

Spiritual Warfare
Calvary St. Petersburg, FL
Sunday, August 18, 2019

We are created in war zone. The fall of Satan happens prior to Gen. 1:1. There is already a war in the heavenlies. John 8:44 points to the Devil as a murderer and a liar before the Gen. 1:1 beginning with the creation of this universe.

Human mission (Ge. 1:28) is to make more image bearing, blessable covenant partners who will make communities of generosity, faithfulness, beauty, etc. This is an act of war against the Chaos Monster, Satan/Devil.

Genesis 3

Serpent comes and raises a question: He is asking “what is God up to?” raising the question is God good, does He care.

Tree of knowing good/bad = define for myself what is good, right, true, beautiful and real

God's interpretation	Satan's interpretation
Dangerous tree	Good tree
Don't eat	Eat it
It will kill you	You will be like God

Serpent's agenda

- Talk about God rather than with God
- Suggest that God's ways will not lead to your best interests
- Don't trust anyone – check for yourself
- Isolate from God and community

Sin pattern is “see” “take”
Obey pattern is “hear/trust” “follow”

God's fight back:
He comes
Adam/Eve hide: spiritual death
He calls: , “Where are you?” – inviting confession

“I heard the sound of you in the garden **context**, and I was afraid **emotion**, because I was naked **identity**, and I hid myself **action**.” **Missing “I ate” and “it was wrong”**

God goes for the identity
He invites more confession:

Matt. 4

Jesus quotes Scripture out loud to the Devil – repeat as necessary **Stand firm**

Jesus commands the Devil out loud to go away! **Resist/oppose**

Do Jesusy stuff

Believers can be influenced, deceived, accused, tempted by Satan/demons. Believer can fall prey to this things. I believer can have allegiances with demons

Accusing voices

Oppressive presence

Occultic history

Added Material

Spiritual Warfare

DEFINITION:

Bringing the power, perspective, and passion of the truth and life of the gospel against everything which is set against the knowledge of God.

OUR WEAPONS:

PERSISTENT PRAYER

Rebelling against the status quo by daring to depend on God and believing that praying to Him changes things.

FELLOWSHIP

People celebrating Immanuel, living out love and forgiveness with confession of sin, adoration for YHWH and joy in His grace.

PROCLAMATION

The calm announcement of the reality of God, both His righteousness and His redemptive mercy to a world forgetful or disdainful of these facts.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Community with all relationships – God, others, self, and rest of creation – well-ordered so that life is full of generosity, justice, faithfulness, and beauty, all things flourishing as God designed them to be.

Righteous people work toward that sort of community, willing to disadvantage themselves for the sake of community.

I will put enmity between you **serpent** and the woman, and between your offspring **demon gods and those who worship them** and her offspring **Messiah and those who worship Him**;

he shall bruise your head, **Messiah triumphs over the Serpent killing him.**
and you shall bruise his heel.” **Serpent will kill Messiah**

Triumph

Substitution

* 1 Pet. 5:8-9

How do I not become Devil lunch snack?

Humble yourself	arrogant, bristly, self-reliant, weak
Give anxiety to God	keep anxiety, ponder it, ruminate; I don't have any
Self controlled	reckless, impulsive, gluttony, licentious, Portlander
Alert	clueless, distracted, careless, busy
Oppose	<i>antihistimi</i> = stand against or oppose, verbal confrontation
Stand firm in faith	acquiesce, follow, embrace, yielding, <i>histimi</i> = stand firm on what is true compromising, cower, whatever, doubt

Bible	Opposite
Humble yourself	arrogant, boastful, self sufficient
Cast anxiety on Him	worrying, dwell in anxiety, say I trust God so I am not anxious
Self controlled	reckless, impulsive

Alert	Clueless, careless, apathetic, ignorant, lazy
Resist (oppose = get away)	yielding, giving in to pressure, passive, weak, victim, do what devil wants
Stand firm (= quoting Bible)	believe what is popular or comfortable, mix Bible with other religions

Word study on *anthisthmi*, usually translated as resist in spiritual warfare contexts, but usually is translated oppose. It is a common word which means resisting the will of another

