

THE TRUSTWORTHY WORD

Volume 3 - Spiritual Warfare,
Evangelism and Missions

Dr. Jonathan Carl

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The Trustworthy Word:

Volume 3 - Spiritual Warfare, Evangelism and Missions

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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.”

FOUR HELPFUL WEBSITES

Here are four websites that I publish with free resources that you may find helpful:

www.TrustworthyWord.com

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).

How incredible it is that translations are made (Wycliffe) and digitally distributed (Bible.com and 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.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.Catholic.blog
 The **CATHOLIC BLOG**
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

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)

Volume 3- Spiritual Warfare, Evangelism and Missions is a work based on the deeper questions I have encountered as a pastor about God’s powerful work against Satan’s deceptions. My heart is not to offer human wisdom or experience, but to help you search the Scriptures for answers to what the Bible says about... spiritual warfare across the Scriptures, the early church’s understanding of spiritual warfare, enemies’ strategies and tactics, how to respond when attacked or surrounded by evil, the paranormal, evangelism and missions verses and quotes, risk and persecution, and how to lead someone to a saving relationship with Jesus. May this book strengthen your faith as you resist Satan’s attacks by clearly hearing, trusting, and obeying God’s voice.

Download & share this book (and the entire 4 volume compilation of *The Trustworthy Word*) via a free PDF download @ www.TrustworthyWord.com

This *Trustworthy Word* series is different than many books that you might read. The vast majority of the content is 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!

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.TrustworthyWord.com. It has been a joy of mine to see so many souls find Scriptural counsel online at Trustworthy Word over the years and I pray that it continues to aid many more until the Lord returns!

In Christ,
Jonathan Carl

Ephesians 6:16 "In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one"

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

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)

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

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

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))

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.

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.

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.

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."

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

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' (familiaris) 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.

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 Commandment 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

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

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.

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.”

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))

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

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))

Much more research is available @ 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

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 he 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 lift 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)

LEVELS AND TACTICS IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

“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)

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.
- 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.
- helping people to “have their lives in order”
- No theology of suffering - avoidance of suffering
- 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.

- Therapeutic-type warfare must avoid the delusion of trying to do reparative surgery on a dead soul.

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- worshipers 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).
- 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. (Kraft, *Confronting Powerless Christianity*, 59-60)
- 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.

Strategic Level Warfare

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- "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." (C. Peter Wagner)

Territorial Spirits: Insights on Strategic-Level Spiritual Warfare from Nineteen Christian Leaders (Chichester, England: Sovereign World, 1991), 52)

- 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." (Wagner and Pennoyer, Wrestling with Dark Angels, 86-87).

- Strategic Level Warfare (Territorial Spirits) - "Gaining Perspective on Territorial Spirits" Response by A. Scott Moreau (and long quote of Clinton Arnold) <https://www.lausanne.org/content/territorial-spirits>
 - "The first suggestion for refinement in this area is that we must be more cautious in the use of exaggerated claims and anecdotes as the means by which SLSW is established."
 - "A second suggestion is that advocates of SLSW emphasize spiritual diagnosis over spiritual mapping, and be more cautious in their pronouncements. We must enable Christians to develop a world view that acknowledges the powers without capitulating to them or being captivated by an unhealthy interest in them."
 - "Finally, our goal must be to integrate the spiritual, the personal, the cultural, and the social and to stop placing all the blame on the spirits and start recognizing the human side of choice to rebel against God's established order."
 - (long quote of Clinton Arnold shared by Scott Moreau)

"I close with an excellent eight-point summary given by Clinton Arnold which I would consider an appropriate starting point for a Lausanne statement on engaging territorial spirits in spiritual warfare:

1. There is a hierarchy among the demons and angels in the evil spiritual domain. Some evil angels have assignments over empires, people groups, countries, regions, territories, or cities.
2. There is struggle and warfare between the angels of God and the angels of Satan in the supernatural realm that has an impact on the unfolding of events on earth.
3. Through biblical revelation, God has heightened our awareness of the angelic realm. The knowledge he has given us is for the purpose of prompting our dependence on him through prayer.

4. Although God has given us the responsibility of exercising our authority in Christ over unclean spirits that afflict individuals, there is no biblical evidence that God has given us responsibility to bind, expel, or thwart the territorial rulers.

5. Although we do not have the authority to directly engage territorial spirits, we certainly have the right to appeal to God to hinder and obstruct the grip of a demonic ruler over an area so that the gospel can be proclaimed and the darkness may be lifted from the eyes of the unbelieving.

6. "Spiritual mapping," or, as I would prefer to call it, creating a "spiritual profile" of people in a city or country, is a useful way to help the people of God pray more specifically. It is also beneficial for informing the teaching and discipling of new believers.

7. "Identificational repentance" is an appropriate way of leading the people of God in dealing with issues of corporate sin. It does not, however, enable Christians to "remit" the sins of the nonbelieving population of a city, remove the curse of God's judgment on them, or result in the weakening of the grip of the territorial spirits over the unbelieving population.

8. Christians do not need to feel a responsibility or a call to engage in a direct confrontation with the principalities and powers over a city, region, or a country. We appeal directly to God, who will direct his angels to fight the battles against the high-ranking powers."

- Wayne Grudem: "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." (Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 421)
- Strategic level spiritual warfare is merely derived from speculation and reinforced by anecdotal evidence.

A believer's effectiveness in gospel sharing is solely dependent on Christ's power.

Ground Level Warfare

- Charles Kraft "takes place in human contexts, in contrast with warfare that takes place largely in the air." (Kraft, *Confronting Powerless Christianity*, 200)
- draws the most attention through the attention of media and popular culture in the form of possession or demonization encounters

Exorcism and Deliverance

- It is clear from Scripture and early church history 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. (Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985), 473-74)
- Millard Erickson points out "there is no reason to believe that demon possessions are restricted to the past."

Exorcists are widely criticized for their:

- Pride
- Monetary Motives
- Experientially Driven
- Dialoguing
- Human centered approaches
 - 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). (Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 474)
 - 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." (MacArthur, *Standing Strong*, 25-26)

- Dangers of a Method Driven Approach:
 - failure (Mark 9:14-18)
 - physical harm (Acts 19:11-20)
 - point people to the practitioner's power and ability rather than to the power of God (1 Cor 2:1-5)

WARNING!!!!

- "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." (Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 474)

REMINDER!!!

- The ultimate concern of an evangelist or missionary 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.
- 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." (Hiebert, *Case Studies in Missions*, 24).
- Relief of Fears - rituals, sacrifices, idols, superstitious practices, and the consultation of a variety of practitioners (witch doctors, mediums, sorcerers, necromancers, etc.).
- Proudful Pursuits - a "desire for knowledge," "lust for power," "need for comfort," "protection," or "spiritual

- satisfaction" to their unhealthy curiosities. (Douglas and Graham, *Let the Earth Hear His Voice*, 895)
- Ancestor worship practitioners see ancestors as "important mediators between humans and spirits" who defend and provide wisdom to their relatives. (Hiebert, *Case Studies in Missions*, 24)
- Christ is the only mediator, lasting comfort, true hope, and power available to people who struggle with ancestor spirits or paranormal activity.
- 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).

Binding and Loosing

- Spiritual warfare advocates often use the term "binding the strongman" with reference to Matthew 12:29.
- 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." (Wagner and Pennoyer, *Wrestling with Dark Angels*, 78)
- "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." (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 418)
- "As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit." (Zechariah 9:11 ESV)

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.
- Christ rebukes both Satan (Matt 4:10, 16:23)
- Christ rebukes demons (Matt 17:18; Mark 1:25)
- Paul's condemnation and cursing of Elymas the magician (Acts 13:8-11)
- Paul's 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?"
- 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. should be specific to the situation, directly to the manifesting demon or Satan
- not done "with a spirit of arrogance" (Franklin and Lawless, *Spiritual Warfare*, 153-54)

CAUTION!!!

