

Spiritual Warfare Interview: Neil Anderson - Spiritual Warfare

Speaker 2

Why do you think our society is so fascinated with those kinds of media, though?

Speaker 1

Satan is the god of this world, according to Scripture, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. I have to take that as truth, and it is evident. You can go into any culture in the world, and you'll see evidence of this in terms of people addicted to problems in their life, having horrible nightmares, or mental struggles. The major reason people drink and take drugs is they have no mental peace, and that's where the battle is. It's primarily a spiritual battle. Some of the overt stuff that you see, a lot of that is more like a caricature. The real battle is more internal, and people struggle with that and often don't know what to do about it or where to get help for it.

Speaker 1

Well, it sells movies, I guess. It's part of this scary thing. It is scary for a lot of people—things that go bump in the night. What I've discovered as a Christian over the years is that more people, even in our churches, are afraid of the devil than they are of God, which is a reverse of what should be true and what actually is true. The real problem that people don't understand about the spiritual world in which we live is that it's hard for a Westerner who's steeped in Western rationalism and naturalism to understand that there actually is a spiritual world around us. When the apostle Paul says, "That which you see is temporal and is passing away; that which you don't see is eternal," from his perspective, what you don't see is more real and lasting than what you do see. It's hard. I was an aerospace engineer, and I was so left-brained at one time they had to tilt on one side. That was my orientation. I personally had to go through a lot of paradigm shifts to come up with an adequate answer for people's problems. I had to include somehow the reality of the spiritual world. It's tough for us because we don't see it sometimes, but we can see the evidence of it everywhere. Just look at the evil around us. I remember I was on a radio program after the terrible shooting where twenty kids were killed, and one guy got up and said, "This has nothing to do with evil. This is mental illness." I thought, if that's not evil, what in the world is evil?

Speaker 1

It's that kind of Western orientation. If you go to two-thirds of the rest of the world, they don't have that orientation. They clearly believe there is a spiritual world. Spiritism is actually the most practiced religious orientation in the world by far. Any missiologist will tell you that. If you go to Brazil, eighty-five percent of the Brazilian population are practicing spiritists. By that I mean they will seek out a witch doctor, a quack doctor, or a shaman to get guidance in their life or to ward off evil influences in their life. It's only here in America, parts of Canada, and a little bit of Western Europe that we have this kind of natural orientation to the world we live in. But that is not the rest of the world.

Speaker 2

Who's like, I know what people of the Western world would say: "Well, they're just their cultures. They're stuck in the past." What would you say to that, someone who rationalizes that away?

Speaker 1

That's very typical. That's what we do in the West; we just simply say we're more profound. Do you realize that we distribute more child pornography around the world than any other culture of the world? Evil is just as present here. What's different about the spiritual battle here as opposed to, say, Africa or Indonesia or a place like that? There, it's much more known, so it's much more out in the open. Here, it's all deception, and yet the battles are there.

Speaker 1

Let me point out where the primary battle is: It's in our minds. Let me tell you what the apostle Paul says: "In latter days," days which we're living right now, "people will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceiving spirits and teachings of demons." Is that happening here in America? It's happening all over the place. Am I the only one seeing it? Absolutely not.

Speaker 1

Every psychiatrist is dealing with people who are hearing voices. Every psychologist is probably dealing with people who are struggling with foul thoughts, blasphemous thoughts. Sometimes, if you've got some kind of a prison ministry and they're incarcerated for a crime they committed, how many are hearing voices? All of them. The only difference is they will tell you, and they will probably use it as some kind of an excuse. It is far more present in our experience than we realize. We just haven't known the nature of the battle. We always think of the occult or the spiritual world as being some kind of bizarre experience, or somebody foaming at the mouth, or watching *The Exorcist*, which was a terrible tragedy of a movie. It lives in the population, thinking that somehow this poor priest has no match for Satan

when just the opposite is true. We believe that, and because of that, people are literally afraid of things that go bump in the night.

Speaker 1

Several years ago, when I started to help adults get free from these kinds of influences in their life and really find their freedom in Christ, I realized that almost all of their problems originate when they were young. So we did some research. We researched 1,725 professing Christian young people. We went to very conservative churches and schools to do this. The results, even at that time, were alarming to myself. Seventy-one percent said they were hearing voices like there was a subconscious self talking to them. Now, do I think they're mentally ill? No, I don't. I believe there is a spiritual battle going on for their mind because I've seen God set them free from that time and time and time again, and walk out with a peace of God that passes all understanding. But how many of that group played Dungeons and Dragons, for instance? It's kind of an occultic game that they would play. It's kind of passé now.