Mat. 5:39 Resist not evil

Luke 21:15 I will give utterance so that they will not be able to resist or refute you

Acts 6:10 Unable to resist Stephen's wisdom and Spirit

Acts 13:8 Elymas was resisting Saul to turn Sergius Paulus away

Rom. 9:19 Who has resisted the Lord's will

Rom. 13:2 Resisting the ordinance of God

Gal 2:11 Paul resisted Peter

Eph. 6:13 Resist in the evil day

2 Tim. 3:8 Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so today resist truth

2 Tim. 4:15 Alexander resisted Paul

*** Matt. 4:1-11**

The Holy Spirit leads Him (and perhaps us as Matt. 6:13 indicates. As we are on mission with Jesus we might go there too) into the place of temptation. This duplicates Genesis 3. Just as Satan attacked Eve and Adam, Satan attacks Jesus (and he will attack us as well).

First temptation (stones to bread). What is it? Use the divine ability He has given up. In His incarnation, the Logos gave up His "God card" and lives as a perfectly Spirit filled human. Satan suggests that He pick it up for a moment. Act on His own as opposed to obeying/trusting God. Make your life easier rather than the hard road of God. Like Eve He is to rely on his own discernment rather than God's. Satan attack His weakness not His sin, takes advantage of His weakness. I think this is first class condition. It is "since you are Son of God" rather than if you are Son (and I don't think you are).

[It is written and quotes Bible](#)

Second temptation: (throw Yourself down): Do stupid things and force God to pull your cookies out of the fire. Test God's protection. See if God is good to His promise. Re-

confirm God's promise because you never know if you might have been lost in the data base.

[It is written and quotes Bible](#)

Third temptation: Get the kingdom through worship of Satan: accomplish God's ends by using Satan's help. Question: could Satan have delivered the kingdoms of the world? My suggestion is to follow Jesus' example: Jesus doesn't argue theology or experience with the demon.

[It is written and quotes Bible](#)

[Get away from Me, Satan. ὑπάγε, σατανᾶ *hupage satana* Same phrase shows up in Matt 16:23](#)

What sin did Jesus do to allow the demon access to Him? The generational sin of lying from Rahab! ☺ Clearly He is sinless. So demonic attack is not always because of sin. This speaks against those who say "No sin, No demon" as well as those who say "Attacked means there is sin in my life."

Gerry thinks Jesus' method is our method, here and throughout. MacArthur disagrees, saying that the authority of Jesus and the Apostles is unique. Once we get past the Apostolic era, that authority is ended. They cite passages like 2 Corinthians 12:12 The things that mark an apostle-- signs, wonders and miracles-- were done among you with great perseverance. They would say that signs, wonders and miracles mark Apostles as compared to other Christians. Gerry thinks the signs, wonders and miracles are always around Apostles, but this doesn't only Apostles do them. Signs, etc., are done by demonic forces too.

Mark 5

Jesus gets out of the boat.

Guy runs up

Jesus "Get out"

Guy/demon complains. The demon recognizes Jesus and begs not be tormented.

Jesus "what is your name?"

Guy/demon: Legion – for we are many. Group name not an individual demon name

Guy/demon: don't send me away from my home area. But Jesus not tell him where to go. They expect the worst from Jesus.

Guy/demon: Let us go to the pigs. Why???? Best option available. It is fitting that unclear spirits go unclear animals

Jesus: OK. Why???????????????????? The guy has so many demons that it causes thousands of pigs to die

Pigs: commit picide.

Herdsmen tell the story

People see the guy, remember who he was and now he is clothed, sitting, in his right mind. They want Him to go away.

Guy: begs, "I want to go with You"

Jesus: Nope. Stay and tell your story – give testimony of Jesus. This leads to 4000 show up to hear Him.

Jesus is totally in control. Demons panic when they see Him.

Ask a demon's name? You don't have to. It is not part of the normal pattern.

Demons don't always go away right away even for Jesus.

* Mark 9:14-29

He sees a tumult ask "what are arguing about?" He wants to know. The Spirit has not told Him.