- 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. (Wagner and Pennoyer, *Wrestling with Dark Angels*, 84)
- "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).
- **BOTTOM LINE:** 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. (Anderson, *The Bondage Breaker*, 199-252)
- They point to Acts 19:18 where believers came out after coming to faith, "confessing and divulging their practices."
- Unbelievers should realize that repentance is necessary for salvation (Acts 2:38, 3:19, 20:21)
- Once one is in Christ, "there is therefore now no condemnation" (Rom 8:1).

DANGER!!!

- 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

- Some argue that vulnerability can occur through "contact with physical objects," "the curses of others," "genealogical transmission," or due to "geographic location." (Anderson, *The Bondage Breaker*, 14-18; Rommen, *Spiritual Power and Missions*, 19)
- 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). (Wagner and Pennoyer, *Wrestling with Dark Angels*, 76)
- 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).
- Many are convinced that "demons can and do attach themselves to objects, to houses, or other buildings, to animals and to people." (Wagner and Pennoyer, *Wrestling with Dark Angels*, 76)
- 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.
- 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).

Genealogical Connections

- Some claim that Satan has claims on people through multiple generations due to the sins of their ancestors.
- Charles 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." (Kraft, *Confronting Powerless Christianity*, 216)
- 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. (Rommen, *Spiritual Power and Missions*, 67)

Neil Anderson and Elliot Miller

- Miller confronts Anderson's belief in generational sins and familiar spirits.
- Miller ascertains that much of Anderson's doctrine on this topic is experientially validated, for he holds that Exodus 20:4-5 is not referencing evil spirits, but circumstantial punishments onto the next generation.
- In a similar way Miller highlights how Jeremiah 32:19 and Ezekiel 18 communicate the continuation of punishment if parental sin is not repented of by children.
- He argues that "by confusing the punishment for sin with the sin itself, Anderson makes God the transmitter of sin from one generation to the next." (Miller, "The Bondage Maker (Part 3),"

- 8.)
- 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)

Corporate Confession is a biblical process regarding the sin of previous generations. While curses may not biblically flow from generation to generation, the consequences of sinful influence definitely flow from generation to generation

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.” (MacArthur, Standing Strong, 31)
- MacArthur points out Satan’s sifting of Peter being instructive for in Peter’s realization that “he could not stand on his own.” (MacArthur, Standing Strong, 34)
- 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.
- “the evangelist and the work of evangelism is opposed on every hand by tremendous spiritual forces.” Billy Graham, Why the Berlin Congress?
- 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.” (MacArthur, Standing Strong, 33)
- 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.” (Wagner and Pennoyer, Wrestling with Dark Angels, 86)
- Lucifer wants believers to follow a ritualistic model (works based) for spiritual warfare, rather than an approach that is defined by Scripture and truth (faith).

Spiritual Warfare and the Continuation of Gifts?

- Need to know theologically where you stand:
 - What are these gifts? These roles?
 - Do they continue? If so, how?
 - How can you recognize the true use of these gifts versus the false use of these gifts?
 - If they continue, what gifts might you have?
 - How do they apply to spiritual warfare?
 - How do they work together for the body of Christ?
- “If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, [2] and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, ‘Let us go after other gods,’ which you have not known, ‘and let us serve them,’ [3] you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and

with all your soul. [4] You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him. [5] But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst” (Deuteronomy 13:1-5 ESV)

- “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. [2] You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. [3] Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit. ...” (1 Corinthians 12:1-3 ESV)
- “...[4] Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; [5] and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; [6] and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. [7] To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. [8] For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, [9] to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, [10] to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. [11] All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. ...” (1 Corinthians 12:4-11 ESV)
- “...[12] For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. [13] For in one Spirit we were all baptized

into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. [14] For the body does not consist of one member but of many. [15] If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. [16] And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. [17] If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? [18] But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. [19] If all were a single member, where would the body be? [20] As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ...” (1 Corinthians 12:12-20 ESV)

- “...[21] The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” [22] On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, [23] and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, [24] which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, [25] that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. [26] If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. ...” (1 Corinthians 12:21-26 ESV)

“...[27] Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. [28] And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. [29] Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? [30] Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? [31] But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.” (1 Corinthians 12:27-31 ESV)

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.

- 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

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.”

20 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. Gurnall, William. *The Christian in Complete Armour: Daily Readings in Spiritual Warfare*. Chicago: Moody, 1999.
10. Keller, Timothy. *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*. New York: Penguin, 2014.
11. Lawless, Chuck. *Disciplined Warriors*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2002.
12. Lightner, Robert. *Angels, Satan, and Demons*. Nashville: Word, 1998.
13. Longman, Tremper, and Daniel G. Reid. *God Is a Warrior*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
14. MacArthur, John F. *Standing Strong: How to Resist the Enemy of Your Soul*. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2012.
15. Moreau, A. Scott. *Essentials of Spiritual Warfare: Equipped to Win the Battle*. Wheaton, IL: Harold Shaw, 1997.
16. Nevius, John Livingston. *Demon Possession and Allied Themes: Being an Inductive Study of Phenomena of Our Own Times*. London: Forgotten Books, 2012.
17. Page, Sydney H. T. *Powers of Evil: A Biblical Study of Satan and Demons*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.
18. Rankin, Jerry, and Ed Stetzer. *Spiritual Warfare and Missions*. Nashville: B&H, 2010.
19. Rommen, Edward, ed. *Spiritual Power and Missions*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey, 1995.
20. Van Rhee, 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 Adeyemo, et al, eds. *Deliver Us from Evil*. Monrovia, CA: MARC, 2002.

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 Pokémon (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' (familiar) 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))
- 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

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 Pokémon 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 continues his attacks in a very real way.

EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

WHAT BIBLE VERSES ARE GOOD TO MEMORIZE FOR EVANGELISM?

GOD'S GLORY

- The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Psalms 19:1
- You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. Leviticus 19:2
- Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. Revelation 4:11
- 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. Mark 12:30

MAN'S SIN

- Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Psalm 51:5
- your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. Isaiah 59:2
- None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one. Romans

3:10-12

- For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23
- Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. Romans 3:19
- everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5:28
- Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 1 John 3:15
- For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. James 2:10
- For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23
- And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment Hebrews 9:27

CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16
- Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. John 3:36
- In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10
- but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8
- But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5
- For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so

that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

CONVERSION

- Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. John 3:3
- But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12
- 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. Romans 10:9
- everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13
- Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28
- I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6
- And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12
- No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. 1 John 2:23
- No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Luke 13:3
- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9
- Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:20
- 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. Ephesians 2:8-9

ETERNAL LIFE

- The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:10

- All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. John 6:37
- Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:12-13
- The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. Romans 8:16
- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT MISSIONS?

What is “missions”?

The word “missions” derives from a Latin word *missio* which means “sending.” In Greek (what the New Testament was mostly first written in) it is close to the word *apostelló*, from which we get the word apostles or “sent ones.” The role of a missionary is closest to that of an ambassador, someone who is actively representing their own citizenship/nation/government/king in a foreign land.

Ephesians 6:19–20 “[pray] 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)

Philippians 3:20–21 “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, [21] who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”

Here is a short definition of missions:

MISSIONS is the obedient Gospel **work** of bearing witness of Jesus and teaching His disciples through the **Word**.

- **WORK** - What efforts are you making to share Jesus?
- **WORD** - How are getting yourself & others into the Word?

Luke 10:2 “And he said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’”

Who is a “missionary”? In one sense, every Christian is a missionary because they are sent by God to tell and teach others about His greatness and goodness! In another sense there are a variety of missionary callings that are set apart for different durations, distances, difficulties, and types of work.

Here is a short definition of missionary:

A **MISSIONARY** is SENT by Jesus to **go** out to share the Gospel and **grow** disciples.

- **GO** - Where are you going to share the Gospel?
- **GROW** - Who are you teaching about Jesus?

1 Peter 2:11–12 “Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. [12] Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.”

How is every member of the Body of Christ called to be a missionary?

1. We Are Commanded to Go & Grow Disciples

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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

2. We Are Empowered to Go & Witness to the Lost

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

3. We Encounter God & Go for God

Isaiah 6:8 “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’”

“There is a sense that every single follower of Christ is sent.” David Platt

Although, in a sense, every Christian is a missionary, the word “missionary” seems to have been first applied (~1500s A.D.) towards individuals who went out of their home culture to take residence in foreign cultures where the Gospel had not been heard or taught. Their work was primarily to preach the Gospel and plant churches to the “ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

“There are some Christians sent out with a particular purpose.” David Platt

What are the different sorts of missions work and missionaries?

