

In our Last Msg we Opened Up the “Spiritual Battle” in Dan Ch 10

& we got some great Insight

into the Battle that is going on in the Heavenly Realm

AND how that battle directly impacts

what we are experiencing HERE in the Physical Realm

That msg (last week) was a Vs-by-Vs study

of the Spiritual Battle in Dan Ch 10

But apparently that vs-by-vs study is growing into a “Topical”

study on this critical area in each of our lives

So – for at least a couple more messages

I’d like to dig deeper into this Topic

To help us gain more understanding into an area that

literally impacts every day of our lives

Yet it’s an area that we may not have much real understanding of

Does it sound like a good idea

to spend a little time on this Topic

Let’s Pray

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We started our study of Dan 10 last wk

by looking at HOW Daniel ENTERED the Spiritual Battle

Which I said was really the most important lesson of the Chapter

We **saw** that Daniel **ENTERED** the Spiritual Battle – **Thru an**  
**EXTENDED TIME** of **INTENTIONAL, SACRIFICIAL – PRAYER**

& **that** one **Key Truth** – **Answers MANY** of our **questions** re:  
**WHY We never seem to even BEGIN our own Spiritual Battles**

We **also learned** that Daniel's **PRAYER**  
(that **began** his Successful **Spiritual Battle**)

Was a **Prayer** for **UNDERSTANDING**  
& a **Prayer** of **HUMBLING Himself** before God

& in **THAT** Key **Truth** – we see the **other Reason**  
**WHY We never seem to even BEGIN our own Spiritual Battles**

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& **finally** (last week) we **saw** a **great battle** take place,  
in the **Spiritual Realm** – **ON Daniel's behalf**

As the **Angels of God** did **Real Battle**  
**with** the **SPIRIT PRINCE** of the **Enemy's Kingdom**

& **SEEING** that **Battle play out** – **gave** us a **critical insight**  
**into the fact** that there **truly IS** a **REAL BATTLE** going on . . .

**in a type** of **Parallel Reality** - called the **Spiritual Realm** –  
which is **MORE Real**, than this **Temporary Realm** we live in

**So – here's the BIG PICTURE of last week's Msg:**

- 1) The **Spiritual Battle is REAL**
  - 2) **Each SIDE** of the Spiritual Battle is **Fighting**  
to **INFLUENCE** the events in **YOUR Physical Realm**
  - 3) & **YOU** have a **Very REAL ROLE** in **HOW** the Spiritual Battle  
Influences **Your** Life
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Those were the lessons from our V-by-V study of Dan Ch 10

Today I'd like to start – with some Preface “Introductions”  
to this Critical area of our lives

Let's Start - by CLARIFYING the EXTREMES  
in Hopes that we can Avoid them

Extreme #1 – The Spiritual Battle isn't real,

we don't have to talk about it,  
we just have to “Try Our Hardest” to ACT like good Christians

That's completely unbiblical  
& is Probably the #1 LIE the enemy wants you to buy into

That HE, & His World – DON'T REALLY EXIST

Because that allows him to completely destroy your life,  
while you're denying that he exists

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Extreme #2) – There is a Demon behind every bush

This is the idea that there's a demon “attached”  
to every difficulty or struggle you face

Commonly communicated as *“The Demon of this or that”*

That is ALSO Unbiblical

It gives the Enemy TOO MUCH Credit  
& it gives him TOO MUCH Focus . . .

Which can be just as DAMAGING as NOT believing he exists

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So – Avoiding the Extremes – PLs hear me when I tell you

The Spiritual Battle IS VERY REAL

There Definitely ARE Spiritual Beings  
BATTLING in the Spiritual Realm, right now

& their GOAL is to INFLUENCE your life for good or for evil

& THE BIGGEST TRUTH is

YOU have a very DEFINITE ROLE – in Which Side  
of The Spiritual Battle - Ends up Influencing YOUR life

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NEXT General Preface Item

There are (in essence) THREE General “Groups” of People  
& YOU are IN one of these 3 “Groups” today

& there seems to be a Unique FOCUS of the Spiritual Battle  
for each “Groups” (*as I see it*)

& it is WHERE you are AT with Jesus Christ in your life  
that will determine WHAT the FOCUS of the Spiritual Battle  
(in general) looks like