Father: Demon does horrible things to my son.

Disciples: failure!! Despite 3:14-15 where Jesus gives them authority to cast them out. Demons fuzz!

Jesus: How long.

Father: from small child. I believe, help Thou mine unbelief

Jesus: avoids sensational. Commands the specific demon (by description, but not by name) Get out don't come back.

Very strong response

Jesus: this kind only by prayer – but doesn't pray. Jesus calls them faithless but doesn't cite that as a reason. Matt. 17:17 "Because of your little faith.

I think they had authority but got overwhelmed and didn't have confidence in their authority.

We need the confidence and competence on how to use the authority

NET Bible note about fasting: Most witnesses, even early and excellent ones after "prayer" here. But this seems to be a motivated reading, due to the early church's emphasis on fasting (TCGNT 85; cf., e.g., 2 Clem. 16:4; Pol. Phil 7:2; Did. 1:3; 7:4). That the most important witnesses as well as a few others lack "and fasting", when a good reason for the omission is difficult to find, argues strongly for the shorter reading.

Jesus interviews people, not demons.

Devil's tactics: Deceive, Accuse, Tempt.

DAT's the Debil

Deception

David Takle, *Truth about Lies and Lies about the Truth*

God is Love.

If I trust in God, He will take care of me.

God is my only hope.

I must take care of my sin before I do communion

You learn the lessons of God best in suffering

It is only obedience if it hurts

Accusation

Charges with wrongdoing and inadequacy and therefore you can't measure up, be effective

Temptation

God's isn't the best way to my interests or His way.

Deception Matt. 24:24 (so deceptive even the elect could fall prey); John 8:44 (Satan is liar); 2 Cor. 11:13-15 (Satan as angel of light); Gal. 1:6-9 (angels lead away from the gospel); Col. 2:4-8 (deception through crafty arguments and worldly philosophy) 2 Thess. 2:9-11 (deception through false miracles); Rev. 13:13-14 (false prophet deceives the whole earth); Rev. 19:20

Accusation: Job 1:9; 2:5 (Satan accuses Job before God); Zech 3:1- (Accusing Joshua); 1 Pet. 2:12 (pagans accuse of wrong doing); Rev. 12:10 (Satan accuses believers before God)

Basic accusation: Look at your suffering. If God cared, He would not let go through this. God's response: Look at the Cross. That is God in the flesh. See how much He cares.

Temptation: Tempter having his impact: 1 Cor. 7:5 (through sex), 10:7-13 (God is able to protect); 2 Cor. 2:11 (Satan outwits naive folk); 2 Cor. 11:2-3 (Satan might lead believers away as he did Eve); Gal 6:1 (others fall and lack of gentleness may result in my fall); 1 Thess. 3:5 (attacks their faith through suffering); Heb. 2:18 (Jesus comes to the aid of

tempted folk); Jas 1:13 (temptation comes but it's not from God, it appeals to my flesh); Rev. 2:10 (devil tempts through imprisonment); Rev. 12:9 (Satan leads the whole world astray)

Demons do not like to be looked at in the name of Jesus. They fuzz and object.

Summary of the method:

Step one: Quote Scripture to the devil out loud – **Stand firm**

Step two: command “Get away from me, Satan” with confidence – **Resist**

The devil leaves because he was commanded to

Step three: do Jesusy stuff – **be filled with Spirit**

Power encounter = pastor commands the demon. The guy is passive

Truth encounter = the believing guy commands the demon. The pastor helps

To prepare – I “lighten up” = I remind myself of truth about God, Jesus, and me. I need confidence and competence to do the work.

Assessing suggestions:

Spiritual (related God and good/evil spiritual beings)

When/how did you meet Jesus? Draw me a picture of “God” you pray to when you wake at 2:00 in the morning.

How does Bible/prayer work in your life. What kind of songs make you cry/laugh

What non-Christian spiritual stuff have you done?

Accusing voices

Oppressive presence

Occult history

Intellectual (beliefs, imaginations, perceptions, controlling ideas in my life)

Basic belief structures: what is ultimate real for you

Lies they believe: vows, blessings, curses.