Missionaries come in all types, here are some helpful categories to distinguish and describe them:

1. Duration - How long are they in their missions context?

They may be described subjectively as short-term, medium-term, or long-term missionaries. Their work might be considered part-time or full-time. They could be fully residential in their setting or more apostolic/pioneer/temporary until a healthy church is established.

A helpful analogy might be found in the modern-day nation of Israel where every citizen is expected to serve in the military and be trained and ready for war. Every Christian is considered a soldier of Christ in the midst of an ongoing spiritual war. Every Christian serves Jesus in different ways that vary similarly to how a National Guard or Reservist soldier serves differently than an Active Duty soldier who serves differently than a mobilized/deployed soldier. All are soldiers but serve differently with their time.

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

2. Distance - What boundaries do they cross to communicate the Gospel?

Missionary work involves crossing boundaries to share the Good News of Jesus. This might mean traveling across geographical boundaries or could mean reaching a population in your area with a different language (linguistic boundaries). It might mean serving among a different culture (cross-cultural) or even connecting with people online (digital missions) to share God’s truth and love.

- “What about digital missions?” www.spiritualwarfare.blog/digital-missions

We live in an era of human history often referred to as “globalized” where there has been a physical, global spread of nationalities/cultures as well as a digitized inter-connectedness that makes trans-cultural relationships and communication possible without significant physical distance of travel. Despite globalization there is a need, similar to military special forces units, to have specific training, focus, and efforts towards particular people groups to ensure effective communication of the Gospel.

- 2 Timothy 2:15 “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”
- 1 Chronicles 12:32 “Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do”

3. Difficulty - How dangerous or difficult is the work?

Communication of Biblical truth and demonstration of Christian love can be particularly challenging, difficult, and dangerous in particular cultures. Some “soils” of humanity are particularly hardened requiring more extensive missions labor and increased risk. This means that some missions lifestyles and assignments involve greater sacrifice with increased

challenges. Similarly, all soldiers are in real military service, serving to accomplish their mission, some military assignments involve greater challenges, sacrifices, and dangers.

- Matthew 5:10-11 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [11] ‘Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.’”
- “What Does the Bible Say About Risk?”
www.trustworthyword.com/risk

4. Different Work - *What varying means are used to accomplish the missions work?*

While missions is nothing less than declaring the Gospel, there are many roles and functions needed in a team effort to accomplish the Christian missionary goals. God's Spirit gifts the body of Christ with a variety of skills, passions, and abilities to pursue the purpose of declaring the Gospel truth and training up the local church body.

- 1 Corinthians 12:4–6 “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; [5] and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; [6] and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.”
- 1 Corinthians 12:27 “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

Although many think of missionaries as only being those who move far away to share the Gospel, Scripture clearly shows every Christian to be called to and sent out as a proclaimer of the love and truth, teaching them to hear, love, and obey God through His Word. Every Christian may pursue their missions task in a variety of ways (duration, distance, difficulty, different work), but no Christian should ignore the commands of Christ to go out and grow disciples. May we each be sensitive and obedient to God's particular, specific calling on our lives and faithful to the ministry/mission to which we are equipped and gifted.

“In my estimation, no man has a right to call himself

a New Testament Christian who is not interested in the Great Commission.” Adrian P. Rogers

“Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.” Charles H. Spurgeon

HELPFUL SCRIPTURES ON MISSIONS

- Isaiah 6:8 “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’”
- 1 Chronicles 12:32 “Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do”
- Matthew 5:10-11 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [11] ‘Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.’”
- 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- Mark 1:17–18 “And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’ [18] And immediately they left their nets and followed him.”
- Luke 10:2 “And he said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’”
- John 21:15–17 “When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ He said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ [16] He said to him a second time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ He said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’ [17]

He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me?’ Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ and he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.’”

- Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
- Acts 5:42 “And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.”
- Acts 18:4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.”
- Acts 26:27–29 “‘King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.’ [28] And Agrippa said to Paul, ‘In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?’ [29] And Paul said, ‘Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains.’”
- Romans 10:14–15 “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? [15] And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”
- Romans 12:4–8 “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ...[6] Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them ...”
- Romans 15:18–21 “For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, [19] by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; [20] and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where

Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, [21] but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."

- Philippians 3:20–21 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, [21] who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."
- 1 Corinthians 9:19–23 "For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. [20] To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. [21] To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. [22] To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. [23] I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings."
- 1 Corinthians 12:4–6 "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; [5] and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; [6] and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone."
- 1 Corinthians 12:27 "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."
- 2 Corinthians 5:11 "Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience."
- Ephesians 6:19–20 "[pray] 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."
- 1 Thessalonians 2:17–18 "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, [18] because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us."

- 2 Timothy 2:3 "Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus."
- 2 Timothy 2:15 "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."
- 1 Peter 2:11–12 "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. [12] Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."

"Sent"

- Jeremiah 35:15 "I have sent to you all my servants the prophets, sending them persistently, saying, 'Turn now every one of you from his evil way, and amend your deeds, and do not go after other gods to serve them, and then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to you and your fathers.' But you did not incline your ear or listen to me."
- Matthew 10:16–18 "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. [17] Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, [18] and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles."
- Luke 10:2 "And he said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'"
- Luke 24:48–49 "You are witnesses of these things. [49] And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."
- John 6:28–29 "Then they said to him, 'What must we do, to be doing the works of God?' [29] Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.'"

- John 20:21–22 “Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.’ [22] And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”
- Acts 26:17 - “delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you”

“Set apart”

- Psalm 4:3 “But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.”
- Acts 6:3–6 “Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. [4] But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” [5] And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. [6] These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.”
- Acts 13:2–3 “While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ [3] Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.”
- Acts 26:16–18 “But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, [17] delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you [18] to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”
- Romans 1:1 “Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God”
- 2 Timothy 2:21 “Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from

what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.”

“Ministry/Work”

- John 9:4 “We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.”
- Acts 20:22–24 “And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, [23] except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. [24] But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”
- Acts 21:19–20 “After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. [20] And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, ‘You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed.’”
- 1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”
- 2 Corinthians 1:24 “Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.”
- 2 Corinthians 3:18–4:1 “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. [4:1] Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:17–21 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. [18] All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; [19] that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting

to us the message of reconciliation. [20] Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. [21] For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

- 2 Corinthians 9:1, 12 “Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints ... For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.”
- 2 Corinthians 10:15–18 “We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. But our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged, [16] so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another’s area of influence. [17] ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’ [18] For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.”
- Galatians 2:6–9 “And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. [7] On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised [8] (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), [9] and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.”
- Ephesians 4:11–16 “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. [15] Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16] from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

- Colossians 3:23–24 “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, [24] knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”
- Colossians 4:17 “say to Archippus, ‘See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.’”
- 2 Thessalonians 1:11–12 “To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, [12] so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
- 1 Thessalonians 1:2–8 “We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. [6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, [7] so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8] For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.”
- 1 Timothy 5:9–10 “Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband,

[10] and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work.”

- 2 Timothy 3:16–17 “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.”
- 2 Timothy 4:5 “As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”
- Hebrews 8:6 “But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.”

Missions is INSEPARABLE from the churches.

Missions is THROUGH the churches.

Missions is the WORK of the churches.

Missionaries are the PEOPLE of the churches.