So – Go ahead & PUT YOURSELF – IN one of these 3 Groups

#1) If you are an Unbeliever

The Spiritual Battle is primarily focused on

The Enemy working hard to KEEP you from Believing

While God’s Angels fighting to give you opportunity to believe

**If this is you today - Pls. allow God  
to remove the scales from your eyes**

**Make a commitment today  
to Believe God, & Receive Jesus Christ as your Lord**

**& IN that True Commitment, you will have the Ultimate Victory**

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**#2) If you say you're a believer,**

But you have NOT YET truly Surrendered your life  
to Jesus Christ as Lord

**Then the Spiritual Battle seems primarily focused  
on keeping you on the FENCE**

The Enemy will work hard to help you keep one foot in the world –  
he'll help you continue to think your sin is pleasurable

He'll help you Rationalize & Justify your sin  
& he'll make you think you're ok with God

At the same time God's Angels (& the Holy Spirit) are fighting  
to help you SEE the Fallacy of your "Double Life"

They're trying to place Strong Christians in your life

to help you Start actually Walking in the Victory  
that Jesus Christ Died to GIVE YOU

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### **#3) If you really are all-in, following & serving the Lord**

**The primary focus of the Battle will be**

to **TRIP** you up,  
or **DISCOURAGE** you,  
or get you to **FALL** into Sin

To **some how, some way** – get you to **STOP following Jesus**  
& **turn back** to **damaging** your **life** & the **lives** of those **around** you

& **Most Importantly** – To **Keep You** – By **ANY MEANS Possible**  
from **doing ANYTHING** Truly **productive** for **GOD**

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& **can I just say** at this point - The way **I MOST OFTEN**  
**See** the **Enemy** get **Real Success**

in **the lives** of **those** (*who are especially*) in the **beginning stages**  
of **following & serving** the **Lord**

is **through DIVISION** and **OFFENSE** in the **church**

It is **absolutely MIND-BOGGLING** how **EASILY**  
your **Enemy** can **Turn you AWAY** from **following Jesus**

**by** using **Some Stupid Christian**  
who's **causing DIVISION** or **OFFENSE** in the **Church**

& **believe me** – when I say “**Some STUPID Christian**”

**I have** certainly **been DUPED** by the **Enemy** many **times**  
into **earning** that **title for myself**

So **don't be** so **easily DUPED** by the **enemy** using **Christians**

to sow **CRITICISM** or **OFFENSE** into your life  
**Don't** make it **SO EASY** on the **Enemy** to **Take you OUT**

**Just QUOTE** the **words** that **JESUS** spoke to the **Apostle Peter**  
when **the Enemy** was **trying to use** Peter in **Mat 16:23**

Where **Jesus just said** (lovingly) to **Peter**, ***"Get behind me Satan"***

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**SO** – With those **General Introductions**  
**Let's talk** a bit about **HOW** the enemy **Can INFLUENCE US**

**When we get** to the **Spiritual ARMOR** (prob Nxt Msg) –  
we'll **go into** more **detail** about **HOW** the **enemy does this**

**But let's just start with an Overview**

& **I guess** the **best place** to start would be  
at **Satan's First**, & most **all-encompassing Deception** – **Gen Ch 3**

This is **such a great study** on **how Satan works**  
But we **can only skim** over it **today**

& **what** I'd like **you** to **NOTICE**  
is that **Satan SPOKE** to Eve

& we **need to Recognize** – that **Thru-out the Bible** –  
**Satan** has the **ability** to **INFLUENCE THOUGHT** in some **way**

We **need** to **come to grips** with the **fact**  
that **YOUR Spiritual** Enemy

has the **Ability to INFLUENCE** your **thoughts** (in some way)  
**IF** you will **LET HIM**

## Genesis 3:1–5 – The Fall of Man (NLT)

**1** *The serpent (Satan) was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?” (1<sup>st</sup> he questioned God in Eve’s mind)*

**2** *“Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. (she’s now entered a conversation w/ Satan)*

**3** *“It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’ ”*

**4** *“You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. (he denied God’s Word in Eve’s mind) . . . (& then he replaces it . . .)*

**5** *“God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God . . .”*

### The Enemy:

QUESTIONED God in Eve’s Mind

DENIED God in Eve’s Mind

REPLACED God in Eve’s Mind

For today - what I want you to see –

is that the FALL of Man started In THE MIND of Eve

The Enemy INFLUENCED Eve’s thoughts (her mind)