Speaker 1

In those days, of that group, about 280 or so had played. Of that group, forty-three percent had impulsive thoughts to kill people. "I'll grab a knife and stab somebody." Now, they don't do that, but can you imagine what they think of themselves now? "How could I have that kind of a thought?" If you understand what you are looking for, it becomes much more obvious. For instance, I've had people come to a conference, and here is a mom who comes home from the hospital, just had her second or third child. Her electrolytes are depleted, she's tired, kids are screaming, and all of a sudden she has the thought, "Kill your baby." Now, who is she going to share that with? Her husband? "Honey, I've had a thought about killing the kids." No, she's stuck. She can't share that with anybody. I've shared that in a conference, and some ladies come up to me and tell me, "That's exactly what was happening to me. What's wrong with me?" I said, "There is nothing wrong with you. It's not you that is thinking that thought."

Speaker 1

But occasionally they do. Remember the story about the lady in Texas who drowned five of her kids? She told them it was a spiritual battle for her mind, and it was, but it just got put off as postpartum depression. We've done that. Somebody comes in, they're having a lot of fear, and they're hearing voices. It's an automatic diagnosis: paranoid schizophrenia. But is that the real cause for it? And do they have an answer for that? Sure. "We gave antipsychotic medication; the voices stopped." Sure, so did everything else. All you did was narcotize it, which, by the way, is the reason people drink and take drugs; they have no mental peace, so they drown it out only to wake up the next morning a little bit worse. What if there was a way to

sit down with that person and get rid of those thoughts? And if you got rid of them, are they part of you? No. You need to ask an honest question though: How can a chemical imbalance produce a personality and a thought? Or, how can my neurotransmitters randomly fire and create a thought that I am opposed to thinking? Do you have a natural explanation for that? Boy, I am open. What is it? There isn't one. You just medicate it essentially, but you haven't solved anything. But what if you actually sat down with a person, helped them submit to God, resist the devil, and walk out free, and those voices are gone? Then it couldn't be them. It's not a flesh pattern. Now, we have struggles with that as well, but if it leaves, it's not a flesh pattern because flesh patterns don't leave. So if something leaves and all of a sudden you're free and your mind is free, what just happened?

Speaker 2

So what's really going on when these teenagers experience the occult in these seemingly innocent ways, whether it's Ouija boards or tarot cards or palm reading? This is very popular now. What's actually going on?

Speaker 1

It's false guidance. That's the first thing in our steps to freedom that they look at. Is that an entry point for the enemy? Yes, it is. I've seen people go back to just playing with a Ouija board or even the Magic 8 Ball. It's false guidance. Now, this is a great story; I love to tell it. When I was getting my doctorate at Pepperdine, essentially it was a secular program. We had a class on futures, and this principal of an inner-city school came in. His whole presentation was on what we would now call New Age. We didn't really have that label at that time. He brought all this stuff of astral projection and mental transportation and all that kind of junk. I am just sitting there, my eyes are getting bigger, and I watched the people in the classroom. They were curious, asking questions. That little knowledge and power can suck almost anybody in.

Speaker 1

I just kept my mouth shut. Finally, at the end, I said, "When you were researching this, did you ever ask the question whether this is right or wrong?" "No," he said, "I am not interested in that." I said, "I would be if I were you. You have described nothing new. That's as old as biblical history, and God prohibited it. In fact, if you were a medium or a spiritist, you were to be cut off; you were to be killed, actually. If you consulted them, you were to be cut off from the rest of the people. That's how serious false guidance is." God obviously takes that very, very seriously, and it is an entry into something in your life that will potentially control you. I don't know my astrological sign to this day, and I've never been curious about that kind of stuff. But people say, "Well, I just read it; it doesn't mean anything." I said, "You just put it into your mind." That little thought came in this morning: "Beware of strangers

today," and you meet a stranger. What's the last thing you put in your mind? Beware of them. So what's guiding you right now? It's very, very subtle stuff.

Speaker 2

Do you think society has started to think about the occult in the last twenty years?