“What Does the Bible Say About Church Membership?”

www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-church-membership

“What Does the Bible Say About Online Church?”

www.trustworthyword.com/online-church

“Missions Statistics” - www.spiritualwarfare.blog/missions-statistics

EVANGELISM & MISSIONS QUOTES

"I care not where I go, or how I live, or what I endure so that I may save souls. When I sleep I dream of them; when I awake they are first in my thoughts...no amount of scholastic attainment, of able and profound exposition of brilliant and stirring eloquence can atone for the absence of a deep impassioned sympathetic love for human souls." David Brainerd

"We shall have all eternity in which to celebrate our victories, but we have only one swift hour before the sunset in which to win them." Robert Moffat

"Evangelism is not a professional job for a few trained men, but is instead the unrelenting responsibility of every person who belongs to the company of Jesus." Elton Trueblood

"You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. And go not only to those that need you, but to those that need you most...It is not your business to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that society; but to save as many souls as you can; to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance." John Wesley

"It was a common saying among the Puritans, 'Brown bread and the Gospel is good fare.'" Matthew Henry

"The Gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social; no holiness but social holiness." John Wesley

"Not called!' did you say? 'Not heard the call,' I think you should say. Put your ear down to the Bible, and hear him bid you go and pull sinners out of the fire of sin. Put your ear down to the burdened, agonized heart of humanity, and listen to its pitiful wail for help. Go stand by the gates of hell, and hear the damned entreat you to go to their father's house and bid their brothers and sisters, and servants and masters not to come there. And then look Christ in the face, whose mercy you have professed to obey, and tell him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish his mercy to the world." William Booth

"Perhaps if there were more of that intense distress for souls that leads to tears, we should more frequently see the results we desire. Sometimes it may be that while we are complaining of the hardness of the hearts of those we are seeking to benefit, the hardness of our own hearts and our feeble apprehension of the solemn reality of eternal things may be the true cause of our want of success." Hudson Taylor

"I'd rather have people hate me with the knowledge that I tried to save them." Keith Green

"Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell." C.T. Studd

"The world is my parish." John Wesley

"The history of missions is the history of answered prayer. From Pentecost to the Haystack meeting in New England and from the days when Robert Morrison landed in China to the martyrdom of John and Betty Stam, prayer has been the source of power and the secret of spiritual triumph." Samuel M. Zwemer

"No sort of defense is needed for preaching outdoors, but it would take a very strong argument to prove that a man who has never preached beyond the walls of his meetinghouse has done his duty. A defense is required for services within buildings

rather than for worship outside of them." William Booth

"Preach abroad. It is the cooping yourselves up in rooms that has dampened the work of God, which never was and never will be carried out to any purpose without going into the highways and hedges and compelling men and women to come in." Jonathan Edwards

"I believe I never was more acceptable to my Master than when I was standing to teach those hearers in the open fields. I now preach to ten times more people than I would if I had been confined to the churches." George Whitefield

"I am well assured that I did far more good to my Lincolnshire parishioners by preaching three days on my father's tomb than I did by preaching three years in his pulpit." John Wesley

"Lord, make me a crisis man. Let me not be a mile-post on a single road, but make me a fork that men must turn one way or another in facing Christ in me." Jim Elliot

"It is always a mark of short-sightedness and weakness to be impatient of results." Samuel Smiles

"To teach in order to lead others to faith is the task of every preacher and of each believer." Thomas Aquinas

"Go for souls. Go for souls, and go for the worst." William Booth

"Christ beats His drum, but He does not press men; Christ is served with volunteers." John Donne

"Jesus Christ did not say, 'Go into the world and tell the world that it is quite right.'" C.S. Lewis

"There is no better evangelist in the world than the Holy Spirit." D.L. Moody

"I exhort you, press on in your course, and exhort all men that they may be saved." Polycarp

"Could a mariner sit idle if he heard the drowning cry? Could a doctor sit in comfort and just let his patients die? Could a fireman sit idle, let men burn and give no hand? Can you sit at ease in Zion with the world around you damned?" Leonard Ravenhill

"I would sooner pluck one single brand from the burning than explain all mysteries." Charles Spurgeon

"Any method of evangelism will work if God is in it." Leonard Ravenhill

"As soon as a man has found Christ, he begins to find others." Charles Spurgeon

"I will not believe that thou hast tasted of the honey of the gospel if thou can eat it all to thyself." Charles Spurgeon

"When Andrew went to find his brother, he little imagined how eminent Simon would become... You may be very deficient in talent yourself, and yet you may be the means of drawing to Christ one who shall become eminent in grace and service." Charles Spurgeon

"Ah! dear friend, you little know the possibilities which are in you." Charles Spurgeon

"If you truly feel the sweetness of the Cross of Christ, you will be constrained to confess Christ before men." Robert Murray McCheyne

"Let thy religion begin at home." Charles Spurgeon

"How little chance the Holy Ghost has nowadays. The churches and missionary societies have so bound Him in red tape that they practically ask Him to sit in a corner while they do the work themselves." C.T. Studd

"You must GO forward on your knees." Hudson Taylor

"You wonder why people choose fields away from the States when young people at home are drifting because no one wants to take time to listen to their problems. I'll tell you why I left. Because those stateside young people have every opportunity to study, hear, and understand the Word of God in their own language, and these Indians have no opportunity whatsoever. I have had to make a cross of two logs, and lie down on it, to show the Indians what it means to crucify a man. When there is that much ignorance over here and so much knowledge and opportunity over there, I have no question in my mind why God sent me here. Those whimpering stateside young people will wake up on the Day of Judgment condemned to worse fates than these demon-fearing Indians, because, having a Bible, they were bored with it---while these never heard of such a thing as writing." Jim Elliot

"I have seen, at different times, the smoke of a thousand villages - villages whose people are without Christ, without God, and without hope in the world." Robert Moffat

"My teaching is not of doing nor of leaving undone, but of being. It is not new works done, but a new man to do them; not another life only, but another birth." Martin Luther

"And people who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives... and when the bubble has burst they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted." Nate Saint

"Had I cared for the comments of people, I should never have been a missionary." C.T. Studd

"The branch of the vine does not worry, and toil, and rush here to seek for sunshine, and there to find rain. No; it rests in union and communion with the vine; and at the right time, and in the right way, is the right fruit found on it. Let us so abide in the Lord

Jesus." Hudson Taylor

"God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supplies."
Hudson Taylor

"I have but one passion - it is He, it is He alone. The world is the field and the field is the world; and henceforth that country shall be my home where I can be most used in winning souls for Christ." Count Zinzendorf

"Keep us little and unknown, prized and loved by God alone."
Charles Wesley

"Some people think God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking. The way to trouble God is not to come at all." D.L. Moody

"The greatest missionary is the Bible in the mother tongue. It needs no furlough and is never considered a foreigner." William Townsend

"I feel now, that Arabia could easily be evangelized within the next thirty years if it were not for the wicked selfishness of Christians." Samuel M. Zwemer

"We need a baptism of clear seeing. We desperately need seers who can see through the mist--Christian leaders with prophetic vision. Unless they come soon it will be too late for this generation. And if they do come we will no doubt crucify a few of them in the name of our worldly orthodoxy." A.W. Tozer

"We are not built for ourselves, but for God. Not for service for God, but for God." Oswald Chambers

"Today Christians spend more money on dog food than missions." Leonard Ravenhill

"It will not do to say that you have no special call to go to China. With these facts before you and with the command of the Lord Jesus to go and preach the gospel to every creature, you need

rather to ascertain whether you have a special call to stay at home." Hudson Taylor

"Oh, this is a reality, not a fable, that the Lord Jesus Christ is our friend. And we should not be satisfied till we are brought to this."
George Mueller

"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."
John Piper

"If every Christian is already considered a missionary, then all can stay put where they are, and nobody needs to get up and go anywhere to preach the gospel. But if our only concern is to witness where we are, how will people in unevangelized areas ever hear the gospel? The present uneven distribution of Christians and opportunities to hear the gospel of Christ will continue on unchanged." Gordon Olson

"Answering a student's question, 'Will the heathen who have not heard the Gospel be saved?' thus, 'It is more a question with me whether we, who have the Gospel and fail to give it to those who have not, can be saved.'" Charles Spurgeon

"The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us; just as the roof of a sunhouse does not attract the sun because it is bright, but becomes bright because the sun shines on it." C.S. Lewis

"As long as I see anything to be done for God, life is worth having; but O how vain and unworthy it is to live for any lower end!"
David Brainerd

"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." C.T. Studd

"All my friends are but one, but He is all sufficient." William Carey

"I will go down, if you will hold the ropes." [his missions

philosophy] William Carey

"God had an only Son, and He was a missionary and a physician."
David Livingstone