& then Look at Genesis 3:6 (NLT)

**6** *The woman was convinced . . .*

**BAAM** - Satan had gotten into Eve’s MIND

& Convinced her to do what HE Wanted her to do

OVER what God had Created her to do

Let me say it again – in case you missed it



**Satan** had **INFLUENCED** Eve's **Mind** (& ultimately **Adam's**)  
to **DO what HE Wanted** them to do  
**OVER** what **God had Created** them to do

**Does** that **Give** you an **IDEA** – of **HOW the Enemy**  
**Accomplishes Destruction** in **YOUR Life**?

**AND** – **Just in case** you **don't think** Satan's **approach** with **Eve**  
is **Applicable** to us **today**

**Let me just read you 2 Corinthians 11:3 (NLT)**

**3 But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent.**

**If the Enemy** brought about the **Fall of man** with **this tactic**  
**WHY** would he **NOT use it** on **YOU today** ??

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We **could read** a **DOZEN** clear **references** to the **Enemy**  
**INFLUENCING the Minds** of **God's people** in the **O.T.**

But for **time's sake** - let's **do** just **one more**  
Find **1 Chron Ch 20**

I **can't go** into all the **background** –

But **King David** is going to **commit** his **last BIG SIN** here

*(this was after the Bathsheba sin that the enemy was definitely  
ALSO involved in)*

**David's SIN** here is **NUMBERING** the **people**

It was a **SIN of PRIDE** - & a **COSTLY** one for **David**

But let's look at how a few different translations put this

**1 Chronicles 21:1 (NLT)**

*1 Satan rose up against Israel and caused David to take a census of the people of Israel.*

**1 Chronicles 21:1 (ESV)**

*1 Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel.*

**1 Chronicles 21:1 (AMP)**

*1 SATAN [an adversary] stood up against Israel and stirred up David to number Israel.*

**1 Chronicles 21:1 (NKJV)**

*1 Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.*

It's amazing to look at this Hebrew word

Because ALL these translations are correct

Satan CAUSED David to sin (NLT)

Satan INCITED David to sin (ESV)

Satan STIRRED UP David to sin (AMP)

Satan MOVED David to sin (NKJV)

**What's my Point?** – You have an ENEMY who can

INFLUENCE your Thoughts toward Massively Destructive SIN

**THIS particular** sin of David's

Caused the Death of 70,000 men in Israel

**& do you think the Enemy was Dancing a JIG that Day ??**

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**Guys** – it is the **same TYPE** of **word** (in GREEK) **used** to describe **Satan's Final Move** on **Judas Iscariot**

**Jn 13:2** (NLT) - *the devil prompted Judas, to betray Jesus*

**Jn 13:2** (ESV) – *the devil put it into the heart of Judas*

**Jn 13:2** (AMP) - *Satan put the thought of betraying Jesus in the heart of Judas*

**I know** – We think

**we CAN'T** Be **COMPARED** with **Judas Iscariot**

& **Maybe** that's **WHY**

**the Enemy** has **SUCH** an **Easy TIME** **Influencing US**

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We've **GOT to REALIZE** - **we have an ENEMY**

**Before** we can **JOIN the battle**

& we've **Got to Realize** – that he can **Easily INFLUENCE** our **MINDS**

**Before** we will **make a Commitment** to **DO something** about it

The **Enemy of your SOUL** is **CONSTANTLY** trying to **INFLUENCE** your **Thoughts** & thereby – Your **ACTIONS**

& you **May NOT** even **KNOW**

**there's** a **Spiritual Battle** going **on in your life**

**1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)**

*8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.*

You **HAVE** a **Great Enemy**

& he is **LOOKING** to **DEVOUR you**

**Coming to GRIPS with that – will help us make a COMMITMENT  
to STAND FIRM against him  
& to be STRONG in the Faith**

Which is **Exactly** what the **NEXT VERSE** Says

### **1 Peter 5:9 (NLT)**

***9 Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. (& then)  
Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going  
through the same kind of suffering you are.***

The **Spiritual Battle** is a **REALITY** in **EVERY Believer's Life**  
all **around the world**