Speaker 1

Well, yes. What is really interesting is that the Tower of Babel was essentially man's attempt to be a god himself, and when God dispersed their languages, they went around the world and they took those occultic practices with them. They embedded them in their culture, and we keep renewing them every year. If you go to Norway and you go to a gift shop, what do you find there? Little trolls. And you go to England and there is a gift shop, what do you find? Gremlins. We celebrate Halloween, which is not a Christian thing at all. And we just see that in every culture around the world; it's kind of embedded in their cultural thing. It's just part of our culture. So we just kind of make fun of it. But we're not playing the game.

Speaker 1

There are eternal consequences with what we celebrate, what we believe, how we live, etc. And that makes some of those cultures very, very resistant to the gospel, to hear the good news. Here's a very important point, however: if you read any of the early church literature, the number one appeal evangelistically was to free people from demonic influences. That's why they came to church. Because they knew that, and even when Jesus was with us at that time, when He would disclose what was going on in their hearts because He knew their hearts and their minds, what was their response? "He has a demon." Even the culture at that time, when you had that kind of esoteric knowledge—it didn't come by way of normal study or research—somehow you had this insight coming to you. They assumed it was from a demon.

Speaker 1

And so, what we do today is we don't call them a medium, we call them a channeler. We don't call it a demon, we call it a spirit guide. And suddenly it's acceptable to a very, very gullible public. It's the same thing.

Speaker 2

You describe some inanimate objects like troll dolls and gremlins and things like that, and kids dress up on Halloween. Are you ascribing some sort of power to those?

Speaker 1

No, I am not. To be honest with you, it's just symbols. It's what you believe about them that counts. It's just a little wooden or plastic doll or whatever else it is. That's not the problem; it's the belief behind it. Understand something: God created Lucifer; He didn't create Satan. Lucifer essentially created Satan when he chose to rebel against God, and that introduced evil into this world. If you look at the Bible, what is it? It's primarily a battle between good and evil, between the Christ and the Antichrist, the false prophets, the true prophets, the Father of Lies, the Spirit of Truth. And everybody on this planet is in this battle, whether they know it or not. The question is, how do we understand it? And how do we win this battle? You can't win it by just rationally arguing, for instance, or something like that; that doesn't really work. This truly is a spiritual battle.

Speaker 1

Jesus clearly demonstrated to us His superiority, His authority over that kingdom of darkness. And when He commissioned the church to go into all the world, He said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and upon this earth. Go therefore and make disciples." Now, we need to know that because if you are going to go out into this fallen world, where the god of this world is Satan and Jesus referred to him as ruler of this world, you better have the authority to do that. And every child of God does.

Speaker 1

Well, the research that we did twenty years ago is far worse now with the advent of the internet and all the video programs. I mean, twenty percent of your teenagers are sexting. Think about that. That's amazing to me. That would have been unbelievably embarrassing when I was a child, but to take a picture of your private parts and share them around is like, "You did what?" That's how much our culture has changed today. What I find in my ministry is that young kids are far more inclined to accept what I am sharing than the older generation is. It was a much more innocent generation that I was raised in. This stuff wasn't even available to me in the fifties when I grew up. So the whole culture has shifted. But look at the rampant sex, for instance. Is there a spiritual connection there? Oh, absolutely there is.

Speaker 2

Films like Paranormal Activity, that's a huge movie. It makes piles and piles of money. The Rite, The Possession just came out. So there are all these films that talk about this. I guess I'm asking you, is there a problem with people taking that in, or is that only an issue if people do something else?

Speaker 1

Let me start with a very innocent thing. Years ago, there was a series called Bewitched where this kind of nice-looking witch would do her little dillywickers. You say, "Well, that's innocent." One of my favorite testimonies is the gal who saw that, who had a terrible problem with her mother, and she said, "By watching that, I knew somehow there was a power out there, and I wanted it." And that led her on a journey where she ended up with spirit guides—demons—that she needed to get help to overcome. You say a simple little innocent thing like that? Or how about Harry Potter?

Speaker 1

Do you realize since that movie series came out, the number of adults in England seeking paranormal activity and consulting these spiritists more than doubled? Adults, not just children. When Campus Crusade for Christ had me go on campuses around Southern California to respond to a little flyer, "Come hear about demonic influences," I was blown away, to be honest with you. They were coming to hear Neil Anderson; they didn't know who I was. At Long Beach State University, we had four hundred people show up Monday at noon.