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world". C.S. Lewis

"What you do in your house is worth as much as if you did it up in heaven for our Lord God. We should accustom ourselves to think of our position and work as sacred and well-pleasing to God, not on account of the position and work, but on account of the word and faith from which the obedience and the work flow." Martin Luther

"There are three indispensable requirements for a missionary: 1. Patience 2. Patience 3. Patience." Hudson Taylor

"Go not to those who want you, but to those who want you most." John Wesley

"There is no work better than to please God; to pour water, to wash dishes, to be a cobbler, or an apostle, all are one; to wash dishes and to preach are all one, as touching the deed, to please God." William Tyndale

"The idea that the service to God should have only to do with a church altar, singing, reading, sacrifice, and the like is without doubt but the worst trick of the devil. How could the devil have led us more effectively astray than by the narrow conception that service to God takes place only in a church and by the works done therein...The whole world could abound with the services to the Lord, Gottesdienste - not only in churches but also in the home, kitchen, workshop, field." Martin Luther

"Find preachers of David Brainerd's spirit, and nothing can stand before them...Let us be followers of him, as he was of Christ, in absolute self-devotion, in total deadness to the world, and in

fervent love to God and man." [his biography of David Brainerd, who died of tuberculosis at 29] Jonathan Edwards

"I would rather feel compassion than know the meaning of it."
Thomas Aquinas

"Therefore, the Christian heart, since it has been thoroughly persuaded that all things happen by God's plan, and that nothing takes place by chance, will ever look to him as the principal causes of things, yet will give attention to the secondary causes in their proper place." John Calvin

"People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa... It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say rather it is a privilege." David Livingstone

"You can take nothing greater to the heathen world than the impress and the reflection of the love of God upon your character. That is the universal language." Henry Drummond

"God cannot be comprehended by us, except as far as he accommodates himself to our standard." John Calvin

"Was it not great blindness that God Almighty, who created us, has so often made known to us that he is our Father, and finally even gave his Son for us; and he himself stands there and calls us poor sinners, saying 'Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.' And we went and turned to the creature, and thought God to be so rough and cruel that we dare not come to him." Ulrich Zwingli

"I have come across black men and women who remembered the only white man they ever saw before----David Livingstone; and as you cross his footsteps in that dark continent, men's faces light up as they speak of the kind Doctor who passed there years ago. They could not understand him; but they felt the Love that beat in his heart." Henry Drummond

"I have found my destiny. I must take the gospel to the people of

the East End." William Booth

"The first thing I ask is that people should not make use of my name, and should not call themselves Lutherans but Christians. What is Luther? The teaching is not mine. Nor was I crucified for anyone...How did I, poor stinking bag of maggots that I am, come to the point where people call the children of Christ by my evil name?" Martin Luther

"How we have prayed for a Revival - we did not care whether it was old-fashioned or not - what we asked for was that it should be such that would cleanse and revive His children and set them on fire to win others." Mary Booth

"Wherever the fear of God rules in the heart, it will appear both in works of charity and piety, and neither will excuse us from the other." Matthew Henry

"The right manner of growth is to grow less in one's own eyes." Thomas Watson

"Yes, it is a press, certainly, but a press from which shall flow in inexhaustible streams, the most abundant and most marvelous liquor that has ever flowed to relieve the thirst of men! Through it, God will spread His Word. A spring of truth shall flow from it: like a new star it shall scatter the darkness of ignorance, and cause a light heretofore unknown to shine amongst men." Johannes Gutenberg

"We may note in passing that He was never regarded as a mere moral teacher. He did not produce that effect on any of the people who actually met Him. He produced mainly three results---Hatred---Terror---Adoration. There was no trace of people expressing mild admiration." C.S. Lewis

"God does not have to come and tell me what I must do for Him, He brings me into a relationship with Himself where I hear His call and understand what He wants me to do, and I do it out of sheer love to Him... When people say they have had a call to

foreign service, or to any particular sphere of work, they mean that their relationship to God has enabled them to realize what they can do for God." Oswald Chambers

"This Man (Jesus) suddenly remarks one day, 'No one need fast while I am here.' Who is this Man who remarks that His mere presence suspends all normal rules?" C.S. Lewis

"The preaching that this world needs most is the sermons in shoes that are walking with Jesus Christ." D.L. Moody

"Calamity clarifies and comfort confuses; persecution purifies and prosperity pollutes!" Kevin Turner

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Jim Elliot

"My dear Jesus, my Savior, is so deeply written in my heart, that I feel confident, that if my heart were to be cut open and chopped to pieces, the name of Jesus would be found written on every piece." St. Ignatius of Antioch

"I have held many things in my hands, and have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." Martin Luther

"If you read history you will find out that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next." C.S. Lewis

"In Jesus and for Him, enemies and friends alike are to be loved." Thomas A ` Kempis

"The seed once sown grows...of itself, from its own impulse and power of life.... The self-inherent power of growth of the kingdom of God." Rudolph Stier

"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried." G.K. Chesterton

"The best of it is, God is with us." John Wesley

"I will place no value on anything I have or may possess except in relation to the kingdom of Christ." David Livingstone

"I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England." C.S. Lewis

"A Christian mother does not give birth to a Christian child; it is not natural birth, but a second, spiritual birth which makes a Christian." Tertullian of Carthage

"Salvation is God's way of making us real people." Augustine

"Since no man is excluded from calling upon God the gate of salvation is open to all. There is nothing else to hinder us from entering, but our own unbelief." John Calvin

"A world of nice people, content in their own niceness, looking no further, turned away from God, would be just as desperately in need of salvation as a miserable world---and might be even more difficult to save." C.S. Lewis

"Is it not wonderful news to believe that salvation lies outside ourselves?" Martin Luther

"Salvation comes through a cross and a crucified Christ." Andrew Murray

"Salvation is from our side a choice; from the divine side it is a seizing upon, an apprehending, a conquest by the Most High God. Our accepting and willing are reactions rather than actions." A.W. Tozer

"O God, save me by Thy righteousness, that is to say, in Thy Son, who alone among men was found without sin." Girolamo Savonarola

"I feel that I am not to be mended, but transformed." Seneca

"Wise leaders should have known that the human heart cannot

exist in a vacuum. If Christians are forbidden to enjoy the wine of the Spirit they will turn to the wine of the flesh.... Christ died for our hearts and the Holy Spirit wants to come and satisfy them." A.W. Tozer

"A revival is nothing else than a new beginning of obedience to God." Charles Finney

"God's whole employment is to lift up the humble and cast down the proud" Author Unknown

"The greatest fault is to be conscious of none." Thomas Carlyle

"...If ever a monk could get to heaven through monastic discipline, I was that monk.... And yet my conscience would not give me certainty, but I always doubted and said, 'You didn't do that right. You weren't contrite enough. You left that out of your confession.' The more I tried to remedy an uncertain, weak, and troubled conscience with human traditions, the more I daily found it more uncertain, weaker, and more troubled." Martin Luther

MISSIONS REFLECTIONS

As I write this, I have just returned from a mission trip to Ghana, West Africa. Have you ever had the joy of a missions trip? Or been able to travel to serve in an impoverished area? Every time I get the joy of serving the Lord on mission God teaches me and reminds me of so many life-transforming truths. Here are a few of the ways Jesus grew me in Ghana!

Jesus is amazing. One of the neatest blessings of a missions trip is to get away from the everyday distractions and to have the pure pleasure of walking closer with Jesus every day. More time in the Word. More fellowship with believers. More time to serve Him. More opportunities to share Him. More enjoyment of Jesus. May we be more intentional to prioritize our proximity to Jesus!

Psalm 145:6 “They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.”

Satan is real. Sometimes when we travel to unfamiliar places we experience things that can be quite different or even disturbing. We experienced things in Ghana we have read about in the Bible, but many of us had never seen such demonic attacks first hand. We witnessed several people who were extremely afflicted and oppressed by demons in scary ways. Although it was new to many of us, God had already prepared us in His Word on how to respond and see His powerful presence and to experience His overwhelming peace as we shared the Good News to those who

were overcome by darkness.