Emotional (feelings, affections, happy’s, fears, trauma, confidences)

Physical (actions, sleep, imbalances, activity, eating, medications – including non-prescribed)

When was your last physical?

Tell about your sleep?

Volitional (intentions, choices, strength of will, persistence, resilience)

Vocational (calling, name, purpose, identity)

What gets you out of bed in the morning?

Social (friends, relationship, culture, church)

Who do you hang with?
Who is speaking into your life?
Whose opinion do you take seriously?
Familial (heritage, nuclear, extended)

Assessing demonic influence:

Accusing voices

Tell me about the voice

“you are a fat pig” “you can’t do anything right” “you would be better off dead”

Ask general questions: What does it say? When does it say it? How do you feel? When did it start? When does harass you?

If it is demonic, it will be personal vs. an impression

We all have self talk: Is that what you are hearing or is it something else?

“That’s not me” leads to “what do you think it might be”

What is the voice saying right now?

Oppressive presence: It's just not me . . .

Occultic history

Look directly into their eyes and say something like: “In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and through the power of His shed blood and resurrection life, I take authority over any demonic spirit either present in or around 'Bill'. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I rebuke you and speak the strength of the Spirit of Jesus into 'Bill'.” If there are demons there, you will get a response.

Demons do not like to be looked at in the name of Jesus. They “fuzz”

Is it organic or spiritual?

Do not miss the point that schizophrenics hear voices. But those voices don’t respond to a command in Jesus’ name.

When I find a demon

Have Bill read

I want him active in the process. I want equip him to do his own work. The commands are for the believer to stand firm in his position in Christ and to oppose, push away the demon.

His Bible

It belongs to him, it's familiar, he takes it home, he sees the marks on the page, etc. You CAN do this at home 😊

Out loud

He is active, multi-sensory, I hear what he's saying in case of missing words, and I know when to step in

Ask simple interpretative questions

I want to be sure they understand what it is teaching, if they disagree or argue, they argue with God, not me.

What is "light" "inheritance" "saint in the kingdom of light"

According to this passage, what do you need to do to qualify for this inheritance?

Which kingdom are you in?

What did *you* do to get there?

When do you get the inheritance? Redemption & forgiveness

The process

I have Bill write down key passages that are relevant for him.

Here's what we are going to do: I'll pray, you'll do Matt 4 while I help, and the demon will have to go.

I pray a simple enabling prayer

He speaks Scripture (or truth) to the demon, commands it to get away and insisting that it obey

We silence the voices that do not honor Jesus and call the person forward

Sometimes

The person can't deal with the demon. I will do the first round in concert with him and then insist he do the next round. Preferably I command the demon to be quiet and step back.

Curse

A bad word which is pronounced by an important person and received by Bill. The solution is to identify, reject the lie, and replace it with truth.

If I think someone has put a curse on me it will only work in a context where there's something for the curse to connect with. I ask friends to sit with me and see what might be a weakness, sin, behavior pattern, etc. and deal with it. I also

ask the Spirit to reveal what I need to know. Test the spirit. I in the name of Jesus reject the curse, refuse its power, etc.

House

Go to each room, confess the intended use of the room, speak rebuke to all spirits that oppose that, command them to leave (anointing the place).

Audio Teaching on Spiritual Warfare:

I did a 10 hour teaching on Spiritual Warfare at Biblical Training. Here's the link:

<https://www.biblicaltraining.org/seminar/spiritual-warfare/gerry-breshears>

I did a two hour "Equipping for Spiritual Warfare" session at Grace Community Church, Gresham. The recordings are in the middle of the John 7 sermons (September 21, 2013):

<http://gracecc.net/media-archive/sermons/category/john/3>

John Mark Comer and the team at Bridgetown church did an outstanding teaching series, fighting the world, the flesh, and the Devil. It's here: <https://bridgetown.church/series/fighting-the-world-the-flesh-the-devil/>

There are more resources here: <http://breshears.net/spiritual-warfare-resources/>