

Life Group Questions - Common Questions about Spiritual Warfare

QUESTIONS

1. How did Satan and demons come to be again, especially if God does not create evil? If Satan is a fallen angel, why does Gen 3 not say that?
2. Can converted, Spirit-filled Christians be possessed? If not, how does Satan affect them?
3. Can Satan read our thoughts and put thoughts in us?
4. Is unbelief in the gospel a form of spiritual bondage?
5. The Bible seems to teach that Satan's power is limited. How is it limited? How can we be used of God to resist and disempower the influence he does have?
6. Why does Satan/demons seem to work in subtle ways, especially in the West, and in more overt and 'movie' like ways in other cultures/parts of the world, like the non-West?
7. If I experience spiritual attack/oppression on a regular basis, besides gospel vigilance, are there other ways of perseverance? And, is this a bad thing or good thing that I seem to be a target of the evil one?
8. How does God's sovereignty and the 'freedom' or 'agency' of demons relate? POW, is Satan's power and actions part of a sovereign plan of God?
9. How does Satanic power relate to things like our current pandemic? Is this a satanic assault, or a general result of the fall and Satan jumps on it as an opportunity to disrupt God's purposes?
10. How does Satanic power relate to culture, structures of evil, and other corporate manifestations of sin?
11. How does awareness of spiritual warfare fuel us to resist and obey in temptation rather than provide an excuse to give in? E.g., pornography, self-loathing, materialism, avoidance of spiritual disciplines, selfishness, anger, unforgiveness, etc.
12. How do things like anxiety/depression relate to spiritual warfare? In dealing with these, should there always be a spiritual warfare response, along with a theological/Scriptural, psychological, and medical response?
13. Should/can we get involved in active rebukes of demonic forces? Exorcisms or commanding demons in 'Jesus's' name? How does that 'Jesus-name' thing work?
14. How do I discern the difference between wrestling with God and spiritual warfare? Can it be both?

15. In discerning God's will, if I feel discouraged or am uneasy about an opportunity, how do I know if that is God's leading (closing that door) versus Satanic attack, trying to discourage me from serving the Lord?
16. How much theological weight should I put into things like: territorial spirits, specific structures of demonic hierarchy, specific methods of confrontation of demonic powers, etc?
17. In sharing personal stories of spiritual warfare and listening to stories of such, how do we make sure we are avoiding sensationalism, pure subjectivity, and shock value? How can we Biblically and responsibly give testimony to a deliverance or another experience of spiritual warfare?
18. What about angels?