1 John 4:4 “he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world”

The Gospel is powerful. Too often we forget what Jesus did on Calvary. We need regular reminders of the power of the Gospel to change lives forever. What great joy God gave us in the midst of His harvest to see souls saved and to witness souls encouraged and strengthened in their faith.

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

America is rich. Travel to a third world country is a humbling reminder of our own riches and blessings. Food. Clothing. Shelter. Health. Even the poorest of poor in America has more of the needs of life than the middle class of most nations. We need to be more grateful to God. He has provided for us so abundantly for our daily needs. Every American should witness extreme third-world country poverty if they can. May we be more grateful, content, and generous with what God has entrusted to us.

Philippians 4:19 “And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

Giving is a joy. Giving of yourself towards the needs of others is such a blessing. Whether it is time, prayer, skills, meeting needs, or speaking about Jesus we have so much to share. Whether in LaRue County, eastern Kentucky, the western U.S., or on another continent may we be faithful to give ourselves and our gospel love away to everyone around us.

Acts 20:35 “remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Missions are essential. Many respond to God’s mission

command by saying “I’m not called.” Jesus’ Great Commission is not an option to be considered, but a joyful task to be obeyed. Many have missed out on an incredible experience with God working in them and through them on mission.

Have you missed out? If so, it’s not too late. Find a way to serve and share the amazing love of Jesus here, there, and everywhere! The challenges, costs, and commitment of missions are real, but the joy of going is so worth it! As long as there is breath in our lungs may we be faithful to declare the glory of our Lord!!

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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

ON MISSION FOR JESUS

On occasion I’ve met people who question the need to go out on mission trips when there is plenty of “need” here at home. How would you respond to such a statement? Why should we be on mission, crossing geographical, linguistic, and cultural boundaries to talk about and show the love of Jesus?

Here are five reasons to go on mission trips for Jesus:

1. To enjoy Christ. I was recently reflecting with my wife about mission trips and she insightfully remarked that mission trips have a more exclusive focus of spending time with Jesus. On mission, many of the busyness, obligations, and distractions of life fade away as our focus turns towards prioritizing Jesus throughout the day, looking for opportunities to enjoy Him and be part of His work. Think of Jesus’ disciples: three years of following, listening, witnessing, and enjoying Jesus. *On mission trips, we enjoy Christ.*

Acts 4:13 “And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.”

2. To share Christ. The world has heard of KFC, Coca-Cola, as well as much about American politics, sports, and entertainment. But have they heard of our Jesus? “67% of all humans from AD 30 to the present day have never even heard the name of Jesus Christ...and around 30 million people this year will perish without hearing the message of salvation” (Baxter 2007, 12). Can you believe those numbers? Many all over the world have never heard the name of Jesus

or have ever clearly understood the message of salvation. *On mission trips, we share Christ.*

Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

3. To obey Christ. Christians are empowered and in-dwelt by the Holy Spirit with the assigned task of bearing witness to the greatness of God. Hudson Taylor helpfully reminds us that “the Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed.” *On mission trips, we obey Christ.*

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

4. To bring hope. The world can be a dark and dreary place, devoid of joy and expectation. Christians have a hope that transcends earthly sorrow and suffering. May we be faithful to prepare, share, and dare to go out with the message of eternal hope! *On mission trips, we bring hope.*

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”

5. To speak truth and to show love. Satan has deceived the world through lies and ignorance. Many have been misled and are spiritually blind. Billions seek pleasure in the things of this life rather than experiencing the overwhelming love of Jesus. Paul Little explains that “Witnessing is that deep-seated conviction that the greatest favor I can do for others is to introduce them to Jesus Christ.” *On mission trips, we speak truth and show love.*

Ephesians 4:25, 5:2 “let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor...and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us”

If we fail to reach out with the love, truth, and hope of Jesus we miss out on so much. May we be faithful to be on mission here, there, and everywhere with the days, gifts, and resources that the Lord has given us!

MISSIONS STATISTICS

www.spiritualwarfare.blog/missions-statistics

- There are 7.05 billion people in the world. (Joshua Project)
- 2.3 billion are Christian (748 million are Evangelical Christian)
- 1.5 billion are Muslim. (Joshua Project)
- 971 million are Hindu. (Joshua Project)
- 703 million are Non-Religious. (Joshua Project)
- 626 million are Buddhist. (Joshua Project)
- 553 million are of Ethnic Religions including Chinese Religion. (Joshua Project)
- 33 million other/unknown. (Joshua Project)
- Of the 7.05 billion people in the world, 2.9 billion live among unreached people groups of the world and
- 1.6 billion are completely unevangelized. (Joshua Project; Barrett and Johnson 2001, 427)
- There are 6,510 languages in the world. (Joshua Project)
- 86% of all unreached people groups lie within the region called the 10/40 window, which is between
- 10 and 40 degrees north and from the west coast of Africa to the east coast of Asia. (Joshua Project)
- In AD 100 there were 360 people for every believer. Now there are 7.3 people for every believer. (Winter et al., 1)
- 90% of foreign missionaries work among already reached people groups. 10% work among unreached people groups. (Winter and Koch, 543)
- Despite Christ's command to evangelize, 67% of all humans from AD 30 to the present day have never even heard the name

- of Jesus Christ. (Baxter 2007, 12)
- 91% of all Christian outreach/evangelism does not target non-Christians, but targets other Christians. (Baxter 2007, 12)
- In the last 40 years, over 1 billion people have died who have never heard of Jesus, and around 30 million people this year will perish without hearing the message of salvation. (Baxter 2007, 12)
- 70,000+ people die everyday in the unreached world without Jesus. (Baxter 2007, 12)
- Of foreign mission funding: 87% goes for work among those already Christian. 12% for work among already evangelized, but Non-Christian. 1% for work among the unevangelized and unreached people. (Baxter 2007, 12)
- Christians make up 33% of the world's population, but receive 53% of the world's annual income and spend 98% of it on themselves. (Barrett and Johnson 2001, 656)
- Only .1% of all Christian giving is directed toward mission efforts in the 38 most unevangelized countries in the world. (Barrett and Johnson 2001, 656)
- 22 million internationals visit the US each year. Of these, some 630,000 are university students from 220 countries, 25% of which prohibit Christian missionaries. 80% of those students will return to their countries having never been invited to an American home. (The Traveling Team)
- American Christians spend 95% of offerings on home-based ministry, 4.5% on cross-cultural efforts in already reached people groups, and .5% to reach the unreached. (The Traveling Team)
- There are 430,000 missionaries from all branches of Christendom. Only between 2 and 3% of these missionaries work among unreached peoples. (The Traveling Team)
- There are 140,000 recorded protestant missionaries serving in the world, with 64,000 from the US. (The Traveling Team)
- Of the 140,000 Protestant missionaries, 74% work among

- nominal Christians, 8% among tribal peoples, 6% Muslims, 4% Non-religious/atheists, 3% among Buddhists, 2% Hindus, 1% Jews. (The Traveling Team)
- Christians' annual income is \$12.3 trillion. \$213 billion is given to Christian causes. \$11.4 billion is given to foreign missions, 87% of which goes to work being done among the already Christian, 12% goes to work among the evangelized non-Christians, 1% among the unevangelized. (The Traveling Team)
 - Over 160,000 believers will be martyred this year. (The Traveling Team)
 - The total cost of Christian outreach averages \$330,000 for each and every newly baptized person. (World Evangelization Research Center)
 - 54% of evangelical Christians are non-whites. (World Evangelization Research Center)
 - The country with the fastest Christian expansion ever is China, now at 10,000 new converts every day. (World Evangelization Research Center)
 - It costs Christians 700 times more money to baptize converts in rich Christian countries, such as Switzerland, than in poor unevangelized countries, such as Nepal. (World Evangelization Research Center)
 - US ministries send out over 144,000 short-term missionaries each year. (Weber and Welliver 2007, 13)
 - US mission agencies have an annual budget of over \$5.2 billion. (Weber and Welliver 2007, 13)
 - The average American Christian gives only 1 penny a day to global missions. (Yohannan, *Revolution in World Missions*, 142)
 - 86 countries prohibit or restrict Western missionaries. (Yohannan, *Come Let's Reach the World*, 31)
 - Christian organizations spend \$8 billion a year on conferences. (Yohannan, *Come Let's Reach the World*, 126)
 - Indigenous missionaries do 90% of pioneer mission work, but

- only receive 10% of mission funding. Meanwhile foreign missionaries do 10% of pioneer mission work, but receive 90% of mission funding. (Finley 2004, 178 & 244)
- Two of the largest Gospel radio broadcasters, Far East Broadcasting Company and Gospel for Asia, both receive around 1,000,000 listener responses each year. (Far East Broadcasting Company, 15; Gospel for Asia)
 - There have been 4.1 billion viewings of the Jesus Film, representing about 3 billion individuals. More than 99% of the world's population could view the film in a language they know. (Johnstone and Mandryk 2005, 7)

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“As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you” (John 20:21)

5 WAYS TO PRAY FOR MISSIONS

Here are some ideas of how to pray for missions teams and missionaries.

