

**Sermon Title:** Who Is Satan and His Demons?

**Series:** Battle Ready

**Preached On:** 10-8-2023

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**Relevant Question:** Who Is Satan, what are demons, and how can I live for Jesus when there are spiritual attacks?

**Main Point:** Satan is a fallen angel whose desire is to be worshiped like God. Jesus has defeated Satan and his army of fallen angels and as Christians we can live victoriously as we submit to the Spirit of God in our lives.

**Spiritual Warfare** refers to the spiritual battles that are happening between God and Satan's army of demons who desire to destroy God's holy purpose.

### **Why is studying Spiritual Warfare important?**

- Christians are in a spiritual battle between the light of God and the darkness of Satan. Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy but Jesus came to give us abundant life.
  - **2 Corinthians 10:3–6 (CSB)** <sup>3</sup>For although we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup>since the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments <sup>5</sup>and every proud thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ. <sup>6</sup>And we are ready to punish any disobedience, once your obedience is complete.
  - **John 10:10 (CSB)** <sup>10</sup>A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.
- It is the responsibility of the church leaders to protect the flock from incorrect doctrine and those who try to prey upon the church.
  - **Galatians 1:6–10 (CSB)** <sup>6</sup>I am amazed that you are so quickly turning away from him who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—<sup>7</sup>not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are troubling you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup>But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, a curse be on him! <sup>9</sup>As we have said before, I now say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, a curse be on him! <sup>10</sup>For am I now trying to persuade

people, or God? Or am I striving to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

- As a Christians mature in Christ and are unified in the Spirit, more spiritual attacks will come.
  - The progression of the book of Ephesians shows this: Opening and thanksgiving (Ephesians 1) Salvation by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:1-10), the unity of Jews and Gentiles (Ephesians 2:11-3.13), Paul's prayer (Ephesians 3:14-21), Unity and maturity in the church (Ephesians 4:1-16), Putting off the old and putting on the new (Ephesians 4:17-5:20), Christian homes (Ephesians 5:21-6:9), the Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20), Closing (Ephesians 6:21-24)
- Christians must be able to know when we are to stand firm or to flee during spiritual battles.
  - **James 4:1–10 (CSB)** What is the source of wars and fights among you? Don't they come from your passions that wage war within you? <sup>2</sup>You desire and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and wage war. You do not have because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. <sup>4</sup>You adulterous people! Don't you know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? So whoever wants to be the friend of the world becomes the enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>Or do you think it's without reason that the Scripture says: The spirit he made to dwell in us envies intensely? <sup>6</sup>But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says: **God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.** <sup>7</sup>Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup>Be miserable and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.
  - **1 Corinthians 6:18 (CSB)** <sup>18</sup>Flee sexual immorality! Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the person who is sexually immoral sins against his own body.
  - **2 Timothy 2:22 (CSB)** <sup>22</sup>Flee from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

- **Proverbs 4:14–15 (CSB)** <sup>14</sup>Keep off the path of the wicked; don't proceed on the way of evil ones. <sup>15</sup>Avoid it; don't travel on it. Turn away from it, and pass it by.

The greatest generals create a military plan with great detail and it is based on information about the enemy. The church must know who the enemy is, his tactics, strategies, goals, schemes, and know what God has commanded for us to engage in spiritual warfare. If Christians are unaware of the battle that rages then they will not be ready to, by the guidance of the Spirit, withstand the attacks of the enemy.

### **Ephesians 6:10–20 (CSB)**

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength.

<sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil.

<sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.

<sup>13</sup>For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.

**Question for Today:** Who Is Satan, what are demons, and how can I live for Jesus when there are spiritual attacks?

## **Who is Satan?**

- **Who Satan is not:**
  - Red, carrying a pitch fork, has horns and a tail, or looks like a goat head.
- **Who is Satan?** *A list from Max Anders' book What Do You Need To Know About Spiritual Warfare*
  - Satan was probably the highest angel before his rebellion. Now he is the enemy who opposes the will of God.
  - The name *Satan* means adversary or enemy. The apostle Peter even calls him “your adversary the devil” (1 Peter 5:8).
  - **His original name was Lucifer:** which in Hebrew means Day Star or Morning Light. (Isaiah 14:12) Lucifer was to be a bearer of the light of God. Satan is a spirit being, like all angels and demons, and was possibly the highest angel in God's created order (Ezekiel 28:11-19; Luke 10:18-20).

