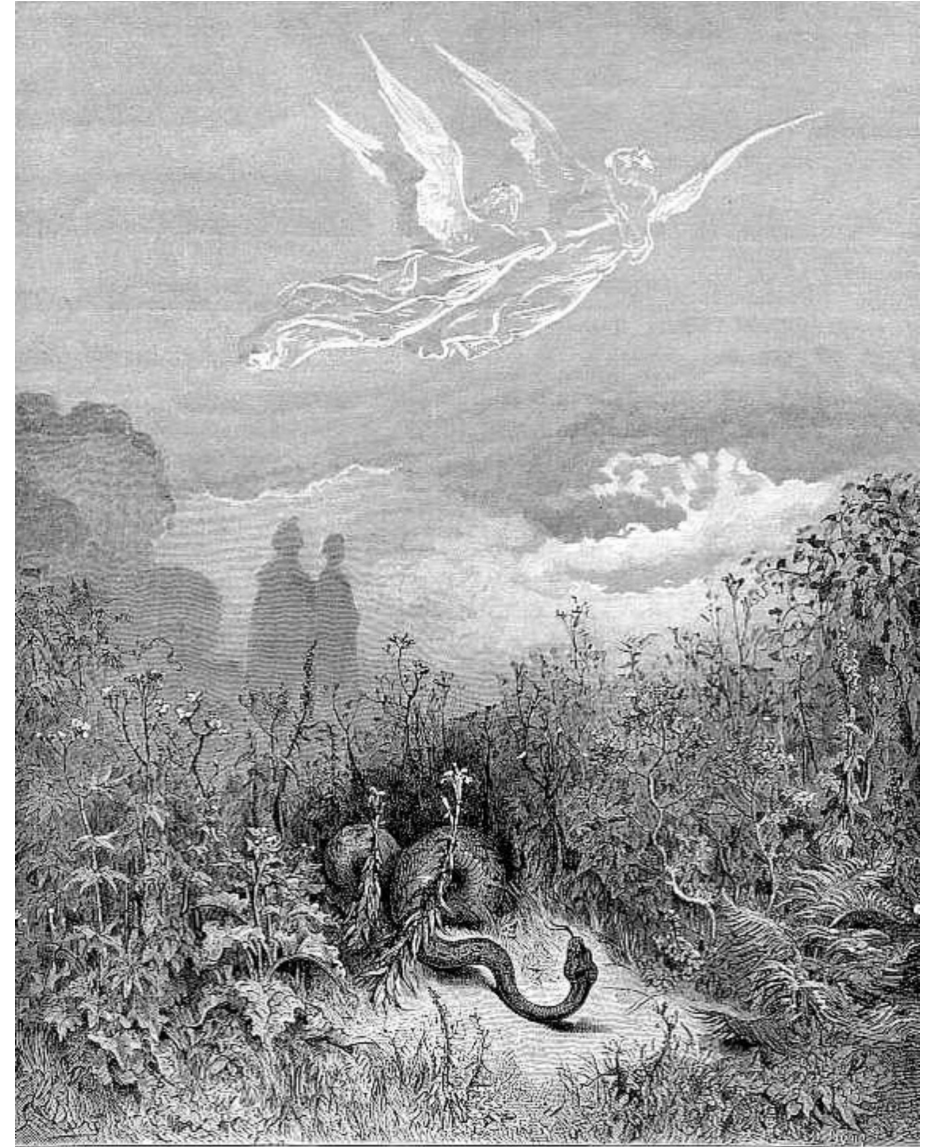
Ephesians 4:11–14 “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, [14] so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.” (ESV)

There are many other questions you may have that this book

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has not yet answered. This section will answer a few of those questions but will also challenge you to think biblically through other questions and scenarios you have already faced or that you may face in the future.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN THE BIBL...



THE SERPENT

# PREPARE FOR COMMON QUESTIONS

Here are some common questions you will likely hear in the future, if you haven't already.

*How would you respond to them?*

*What Scriptures would you use to support your answer?*

1. What is the paranormal? Should I be scared? Or is it all fake? Is it all new and recent? What is so fascinating about the paranormal and demonic?
2. What is evil? What is good? How can I know what is true and what is false?
3. What's the one sure-fire thing I can do to survive paranormal attacks? (FYI: only Jesus!)
4. Which is the best book on this topic? (Hint: It's not the one you are reading)
5. Who is the best person to talk to on this topic? (Full disclosure: No human author)
6. Are ghosts real? Can my dead relatives come back to talk to me? Familiar spirits? Spirit guides? Can a place be haunted? Is it wrong to talk to ghosts? Is it wrong to go to haunted houses? Is ghost hunting wrong?
7. Is Satan real? Do demons exist? Who are they? What can they do? Is Hell real? Do they go back and forth to Hell? When do they end up in Hell?

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN THE BIBL...