1. Spiritual Health, Life Balance, & Provision “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.” (Ephesians 6:10-12 ESV)

- “What Does the Bible Say About Spiritual Health?” www.trustworthyword.com/spiritual-health
- “What Does the Bible Say About Home Health?” www.trustworthyword.com/home-health
- “What Does the Bible Say About Financial Health?” www.trustworthyword.com/financial-health

2. Unity and Focus “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” (Ephesians 6:18)

- “What Does the Bible Say About Relational Health?” www.trustworthyword.com/relational-health
- “What Does the Bible Say About Workplace Health?”

www.trustworthyword.com/work-place-health

3. Spiritual Boldness & Clarity “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.” (Ephesians 6:19-20)

- “What Does the Bible Say About Risk?”
www.trustworthyword.com/risk
- “What Bible Verses Are Good to Memorize for Evangelism?” www.trustworthyword.com/what-bible-verses-are-good-to-memorize-for-evangelism

4. Overcome Fear & Worry

- Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows. (Lk 12:7)
- And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. (Luke 12:22)
- “What Does the Bible Say About Worry?” www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-worry

5. Physical, Mental, & Emotional Health & Protection

- And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? (Lk 12:25)
- 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 John 1:2)
- Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. (James 5:14)
- “What Does the Bible Say About Physical Health?”
www.trustworthyword.com/physical-health

- “What Does the Bible Say About Emotional Health?”
www.trustworthyword.com/emotional-health
- “What Does the Bible Say About Mental Health?”
www.trustworthyword.com/mental-health
- “What Does the Bible Say About Sexual Health?”
www.trustworthyword.com/sexual-health

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT RISK?

As humans, we often fear the unknown and seek to protect or isolate ourselves from potential harm or loss. The Bible clearly demonstrates that the riskiest behavior is to isolate ourselves from God and distrust His commands. May we be a people who imitates the examples set before us of faithfulness in the midst of risk (Hebrews 11:32-40).

Fast and Pray - Jesus followed the Spirit's leading into the desert to be personally tempted and tried by Satan. Instead of fleeing, Jesus fasted and prayed, using Scripture to rebuke Satan's deception (Matthew 4:1-11).

Put on the Full Armor of God - Paul recognized that our battles and enemies are not primarily with humans or situations, but rather are best spiritually understood. He exhorts Christians to remember that we do not wrestle with flesh and blood, but with Satan and his demons. Accordingly, we need Jesus' reminder that our weapons are not of this world (Ephesians 6:10-20, 2 Corinthians 10:2-6).

Flee - At times God calls us to flee risky situations. Jesus preached so clearly in His hometown of Nazareth that they sought to throw Him off a cliff in order to kill him, yet Jesus passed through them and went away (Luke 4:16-30, John 10:39). Paul and the disciples of Jesus likewise had situations

in which he was called to, prepared for, and initiated escape (2 Corinthians 11:32-33, Acts 5:17-42, Acts 9:23-25). When the risk is towards a situation of temptation, Christians are called to flee as a way of escape (1 Timothy 6:11, 2 Timothy 2:22, 1 Corinthians 6:18; 10:12-14)

Stand Firm - Jesus stood firm even when officials were present and ready to arrest Him, trusting in God's perfect plan and timing (John 7:32-52). Paul and Silas had the perfect, God-given opportunity in Philippi to escape prison safely, but God called them to remain (Acts 16:25-40).

Resist - At times the Christian is called to resist, whether it be a government or the devil who is seeking to inspire disobedience against God (Acts 4:1-31, James 4:7)

Speak - Christians are called to speak boldly and courageously even in the midst of dangerous and threatening circumstances (Acts 4:1-31; 18:9-11). We are warned by the example of Peter of the danger of denying Jesus in risky situations by our sinful silence or speech (Matthew 26:69-75).

Be Silent - Sometimes the Christian call is to remain calmly silent in the midst of verbal and physical threats (Matthew 27:11-14, John 19:1-11).

Embrace Risk - Both Jesus and Paul demonstrated a willingness to enter into risk for the sake of Gospel love, fully aware of the suffering and death they encountered in their future (Luke 9:51-56, Matthew 26:47-56, Acts 21:10-36). Christians are reminded that risk is part of the cost of following Jesus faithfully (Luke 9:57-10:12).

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT PERSECUTION?

We must not minimize or redefine persecution, understanding that persecution involves not merely verbal or social opposition, but opposition to the Gospel message that results in significant financial or physical harm or loss.

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

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ [44] But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, [45] so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. [46] For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? [47] And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? [48] You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:43-48 ESV)

“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.” (John 15:18-20 ESV)

“To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, [12] and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; [13] when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.” (1 Corinthians 4:11-13 ESV)

“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.” (2 Corinthians 4:7-11 ESV)

“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. [14] 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.” (2 Timothy 3:10-17)

ESV)

HOW TO DOWNLOAD, USE, AND SHARE THE GIDEON BIBLE APP

What is the Gideon Bible App? The Gideon Bible App (www.gideons.bible.is) offers mobile access to Scripture in a multitude of languages including text and dramatized Audio Bibles so you can read and listen to the Bible in your own language.

Why is a Bible App so important and essential? Mobile digital time (phones, tablets, watches, etc.) is significantly higher than those who use desktop/laptop computers for accessing the internet. 80% of all internet users own a smartphone. Mobile device users access digital media 89% of the time through apps, not through websites, using mobile apps for over an hour per day.

How can I download the Gideon Bible App? Go to iTunes or Google Play via your mobile device and search “Gideon Bible App.”

How can I change the language of the Bible? What languages are available? When you initially open the app, click on the “languages” or “country” tab in the top-center of the screen and select one of the 1,100+ available languages. You can also access this from the default page by clicking on “Bibles.”

How can I look up a specific Bible book, chapter, or verse? The

easiest way is once you have selected your Bible translation, click on the top center bible book and chapter reference (i.e. “Genesis 1” is the default) and scroll to select the book and chapter. Once you are in the correct book and chapter, you can scroll to select the desired verse or passage. There is also a search bar in the left menu within which you can type the specific verse address.

How can I bookmark or highlight a specific Bible verse or passage? How can I share a specific Bible verse or passage? Press and hold on the desired verse to select the verse or passage you desire. Then select the left red bookmark, yellow highlighter, notebook, or sharing tool

How can I take notes in my Bible app? How can I sync my Bible bookmarks, highlights, and notes? In order to take notes in your Bible app you will need to sign up for an account and log in. Once you have an established account your data will be synced on any logged in platform you use.

How can I search for a particular passage, word or theme in the Bible? Hit the three horizontal line button in the upper left corner to pull open the left menu. In the upper left search bar (next to the magnifying glass) you can type in the passage, word or theme you desire to search.

How can I listen to the Bible? Under the Bible selection, hit the play button (sideways triangle) to play the current text. From the same toolbar you can download (downward pointed arrow), advance or rewind (sideways pointed double triangle) the chapter.

