

# Spiritual Warfare 1: Jim Logan: Spiritual Warfare, Authority in Christ, and Pride's Destructive Power

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## Sermon Summary: The Nature of the Spiritual Battle and Our Victory in Christ

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Sermon Date: June 1990

### Introduction: The Reality of Spiritual Warfare

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The pastor begins by setting the context for the sermon series, which focuses on spiritual warfare and demonic opposition. He shares his personal journey into this area of ministry, which started while working with Child Evangelism Fellowship. He witnessed veteran missionaries returning from the field discouraged, defeated, and ready to quit.

- **The Problem:** These missionaries were coming under intense spiritual attack but lacked understanding of the battle they were in. They didn't comprehend concepts like principalities, powers, and the rulers of darkness mentioned in Scripture.
- **The Cause:** Many had been taught in Bible college that demonic activity was limited to Jesus's time on earth and would only re-emerge in the end times described in Revelation. This left them unprepared and vulnerable.
- **The Core Issue:** The missionaries were being "wiped out" because they understood neither the enemy, the nature of the battle, nor their own position of authority in Christ.

### Promise of Victory #1: The Unshakable Church

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Before delving into the enemy's tactics, the pastor presents a daily promise of victory for believers to hold onto.

- **Scripture:** Matthew 16:13-18

- **Context:** Jesus asks His disciples who people say He is. Peter, by divine revelation, declares, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus then makes a foundational promise about His Church.
- **The Promise:** “...upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18)
- **Analysis of Key Terms:**
  - **Church (Ekklesia):** The “called-out ones,” the body of people God has called for His name.
  - **Gates:** In ancient times, gates were the weakest point of a city’s defense. Therefore, they symbolized two things:
    - a. **Power:** Strong gates meant a secure, powerful city.
    - b. **Authority:** City elders and judges (like Lot and Absalom) sat at the gates to conduct business and rule.
  - **Hell (Sheol/Hades):** This refers to the entire unseen spirit world of bound and free wicked spirits.
  - **Prevail:** To stand against or withstand.
- **Application: What this promise means for us.**
  - Jesus is building His people, the Church.
  - All the combined **power** and **authority** of the entire demonic spirit world **cannot stand against** the Church.
  - The enemy will try to stand against us, demanding things he has no right to, like a man demanding two dollars to enter a building he doesn’t own.
  - We often collapse because we are ignorant of his tactics and our authority. We must know the truth of God’s Word: the enemy *cannot* stand against us when we stand firm in Christ.

## The Battle for the Mind

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The pastor highlights that the primary battlefield for spiritual warfare is the mind.

- **Example from Peter’s Life:**
  - i. **Divine Thought:** When Peter declared Jesus is the Christ, Jesus told him that thought came from God (Matthew 16:17).
  - ii. **Satanic Thought:** Shortly after, when Peter rebuked Jesus for speaking of the cross, Jesus identified that thought as coming from the enemy, saying, “Get thee behind me, Satan” (Matthew 16:23).

- **Key Insight:** Peter initially believed that every thought originating in his mind was his own. This is a spiritually dangerous position. If we believe every thought is self-generated, we have no defense against the enemy's suggestions.
- **Growth in Discernment:** Later, in the story of Ananias and Sapphira, a more mature Peter was able to discern the source of their actions, asking, *"Why has Satan filled your heart to do this?" (Acts 5:3)*. They, however, did not recognize Satan's voice.
- **Application:** If you cannot recognize the voice of Satan, you cannot resist him.

## Promise of Victory #2: The Authority of the Believer

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The pastor shares a second promise of victory, found in the Great Commission. He warns against the danger of familiar passages losing their power to speak to us because we assume we already know them.

- **Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20**
- **Context:** These are Jesus's final words to His disciples before His ascension.
- **The Promise:** *"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore..." (Matthew 28:18-19)*
- **Analysis:**
  - Why did Jesus begin the Great Commission by declaring His authority? It was not a random statement.
  - The "heaven" He refers to is not the third heaven (God's abode), where His authority is unquestioned. He is referring to the "heavens" (the air) where the "prince of the power of the air" operates (**Ephesians 2:2**).
  - Jesus's message is: **"I exercise a greater authority in the very realm where the enemy operates, both in the spiritual heavens and here on earth."**
- **Application: Why this is crucial for us.**
  - We are commanded to "go" into enemy territory to rescue people for Christ's kingdom.
  - The enemy will not let go of people without a fight.
  - We can go without fear because we are connected to the One who possesses all power and authority. While the enemy has awesome power, God's power is tremendously greater.

# The Nature of the Enemy

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The pastor turns to a description of Satan to correct common misconceptions.

