

Spiritual Warfare 7 Jim Logan: How the Enemy Attacks

Sermon Summary: Spiritual Warfare and the Battleground of the Mind

Date of message: May 1990

Introduction: Spiritual Cleansing and Preparation

The pastor began by revisiting a point from the session on June 23, 2026, emphasizing the importance of spiritual preparation in new environments.

- **Practical Application:** When entering a hotel or motel room, it is wise to pray and ask God to remove any forces of darkness or wickedness that may have occurred there. This is to prevent any spiritual harassment or oppression.
- **Missionary Context:** This principle is especially crucial for missionaries. Often, the houses they move into have been previously dedicated to the enemy. The pastor advises missionaries to immediately counter this by dedicating the house and everything in it to the Lord, praying that it becomes a beacon of light in the community.

Recommended Resources on Spiritual Warfare

The pastor recommended several resources for those interested in learning more about praying against spiritual forces and taking spiritual authority.

- **Book:** *"Taking Our Cities for God"* by John Dawson (President of YWAM - Youth With A Mission).
 - **Content:** This book provides an in-depth guide on how to pray against principalities and powers.
 - **Example:** John Dawson and his wife moved into a dangerous neighborhood in Los Angeles to be among the people they wanted to reach. They would walk through their neighborhood, praying for their neighbors house by house, specifically praying against the forces of darkness. The book details their methods and the results, teaching how to identify and combat the predominating demonic influences in a city.

- **Pamphlet:** “*Demonism and How to Win Against the Devil*” by Chuck Swindoll (published by Multnomah Press).
 - **Content:** This is a short, accessible, and dynamic resource (around 28 pages) that condenses a lot of information on spiritual warfare in an interesting and often humorous way. It’s a good option for those who feel overwhelmed by longer, more detailed books.

How to Effectively Resist the Devil

The central theme of the sermon is how to practically and effectively resist the devil. The pastor draws heavily from Chuck Swindoll’s teachings on this subject.

The Power of the Spoken Word (Rhema)

- **Logos vs. Rhema:** The pastor distinguished between two Greek words for “word.”
 - **Logos:** Refers to the written Word of God (the Bible).
 - **Rhema:** Can refer to the *spoken* word, the act of speaking forth God’s Word.
- **Key Principle:** Resisting the devil effectively involves speaking out loud. The enemy cannot hear thoughts or silent prayers in our hearts. This doesn’t mean you have to yell or scream, but resistance must be verbal.

A Clarification on Satan’s Abilities

The pastor took a moment to critique a specific point from a resource (attributed to Bill Gothard, though found within the Swindoll context).

- **Incorrect Belief:** The idea that “Satan can read your thoughts.”
- **Biblical Correction:** The pastor asserts there is no scriptural basis for this claim. He has consulted with theologians who agree. While Satan can *plant* suggestions and thoughts in our minds (as this is the primary battlefield), he cannot read our thoughts.
- **How Satan Knows Us:** The enemy knows our “buttons” and vulnerabilities not by reading our minds, but by careful observation. Just as governments can compile detailed dossiers on individuals, the enemy has been observing us and gathering information to know exactly how to attack.

Swindoll’s Four Steps (Emphasizing Vocal Resistance)

All of Chuck Swindoll’s steps for resisting the devil are built on the principle of vocal, spoken resistance. You must “say it out loud.”

Examples of Spiritual Warfare in Action

The pastor shared several stories to illustrate these principles.

Story 1: The Woman on the Subway

- **Context:** A Christian woman was on a subway in Manhattan, heading to minister to children living in welfare hotels—an environment of deep spiritual darkness.
- **The Encounter:** She sensed a tangible evil presence in the subway car. A strange man approached her, glaring menacingly. She knew she had to maintain eye contact. The man was clearly disturbed, and she recognized he was under demonic influence.
- **The Response:** The woman cried out to God *in her heart* for protection. The man violently kicked her foot, which could have broken her leg if not for how she was sitting. After the kick, he left.
- **The Pastor's Analysis:**
 - Did she “resist” him? No, not in the active, verbal sense being taught.
 - What did she do? She cried out to God to intervene, and God protected her.
 - **Application:** There are situations where verbally rebuking the enemy through a person might not be wise or safe. In this case, crying out to God for deliverance was the right response. However, the pastor acknowledges that there are other times when a direct, verbal rebuke (“In the name of Jesus...”) is necessary, especially when one’s life is threatened.

Story 2: The Baseball Player

- **Context:** A Royals baseball player the pastor was discipling was on a crowded New York subway.
- **The Encounter:** Despite having no valuables on him, a man held him at gunpoint. The doors of the subway opened with a loud sound, and the robber fled into the crowd.
- **Application:** This story illustrates the physical danger present in spiritually dark places and the reality that evil can manifest through individuals, even in a crowd.

Story 3: Otto Koning, a Missionary

This narrative serves as a foundational illustration of the core message about spiritual warfare.

- **Initial Struggle:** Otto served as a missionary for seven years, during which time nine other missionary couples came and went. His ministry saw only two converts. He and his wife were taking tranquilizers to cope with the emotional strain. His wife expressed their desperation, saying, "Otto, if this is Christianity, we sure don't have much... There's got to be more to it than this."
- **A Turning Point:** A pilot gave Otto a book titled *Spirit-Controlled Temperament*. This book introduced him to the concept of being a "spirit-controlled missionary," which transformed his perspective and life. This new awareness, however, also made him more conscious of the enemy's presence.
- **Learning to Resist:** The pilot then gave him a second book on how to resist the devil. This was a new concept for Otto, as his theological background taught that one should never talk to the devil.
- **"The Pineapple Story" Context:** Koning became so obsessed with protecting his pineapple garden from the nationals that he eventually drove the entire tribe away. He was left with his pineapples but no one to minister to. This illustrates how our own misplaced priorities or struggles can hinder our ministry, a form of spiritual attack.

"The Snake Story": A Test of Faith and Resistance

This story illustrates Otto's first practical application of resisting the enemy.

- **The Fear of the Swamps:** A tribe on the other side of a swamp wanted to hear the gospel, but Otto was afraid to go. He hated the swamps and had a feeling of dread whenever he entered them. The locals would taunt him, suggesting he was afraid of the demons in the swamps, but he would deflect by stating his faith in God's protection.
- **The Call to Go:** The chiefs of this tribe begged him to come, explaining they could not travel to him because a large snake always blocked their path. For them to hear the gospel, Otto had to go to them.
- **Confronting the Snake:** As Otto and a local guide, Juan, traveled through the swamp, Otto inadvertently stepped over the very yellow snake the tribe feared. The guide was horrified, declaring that stepping over the snake meant the demons would now get him. In frustration, Otto beat the snake to death with a stick. Juan informed him that crossing a *dead* snake was even worse.
- **Encounter in the Jungle:** After reluctantly continuing, Juan went to relieve himself, leaving Otto alone. Suddenly, terrifying screams erupted from the thick jungle. As Otto stood shaking and sinking in the mud, he remembered the lesson from the book: "Resist him."
- **The Act of Resistance:** Unsure what language to use (his native Dutch, English, or the local dialect), Otto chose the language of the people. He shouted, **"In the name and the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, I command you to leave and to go where Jesus Christ sent you."** Immediately, the screaming stopped.

- **The Fruit of Resistance:** When they arrived at the village of headhunters, Juan announced what had happened. He told the villagers that the missionary had met “Ho-ohoy” (a demonic entity) in the jungle, resisted him in the name of Jesus, and the entity had fled. The chief and villagers were astonished, realizing there was a power stronger than the spirits they feared. That day, after Otto shared the gospel, **forty men accepted Jesus Christ as their savior**. This was a stark contrast to the two converts he had in the previous seven years.

The Lesson of Resistance Continues

The pastor shared another story from Otto’s ministry to reinforce the point.

- **A Chaotic Service:** The Sunday after the 40 men were saved, Otto went to a different village. He found a chaotic church service where a demon-possessed pig was running wild, disrupting everything. The service ended with no one coming to Christ, and Otto left feeling completely discouraged.
- **God’s Correction:** On his way back, the Lord spoke to him, asking, “Why didn’t you resist them?” Otto realized he hadn’t even thought of it.
- **A Different Outcome:** Otto returned to that village. Before the service, he resisted the devil. When he walked into the church, the entire village was sitting in complete silence. He preached the gospel, and many came to Christ.
- **The Key Principle:** As Otto began to consistently resist the forces of darkness, people came to Christ all over the region. The central message is that believers must recognize there is an opponent and actively oppose, or resist, him.