How can I read or listen to the Bible offline? Select “Downloads” from the left side of your screen and select the particular Bible language and translation you want to download for offline use. You then will select to download the “Text” (Old Testament or New Testament in its entirety) or “Audio (selecting the specific book or chapters you want to download). You will need a free account to download the text for offline use. You can click “Edit”

in the upper right-hand corner to delete any audio files that you have downloaded (to save memory).

What is the link on “Help in Time of Need” for? This is a topical index of Bible verses that you will find greatly helpful in discovering God’s truths for every time and season of life.

What is the link on “Help with Life Problems” for? This is a selection of common temptations and sins so that you can find God’s truths concerning His will in your life.

What is the link on “Decision” for? Select “Decision” for a biblical Gospel presentation, opportunity to respond, encouragement for church involvement, and biblical assurance for new believers.

What is the link on “Character” for? Select “Character” for a topical presentation of Bible verses concerning the character God seeks for believers to model in their lives as a Gospel witness.

How can I share the Gideon Bible App? Click the “Share the App” feature to select how you would like to share the app (text, email, WhatsApp, social media, AirDrop, etc.)

What is the link on “Settings” for? This area allows you to change the Bible translation you are using, the text size, theme, and font, account setup/login, and some informational links.

What is the link on “Donate” for? The Gideons provide this Bible app free of charge and have distributed over 2 billion Bibles through the generous donations of Christians all over the world.

Who is The Gideons International? The Gideons International (gideons.org) is a non-profit ministry that is dedicated to getting God’s word to everyone, everywhere.

Who is Faith Comes by Hearing? Faith Comes By Hearing (www.faithcomesbyhearing.com) is the world leader in Bible recordings, seeking to provide free audio and text access to God’s

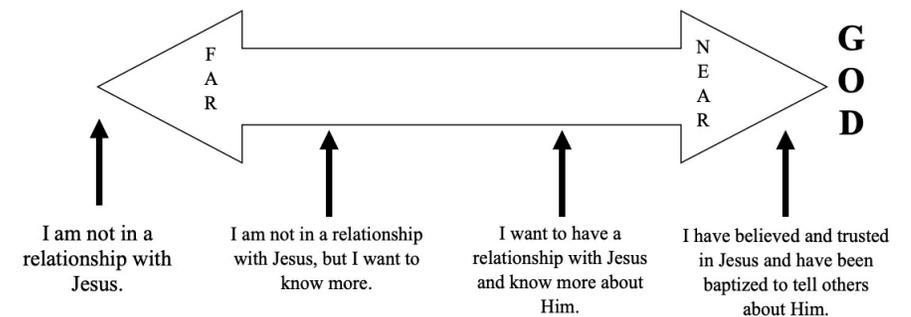
Word in every language available.

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. [5] You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. [6] And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. [7] You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. [8] You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. [9] You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

GOSPEL COUNSELING BASICS

1. **Pray a lot leading up to this special opportunity. Pray as the Gospel is shared!**
2. **Encourage them about your time together:** “I’m excited to talk with you!”
3. **Bridge into the Gospel:** “Do you have any spiritual beliefs?”
4. **Ask good questions to get them to share where they are at in relation to God:** you could draw this picture on a napkin or paper to help them describe their relationship with Jesus.

Where am I in my relationship with God?



5. **Review the ABCs of Salvation & ask corresponding, clarifying questions:**
 - Ask open-ended questions. Avoid giving the answers, but help them to understand. Use simple words. Don't assume they understand. Ask another counselor/leader for help if you get stuck. Keep praying (in your head) as you talk with the child.

- Pick a Scripture for them to read and for you to help them understand: Romans 3:23, 6:23, & 10:9-10 are great verses.”

A—“Admit” to God that you are a sinner and that you need His forgiveness;

- Do you consider yourself to be a good person? Can I give you a quick test? (use some of the 10 commandments) Have you ever told a lie? Have you ever stolen something? Have you ever hated someone? When you stand before Jesus on judgment day, are you guilty or innocent?
- What is sin? Are you a sinner? What are some ways you have sinned? Who are your sins against (people and ultimately God)? How does that make you feel that you have sinned against God?

B—“Believe” in Jesus and that what He did on the cross was enough to provide for your forgiveness of sin;

- Who is Jesus? Why did he die? Do you believe Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave?

C—“Confess” Jesus as your Savior and Lord.

- What does it mean for Jesus to be your Lord? Do you want Him to be in charge of your life?

6. Ask if they have any questions about being a Christian.

7. Ask if they want to become a Christian today

8. Help pray with them to accept Christ by following the ABC outline.

9. Help encourage them to grow in Christ by:

- Reading their Bible, Praying, Being Involved in Church

10. Pray for them before they go. Write down important information on your conversation to share with your pastor, church, their church, and their parents.

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 spending every spare minute they can.

BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

A Biblical Study Of The Catechism Of The Catholic Church: Bible Answers To The Most Frequently Asked Questions About Catholic Beliefs And Practices

Do you have questions about Catholic beliefs and practices? Would you like more information or a refresher on The Catechism of the Catholic Church? 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.

Top 10 Questions answered in this book!

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?

A free PDF is available at: www.Catholic.blog

Spiritual Warfare In The Early Church: The History Of Demonic Activity Among The Ante-Nicene Church Fathers And Beyond

Did the early church experience demonic activity? What did they do with those who were possessed or oppressed by demons? Which early church fathers spoke about spiritual warfare and which ones seldom referenced the subject?

See for yourself. This book concisely presents the primary source evidence from the early church for your consideration to see how the earliest Christian leaders thought of and engaged in spiritual warfare.

A free PDF copy is available at www.SpiritualWarfare.blog

These kindle and print editions have been priced as low as Amazon allows to help people find God's answers about the battle of the followers of Christ against the unseen spiritual forces of evil. As a bonus, the appendix contains the most important biblical passages that reference Spiritual Warfare.

Week By Week Bible Reading: 5 To 30 Minute Bible Reading Plans To Help You Hear God's Voice

This book is the formulation of years of guiding myself and my church family through Bible reading. It is a simple but helpful tool to help with the discipline of drawing near to God through regular Bible reading and listening.

5-30 Minute Plans

How much time would you like to spend reading or listening to the Bible each day? Whether you would like to read Psalms/ Proverbs, the New Testament, the Old Testament, or the whole Bible there is a plan to carry you through the year.

This could be a 1, 2, or 3 year plan for you to read the Bible. You might want to start off with a 5 minute-per-day commitment one year (Psalms & Proverbs), before progressing to a 10 (New Testament) or 15 (Old Testament) minute-per-day goal. Or maybe you have always wanted to read through the entire Bible in 52 weeks, you could start this any time of year, but will want to prepare for at least 30 minutes of Bible reading or listening each day.

Since this reading plan is outlined as a "weekly" plan instead of a "daily" plan, you might find that you spend more time on the weekends reading and then use the past readings for journaling, reflecting, and praying on the weekdays. Or you may prefer to do your reading on weekdays and keep the weekends as a "catch up" time for anything you missed.

Regardless of the specific plans you make, I am proud of you for taking this significant step. May you enjoy your weekly

encounters with your Lord through His Word!

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Dr. Neil T. Anderson & Spiritual Warfare: A Summary And Evaluation Of His Writings

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This book takes one of Christianity's most popular and prolific authors, Dr. Neil T. Anderson, and summarizes his understanding of spiritual warfare. As you read, you'll discover what the Bible, church history, and modern global theologians teach us about Satan's attacks and our response. You'll see that while Anderson's understanding of spiritual warfare in evangelism and discipleship is generally correct, there are some areas of his approach that could be improved. You will also learn the lasting value of Anderson's works and personal applications for your battles against the demonic.

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Life is hard, full of struggles and suffering. Our primary battles are not merely physical, financial, emotional, or mental, but spiritual. We ultimately are in an ongoing spiritual battle. We need spiritual solutions. We need spiritual answers.

This series is different than many others that you might read. The vast majority of the content is Bible verses and references. This approach is intentional in order to help you clearly hear and see God's truths and not merely human opinion. Get God's answers to some of your toughest questions!

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)

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