- **Misconception:** The enemy is often pictured as a monstrous, creepy “swamp thing.” If he appeared this way, he would frighten people away, not draw them in.
- **Biblical Description:**
  - **Scripture: Ezekiel 28:13**
  - Satan was one of the most beautiful of God’s creations, an “angel of light.” He was covered in a woven garment of gold and precious stones. Light emanated *from* him.
  - He is incredibly **attractive**, which is why so many young people are drawn into the occult. He offers pleasure, power, and things that appeal to the flesh.
- **Music and the Enemy:**
  - The King James Version of **Ezekiel 28:13** states, *“The workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.”*
  - “Tabrets” and “pipes” are musical instruments. This indicates that music was intrinsically part of Satan’s being before his fall.
  - Dr. J. Vernon McGee famously said, “When Satan fell from heaven, he fell in the choir loft!”
  - **Application:** The enemy uses music as a powerful tool. In many animistic cultures, specific music is used to summon spirits. Spirits respond to music, and this is a major entry point for demonic influence, particularly among young people.
- **The Enemy’s Hatred for God’s Word:**
  - The enemy hates the Word of God because he knows it has the power to set people free.
  - The pastor has personally witnessed demons crying out, “Shut that book! I hate that book!” during counseling sessions.
  - One of the first signs of being under demonic attack is the cessation of personal devotions and time in the Bible.

## Opening Illustration: A Missionary Family Shredded by Demonic Influence

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- The pastor opened by recounting the story of a missionary family whose son became “heavily demonized” around age fourteen through rock music. His life deteriorated from age fourteen to twenty-four.
- He was eventually delivered through the ministry of the Navigators at the University of Columbia, by people the pastor had trained.
- The pastor expressed regret that he had missed the seriousness of this young man’s condition earlier because, at that time, he did not yet fully realize “the enemy was real” in his counseling ministry.

### **The Family Impact**

- The young man later wrote his testimony, explaining how he became involved in certain music, how rebellion grew, how spiritual forces began to influence him, and how he began having thoughts of killing his brother.
- The pastor emphasized that ordinary sibling conflict is one thing, but demonic empowerment behind murderous thoughts is far more destructive.
- The devastation became so severe that the missionary family left the field and returned home. The pastor summarized the tragedy: “How can you minister and your kids are a mess?”
- The family remained back at the home office for about ten years. The pastor gave a hopeful update that the son was doing very well, had been “greatly” changed, and had asked his parents for forgiveness, which the pastor described as “wonderful.”

## **Principalities, Powers, and Missionary Graveyards**

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- The pastor stated that the country where this family had served was a “graveyard for missionaries.” According to him, more missionaries either kill themselves or attempt suicide in that country than in any other country in the world.
- He also said that the particular city involved was likely “the worst city in the whole world,” even though it is also one of the most beautiful. He connected this to the biblical reality of “principalities and powers.”

### **Application to the Local Church and Mission Field**

- The pastor asked directly: “There’s a principality over this area?” “Are you praying against them?” “Have you been wrestling the principalities and powers that are right here in this area?”
- He reminded the congregation that spiritual warfare is not theoretical or distant. It is local, active, and ongoing, alluding to the biblical teaching of wrestling against spiritual forces.

# Music and Spiritual Influence

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- The pastor moved from the missionary family story into the subject of music, arguing that some music seems to invite the forces of darkness, while other music seems to repel them.

## Biblical Example: David Playing for Saul

- **Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 16:14–23**
- **Context:** Saul was tormented by a harmful spirit, and David was brought to play the lyre for him. When David played, Saul was refreshed, and the harmful spirit departed from him.

## Application

- The pastor stated: “There’s music that repels the forces of darkness,” and “There’s music that invites the forces of darkness.”
- He urged missionaries and believers to value “good music”: uplifting music that ministers to the spirit and may be used alongside the Bible in ministry. He even said that outside of the Bible, one of the best things to take to a tribe is good music.

# Satan’s Fall: Pride as the Root

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- The pastor then turned to the fall of Satan and the nature of pride.
- **Scripture Reference: Ezekiel 28:17**
- **Context:** The pastor paraphrased the verse: Satan’s heart was lifted up because of beauty, and his wisdom was corrupted by brightness. Ezekiel 28 speaks against the king of Tyre, but many Christian interpreters have also seen in the language a description of Satan’s pride and fall. The pastor used it to show that Satan was lifted up with pride and God cast him out.

# Satan’s Inner Conversation

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- The pastor then directed listeners to Isaiah 14 for a clearer description of Satan’s pride.
- **Scripture Reference: Isaiah 14:12–14**
- **Context:** The passage says: “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning?” and then lists Satan’s “I will” statements: “I will ascend into heaven,” “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God,” “I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation,” “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,” and

“I will be like the Most High.” Though the passage is a taunt against the king of Babylon, the pastor applied it to Lucifer/Satan as a description of his rebellion.