Speaker 1

Now, what if you said, "Come hear about the claims of Christ"? You know who would have been there? Two staff and ten tried friends. But that's where our colleges are at. Here in Canada, in Alberta, when I was doing a conference in Edmonton, I went down to the university, and we had a huge crowd show up just to hear about demonic influences.

Speaker 1

Because I share a lot of stories of actual encounters that I've had working with people around the world. What it does, because I would always shift it from "yes, it's out there," to "is this good?" And then I would just be crowded by people. "That's happening to me. This is my struggle." In our culture, because of the way we're wired here in the West, nobody's going to come up and share with you, "By the way, I am hearing voices," or "I am having these condemning thoughts or blasphemous thoughts." Because the knee-jerk response in our Western culture is, "Boy, you are mentally ill. Let me give you this medicine." They don't want that affirmed, so they don't know what to do about it. And the very thought, "You mean I could get rid of this?" I just recently led a gal through the steps to freedom. And afterward, she just looked up at me. She said, "Did you turn on another light? My mind is quiet."

Speaker 1

"I can't believe that my mind is quiet. I always thought that was just normal to have all these distracting thoughts." She was paying attention to the deceiving spirit, but she had no idea what it was, and she just thought that was normal. And why don't

we know this? Truthfully, I can't read your mind; you can't read mine. So, unless you have the courage to tell me what's going on in your mind, I don't know. And so all we see is the behavior, so we try to change that, and that doesn't work. You are not transformed by the renewing of your behavior; you are transformed by the renewing of your mind. And that's why the apostle Paul instructed us to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. If it's not true, don't believe it. And so that spiritual battle is going on all over the world right now. And it has ever since the fall; it's nothing new.

Speaker 1

Think about this: they're spirits, so they have no power to move you. I use this as an illustration. When I was born and raised on a farm, we had some neighbors that we would share work with. We'd go over there; they had this yappy little dog that would scare the socks off of me, and my brother and my dad would be with me. And that dog would come barking around the corner, and I ran. Guess who he chased? My dad was sitting right there; my brother wouldn't even acknowledge their presence. And I would run up on top of the pickup cab. Now, what power did that dog have to put me up on top of that pickup cab? None. He used my mind, my emotions, my will, and my muscles. That's how I got up there. And Dad said one day, "Son, this is kind of embarrassing. It's just a little dog. Why don't you stand your ground?" Great big beads of sweat welled up and I was all prepared. That dog came around the corner, and I kicked a stone at him, and he ran.

Speaker 1

He actually doesn't have any power. It's only what you give to him. And it's really all deception. It's all a lie, essentially, and he is the father of lies. But if you believe a lie, he can just tear you up. If you look at irrational fears, the clue is it's irrational. So, if you want to get rid of the fear, do you get rid of the emotion of fear? No, you get rid of the lie behind it. Why are people anxious? Because they're double-minded, and that's literally what the word means. It comes from two words: divided and mind. So if you are paying attention to a deceiving spirit and believing the truth over here, you are going back and forth, back and forth. And so it all comes down to a battle for the mind. But a spirit has to have some animate source to operate in.

Speaker 1

That's even with the Gerasene demoniac: "What do you have to do with us, Jesus?" Because He is God. So he's driven into the pigs and the pigs all ran over the cliff. Suicide is the end result of all of that. That was the pig stop on the way to the pit stop, by the way. So he has to operate somehow through people. Even as Christians, to be honest with you, God lives His life through us, and people who are demonically influenced and listen to the father of lies, they do that bidding as well. Now, they don't always do it, but they're troubled by it.

Speaker 2

People have asked, "Can demons read minds, and how do they interact with your mind then?"

Speaker 1

Well, it's a very fine line we have to draw because it's very, very important. Only God knows the thoughts and intentions of my heart. God perfectly knows me and loves me—that's the amazing part. It's not hard to tell you what you are thinking if I gave you the thought. So he can do that, and we've got clear evidence of that in Scripture. In Chronicles, for instance, it says that the devil, having put into the heart of David to number the troops. That was really revealing because David had a whole heart for God. Now, what is even wrong with that? Wouldn't you want to know how many troops you have? The captain of his guard knew it was wrong.

Speaker 1

And said, "Don't bring this sin upon us," but he did anyhow. But you'd still be left with the question, "How did he do that?" Well, these were David's thoughts, or at least he thought they were. See, there is the deception. And that's what we don't always see today. We don't know where it's coming from. If we knew where it was coming from, we'd probably stop immediately. But we don't know. That's why deception is such an issue. Listen, before Jesus went home to the Father and after the resurrection, He has what we call the high priestly prayer in John seventeen. He's going to leave behind the eleven. He's already lost one, by the way; Satan had put it in the heart of Judas to betray Christ. One of the twelve. So He's down to His eleven and He's talking with them. "I ask not that you take them out of this world, but that you keep them from the evil one. Sanctify them in Thy word; Thy word is truth." Now think about this.

Speaker 1

This is the first concern of our Lord. First concern. Well, I am concerned too. The apostle Paul says, "I am concerned that as Satan deceived by his craftiness, our minds would be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ." I am concerned too. These are very important portions of Scripture, telling us the kind of world we're living in today. And so if that's His first concern on the church left down on this planet, it should be our first concern to help people to be sanctified in that word. That word is truth. Truth sets us free, but truth is more than a book; it's a person. Jesus is the truth. God, my Father, will set me free. How does a created being who is not omnipresent keep a worldwide rule?

Speaker 1

In the honesty of those who would tell you, it's through principalities, powers, dominions, and rulers. I had the privilege to lead a guy to Christ who came out of Satanism. Now, this wasn't a dabbler; this guy was raised in it. His mother was a Satanist; he was raised to be a Satanist. This is hardcore stuff. The moment he came to me, I said, "You can't just leave Satanism; you are still in the kingdom of darkness. You'd have to choose Christ to get out of it." And all hell broke loose when that happened. Eventually, he went for it and made a decision to do that. And now here is somebody who was raised in it, steeped in Satanism. By the way, it's not Anton LaVey. If you know about it, that's a caricature. True Satanism is underground; you don't know about it. If it gets exposed, it just stops right there. And that's what I am most concerned about. I learned that the hard way.

Speaker 1

I've seen when they actually take people out—commit suicide. He'll never get to trial, for instance. Fortunately, I think that's good because it would just be a battle over the Bible or something. And Christians would probably lose that one. But he's the one who pointed that out to me. He said even with hardcore underground Satanism, "If you know about it, it's the surface level, but there are three different layers into that, and they correspond to three demonic levels as well. So you have some strongholds that are much more resistant than others." And I've seen that. I've seen cases where this is going to be a fight, and others are just very simple. He really struggled; they really went after him. The mental harassment was horrible. He was shot at. He was actually tied up and branded in his own house. And I found out later.

Speaker 1

They came and said, "We'll stop the harassment if you stop sharing." And unfortunately, he did. But you don't make a deal with the devil. And I've never seen him since. I don't know what happened to him.

Speaker 2

How long has this been your experience of actually getting to these levels?

Speaker 1

In my book, *Rough Road to Freedom*—it's my memoirs; I just put it out—I talk about how God was just bringing this stuff to me and showing me the depth of it, and how much is there. I personally came to the conclusion for myself—and I think it's true for the church: it's there; it's not my battle. Mine is to help Christians, help people who want to be free in Christ, and help them get there. The devil in one sense is already defeated; he was disarmed at the cross. And it's my job to proclaim that. So I don't go out and look for that kind of stuff; if it comes my way, I deal with it. But I don't think it's the role of the church to do that.

Speaker 1

You come to us for help, we'll help you. But let me put it this way: I don't have to know the enemy because the enemy is a chameleon; he'll change. That's why you don't see much instruction from Scripture about Satan's tactics—for the simple reason he's a liar; he'll just change tomorrow. Whereas the opposite is true for God—He's the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow; He'll never change. And it's because of that eternal consistency that I have stability in my life. If God all of a sudden said, "Well, I've changed my mind," where would we be today as Christians? We'd be lost, to be honest with you. Are you going to change your mind again tomorrow then? So, the key to this is not learning all the Satanic tactics because I've discovered over the years, it's all over the map. There is no consistency there. The consistency is in Christ. So what I have to know then is not the lie, but the truth and Scripture.

Speaker 1

Scripture constantly reaffirms that. "Finally, brother, whatever is true and right and lovely, think on those things." Never does He tell me, "Don't think negative thoughts," because that doesn't work. You just keep choosing the truth. That works. It's like people who deal with counterfeit money—they don't study counterfeit ten-dollar bills. They study the true thing, and when the counterfeit shows up, they know it. They can sense it and recognize it immediately. And that's what we have to do as Christians, as well. "That's not true what you just said right now." How do you know that? "Because this is the truth." And now you just go on from there. That's what Jesus prayed for: that we'd be sanctified in Thy Word. Thy Word is truth. And boy, if there was ever a day the world needs truth, it is today. Think about how many politicians lie; how many people; how many kids lie. If you go over to Asia, how many people in Asia will lie to save face? All of them will. And if you don't know that when you go over there, you can go for a ride.