8. What about Angels? Who are they? What can they do? Do people become angels after they die? Is Heaven real? Do they go back and forth to Heaven?
9. Is Satan responsible for acts of violence, torture, and murder? Are serial killers and mass murderers demon possessed? When a criminal says they heard voices telling them to do it, is it just mental illness or more?
10. Do demons cause sin? Do demons cause sickness and disease? Death? War? Mental illness? Violence? Mass murder?
11. Are there demons of particular sins and temptations? Do demons have names? Do I get extra power over them with the knowledge of their specific name? Can I interrogate demons to get knowledge from them?
12. Are curses real? Generational? Can ancestral spirits be passed down?
13. Do Shamans, Mediums, Channelers, Witches, Prophets, Psychics, etc. have real power? Curses? Blessings? Mind reading? Future telling?
14. Is it ok to watch paranormal movies and TV shows? Read books and blogs? Play games with such themes?
15. Is there any harm in Zombies? Pokémon? Cartoon witches? Avatars? Vampires? Werewolves?
16. What about Ouija boards? Voodoo dolls? Horoscopes? Palm reading? Séances? Mediums? Mystics? Incense? New age medicine? Tarot cards? Psychics? Fortune Tellers? Witchcraft? Eastern religious practices (therapies/massages, yoga, reiki, meditation)? Trances? Dowsing (water witching or divining)? Hypnosis? Trances?
17. What about Aliens? UFOs? Extrasensory perception (ESP)? Clairvoyance? Telepathy? Shape shifting? Levitation? Automatic writing?
18. Are there spirits in objects? Crystals? Idols? Animals (what about Pet Psychics)? Trees? Energies? Channeling the Universe? Can items of idol worship

- carry demonic power? Should I clean out my house? What should I get rid of and how?
19. Are their demons assigned to specific geographic regions and cities? Can demons be “prayed down”?
  20. Do demonic attacks only happen in other countries? To people involved with the occult? To people with mental illness? To people with addictions? To non-believers?
  21. Is demonic possession real? What can a demon do to me? Can the devil or a demon make me do something I don’t want to do?
  22. Can a Christian be possessed by a demon? “Demonized”? “Have” a Demon?
  23. Can a Christian be harassed by a demon? “Oppressed”? Attacked?
  24. Can someone be a Christian and their life not demonstrate real change?
  25. Am I more vulnerable to Satan’s attacks because of past sin? How is my resistance to sin tied to demonic attack? Do demons attack some people more than others (with sexual sin, drugs, or false worship)? How do I avoid such attacks?
  26. What about children? Before the age of accountability? After? Are they especially vulnerable? How can we protect, teach, and guide them about the paranormal and demonic?
  27. Should I pray over and anoint my house or room? Why? How? Will formulaic prayers help? Why or why not?
  28. Am I more likely to be attacked if I am faithful to follow Jesus? Go on a mission trip? Serve in ministry? Help someone dealing with the paranormal or demonic? Why or why not?
  29. What about exorcism? What about renouncing, rebuking, commanding, or binding demons? What should I say to a demon?

30. Should I try to manifest a demon in order to determine if someone is possessed? Can I see a demon? Can I see an angel? Is someone who hears voices or sees ghosts/angels/demons crazy? What should I say to struggling friends?
31. What should I say and do if I wake up in the middle of the night with a nightmare or a demonic presence in my room? How can I tell if I am being attacked by Satan or a demon? Or am I just being attacked by my emotions, dreams, thoughts and flesh? How should I respond to reoccurring and plaguing thoughts?
32. Are other world religions demonic? Are cults and sects demonic? Is Wicca demonic? The occult?
33. Are false teachers demonic? What constitutes a false teacher or teaching? Is Protestantism demonic? Is Catholicism demonic? What is syncretism and is it demonic?
34. How can I prepare for future...Spiritual Attacks? Mental Attacks? Physical Attacks? Marriage Attacks? Parenting Attacks? Workplace Attacks? Church Attacks
35. How can I live with ongoing struggles and suffering? What if Satan doesn’t leave me alone?
36. What if I am just a “normal Christian”? Does this subject really affect me? Am I safe from all of this paranormal and demonic stuff?



# HYPOTHETICAL SPIRITUAL WARFARE SCENARIOS

*Here are some hypothetical scenarios (based on real experiences) to consider and use for discussion in preparation for ministry opportunities.*

## **IMPORTANT!!!**

- 1) *Never presume the Gospel, always be prepared to witness clearly.*
- 2) *Assuming the person/s in these scenarios are already genuine Christian believers, how would you respond?*
  1. *What Bible truths would you share?*
  2. *What Bible passages might guide you?*
  3. *What biblical actions might you take?*
  4. *What questions would you ask?*

## **HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND?**

1. Bob comes into your office and shares that in his job of home appraisals he regularly runs into “ghostly” appearances. How do you respond?
2. Jan’s teenage children have been regularly watching “paranormal” TV shows and movies. How do you counsel them?
3. Steve recently took his kids and their friends to a

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN THE BIBL...

- “haunted” building for Halloween. How do you advise him?
4. Samantha participated in voodoo dolls and curses as a child and feels that this guilt is now part of her current struggles. What do you say?
  5. John occasionally sees the “ghost” of his deceased wife and communicates with her. How might you disciple John?
  6. Naomi hears loud noises, voices, and has things moved around in her house at night. She shares that this is ongoing reality and frightens her, her husband, and her children. What do you do?
  7. Fred is having problems with addictive substances and claims that a demon is continuing to harass and tempt him, even to the point of making pills, cigarettes, and beer appear out of nowhere. How might you respond?
  8. Fran shares that a demonic voice predicted the traumatic and unexpected death of someone a few days before the man died. What should you say?
  9. A family relates their experiences with multiple traumatic “manifestations” of a demonic presence: the appearance of addictive substances out of nowhere, disappearance of Christian literature, loud accusing voices, writings, text messages, phone calls, flying objects, unknown scripts, audible threats, audible bargaining, and more. What should they do?
  10. April relates seeing reptiles speak and threaten her with a “demonic voice.” Her husband relates seeing and experiencing the same. How should you advise them to process this experience?
  11. A missionary explains that when moving to a new country their young child becomes sick and describes seeing and hearing things in their house. Upon investigation idols are found in the attic of their house and all indications point to sacrifices being made within the house. What should this family do?

12. Amy keeps waking up with recurring nightmares at 3am. Her dreams are so real that she is fearful and intimidated. She wants the nightmares to stop. How should you counsel her?
13. Caroline wakes up in the middle of the night with a felt, cold presence in the room. She feels as if it has sexually violated her. She is convinced that she was wide-awake. She doesn't know what to do now or how to prevent it from happening again. What do you say?
14. Mike is being counseled by a pastor at his home. During the visit, Mike's pet kitten goes crazy with unusual and constant meowing and clawing. Later in the week this same kitten begins to defecate throughout their house and bleed through its paws. A demonic type voice claims to be the source. Mike wants help, what should you say and do?
15. Jill returns home from a mission trip with several masks and cultural items to add to her already large collection of Indian "dreamcatchers" and other relics. Soon thereafter she begins to hear steps and strange noises in her house at night and observes doors being opened that were previously closed. What should she do?
16. Tom used to be a Mormon and is now convicted to a new depth as to his past sinful practices in this cult. He still has the book of Mormon, Pearl of Great Price, and Doctrines and Covenants. What should he do with these books?
17. Stephanie is on a mission trip and feels something cold touching her toes in the middle of the night. When she wakes up to the feeling, she feels paralyzed, held down, and unable to move, seemingly overshadowed by a dark and oppressive force. She tells you the next morning and wants advice. What might you say?
18. Thomas has been involved in multiple affairs over the

- past six years. Everyone he knows thinks highly of him as a strong Christian man and role model. He has been hearing demonic voices screaming at him and mocking him. No one else seems to hear the voices. His name was written/scratched on the wall when a minister came over the help. He wants your advice and help now. What would you say?
19. Kameron formerly lived with a Serbian orthodox man and remembers him cooking and chanting things. She thinks he put a curse on her and wants to know what to do about it?
  20. George is a missionary and observes a man seemingly possessed by a demon. He is so violent that the villagers have tied him up and now the local believers in the village are
    21. asking George for guidance and direction. George has called you up and is asking for advice, how do you answer?
    22. Yolanda had a son with Aaron six years ago. Yolanda thinks Aaron may have been demonically possessed and remembers him talking to, worshipping, and singing to a "multitude" of demons. Yolanda is concerned that her son may inherited these demons. How do you counsel her?
    23. Hank has several tattoos with demons, gravestones, and skulls on them. He says a demon scratched him on the tattoos, claims to live in the tattoos, and keeps verbally referencing the tattoos, including a drawing on a dry erase board in his kitchen. What should Hank do?
    24. Francisca has been regularly harassed by a demon and wants it to stop. She has tried being "exorcised" personally and has had ministers attempt to cleanse and anoint her house. The activity has increased and she is asking for help. What will you say?
    25. Danny keeps receiving text messages from "666" and

can't seem to stop the messages. He has also had heard demonic sounding voices over the phone and those he is talking with have heard it too. What should he do?

26. Steve and Samantha find a list of all of their personal sins written on a piece of paper in their kitchen. Neither one of them knows the source, but both think a demon did it due to prior "activity." Steve tore up the list and flushed it down the toilet, but wants to know what to do now. A voice reportedly said to Samantha that "these are my attachments to you." How do you respond?
27. Cindy walks into a pet store and all of the animals start going crazy. Cindy hears a demonic voice say "they sense me." A lady in the store remarks that "I've never seen it like this, it is like something is in here." Cindy thinks a demon is following her around. How do you counsel Cindy?
28. Paul claims to hear God telling him what to do and what to tell others. He regularly tells his family these "revelations" from God. Paul is walking in adultery and sin and his "revelations" are not always in line with Scripture. You have the opportunity to speak to Paul and his family, what do you say?
29. Megan is pregnant but has been regularly tormented by what she feels is a demon. She has a miscarriage and a voice tells her that he ate the baby and laughs. Megan is devastated by the baby's lost and doesn't know what to think. What Scripture might you counsel her with?
30. Larry had a traumatic brain injury in Iraq but has been able to function quite well. Lately he has been hearing voices from what he claims is both God and Satan. He is extremely confused and doesn't know how to process his experiences. What questions might you ask? What advice might you give?

31. Susan has been regularly harassed and finds her Bible opened, with a candle on top. The Bible was opened to Revelation 13 with lots of the passage circled, a drawing, and the number "666" written across the page. She is trying to process this and asks your advice. How do you respond?
32. Pete is a member of a tribal society and is a new believer. His village has an annual animal sacrifice in preparation for the farming season. How do you advise him?
33. Kim is a member of an ancestor worship culture. As soon as you enter her house you see the altar dedicated to her family's ancestors. She is not allowed to remove the altar because it falls under the authority of her husband. She comes to you looking for guidance, what do you say?
34. Sam is a member of a worldview that believes in shamans for curses. He thinks the local shaman put a curse on him once he became a believer. He is concerned that the curse is real and powerful and affecting his family. How do you respond?
35. Tammy is a believer in a worldview that strongly seeks to repel demons through sacrifices and hanging items above the entryway to houses. Her friend seems demonically possessed and the local shaman nor modern medicine seem to help. She comes to you and asks you to help. What might you do?
36. Jim is a new believer in an animistic worldview. He still has his family's wooden idols and feels burdened by them and wants advice. What do you say?
37. Kate is a new believer in an animistic worldview. Her village has a particular tree under which they gather regularly and lay sacrifices. She wants to know what is her responsibility when they gather next. How do you answer?
38. Dave is a new believer in an animistic worldview.

Every funeral and wedding in his village involves some sort of sacrifice and ceremony. He wants to know if he can attend the funerals and weddings anymore. What do you say?

39. Sally is new believer in a tribal worldview setting. She commonly gets her meat at the neighboring village where she knows it has been sacrificed to idols. She asks you if she can buy and eat it, or will the demons attack her through the meat sacrifice. How do you guide her?
40. Lane is a new believer in a village with a shaman. Whenever someone becomes sick they have particular potions, chants, and common practices not tied to modern medicine. He does not have access to modern medicine. His young son is sick and Lane is desperate for healing. How do you encourage him?
41. A relative is on a family vacation and contacts you about "spooky" things happening to her daughter and her daughter's friends while they sleep at night at a condo. They are all scared and want help. How do you help?

## A LONGER SCENARIO, FOR INSTRUCTION...

You receive this email, what will you write back?

"Bethany gave me your contact information. She said that you may be able to help me with some paranormal activity in my house. My husband & I have lived in our house since mid June of this year. After a couple of weeks of our dog barking madly at it & the kids getting weirded out I tried to rebuke it. I made the kids leave the room & I talked to it saying that it can't stay. I also said "In the name of Jesus, get out". Apparently it didn't leave because since then it has just gotten worse. It will shut doors, move cell phones, set off the motion sensor in the kitchen at night, walk through the house during the night & make our dog bark madly at air. The house is about 30 years old. I don't know of any deaths or tragic things that have happened in the house but I haven't asked or looked it up either. Please help!"

**MY REPLY:** "Yes, I would be glad to help. First of all I would caution you from following much of the typical advice you might receive on this issue. Many will label such occurrences as "ghosts" or "paranormal" activity and have many experience-based solutions.

Ultimately what you are experiencing is demonic, not some sort of human spirit. I don't say that to scare you, but to help you realize the reality of what you are dealing with. Your solution will not be found in some sort of ritual, special exorcist/paranormal specialist, or by speaking to the demon.



Such approaches may appear to provide relief, but it will only be temporary. Your solution will be only found by sincerely seeking God in faith.

Who lives in your house? How would you describe each of their relationships with God? (i.e. who has followed Jesus in faith and baptism, how regularly do they seek God in Bible reading, active in church, etc.?) Apart from what you described, is there any other helpful information? Has anyone seen, heard, or felt anything else? Any plaguing thoughts? Any weird text messages, phone calls, or writings? Apart from what you mentioned, what other attempts or practices have you done to try to make these occurrences stop? Has any pastor tried helping you yet? If so, how? What sort of praying to God or Scripture reading have you done so far?"

**HER REPLY:** "I have 2 friends who have told me to put oil on the doors & windows & rebuke it in the name of Jesus. I've done that (by myself) but it doesn't feel as if it or they are gone. In the house is me, my husband, & our 4 kids. We're blended. He has 2 boys (ages 9 & 11 - they are not Christians) & I have 2 boys (ages 7 & 10 - mine are Christians). We also have a pet pig & pug in the house. My husband & I got married in July. We are both Christians & attend church together as a family. Most nights I read all 4 boys a bible story from their kids bible. My husband & I read a devotional with just the 2 of us most nights also.

What started this was our pug barking at mid air in the living room, then doors starting being shut & a cell phone moved. My husband & a friend who stayed with us recently both hear footsteps walking at night. I don't hear it. My husband also hears what sounds like fingers running across blinds in our room. Our motion sensor in the kitchen has gone off twice & the kids & animals were all asleep. The front door knob has rustled. It's very unnerving.

We bought the house & moved in mid June of this year. I'm

not sure who lived here before besides what the neighbor calls a cat lady who had 20-30 cats. The bank bought the house & totally gutted & remodeled it, then put it on the market. We then bought it. Should I use oil on the doors & windows again? This time having my husband do it with me. I've been told I should have all family members including pets together when we do it room by room. I don't want to scare the kids any more than they have been already by the strange activity in the house. But I also want them to be aware of the enemy's attacks."

**MY REPLY:** "Oil and rebuking can be helpful at times, but there is more involved than a mere ritual. The power we access in God is not found by simply saying the correct prayers or doing the right action. Rebuking, dialoguing, and naming can actually be a dangerous practice (Jude 8-9, 2 Peter 2:10-11) and although the one handout I have attached includes some rebuking, I encourage it to be done such as the archangel Michael did saying "The Lord rebuke you."

I have seen people go through anointing, rebuking, and more with very little success. Oftentimes Satan leads people down never ending rabbit trails of trying to figure out the "key" to get rid of the demons. If you feel led to have your husband or a pastor lead you all through the house in anointing of oil, that is fine, but please realize that there is no power in the oil. The oil is merely a symbol of being covered by God's Holy Spirit.

I think the biblical model for dealing with the demonic is the process you should follow. Essentially that means a process of repentance and belief, which is essentially just the practice of faith. To be more specific, the one handout I included (Steps to Freedom in Christ by Neil Anderson) is a comprehensive process of you and your husband to go through, repenting of past and present sin and praying to God for help specifically. Demons are a lot like flies and are attracted to the trash (sin) in our lives.

If there is any unconfessed and hidden sin (often times sexual

sin like pornography or addictions to substances), the demonic attacks will continue until there is genuine repentance. There also may be items in your home associated with false religious worship (like Indian dream weavers, prayer rugs, etc.) that may need to be removed and destroyed. The handout covers a lot more areas to go through.

The handout also includes helpful guides for praying over your home and before bedtime. The process of working through the handout will take 3-5 hours but is worth it. If you encounter significant spiritual attack during the process of working through it, you may need to ask your pastor or a trusted Christian friend to help you. It is important that both you and your husband work through this together as he is designed by God to be the spiritual leader of your house.

1 Corinthians 12:1-10 is good to be familiar with so that you understand sometimes God allows suffering, to included demonic attack, to increase your dependence and trust in Him. In this passage, the word "messenger" is the same word for angel, meaning that Paul was being harassed by a demon.

On a very simple level, I have included a listing of Scriptures to use. If you are in the middle of a demonic attack (hearing noises, feeling a presence, etc.), simply read Scripture (like those I included, or others) out loud in a prayer to God. I have seen Scripture as the Sword of the Spirit quickly stop and silence demonic activity. It might be good to talk to your kids if they are already seeing and understanding that different things are going on, so that you can reassure them that God is stronger than Satan.

I hope this is a helpful start! Please feel free to ask any more questions you might have. If you find yourselves in the midst of a frightening demonic attack, please feel free to call me no matter the hour and I would be glad to pray with you over the phone and guide you through the experience. I am so sorry that

you all are going through this but I know God has a purpose and will carry you through if you seek Him during this time of suffering."

**HER REPLY:** Thank you so much for your help. My husband & I have started the steps. Things are going much better. We haven't noticed any activity since we went over the attachments that you sent. ["Steps to Freedom in Christ" and "Bible Verses on Spiritual Warfare"]

# HALLOWEEN: THE PARANORMAL

Much of Halloween is focused on what some might call the “paranormal,” or supernatural themes, objects, activities, and beings. So what is the paranormal? Should I be scared? Is it real, or is it all fake and pretend?

Some paranormal “occurrences” are nothing but fraudulent hoaxes. Yet some paranormal activities are very real and spiritually significant.

1 John 4:1 “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God” (ESV)

*Are ghosts real? Can my dead relatives come back to talk to me? What about familiar spirits and spirit guides? Can a place be haunted? Is it wrong to talk to or hunt ghosts? Is it wrong to go to haunted houses?*

Any real “ghost” sightings or hauntings are actually disguised demons trying to gain your attention and affection. They either want you to 1) be afraid of their powers, 2) be self-confident in your abilities, or 3) be distracted from God by being absorbed into whatever experience they are presenting. Avoid the temptations of these experiences and flee from their evil.

2 Corinthians 11:14 “even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light”

*What’s the one sure-fire thing I can do to survive paranormal attacks? (FYI: Don’t miss this!)*

Real “paranormal” activities and beings are clearly demonic when they fail to accurately point to Jesus and His biblical truth, love, and

righteousness. The only way to survive such paranormal attacks is by repenting of sin and being born again with saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Christians, if you ever come under paranormal/demonic attack, there is only one strategy for success. Don’t try to fight these spiritual battles in your own power, seek Jesus and His truth. Repent from sin. Walk in righteousness. Renew your mind with His truth (Romans 12:1-3) and “take every thought captive to obey Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).

James 4:7-8 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

“Study Satan’s tricks, and acquaint yourself with his tactics.” William Gurnall

*What is evil? What is good? How can I know what is true and what is false? Which is the best book on this topic? Who is the best person to talk to on this topic?*

There is a spiritual battle raging around us between the followers of Christ against the unseen spiritual forces of evil (Ephesians 6:12). Although many authors and books seek to describe this warfare, the best place to start and finish is in the Bible. If you are a Christian, the Bible is your weapon as a “sword of the Spirit” who is within you. Don’t go unarmed into battle, cite the Scripture with your lips and with your life.

Ephesians 6:16-17 “In all circumstances take up...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

“Do not pretend you want to be led into truth if you will not bother to study the whole Word of God.” William Gurnall

*What about Ouija boards? Voodoo dolls? Horoscopes? Palm reading? Séances? Mediums? Mystics? Incense? Crystals? New age medicine? Tarot cards? Psychics? Fortune Tellers? Witchcraft? Eastern religious practices (therapies/massages, yoga, reiki)? Trances? Dowsing (water witching or divining)? Hypnosis? Trances?*

These are real religious objects and activities that do not honor God. There is no neutral territory in this universe. God is actively and patiently showing you His love and truth through the Bible and genuine Christians. Satan is actively seeking to keep you away from

a sincere devotion to God and uses many “new age” and “paranormal” routes to gain your trust, attention, and worship. Listen to God’s many biblical warnings on these idolatrous and demonic practices.

1 Corinthians 10:21–22 “You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?”

“Every ignorant soul is the willing slave of Satan.” William Gurnall

*Is it ok to watch paranormal movies and TV shows? Read books and blogs? Is there any harm in Zombies? Pokémon? Cartoon witches? Avatars? Vampires? Werewolves? Should Christians “celebrate” Halloween?*

Sometimes we face complicated decisions that are best left up to Christian conscious. We should study God’s Word, evaluate our motivations, consider the potential impact on our Christian obedience and witness, and prayerfully seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance.

If a Christian finds peace about participating in Halloween activities, they must use wisdom. Many faithful Christians have a clear conscience about participating in certain Halloween activities by taking with precautions about their destinations, costumes, and behaviors. Some believers see Halloween as a wonderful witnessing opportunity in which their neighbors and strangers will visit their homes or community outreach events (Galatians 5:13 and 1 Peter 2:16).

1 Corinthians 10:23–24 “All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. ‘All things are lawful,’ but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.”

*What if I am just a “normal Christian”? Does this subject really affect me? Am I safe from all of this paranormal and demonic stuff? How can I prepare for future...Spiritual Attacks? Mental Attacks? Physical Attacks? Marriage Attacks? Parenting Attacks? Workplace Attacks? Church Attacks? How can I live with ongoing struggles and suffering? What if Satan doesn’t leave me alone?*

The lessons of Halloween carry over throughout the year. Everyday we all face spiritual battles where “we do not wrestle with flesh and blood” (Ephesians 6:10-20). We must daily prepare as we go

into spiritual battle. As we mature in our faith, our perspective and passions may change or grow regarding the details of Halloween. May we seek to use our Christian freedom in ways that honor Jesus and share His light with a dark and dying world. May we live with joy in our salvation and move forward with bold courage against Satan and his demons!

Luke 10:17 “The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!’”

Want a free resource about spiritual warfare in the early church? To find summaries of some of Neil Anderson’s most important works? To pick up a Bible reading plan for 2023? Then please visit [www.spiritualwarfare.blog/free-books](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/free-books) for some of my free e-books and writings.



# HALLOWEEN: THE SILLY AND THE SERIOUS

What goes through your mind when you think of Halloween? Costumes, tricks, treats, haunted houses, decorations, parties, or movies?

Halloween is full of all sorts of activities that many people enjoy and celebrate. It has become a highly commercialized holiday that is given a lot of attention and resources. The practices surrounding Halloween should cause Christians to ask important spiritual questions.

Here are some frequently asked questions we should consider...

*Is demonic possession real? What can a demon do to me? Can the devil or a demon make me do something I don't want to do?*

Yes, demonic possession is real. Demons can tempt, attack, and live within humans. Satan already controls everyone who is not born again with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. While not every unbeliever is possessed by a demon, demonically-possessed humans sometimes evidence (manifest) the presence of demons in supernaturally scary ways.

2 Corinthians 4:4 "the god of this world [Satan] has blinded the minds of the unbelievers"

*Can a Christian be possessed by a demon? "Demonized"? "Have" a*

*Demon?*

No. If someone truly repents from sin, treasures Jesus more than anyone or anything, and trusts in Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, then they are saved and in-dwelt by God's Holy Spirit (Romans 8:1-11, 1 Corinthians 3:16). A genuine believer cannot be possessed or controlled by a demon since Jesus is in them through the Holy Spirit. Believers can be tempted and deceived by demonic spirits and influences. Christians have personal responsibility for their actions, inactions, and beliefs and accordingly must "take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5).

2 Corinthians 13:5 "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!"

*Can a Christian be harassed by a demon? Oppressed? Attacked?*

Yes. As one example, we know that the apostle Paul was attacked and harassed by a demon. We do not always know the specifics of why demons attack true believers. We do know that if we dependently seek God in these seasons of attack, He will strengthen and grow us (2 Corinthians 12:9-10, 1 John 4:4).

2 Corinthians 12:7 "a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger [angel] of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited."

*Can someone be a Christian and their life not demonstrate real change?*

No. True believers always evidence a changed life through the fruit of God's Holy Spirit (Matthew 13:19-23, Galatians 5:16-24, 1 John). Genuine Christians are not perfect but will manifest a decreasing pattern of sin and an increasing pattern of righteousness. May you be able to look backwards and see God's

JONATHANCARL

progressive work on your life and look forward to how He will continue to mature you as you seek Him in spirit and truth.

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

As you see scary or silly Halloween costumes, decorations, and advertisements may you be reminded that this is not simply a pretend subject. Our spiritual state matters. Satan and his demons are on the prowl, seeking to deceive and destroy us. If you are not yet a Christian, why would you wait another day to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

If you are a Christian, have confidence that God is with you and in you. Do not fear. Put on the full armor of God daily and be like Paul, seeking to “boldly proclaim the mystery of the gospel” everywhere you go. (Ephesians 6:10-20)

1 John 4:4 “Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

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## ARE POKÉMONS DEMONS?

Pokémon is huge fad that is reemerging with the insanely popular Pokémon Go mobile app/game. No doubt, the technology and gaming are AMAZING. In writing this, I am not discounting the many practical positive things that are coming out of this gaming revolution... but I am also not engaging the many practical safety concerns that are emerging.

**My focus is on the spiritual concerns of Pokémon...**which many Western/American Christians are not aware of..

**This chapter is not meant to create debate or argument.** The spirit of this chapter is not paranoid, arrogant, self-righteous (I’ve played the old school version), or condescending. My hope in writing this is to inform Christians of some of the backgrounds to games, movies, TV shows, etc. like Pokémon so that they think more biblically about the decisions they make.

Ultimately, I understand that Pokémon is just designed as a game or form of entertainment. But it is not merely neutral territory, there is a demonic connection.

*So here are some of my personal, basic Christian concerns with Pokémon:*

**Pokémon derives from and promotes an animistic worldview.**

- A worldview is the lens through which you look at and interpret the world.

- Animism (spiritism/tribalism) is foreign to many Westerners/Americans but dominates the majority worldview.
- Animism is “the belief that personal spiritual beings and impersonal spiritual forces have power over human affairs, and consequently, that human beings must discover what beings and forces are influencing them in order to determine future action and, frequently, to manipulate their power” (Gailyn Van Rheenen, *Communicating Christ in Animistic Contexts*, 20).
- If you study more about animism/tribalism/spiritism you will see the connections more and more clearly with the game of Pokémon.
  - Animism focuses on BEINGS (gods, ancestors, ghosts, angels, nature spirits, spirit guides) and FORCES (magic, astrology, witchcraft, the evil eye, etc.) that influence the seen world.
  - Animism believes the seen world is clearly and definitively related to the unseen world, so animists are often constantly in fear of the powers behind events.
  - Power is the essence of animism, especially power to bring about evil.
  - Discovering, determining, and warding off the powers is critical in the animistic worldview.