### The Key Question: Who Did Satan Say This To?

- The pastor asked: “Who did Satan say this to?” His answer: Satan did not say it to God; he said it “in his heart.”
- The pastor emphasized: “The most important conversations you have, you have with yourself.”

## The Importance of Inner Thoughts

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- The pastor described a personal Bible study he once did, marking every passage that talked about what someone “said in his heart,” including the fool, the wicked, the righteous, and Satan. Scripture repeatedly addresses the hidden inner life.

### Application: What You Say in Your Heart Reveals You

- The pastor said that if he really wanted to know someone, he would need to record everything that person thought. He humorously imagined projecting all their thoughts from the past week on a screen, joking that no one would come to the evening session if that were to happen.
- This inner realm is where the enemy often works, not always through dramatic outward temptation, but often through subtle thoughts, doubts, and accusations.

### Missionary Example: Doubting God’s Word

- A missionary woman from Gabon came home intending to resign. After hearing teaching on spiritual warfare, she realized her struggle was a spiritual battle.
- **Her Battle:** For four years, whenever she would teach biblical truths like “God loves you,” a thought would come: “But He doesn’t love you.” When she taught “God will meet your needs,” a thought would come: “He won’t meet your needs.”
- **Her Confusion:** She wondered, “How can I be a missionary if I don’t believe God’s Word is true?” while also knowing she did believe it was true.
- **The Pastor’s Point:** Many people assume spiritual warfare is obvious moral collapse. But in this case, the battle was a “still small voice” sowing doubt. Once she recognized the source, identifying the thoughts as having “the smell of brimstone on it,” the battle changed because the enemy’s tactic was exposed.

# Satan Changes Tactics Only When Necessary

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- The pastor emphasized: “We always wrestle against the forces of darkness...The enemy will switch tactics once the old tactic no longer works.”

## Campus Crusade Example

- A man from Campus Crusade who struggled with moral problems asked, “When’s Satan going to change his tactics on me?”
- The pastor answered humorously, “There is a verse in Ezekiel that says, ‘If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.’”
- His point was that Satan does not need to change what is still working. Victory in an area of temptation is necessary before the tactic changes.

# The Seven “I Wills” and the Meaning of “Most High”

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- Returning to **Isaiah 14:12-14**, the pastor focused on Satan’s repeated “I will” statements, especially the final one: “I will be like the Most High.”

## Why “Most High” Matters

- The pastor explained that Satan chose the name “Most High,” or “Elyon,” which refers to God as the sovereign One who reigns.
- Satan was not saying, “I do not want God in my life.” He was saying: “I want to be like God in control, but not in character.” “I want to run my own life.” “I want to be the final authority in my life.”

# Definition of Pride

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- The pastor defined pride as: “Establishing yourself as the final authority in your life.” Pride says: “It is what I want,” “I will be in control,” “I will decide what is right for me.”

# Creature-Centered Living

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- The pastor quoted Dr. Fred Dickason, his trainer in counseling demonized people and the head theologian at Moody Bible Institute: “Satan has sold his rebellious philosophy to mankind and rules over all who have fallen into sin. He promotes with a vengeance and by multiplied means his concept of creature-centered living.”

## Application

- The pastor said: “When you are creature-centered, you are most like Satan.” “When pride is reigning in your life, that’s when you are most like the enemy.”
- He also referenced Dr. Unger, saying that when a believer allows pride in their life, they have taken their stand with Satan.

## Pride as a Mission-Destroying Weapon

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- The pastor said that if he were Satan trying to destroy a mission organization, he would attack every missionary with pride.
- He gave examples of prideful thoughts missionaries may have toward leadership: “Who do they think they are?” “How did these guys get to be leaders?” “They sit behind desks and tell me what to do while I’m out in the jungle.”

## Why Pride Is So Devastating

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- The pastor then introduced a survey of pride in the book of Proverbs to show the judgments of a proud person.

## Proverbs and the Accuracy of God’s Word

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- Before examining pride, the pastor gave an illustration about the practical accuracy of Proverbs. A loan officer who loaned millions per month had only made one bad loan in ten years by using Proverbs to identify signs of a wicked person.
- **Scripture Reference: Proverbs 6:12–15**
- **Context:** The passage describes a wicked or “naughty” person with a perverse mouth, who winks with the eyes, speaks with the feet, and teaches with the fingers. The pastor interpreted these as physical tells of lying, such as blinking/winking, shuffling feet, and gesturing.
- **Application:** The loan officer watched for these signs. The pastor used this to emphasize: “This book is true. You can count on it.” Believers can also count on what Proverbs says about pride.