Speaker 2

What would you say to a teenager who's interested in becoming like a demon or engaging in some sort of activity because they see it as interesting?

Speaker 1

Powerful world that they can be privy to? Well, you said the right word. It is a power trip, and people want that. Think about it: if you truly had that kind of knowledge, the pretense of Satan is, "I've got precognition; I can know before time." If you actually could do that, do you realize how much power? You'd go to the racetracks; you'd win every race if you knew who was going to win tomorrow. But it's really a lie; he doesn't perfectly know the future. That's why a true prophet was separated from a false prophet, because a false prophet—not everything he said came true. A true prophet, if he's a true prophet, what he says will come to pass.

Speaker 1

Now, if you can say something before time, you have to have power to bring that about. You have to have some means by which you can orchestrate that; otherwise, you couldn't. So power is the big issue; it's a power trip for people.

Speaker 1

Well, your car won't run without gas. So they have to have a vehicle by which to bring it about. Essentially, if you're totally deceptive and you live in the world of the occult, you're just a tool of the enemy. But he needs your arms and mouth and lips to bring that about. He doesn't have any arms or lips or feet. Essentially, he needs animate objects. That's why you will find, for instance, prayer groups going on, and all of a sudden dogs will start howling.

Speaker 1

A demon can't howl. It doesn't have a mouth. It doesn't have vocal cords. By the way, this is the other interesting issue. It's very important to realize this. When people are hearing voices, how are they hearing? To hear in the natural world, you have to have a sound source, and that's a physical phenomenon. The compression and rarefaction of air molecules hits my eardrums and sends a signal to my brain. To see, you have to have a light source reflecting off a material object, and that goes back to your optic nerves as a signal to your brain. Now, if you turn off this light, she wouldn't see me. You have to have a physical light source. So when people say they see something in my office—because I've had people say, "Look there," and they say they see something—what are they seeing? Because I look there; I don't see it. We wrestle not with flesh and blood; it isn't out there; it's here. And they're just using my little brain cells to bring that about. So mom goes into her child's room, and the baby's crying or something, "Mommy, there's something in my room." As a Western parent we would say, "Honey, I looked under the bed and the closet. There's nobody here. Go back to sleep." You're an adult. You saw something in your room, and you'd go back to sleep? But it wasn't in the room; it was here. And that's why we miss that. I've seen this all the time in my office: people hearing voices, seeing things. We sit down and work only with the person; they walk out, can't see it anymore, don't hear it anymore either.

Speaker 2

I was watching Ghost Hunters on A&E, and they're looking in the mines for this ghost. The lights are turned down, there are rumblings, paint cans fall over it seems. The guy's flashlight doesn't work anymore. What's your response to something like that?

Speaker 1

That's like taking the camera to try to take a film of a radio wave. There is a spiritual world out there, but it's spiritual. Sure, they have some way to move animate objects in that. But even people have told me, "I saw something go across the room." I said, "Did something actually go across the room?" Probably not; it's just what they saw.

Speaker 2

And are you so skeptical you'd say that they actually can't move things?

Speaker 1

That's a twilight area for me. To be honest with you, I've not seen it. My general natural answer is no; they would need somebody to move it. It's like the way that little puppy got me up on top of that pickup cab. He used my mind, my will, my emotions, and my muscles. I've seen that happen, and I've seen what appears to be almost supernatural strength. That's why I never touch somebody who's in that condition. I never try to physically manhandle them. The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh. We don't even deal with it that way. How do I explain that? It seems like he has supernatural power.

Speaker 1

That happens sometimes for good. You can actually have such an adrenaline rush within you that when somebody is in an accident, some little old lady will tip over a car or something like that. They go back and try it again; physically, they can't do it, but they just ran that adrenaline thing into the stops. You can appear to be supernatural, but it actually is quite natural. It's an extreme adrenaline rush that lets you do things you couldn't normally do. I've seen that as well. But when you get a person into a right mind, could they do it again? No. What gave them the power? Actually, it's an adrenaline rush within your own system that lets you do things you couldn't normally do.

