

# FIERY DARTS (Part 1)

## ***Ephesians 6:16***

***<sup>16</sup> Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.***

Here the Apostle Paul admonishes us to “quench all the fiery darts of the wicked [one].” My question is, What are these *fiery darts*? And, how do we quench them?

Now, in order to know what Paul meant by “fiery darts”, we need to know a little something about ancient warfare. In ancient times, armies would often fire flaming arrows into the enemy camp. These arrows (or “fiery darts”) were not meant to cause damage as much as they were meant to incite fear. In other words, *fiery darts* were used as a *psychological* tactic to cause an enemy to flee from the battle!

What do these attacks (fiery darts) look like today?

## ***Luke 10:19***

***<sup>19</sup> Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.***

Jesus is basically pointing out that ALL the power of the enemy is represented by these two terms—serpents and scorpions. To put it another way, all the enemy’s power, everything he does to causes men to run from the battle, can be described in terms of either a serpent or a scorpion. I say this because BOTH creatures are known for causing men to flee.

Now, the a difference between serpents and scorpions is their method of attack. A serpent’s power (venom) is in its head, whereas a scorpion’s power is in its tail. The same is true of evil spirits. Serpent spirits attack men differently than scorpion spirits. For example, when we examine Scripture we learn that a serpent attack is concentrated on deception (i.e. to lead men into error).

## ***2 Corinthians 11:3***

***<sup>3</sup> But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.***

Notice, it was the “serpent” that beguiled (or deceived) Eve! In fact, serpent spirits are almost always behind deception and false teaching.

## ***2 Corinthians 11:4***

***<sup>4</sup> For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye RECEIVE ANOTHER SPIRIT, which ye have not received...***

### **Acts 16:16**

***16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:***

The word “divination” is the Greek word *python*. Therefore, this woman was actually possessed with a *serpent* spirit! And the reason she was possessed/ under the control of this serpent spirit was because she operated in *divination*. (Divination is the practice of receiving false knowledge or receiving knowledge in a false way.) Thus, anytime you seek false knowledge or seek knowledge in a way that God has forbidden, you’re engaging in a kind of divination. Moreover, like this woman, you’re likely being seduced by an evil spirit!

### **1 Timothy 4:1**

***1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;***

Notice how false doctrines are the product of evil spirits! Moreover, these evil spirits are “seducing” and deceiving men for the purpose of causing them to “depart” (or turn away) from the faith!

There is a second class of demons—scorpion spirits. Scorpion spirits are different from serpent spirits in that they are concerned with tormenting men.

### **Revelation 9:2–5**

***2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. 3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. 5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.***

John is here describing evil spirits that will be given the power of SCORPIONS. Meaning, they will have the power to torment men!

### **Revelation 9:6**

***6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.***

In those days men shall “seek death, but shall not find it.” Obviously, this is describing some kind of physical pain or sickness. However, there are other ways these evil spirits can torment a person apart from sickness.

**1 John 4:18**

***18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.***

Therefore, it's possible to be tormented with fear as well as with physical pain. In fact, the word “torment” can refer to extreme physical pain OR to severe mental distress! Moreover, mental distress not only includes fear, but it also includes things like anxiety, condemnation, rejection, depression, and even shame.

But, whether the torment is physical or psychological pain, the goal remains the same—to cause men to flee the battle!

**Deuteronomy 7:20**

***20 Moreover the Lord thy God will send the hornet among them, until they that are left, and hide themselves from thee, be destroyed.***

‘Hornet’ is being used here to describe the kind of fear that causes a man to flee the battle. But whether we use the ‘hornet’ or a scorpion, the result is the same—men giving up and fleeing the battle.

Now, it's important that we understand the form of these spiritual attacks of the enemy.

**2 Corinthians 10:4–5**

***4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;***

The spiritual war we are engaged in with the enemy is primarily waged in our minds. This means that the spiritual attacks from the enemy will often come in the form of thoughts! When we talk about the “fiery darts” of the enemy we're mainly talking about thoughts that the devil (demon spirits) insert into our minds. Moreover, if the devil can convince us to accept his thoughts and even act on them, then he will cause us give up and flee the battle.

So, what's our defence?

**2 Corinthians 10:5 Amplified Bible**

***<sup>5</sup> [Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One),***

Since we know that the devil attacks us in our minds, we must be ready to “refute” (disprove) the thoughts, arguments and theories of the devil. (By the way, a theory is an explanation of why something happened or is the way it is.) Don't accept the devil's explanation (theory) of why things are the way they are. In fact, don't accept any thought or idea that is contrary to God's word!