

How The World Really Works

- 1. The air is polluted with wicked spiritual beings, actively inciting rebellion against God.**

“In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [draw your strength from Him and be empowered through your union with Him] and in the power of His [boundless] might. Put on the full armor of God [for His precepts are like the splendid armor of a heavily-armed soldier], so that you may be able to [successfully] stand up against all the schemes and the strategies and the deceits of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) places.”

Ephesians 6:10-12 AMP

“The Prince of the Power of the Air”

“You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.”

Ephesians 2:2 NLT

WARNING

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

I Peter 5:8 NKJV

2. What Difference Does It Make?

“The Holy Spirit has explicitly revealed: At the end of this age, many will depart from the true faith one after another, devoting themselves to spirits of deception and following demon-inspired revelations and theories.”

1 Timothy 4:1 TPT

“Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people’s hearts, and they will learn the truth. Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil’s trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.”

2 Timothy 2:25-26 NLT

-Taken captive

-Doing what the devil wants

-Trapped

-Senseless

-Wisely and carefully, offer to help them escape.

3. What Can We Do About It?

-I can’t run away and hide.

-I can’t ignore it, or pretend it isn’t real.

-I have to accept that it affects me, whether I know it, or want to admit it.

PUT ON THE ARMOR OF GOD

“Therefore, put on the complete armor of God, so that you will be able to [successfully] resist and stand your ground in the evil day [of danger], and having done everything [that the crisis demands], to stand firm [in your place, fully prepared, immovable, victorious]. So stand firm and hold your ground, having tightened the wide band of truth (personal integrity, moral courage) around your waist and having put on the breastplate of righteousness (an upright heart), and having strapped on your feet the gospel of peace in preparation [to face the enemy with firm-footed stability and the readiness produced by the good news]. Above all, lift up the [protective] shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

With all prayer and petition pray [with specific requests] at all times [on every occasion and in every season] in the Spirit, and with this in view, stay alert with all perseverance and petition [interceding in prayer] for all God's people."

Ephesians 6:13-18 AMP

"So submit to [the authority of] God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him] and he will flee from you. Come close to God [with a contrite heart] and He will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; and purify your [unfaithful] hearts, you double-minded [people]. Be miserable and grieve and weep [over your sin]. Let your [foolish] laughter be turned to mourning and your [reckless] joy to gloom. Humble yourselves [with an attitude of repentance and insignificance] in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you [He will lift you up, He will give you purpose]."

James 4:7-10 AMP

Ephesus and the cult of Diana/Artemis, her temple was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

Acts 19.

Apostle Paul confronts the powers of darkness in Ephesus with the power and authority of Jesus Christ.

He took a stand and there was a battle.

He did unusual and extraordinary miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit.

People were healed and demons cast out using articles of cloth that Paul had touched.

The seven sons of Sceva tried to get in on the action and were exposed and humiliated as frauds.

An evangelistic revival broke out, multitudes came to Christ and a fortune in books and witchcraft was burned.

Demetrius, a leading business man, whose livelihood was connected to the worship of Diana, organized an attack on Paul and the gospel. Two hours of screaming!