Speaker 2

And you think that actually happens for good at times. Could you talk to me about your own power encounters?

Speaker 1

I remember one time a counselor called me and said, "I've never given any place for the demonic, but maybe this girl has this problem." I walked over there. Four years of counseling, EKGs, CAT scans, you name it. I said, "There's a pentagram cut into her skin. There's a clue." If you could see it here—you'll never see it, of course. I looked at her. I said, "Honey, there's a battle going on for your mind." "Oh, thank God somebody understands." She came to see me the next week.

Speaker 1

Here was the case—extremely difficult, by the way. She was a satanic ritual abuse victim. She had been subjected to satanic rituals. Here is an incredible thing: they were still going on at that time. She was switching personalities at night, because almost every one of those people end up with what they call DID—dissociative identity disorder; we used to call it multiple personality. She would switch at night and go to satanic rituals, come home in the daytime, and have cuts on her and had no idea how they got there.

Speaker 1

She had cuts all over her arms—so many that she wore a sweatshirt to cover her scars—and other symbols. Because of the abuse, she was quite large as a person. Suddenly she gets out of her chair and starts walking toward me. I use that sometimes as I train people to help others. I said, “What would you do?” I just looked there and said, “I’m a child of God. You can’t touch me.”

Speaker 1

That’s 1 John 5:18, and she stopped in her tracks. I said, “Sit down.” She did. Now, the authority we have in Christ does not increase with volume. We don’t shout off the devil; we just calmly take our place in Christ. In that sense, it’s no different than parental authority. If you are screaming and yelling at your kids to control their behavior, you aren’t exercising your God-given authority; you are undermining it. It’ll bring about a brief result—soul-style—but the lasting effect probably won’t be good. We do have the authority to continue Christ’s work, but it’s His authority and His power; it’s not mine. So I need to abide in Christ; I need to be under His protective authority myself. But I do believe that. I said, “I am a child of God; you can’t touch me.”

Speaker 1

I’ve had people come up to me—one police officer was sweating profusely. He said, “Neil, I have these thoughts to grab my knife and stab you.” I said, “Thanks for sharing that.” What’s interesting is as soon as he brought that out into the light, the power’s broken because it’s all a lie. The sweating stopped and he stopped shaking. I said, “You know that’s not you, right?” “Now I do.” But he was wondering, what in the heck is wrong with me? I had a gal come to a conference, sat on the front row glaring at me, and her friend afterwards came over and said, “Can you help my friend? She can’t get off the front pew.” I walked over and said, “Just sit there for a few minutes. You’ll be fine, and you can get up a little later and walk on.” They all do. I found out she was a psychiatric nurse, and she had driven by a gun shop for three days in a row, fighting off the temptation to bring a gun to the conference to shoot me. One gal, the first night the conference started, was sitting in the back row. Everybody had left. I was picking up my notes, started to walk out, and she walked

down—just a very large lady. She said, “I feared you. I’ve hated you.” I said, “Good grief, lady, who are you?” She actually had razor blades in her Bible, stuck between the pages. Am I afraid of that? No, of course not. That’s not the valid object for fear. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. Once that’s in place in your own mind—God is omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient—wherever I go, behold, God is there.

Speaker 1

Let me draw a parallel to help people understand this better, because I’ve had people say, “You mean to tell me there are demons in this world?” Let me tell you what else is here: germs. Everybody believes that, and almost nobody has seen them—biologists do, of course. What’s the proper response to that? Do you start looking for germs? You’ll be a hypochondriac. What’s the proper response? Live a balanced life. Get enough rest, exercise, eat properly. Your immune system will take care of you. There are demons in this world, so live a righteous life. It’s really that simple.

Speaker 1

If that’s the answer, then why do we even need to know about them? The same reason we need to know there are demons is the same reason we need to know there are germs. Two hundred years ago we didn’t know there were germs. Doctors didn’t scrub up, didn’t sterilize their equipment. The average person lived to be about forty-five. People died needlessly; they didn’t have to. Same issue here: Why do we need to worry about demons? Is it my focus? No, my focus is on Christ. I know enough to put on the armor of God, to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and stand firm and resist. If I didn’t know that, didn’t know what the nature of the battle is, I wouldn’t even know how to fight it. I wouldn’t even know there is a fight. But we wrestle not with flesh and blood—Paul’s very clear about that.

Speaker 1

But principalities, powers, dominions, and rulers. The good news for the Christian is the battle’s already won. We just have to claim our place in Christ and live accordingly. For the fallen world, Satan has blinded the mind of the unbelieving. That’s what we’re struggling with. Scripture tells us that he’s blinded the mind of the unbelieving. That’s why it’s not a rational discussion. This is a spiritual battle, and it has to be fought on that plane.

Speaker 1

Ephesians chapter six is where he said, “We wrestle not with flesh and blood. Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might,” for that’s the nature of our battle. When you put on the armor of God, what you are really doing is putting on Christ. Unfortunately, we go into church; we call that a sanctuary. It is not, actually;

it's a nice auditorium, but you may do more spiritual battle there than many other places. The only sanctuary we have is in Christ. It's our spiritual position in Christ. That's the only sanctuary we have. When you put on the armor of God, the first thing is you gird your loins with truth. Why is that so important? Because you are up against the father of lies. This is not new; Eve was deceived and she believed a lie, and she hadn't even yet sinned. Innocent, seemingly innocent people—good people—can be deceived.

Speaker 1

If I tempt you, you know it. If I accuse you, you know it. If I deceive you, you don't know it. If you knew it, you're not deceived anymore. That's why the first thing you do is gird your loins with truth. His truth sets us free. And the breastplate of righteousness—that's not my righteousness; that's His. I stand in His victory. My righteousness is like a dirty rag, so I need His righteousness. It all comes back to this. I explain it even to a Christian: when you became a Christian, you stepped through a door. You stepped out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's beloved Son, whose head is Christ. We're called to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. But when you step through that door—at zero at first—it's like there are two-story buildings on each side, and pimps and prostitutes are poking their heads out: "Come in here; you want to do this; believe this; God doesn't love you," and all that junk. There are three responses to that. One is to believe it. You just sit down. You made a decision, but you're defeated. You're going nowhere. You could get up and walk toward Christ, but you don't know that. The other guy—"No, I'm not going to do that; I'm not going to go there." Okay, the good fight, right? Actually, he's losing it. Don't let the devil set the agenda. Put up the shield of faith. Fix your eyes on Jesus. Take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ and keep on walking. What'll happen is it'll get broader, easier. That's the struggle we all go through, but it's not very well explained, unfortunately.

Speaker 2

Last question we have is your version of power encounter—it's not meant to sound offensive—actually reassuring, I guess, sounds pretty mundane.

Speaker 1

I've had a few showtimes, but that's what it is: showtime. God is much more honored if we do everything decently and in order. If we never lose control, you are manifesting the love of God and His presence. If you are losing control, you are letting the enemy manifest; you are letting him control the agenda. Fear will probably be the likely response. Think about this: What is the number one mental health problem in the world? Anxiety disorders. What was the first emotion expressed by Adam after he sinned? "I was afraid." What's the number one commandment of Scripture? Four hundred times: "Fear not." It's a huge problem.

Speaker 1

But what if you had a way to sit down, work with a person, and help them get rid of their junk? We're trying to get rid of the garbage. I tell people, your life is like a house, and you haven't taken the garbage out in six months. The answer is, "Oh man, that's going to attract a lot of flies, so I've got to get rid of the flies." No, you've got to get rid of the garbage. What I'm really saying is repentance and faith in God has always been the answer and will continue to be the answer. That's what we help people do. We sit down; God is a wonderful counselor. He shows them what the junk is, and we get rid of it, and they walk out. Satan has no right to be here. It is quite simple. Some people say it works so well, they didn't even know this was a demonic problem. I don't care, because the real issue to me is their own personal relationship with God. That's the issue. There are things that have made a barrier to my intimacy with God, such as bitterness and an unwillingness to forgive, and sexual sins of that nature. We have to get rid of that junk. When they're rid of it, they're connected to God; piece of cake to tell Satan to take a hike.

Top three most important services performed for the interviewee (as of 2026-06-24 20:27:26):

1. Helping individuals identify and remove personal spiritual "junk" (barriers like bitterness, unforgiveness, and sexual sin) through guided repentance and faith, restoring intimacy with God.
2. Providing calm, authoritative pastoral counseling that addresses fear, intrusive thoughts, and perceived spiritual oppression by teaching truth, resisting lies, and taking every thought captive.
3. Equipping people to understand and engage spiritual warfare biblically (armor of God, identity in Christ, standing firm), focusing on Christ rather than sensational encounters.