- He sinned by rebelling against God because he wanted to be like God and have equal authority to God and to be worshiped like God (Isaiah 14:13-15; 1 Timothy 3:6).
- His sin was pride and he was casted out of heaven (Isaiah 14:12; John 10:18) and now is the ultimate evil being in the universe who opposes the will of God.
- His goal is to set up his own kingdom and rule in the place of God (Isaiah 14:13-15; Matthew 4:8-9).
- Satan is said to be
  - “The ruler of this world” (John 12:31)
  - “The god of this world” (2 Corinthians 4:4)
  - “The prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2)
- Satan is the arch deceiver and destroyer. Jesus even called him a murderer, a liar, and the father of all lies (John 8:44; Revelation 9:11; 12:9; 20:10).
- Satan aims to destroy us. He blinds the minds of unbelievers so that they might not believe the gospel. He is the ruler over the demons and employs them to try to defeat us, and tempts us to sin (Matthew 12:24-27; 1 Corinthians 7:5; 2 Corinthians 4:4, Ephesians 6:11-12)
- Satan is extremely powerful (2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2)
- While Satan is powerful, he isn’t as powerful as God. He doesn’t have the attributes of God.
  - Satan is not all-knowing. (Can’t read your mind)
  - Satan isn’t able to be in more than one place at a time.
  - Satan isn’t all-powerful. (Can’t make you do anything)
  - His intelligence and his army of demons who carry out his orders makes him seem more powerful than he is (Job 1:7-12; 2:4-6)
- Most importantly, in the end Jesus will triumph over Satan who will be eternally judged, along with all who are disobedient and haven’t repented (Revelation 20:10)
  - It is important to know that Satan nor the demons will reign over you in Hell. Hell is a place of God’s eternal judgment on sin and rebellion. Satan will not chain you up - he will experience the full wrath of God for all eternity.
- **The No-Named Adversary**
  - Satan = Adversary. Devil = accuser, slanderer, evil one. These aren’t actual names but descriptions of the evil one who opposes God. Lucifer

- lost his name during the fall because he no longer was serving his created purpose as a light bearer of God.
- His name, identity, and created purpose was removed from him when he was kicked out of heaven (Luke 10:18)
  - Satan's reminders that God is the light.
    - Jesus is the light of the world. (John 8:12)
    - Christians are light (Ephesians 5:7-11)
    - Bible is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path (Psalm 119:105)
  - All of these are reminders that God is the ultimate creator and that he, not Satan, is worthy of our praise.
  - And now he pretends to be an angel of light, trying to imitate the original name God had given him as Lucifer - the light bearer, and he tries to deceive people into thinking that he and his demons are good spirits, when in fact they are evil. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

## What are demons?

- **Who Are Demons?** *A list from Max Anders' book What Do You Need To Know About Spiritual Warfare*
  - Demons are the angels, created spirit beings, who sinned by following Satan in his rebellion against God. They now oppose the will of God and do the will of Satan (Luke 10:17-20; Revelation 12:7-9)
  - They are Satan's minions, his army, that is actively tormenting the world and are opposing God's plans. They are the spiritual powers behind kingdoms, nations, other religions, and governments (Daniel 10:13; Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:13-19; Ephesians 6:12).
  - They have their own "doctrine" which they promote among humans to deceive and destroy them (1 Timothy 4:1-3).
  - Like their leader, Satan, they too are powerless against Jesus and will be punished eternally in hell.
  - Demons can exert various degrees of control over individuals, inflict physical illness and pain, cause insanity, give people extraordinary strength, and possess people. (Matthew 9:32-33; 10:8; 17:15-18, Mark 6:13; Luke 8:26-31; Acts 16:16-24).
  - Like Satan, they aren't all powerful, they can't read your minds, and they can't be in multiple places at one time.
- You shouldn't be afraid of demons, demons are afraid of Christians.