**Pokémon advocates for practices identical to those used by sorcerers, necromancers, mediums, psychics, spirit/ghost hunters, and shamans.** These practices are clearly prohibited across the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments, and across church history. These practices are interwoven into the game as the main feature, focus, and goal.

1. Controlling and capturing Pokémon to do your will.
2. Summoning and attracting Pokémon using incense items and

lure modules.

3. Actively searching for Pokémon with time, energy, resources, and money (pokécoins).
4. Seeking and using factions and battles between Pokémon.
5. Using potions or revives to heal and restore Pokémon to life.
6. Types and Categories of Pokémons (fire, electric, ghost, poison, psychic) with correlating supernatural powers.

- Just try substituting the concept of "demon" or "spirit" or "ghost" in the place of Pokémon in the above descriptions and you will see the obvious connections with animism.

"BUT THIS IS ONLY A GAME!" you may be thinking or shouting at your screen... "Don't be a killjoy!"... "These are just cartoons!"...

*Well here are my thoughts.*

**1. Spiritual Warfare is real.** Pokémon depicts a false, but widely believed and popularized version of the spirit world. Playing and investing in such games just deepens and broadens the worldview of animism, and also makes it seem like a more fictional or fun world to some. It is important to have an understanding of the spirit world, but we should seek and teach a spiritual worldview that is consistent with the biblical reality. There is a real unseen battle going on between the followers of God (Christians and angels) and the followers of Satan (demons/fallen-angels and non-Christians) (Ephesians 6:10-20).

"Study Satan's tricks, and acquaint yourself with his tactics."  
William Gurnall

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1 ESV)

**2. Satan disguises himself and is very clever in his approaches.** Approaches such as games, movies, and TV shows eventually cause us to subconsciously or subconsciously either misunderstand the true nature of the demonic. Sometimes

entertainment media causes us to be overly-dismissive or overly-interested toward the demonic. Targeting kids and teens is a pretty smart approach for the enemy as well.

“And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his Servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.” (2 Corinthians 11:14-15 ESV) “so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.” (2 Corinthians 2:11 ESV)

**3. Church History and secular history both took the demonic seriously.** The demonic is directly connected to Greek and Roman god worship in early church history. The supernatural world has real monsters and they are called demons. Demons are not cute, friendly, or helpful. The goal and work of demons is to destroy and oppose God, His work, and His people. If people truly understood the spiritual battle going on around us, they would not take it so casually.

“Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.” (1 Corinthians 14:20 ESV)

Here are just a few examples from early church history:

- Justin Martyr (AD 110-165) in *The First Apology* explains “since of old these evil demons, effecting apparitions of themselves, both defiled women and corrupted boys, and showed such fearful sights to men, that those who did not use their reason in judging of the actions that were done, were struck with terror; and being carried away by fear, and not knowing that these were demons, they called them gods, and gave to each the name which each of the demons chose for himself.” This description and others how some of the false religions, specifically in the temples of Greek gods, are but demonic imitations of biblical

worship. Martyr also points biblically in *The Dialogue with Trypho* to the Magi in Egypt and the false prophets in Elijah’s days but then connects such false worship to Greek gods such as Bacchus son of Jupiter, Semele, Hercules, Jove of Alcmene, and Æsculapius.

- Irenæus (AD 120-202) “Thus, then, the mystic priests belonging to this sect both lead profligate lives and practise magical arts, each one to the extent of his ability. They use exorcisms and incantations. Love-potions, too, and charms, as well as those beings who are called ‘Paredri’ (familiaris) and ‘Oniopompi’ (dream-senders), and whatever other curious arts can be had recourse to, are eagerly pressed into their service. They also have an image of Simon fashioned after the likeness of Jupiter, and another of Helena in the shape of Minerva; and these they worship. In fine, they have a name derived from Simon, the author of these most impious.” (Irenæus, *Irenæus Against Heresies* (ANF 1:348))
- Minucius Felix (c.AD 210) “... Saturn himself, and Serapis, and Jupiter, and whatever demons you worship, overcome by pain, speak out what they are; and assuredly they do not lie to their own discredit, especially when any of you are standing by. Since they themselves are the witnesses that they are demons”
- Origen (AD 185-254) “Hence we are determined to avoid the worship of demons even as we would avoid death; and we hold that the worship, which is supposed among the Greeks to be rendered to gods at the altars, and images, and temples, is in reality offered to demons” (Origen, *Contra Celsus* (ANF 4:640))

“What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.” (Ecclesiastes 1:9 ESV)



**4. Our supernatural battle is only won through the power and sacrifice of Christ.** Our own abilities, talents, time, and experience will not help us defeat the demonic.

"Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery." (Hebrews 2:14-15 ESV)

"For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:3-5 ESV)

"Enemy-occupied territory - that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in a great campaign in sabotage." C.S. Lewis

**5. We will answer to God in how we use the time, energy, and resources He has entrusted us with.** Pokémon Go requires a lot of time and energy. Wouldn't this time and energy be better invested in chasing after Jesus through the Bible, prayer, evangelism, missions, and church instead of chasing Pokémon?

"So then each of us will give an account of himself to God." (Romans 14:12 ESV)

"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (Ephesians 5:15-17 ESV)

**6. Christians should ultimately ask themselves...** does this game of Pokémon glorify God or Satan? Does this please God or

provoke Him to jealousy?