Scriptural Foundation for Spiritual Warfare

The pastor transitioned from narrative examples to the biblical basis for this teaching, focusing on key passages for spiritual warfare. He reflected on personal struggles with self-perception (“I’m dumb”) and fear, emphasizing how mental “ruts” hinder willingness and obedience in ministry. The sermon moves from Old Testament warfare analogies to New Testament spiritual warfare principles.

- **Who God Is and How He Responds:**
 - God is faithful to His promises and leads His people into victory according to His ways and timing.
 - God’s strategy is not formulaic; He employs varied means to topple strongholds, teaching His people dependence rather than method.
 - God disciplines His people when they shift trust from Him to human strength, restoring focus on His sufficiency.
- **Who You Are in God and How to Live:**

- You are called to stand against God's enemies, not in fear, but in faith-filled obedience, focusing on God rather than the enemy.
- You are to engage the battle primarily in your mind, bringing thoughts into obedience to Christ and refusing consent to ungodly suggestions.
- You are not defined by past mental ruts; in Christ, you can address strongholds and walk in courage.
- Your daily calling is to pursue truth that conforms to reality and take ground "one city at a time."

2 Corinthians 10:3-5: "The Battleground of the Mind"

This is described as a "tremendous warfare passage," perhaps even more favored by the pastor than Ephesians 6.

- **Verse 3: "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh."**
 - **Application:** We cannot fight a spiritual battle using our own human strength or "fleshly" methods. It is a spiritual battle that requires us to be spiritual people, using God's protection and following His directions.
- **Verse 4: "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds."**
 - **"Weapons":** The Greek word here is the same one translated as "armor" in **Ephesians 6**. Our spiritual armor is not of this world.
 - **"Mighty":** This word signifies the power and ability to perform anything. God has given us this mighty power.
 - **"Strongholds":** The enemy seeks to gain ground in our lives to build these strongholds.
- **Verse 5: "casting down imaginations... bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."**
 - **Application:** The battle is lost in the mind before it manifests in actions. We must deal with imaginations and thoughts that oppose the knowledge of God. A word study on "imagination" reveals it is consistently used negatively in Scripture (e.g., **Genesis 6:5**).

Understanding Strongholds

- **Definition:** A stronghold is a **mental pattern of thought burned into your mind over a period of time or by a traumatic experience**. These are "thinking ruts" that are revealed in un-Christlike temperaments and behavior patterns.

- **Pastor's Personal Example:** The pastor shared his own experience with a stronghold. For most of his life, he believed the thought, "I am dumb," because his family told him this repeatedly. It wasn't until he was an adult that the counter-thought finally occurred to him: "Logan, you are not dumb." This illustrates how a deeply ingrained, unchallenged thought pattern can act as a stronghold.
- **Characteristics of Strongholds:**
 - i. They are often unrecognized by the person who has them.
 - ii. If they are recognized, they are seldom understood as choices. We tend to excuse them by saying, "It's just the way I am," attributing it to personality or heritage.
- **Example:** The pastor shared a story of another pastor who openly admitted to having a temper and expected the church to "learn to live with it." This was a stronghold that eventually led to his dismissal.

Learning Warfare from the Old Testament

- **Context:** Israel's physical battles against God's enemies offer spiritual parallels for our own spiritual warfare.
- **Numbers 13-14:** Moses sends twelve spies who survey the whole land; ten return with fear about walled cities and giants, leading Israel to unbelief. **The point:** An oversized scope can overwhelm; disobedience to God's "little by little" strategy fosters paralysis.
- **Joshua 2, 6, 7-8:** Joshua sends spies only to Jericho. Israel follows distinct strategies for each stronghold (Jericho's silent march; Ai requires a different plan). **The point:** God's strategies vary; avoid methodism and depend on God for each battle. You can't ignore walled cities (strongholds); if left, the enemy will create constant internal warfare.
- **Application for Today's American Context:** Break city-sized callings into neighborhood tasks; break societal crises into one-life-at-a-time ministry to avoid being overwhelmed.

Disciplined Thinking and Handling Intrusive Thoughts

- **Philippians 4:8:** "Set your mind on these things... whatsoever things are true."
 - **Context:** The Greek nuance of "true" includes "conforming to reality."
 - **Application:** Reject fantasy and subjective thinking; embrace reality-shaped truth. This is a directive, not a suggestion.
- **Strategy for Intrusive Thoughts:**

- When tempted or assaulted by rapid-fire thoughts, say: “I give no consent to that,” and move on. Do not confess what you did not receive.
- Only engage in active resistance when the enemy steps in front and impedes progress directly.
- If you receive a thought, entertain it, or cling to it—then apply 2 **Corinthians 10:4–5** to repent, reject, and bring it under Christ’s obedience.

The Pervasiveness and Goal of Deception

The pastor emphasizes the grave danger of deception, noting that while the book of Revelation mentions “evil” once, “deception” appears on nearly every page. This highlights God’s warning that we are all highly susceptible to being deceived.

- **Who is God?** God is a God of Truth who warns His people about the reality and danger of deception. His Word is true, and ignoring it leads to self-deception and corruption.
- **Who are we?** We are people susceptible to deception from ourselves, from the culture and people around us, and from a spiritual enemy. We must be wise and discerning.

Three Sources of Deception

1. **Deception from Self:** We can deceive ourselves.

- **Scripture:** **James 1:26** (a person who reads scripture but doesn’t practice it is a “self-deceiver”), **Galatians 6:3** (“If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.”), **1 John 1:8** (“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves.”).

2. **Deception from Others:** We can be deceived by other people.

- **Scripture:** **Ephesians 5:6**, **2 John 1:7**, and **2 Timothy 3:13** are cited as verses that warn about this.

3. **Deception from Satan:** The enemy, Satan, actively works to deceive believers.

- **Scripture:** **1 Timothy 2:14**, **2 Corinthians 11:14**, and **Revelation 12:9** point to Satan as the great deceiver.
- **Example - 1 Chronicles 21:1 / 2 Samuel 24:1:** Satan prompts David to number Israel. The suggestion felt normal and strategic, which is why it appealed to David. God judges because trust shifted from God’s might to army size. The lesson is that victory depends on the size of God, not our resources.

The Goal of Deception: Establishing Strongholds

Satan's primary goal in deceiving us is to gain ground in our lives.

- **Scriptural Foundation: Ephesians 4:27:** "and do not give the devil a foothold." Paul warns us not to give the enemy ground in our lives. The principle is: you reap what you sow (**Galatians 6:7-8**).

Four Steps to Reclaim Ground from the Enemy

The pastor outlines a crucial principle: **Ground must be retaken before Satan's power can be broken.** We cannot break the enemy's power while we are still holding on to the very ground (the sin, the lie, the habit) that gives him a place in our lives. A key deception is believing something must be true if we *feel* it. Our faith is not based on feelings but on the truth of who God is.

1. Revoke Past Consent

- This is about confession and repentance.
- **Scripture: 1 John 1:9** - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."
- **Who is God?** He is faithful and just. His character is at stake in His promise to forgive. When He says He forgives, He does. To confess the same sin repeatedly is to doubt His faithfulness and justice.
- **How are we to live?** We are to believe God's promise of forgiveness, not based on our feelings, but based on His trustworthy character. Faith is believing what God has said.

2. Reprove the Works of Darkness

- This means we must call sin what it is: sin. We must agree with God about its nature.
- **Scripture: Ephesians 5:11** - "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them."
- **Application:** Our culture re-labels sin to make it more palatable (e.g., "affair" instead of adultery). To be free, we must see our sin as God sees it, call it evil, and agree with Him that we are through with it.

3. Remove All Provision for the Flesh

- We must actively get rid of anything in our lives that we use to commit sin.
- **Scripture: Romans 13:14** - "Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh."
- **Application:** If you want victory, you must destroy everything associated with the area of defeat. If objects or media are used in your sin, they must be destroyed. A thorough cleansing is required.

4. Resist the Devil

- Once you have revoked consent, reproved the darkness, and removed the provision, you are on solid ground to stand firm against the enemy.
- **Scripture: James 4:7** - "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Closing Emphasis

Focus on the Lord Jesus Christ—Author and Finisher of faith—not on demons or methods. You have in Christ everything needed to resist the enemy and advance God's calling. Replace "stinking thinking" with truth that conforms to reality, bringing every thought captive to Christ for a balanced, victorious life. The pastor concluded with a prayer for us to develop "spiritual antennae," guided by the Holy Spirit, to recognize deception, reject it, and stand firm in the truth as men and women of integrity.