## Pride in Proverbs

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### God Hates a Proud Look

- **Scripture Reference: Proverbs 6:16–17**

- **Context:** “These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look...”
- **Application:** The pastor emphasized that the first item on God’s list of hated things is “a proud look.” Pride in a believer’s life is an abomination to God.

### The Fear of the Lord Hates Pride

- **Scripture Reference: Proverbs 8:13**
- **Context:** “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy...”
- **Application:** The pastor noted that pride is the first evil mentioned. He defined the fear of the Lord as “a conscious awareness of God’s presence,” alluding to **Proverbs 16:6** (“By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil”). Living with the awareness that “Thou God seest me” changes how we live and speak.

### Pride Brings Shame

- **Scripture Reference: Proverbs 11:2**
- **Context:** “When pride cometh, then cometh shame...”
- **Application:** This is a promise. When a person in ministry is brought to shame, pride came first, even if it wasn’t obvious.

### Pride Produces Contention

- **Scripture Reference: Proverbs 13:10**
- **Context:** “Only by pride cometh contention...”
- **Application:** The pastor noted the absoluteness of “only.” Where there is contention—on mission teams, in field conflicts, with leadership—pride is the root issue.

### The Lord Destroys the House of the Proud

- **Scripture Reference: Proverbs 15:25**
- **Context:** “The Lord will destroy the house of the proud...”
- **Application:** The pastor called this a sobering promise, interpreting “house” as the family of the proud person. Pride threatens the entire household and family system.

### Everyone Proud in Heart Is an Abomination

- **Scripture Reference: Proverbs 16:5**
- **Context:** “Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord...”
- **Application:** The pastor stressed the word “everyone.” Pride is not a personality flaw; it is an abomination to God.

## Pride Comes Before Destruction

- **Scripture Reference: Proverbs 16:18**
- **Context:** "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."
- **Application:** Spiritual collapse is not random. Pride prepares the way for ruin.

## A Proud Heart Stirrs Up Strife

- **Scripture Reference: Proverbs 28:25**
- **Context:** "He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife..."
- **Application:** This again connects relational conflict (strife and contention) with the root problem of pride.

## Pride Brings a Man Low

- **Scripture Reference: Proverbs 29:23**
- **Context:** "A man's pride shall bring him low..."
- **Application:** Pride does not exalt a person as it promises; it ultimately humiliates and diminishes them.

## The Question Left for the Evening Session

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- The pastor concluded this section by noting that time had run out before he could explain *how* pride brings destruction. He stated that God's Word says it's true, and the New Testament explains the dynamics. This will be addressed in the evening session.

## Closing Warfare Illustration: Blasphemous Thoughts and Generational Ground

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- Before closing, the pastor shared one final story "that has nothing to do with what we're doing except warfare."
- A missionary with major responsibility attended a refresher and, after hearing about spiritual warfare, sought counseling.

## Direct Confrontational Deliverance

- The pastor explained that at that time, they were using "direct confrontational deliverance," which involved calling up and speaking to spirits to find the ground they held. He contrasted this with the "indirect confrontational approach" they now teach, which is easier and less threatening.

## The Spirit of Blasphemy

- When they prayed, a spirit spoke through the missionary, naming itself “Blasphemy.” It claimed to have placed blasphemous thoughts about God and the pastor into her mind the previous day.
- **The Missionary’s Struggle:** The woman confirmed this was true and was the reason she was going to quit, asking, “How could I be a missionary and think blasphemous thoughts toward God?”
- The spirit claimed it had entered her life when she was three years old.

## Testing the Claim and Family Background

- The pastor noted he doesn’t automatically believe demons, referencing **John 8:44** (the devil is the father of lies).
- However, the missionary believed the timing was true. She explained that when she was three, her grandmother died, and her father went to séances to contact the grandmother’s spirit. Her whole family had experienced spiritual trouble.
- The pastor connected this to **Matthew 12:29**, where Jesus says one must first bind the strong man before plundering his house. The enemy seeks access through a family head and then attacks the household.

## Application: Some Battles May Be Connected to Family Ground

- The pastor clarified that some struggles may be connected to parental involvement in occult practices, which can give the enemy ground to attack the family. The missionary herself was not knowingly involved.
- They prayed, stood against the spirits, and the spirits left her. She continued serving beautifully for another five years with inner peace and joy.

## Closing Prayer

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- The pastor closed by thanking God for the truths of His Word.
- He affirmed: All the forces of darkness and all their power cannot stand against one believer who stands in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- He prayed that believers would recognize that some spiritual battles are thoughts placed in the mind by the enemy—the “flaming missiles” mentioned in **Ephesians 6:16**—meant to destroy faith.
- He prayed that the truths studied would remain alive, that the evening teaching would explain why pride is the most devastating sin, that believers would see God’s answers, and that everyone present would walk in the victory that is theirs in Christ.