& **THAT** means it's a **Reality** in **YOUR LIFE**

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**Let's look** at just a **FEW N.T.** References to the **FACT** that

**The Enemy** of our **Soul** has the **ABILITY**  
to **INFLUENCE** our **MIND** & our **ACTIONS**

### **In 2 Corinthians 2:11 (NLT)**

(Paul was telling the church to forgive) ***11 so that Satan will not  
outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.***

**This Means** – Satan **CAN Outsmart us**

### **In 1 Thessalonians 3:5 (NLT)**

(Paul was concerned about the church's faith) ***5 That is why, when I  
could bear it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out whether your  
faith was still strong. I was afraid that the tempter had gotten the  
best of you and that our work had been useless.***

**Paul** was **concerned** – that the **ENEMY** had **TAKEN OUT** these **New Believers** - **COMPLETELY**

### **In 2 Corinthians 11:14–15 (NLT)**

(Paul was concerned about the church being FOOLED by servants of the enemy) **14 But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.**

**15 So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness . . .**

**Often** the Enemy “**SPEAKS**” thru **people** who (*usually unknowingly*) are **doing** his **bidding for him**

### **1 Timothy 4:1 (NLT)**

**1 . . . in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons.**

there **ARE Deceptive spirits** who **WILL turn** some **AWAY** from the **Faith**

### **2 Timothy 3:13 (NLT)**

**13 But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived.**

They will **DECEIVE** on **behalf of the enemy** & **they** will **themselves BE DECEIVED !!**

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## Have I TOTALLY FREAKED YOU OUT Yet?

I HOPE SO – Because the First thing you do – before going into a BATTLE – is UNDERSTAND your ENEMY

& I'm Afraid MANY of us DON'T UNDERSTAND our Enemy  
& we MAY NOT even KNOW there's a BATTLE Raging Around us

Before we can talk about Strategy for Victory

We have to First BELIEVE we have an ENEMY –  
Who is constantly trying to DECEIVE US - & DESTROY US

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So – IF I've gotten THAT Point Across  
I'll close with the BEST NEWS of ALL – (*sound good?*)

Once we DO Understand there IS a REAL Spiritual Battle going on

At that Point - One of the Enemy's BIGGEST DECEPTIONS  
Is to convince us that we Must Fight – FOR our Victory

But – Here is the Greatest Truth of ALL - in the Spiritual Battle

We DO NOT Fight FOR our Victory  
We Fight FROM a Position of Victory

We don't Fight to WIN our Ultimate Victory  
Because Jesus Christ has Already WON IT for us

**Does that mean the Enemy CAN'T TAKE US OUT ??**

**NO – I'm afraid it doesn't**

**BOTH Scripture – AND the lives of those around us – TELL US**

The Enemy CAN still DESTROY our Lives

**BUT – Because Jesus Christ has ALREADY WON**

the Complete Victory – ON OUR BEHALF

**ALL we have to do is STAND FIRM**

in the Victory that Jesus Christ Has Won FOR US

**ALL we have to do – is REMAIN In Him**

Staying STRONG in the FAITH

**Turn over to Col Ch 2 to close**

**Colossians 2:13–15 (NLT)**

*13 You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins.*

*14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.*

*15 In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.*

**THAT Victory – Jesus WON – in YOUR PLACE**

**& when you put your Faith in Him**

**& Receive Him into your Life**

**HIS Victory – Becomes YOUR Victory**

**& HIS Victory is SURE & COMPLETE**

**ALL** you have to **do** – is **STAND FIRM** in **HIS VICTORY**  
**ALL** you have to **do** – is **WALK in HIS VICTORY**

& **THAT is** what we're **gonna spend**  
the **Next few Msgs Talking** about

**But FIRST**

You **have** to **Make HIS Victory** – **YOUR Victory**

**HE** has **already WON it**

But **YOU Receive it** into your life **BY FAITH**

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**Would you DO THAT today ?**

**Would** you **recognize** that you **have** a **Spiritual Enemy** –  
that is **Constantly working** to **Destroy your LIFE**

& the **ONLY Victory** over this **Enemy**  
is **Receiving** the **Victory Jesus Christ WON** on the **Cross**

**You can DO THAT – Today**

& you **can begin to Walk** in **VICTORY** in **this Battle**  
**Instead of DEFEAT**

**Let's Pray**