- Satan and his demons are a defeated foe (Ephesians 1:21-23, Colossians 2:15).
- Christians should not be afraid (Hebrews 2:14).
- Instead, the Bible tells us to fear the Lord (Psalm 23:4).
- We resist by engaging in spiritual warfare and communicate the truth of the Gospel (Ephesians 6:10-20).

**Main Point:** Satan is a fallen angel whose desire is to be worshiped like God. Jesus has defeated Satan and his army of fallen angels and as Christians we can live victoriously as we submit to the Spirit of God in our lives.

## How Can I live for Jesus when there are spiritual attacks?

- Spiritual attacks are a part of the Christian walk.
  - **Matthew 7:13–20 (CSB)** <sup>13</sup>“Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. <sup>14</sup>How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it. <sup>15</sup>“Be on your guard against false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves. <sup>16</sup>You’ll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup>In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. <sup>18</sup>A good tree can’t produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup>So you’ll recognize them by their fruit.
  - **Matthew 10:16–25 (CSB)** <sup>16</sup>“Look, I’m sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as serpents and as innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup>Beware of them, because they will hand you over to local courts and flog you in their synagogues. <sup>18</sup>You will even be brought before governors and kings because of me, to bear witness to them and to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup>But when they hand you over, don’t worry about how or what you are to speak. For you will be given what to say at that hour, <sup>20</sup>because it isn’t you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father is speaking through you. <sup>21</sup>“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. <sup>22</sup>You will be hated by everyone because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup>When they persecute you in one town, flee to another. For truly I tell you, you will not have gone through the towns of Israel before

the Son of Man comes. <sup>24</sup> A disciple is not above his teacher, or a slave above his master. <sup>25</sup> It is enough for a disciple to become like his teacher and a slave like his master. If they called the head of the house 'Beelzebul,' how much more the members of his household!

- Christians need to remember that the gates of Hell will not prevail against the church.
  - Jesus has overcome Satan and the demonic. Therefore, the church has power over the demonic because Jesus is the head of the church.
  - **Matthew 16:13–20 (CSB)** <sup>13</sup> When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup> They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup> “But you,” he asked them, “who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> Jesus responded, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup> Then he gave the disciples orders to tell no one that he was the Messiah.
  - **Ephesians 1:22–23 (CSB)** <sup>22</sup> And **he subjected everything under his feet** and appointed him as head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.
- Christians should not live in fear but in victory because the One who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world. Instead we fear the Lord (Proverbs 9:10).
  - **1 John 4:1-6 (CSB)** Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> This is how you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> but every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming; even now it is already in the world. <sup>4</sup> You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. <sup>5</sup> They are from the world. Therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We are from God. Anyone

who knows God listens to us; anyone who is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of deception.

- **2 Timothy 1:7 (CSB)** <sup>7</sup> For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.
- **Psalm 27:1 (CSB)** <sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom should I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—whom should I dread?
- Christians must prepare for spiritual battles so they know when to stand firm and when to flee.
  - The best way to discern if something is demonic or from God is to know God. Most of the issues we get into are because we don't know the truth of God's Word.
  - Next week we will talk about Satan's schemes and how we can prepare ourselves with the armor of God so that we are able to discern when we should stand firm or when

**Additional verses about spiritual warfare:**

2 Corinthians 10:3-5, John 10:10, 1 John 4:4, Genesis 3:1-7, Job 1-2, Isaiah 14:13-14, Daniel, Matthew 12:22-32, Acts 10:1-31, 2 Corinthians 12:7, Revelation

**Resources on Spiritual Warfare:**

*Christian Theology* by Millard J. Erickson

*50 Core Truths of the Christian Faith* by Gregg R. Allison

*The Kingdom of the Occult* by Walter Martin

*What You Need To Know About Spiritual Warfare* by Max Anders

*Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem