

# **An Introduction to Spiritual Warfare**

I Peter 5:8,9

## **Introduction**

- A. The Bible clearly states: Believers have a wise, subtle and powerful enemy.**
- B. Our responsibility is clearly stated: We must live in freedom and resist the enemy.**
- C. Louis Berkhof: Satan seeks to “blind and mislead even the elect.” (Sy. Th. Pg 149)**

## **I. THE BIBLICAL CONTEXT: THE CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW.**

**A. The reality and power of the unseen world -- behind our “seen world.”**

- 1. Gen 3:15 - Evidence for a “divinely implanted hostility.” (Walter Kaiser, OT. Th. Pg 36)**
- 2. Job 1,2 - Evidence of the conflict of two kingdoms in the life of the believer.**
- 3. Eph 2:1-3 - Evidence that our “world” is largely dominated by Satan.**
- 4. Eph 6:12 - Evidence that our “problems” are ultimately due to the influence of Satan.**

## **II. THE ORIGIN OF SATAN AND THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS.**

- A. God’s creation is good. Angels created with free will and into a probationary period.**
- B. The description of Lucifer’s (Day Star/Morning Star) downfall. Is 14:4,12-15; Ez 28:11-19**
- C. In his downfall, it seems, he led a third of the angels into sin. Rev 12:4**
- D. Satan has developed an elaborate and complex system: “Kingdom of Darkness.”**
- E. Some characteristics of Satan’s Kingdom.**

- 1. PERSONAL: made up of “persons,” i.e. spiritual entities (demons/wicked spirits) who seek to gain some control of humans through deception, error, and sin by the promise of control, pleasure, and power, for the ultimate purpose of controlling them so the Lord Jesus will be humiliated, the Kingdom of God limited, and Satan’s Kingdom advanced. 2 Cor. 2:11**
- 2. POWERFUL: while Satan is not sovereign, omnipotent, omniscient, nor omnipresent, he and his demons have been granted a measure of power that they exercise through error, sin, and death under the sovereign control of our Lord. Luke 22:31,32**
- 3. UNCLEAN: Satan and his demons are by nature and dedication unholy. Luke 4:33**
- 4. EVIL: Satan and his demons are by nature wicked, and enjoy the infliction of pain, error, confusion, sickness, and death. Job; Luke 13:11-17**
- 5. ORGANIZED: Satan and his demons operate within a hierarchy. Eph 6:12**
- 6. CONDEMNED: Satan and his demons are under divine condemnation. Matt 8:29; Matt 25:41; II Peter 2:4; Jude 6**

### **III. THE GOAL OF SATAN AND THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS**

- A. The original goal: Satan sought to take the place of the Lord Jesus or equality with Him.**
- B. The goal of Satan today: to hinder Christians and counterfeit Christianity.**
- C. Explanations of that goal and the subtle manner of demonic attack.**

- 1. To hinder, deceive and enslave believers in order to produce weakness in the Church and the Kingdom of God. The appeal is to our self-centeredness, pride, fear, elitism, bigotry, lust, jealousy, covetousness, self-protection, grudges, passivity, unforgiveness, bitterness, lack of love, faith, and hope, the desire for control as well as all forms of personal error and neglect of the priorities of the Bible. In particular -- all believers are hindered in their prayer life, Bible understanding and study, relationships, and service.**
- 2. To further enslave, develop allegiance and gain active participants in strengthening and furthering the Kingdom of Darkness by the following means.**
  - a. The developing of demonic power sources: legalized abortion, homosexuality, drugs, liberalism, alcohol, promiscuity, pornography, humanism, relativity of truth, and one of the most important -- passivity among evangelical leaders and Christians -- so they will downplay the importance of the demonic, and not teach spiritual warfare.**
  - b. The promise/offer of self-centered power, pleasure and control through: hard rock music, violence, drugs, immorality, sexuality, alcohol, materialism, humanism, pantheism, false religions, the New Age Movement, occult literature, and the type of false teaching found in television programs with its fantasy and passivity.**

### **IV. THE RESPONSE OF JESUS CHRIST TO SATAN AND THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS.**

- A. Gen 2:15 -- "History has a built-in hostility." (Walter Kaiser)**
- B. Job and his trial (Eph 6:12) -- The spiritual conflict of two hostile kingdoms.**
- C. Luke 4:18,19 -- Jesus Christ came to defeat Satan and set the prisoners free.**
- D. Luke 9:1,2 -- The Disciples were given authority and power over demons.**
- E. Luke 10:1-24 -- Seventy two (non-Disciples) were given authority and power over demons.**
- F. Luke 11:20 -- The Kingdom of God is characterized by deliverance from demons.**
- G. Col 2:15; I John 3:8 -- Jesus Christ defeated/spoiled Satan and his demons.**
- H. Eph 1:19-23 -- Jesus Christ is now seated in victory over Satan and his demons.**
- I. Eph 1:19-23; 2:5,6 -- Believers now share Christ's victory over Satan and his demons.**
- J. Eph 6:10-18 -- Believers are soldiers with armor and are commanded to wear it.**
- K. Eph 6:10-18 -- Believers are given weapons and held responsible for spiritual warfare.**
- L. I Peter 5:8,9 -- Believers are commanded to be self-controlled, vigilant and to fight.**
- M. Matt 16:18 -- Believers, as a Church, are promised victory over Satan and his demons if they will obey God and do spiritual warfare.**
- N. Eph 2:1-3 -- Believers now live in a world-culture largely dominated by Satan.**

**Conclusion: Do not allow yourself to neglect this important Biblical message. Learn how your enemy is involved in your life and learn how to resist him. And, then do it.**

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