"What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? [20] No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. [21] You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. [22] Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? [23] "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up." (1 Corinthians 10:19-23 ESV)

"Your perspective should be very different from the unregenerate." William Gurnall

If you have never read *Spirit of the Rainforest: A Yanomamo Shaman's Story* by Mark Ritchie or watched *The Enemy God*, it is extremely helpful to see and understand the animistic worldview. Here is a short interview with Bautista, a former witchdoctor who became a Christian. ( <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=FZNg217vBSg> )

This same man, Bautista, a former Yanomamo shaman was asked specifically about Pokémon by looking at their pictures. Read his response here: "Is Pokemon Safe for Christian Kids" THIS IS A VERY HELPFUL BLOG POST...I'd encourage you to read this before you make a final decision on what you think about Pokémon.

<https://faithfulmoms.org/is-pokemon-safe-children-christian-perspective/>

"Tell the people from your churches, that if there are things that make them feel uncomfortable, it is probably not good. God's Spirit will speak to them about what is right and wrong." Bautista

*NOTE: Since initially writing this, I had two church members who*

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*were just on a mission trip to Oaxaca, Mexico. They explained to me (having not read this post or the above links to Bautista) an event that happened on their trip... another American in their group was playing Pokémon Go when a former Mexican witchdoctor noticed a picture of Pikachu on the American's phone. The former witchdoctor, having never seen it or heard of Pokémon before, asserted that the image of Pikachu he saw was a demon he had seen and experienced before and questioned this Christian individual as to why they were playing such a game.*

Again the purpose in writing this is not to berate, put down, or insult. Unfortunately, I have played many of these sorts of games myself in the past and watched some of these genres of entertainment. **The purpose of this post is to encourage Christians, and especially Christian parents, to think biblically about the content that is before their eyes and ears and in their hands.**

"**Are Pokémons demons?**" may be the question that brought you to this chapter. I think the better question that a Christian should be asking is, "**Does Pokémon honor God?**" and unfortunately, I think the clear answer is "No."

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31 ESV)

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE PARANORMAL?

Have you ever seen a ghost? A recent survey says 60% of people believe they have...and 40% believe their pets have seen/sensed a ghost. Theories abound on things haunted, but the Bible actually offers a lot of truth concerning the paranormal. Oftentimes people are hesitant to share their experiences, but the season of October brings a lot of questions as people dive into paranormal entertainment & experiences.

**Some Paranormal Is Fake or Fraud.** Lots of people are out to make a quick buck. In many realms of paranormal and supernatural practices there are fraudsters who fake their experiences for profit. In a similar way, false teachers are described in the Bible. One of the characteristics of a false teacher is a presumption of knowledge and an arrogant attitude towards the paranormal and demonic (Jude 1:3-16 & 2 Peter 2) with the motivation of greed and fame.

2 Peter 2:10-11 "Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord."

**Some Paranormal Is Deception or Delusion.** Sometimes we think we see things that weren't really there. Medicine, drugs, sleep-deprivation, weather conditions, mental conditions, and

many other factors can alter our perception of reality. So as we assess the reality of the paranormal and supernatural we must be honest and realize that not all claims occurred in reality, even when the observers were sincerely convinced they did. King Nebuchadnezzar is a good example (Daniel 4) of how God allowed a mental illness that altered his perception of reality for a significant period of time.

**Some Paranormal Is Real.** The supernatural world does exist. God clearly evidences His own existence through the Creation (Romans 1:19-20). God uses angels to do His bidding among mankind across the Scriptures but Satan continues to work and use his demons across earth as well. When we experience real supernatural activity, we need to consider whether the source is Satan or God.

**All Real Paranormal Is Demonic.** When God uses an angel, there is no deception, the message and messenger correspond to the revealed truth of the Bible. God is clear that once humans die, their souls go to Heaven or Hell and are not permitted to roam the earth (Luke 16:19-31), they are in Heaven and Hell for eternity.

Which means...if you've really seen a ghost...that didn't communicate & verify itself to be an angel of God...you saw a demon. Don't be surprised or shocked by this, demons can disguise themselves in a variety of ways. Their intent? To deceive or distract you from following the truth of God. To get you more excited or afraid of your ghostly encounter than in having excitement or fear in an encounter with the One, True God. To get you talking to an apparent dead relative and trusting their voice more than you trust the Word of God.

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 "And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds."

**Paranormal Fascination Endangers Your Soul.** God repeatedly commands humanity to avoid paranormal practices; those who search after ghosts (Ezekiel 13:17-23), talk to the dead (necromancy), seeks out spiritual advice apart from God (mediums, diviners, spiritists, etc.), use of charms, omens or witchcraft (Leviticus 19-20, Deuteronomy 18)...and so much more.

So...before you watch that next paranormal TV show or movie... before you go to a haunted house or dress up like a supernatural being...before you consult a horoscope, get your palm read, participate in a seance, tarot cards, or seek a supernatural experience or supernatural knowledge outside of the One, True God and His Word, the Bible...ask yourself this simple question: *does this please God, or does this please Satan?*

Hear the warning that God issued to the Corinthians as they participated in demonically inspired activities.

1 Corinthians 10:21-22 "You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?"

May we pray for wisdom as the enemy increases his attacks in a very real way.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Jonathan Carl



Jonathan Carl grew up in the great state of Texas as the oldest of six kids. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and served in the U.S. Army as a tanker with a combat tour in Iraq in the early 2000s. He had the joy of journeying to Kentucky where he met and married his wonderful wife, Brittney. Several years later he became the lead pastor at South Fork Baptist Church where he has served for over a decade. He enjoyed the opportunities to study and earn his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Evangelism & Missions from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Jonathan & Brittney have four daughters (Sophia, Lydia, Alia & Mia) with whom they enjoy

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In Christ, Jonathan Carl

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