

EVIL FORCES



Encountering Evil Forces

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

“And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ‘Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.’” Revelation 12:10-11

“...for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” I John 4:4

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.” Romans 16:20

QUOTES

*“...we are not to think more of Satan than of Christ. We are to recognize the terrible reality of Satan; we are to study the Word of God about our Adversary, that we may know all that God wants us to know about him; and then we are to look away from Satan unto Jesus; for ‘amid all these things we are more than conquerors through him who has loved us,’ and ‘to God be the thanks who in Christ ever heads our triumphal procession, and by our hands waves in every place that sweet incense, the knowledge of him.’” (Romans 8:37; 2 Corinthians 2:14) from *Victory in Christ* by Charles G. Trumbull*

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

As a result of the readings, discussions, and activities in this session the candidate will be able to:

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- Describe Satan, the enemy of God and author of evil, as he is portrayed in the Bible, including a description of his identity, methods, and influence.
- Model Jesus' response to evil forces through the use of biblical examples.
- Identify areas of vulnerability in one's own life that are potential areas of attack from Satan.
- Identify practices and beliefs in the target culture that are direct connections to evil influence.
- Gain a clear understanding of our weapons and defenses for confronting evil forces and use them effectively.
- Understand and implement the spiritual disciplines required for victory over evil forces in one's daily life.

Prior to the beginning of time on earth, there was a battle in the heavenly places – a spiritual conflict that was the result of free will. Eden is the landmark where evil invaded human paradise, but scripture tells us that the conflict between God and Satan began before the beginning of time. Jesus was there as an observer. He reflects upon this memory in Luke 10:18, as He tells His disciples, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”

*YOU HAVE RECEIVED A CALL FROM
GOD TO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE
IN THIS DIVINE DRAMA.*

Jesus revealed what He saw to the Apostle John in the visions of Revelation 12:7-9: “And there was a great war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The

great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible records the account of God's passionate pursuit of his children as Satan seeks to steal them away. This is the redemption story – God's pursuit and provision for a restored relationship between Himself and humankind. The dominant themes in this story are blood, sacrifice, redemption, reconciliation, and restoration.

You have received a call from God to play a significant role in this divine drama. As a cross-cultural worker, the Apostle Paul describes you as a *minister of reconciliation*. As Paul explains in 2 Corinthians 5, you are compelled by the love of Christ because you are convinced that One died for all and that through the death of Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself. Paul then describes you as Christ's *ambassador*, one through whom God makes His appeal to the lost world. You, then, have joined forces with God in the heavenly confrontation with forces of evil. By joining forces with God, you have defected from Satan's stronghold and are doing battle with one who would seek to steal, kill, and destroy. By being obedient to a call to cross cultures with the gospel, you are entering into territory Satan has claimed his own. You would be wise, therefore, to understand the opponent and his tactics and to obtain the skills and weaponry necessary for such an encounter.

If you were to begin researching the many resources that exist on the topic of spiritual warfare, you would find volumes of materials from a variety of perspectives. There are some who underestimate the power and influence of Satan. Others are so fixated on Satan and forces

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of evil that they fail to acknowledge God as the victor in the heavenly conflict. While some are paranoid of the demon behind every door, others are in denial that evil's effects have permeated every aspect of human life.

That is why we must be biblical in our views about Satan and evil. There is only one standard of truth on this issue – the Word of God. Our study of this topic, therefore, will focus primarily on biblical material and the application of biblical truth to real-life circumstances. God wants you to understand Satan, his character, his tactics and his influence; otherwise, He would not have inspired biblical writers to write about Satan. God also wants you to trust in His power and victory over Satan. While awareness of your enemy is necessary, fixation on your God is of greater value. *Fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith.*

If we were to identify the forms of evil as a color spectrum, the variance of colors, intensities, and shades would be as vast and diverse as color itself. Sometimes evil presents itself as mildly off-white, resembling light, yet powerfully disabling. Other times evil presents itself in bold reds that are shocking and fiery in nature, evoking fear and causing adrenaline rush. Other times evil can be as dark as a black hole, sucking out life and light and leading to endlessness and emptiness, void of hope.

Evil can be as subtle as a mood or as vicious as a suicide bomber. Though subtly, the influence of evil can permeate societies and people with such gradual ease that the victim does not even know she has been taken. While the believer can never be possessed by a demon or reclaimed by Satan, the enemy does his best to thwart our success as light-bearers in a dark world. Our best defense against such a chameleon-like enemy is preventive care. By building spiritual health into our lives and learning biblically prescribed defenses, God can surround us with a divine force field that deflects the power of Satan in our lives and equips us with the offensive skills to conquer in Satan's territory.

In this session, you will gain an understanding of Satan and his tactics. You will also explore the arsenal of defensive and offensive equipment God has prepared for you. Our desire is that you complete this material aware of the influences and forces of evil you will encounter. More than that, though, we hope your confidence and trust in your God will far outweigh any attention Satan receives. Glance at Satan but keep your eyes fixed on God.

REFLECT #1

1. Describe 5 ways you think Satan expresses himself most prevalently in your native culture.
2. What influences have most shaped your views about Satan and the forces of evil?
3. Describe an experience from your own life that you would describe as an encounter with an evil force. How did this encounter affect your faith?

CASE STUDY: GIRL WITH EVIL SPIRIT

In the West African country of Niger, two young missionary women, Katie and Haley, work in a town that is known for its radical Islamic presence. In Niger, Islam is blended with a mix of animistic tribal religions and is often described as folk Islam. One evening while they were in their home, a man came to Katie and asked for transport to visit one of the local Muslim leaders. It seemed he was having some problems with his niece and he wanted to see if the Muslim leader could help her.

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Katie struggled with her response to his request since she did not believe the Muslim leader could help in a positive way. Katie asked the man if she could first come over and pray for his niece and requested that she bring a local Christian pastor with her. The uncle agreed. Katie went to the pastor and his wife and asked them to go with her to pray over the girl. The pastor replied, "First, we should all three pray together and confess any unresolved bitterness, anger, or other issues before we go to pray over the girl."

When they arrived, the girl was lethargic. The three of them began to pray over the girl in Jesus' name, commanding any evil spirit to leave her. Thirty to forty-five minutes later, the demonic spirit began to speak through the girl in the Hausa language, a language the girl did not speak. Then with a loud shriek, the evil spirit came out of the girl as she fell limp to the floor.

After some time, the pastor, his wife, and Katie left the girl with her uncle and returned to their own homes. Thirty minutes later, the uncle returned to Katie's house again and said, "My niece is in the same state as before. Can you come back?" Katie once again summoned the pastor and his wife and the three returned to the uncle's house. They began to pray for her again. The spirit said in Hausa, "You thought I left, but really I was hiding behind the door." The three of them prayed over the girl again and in a similar way the evil spirit came out of her. The pastor told Katie that she would need to take the girl to her own house in order to protect her from the source of danger. Katie took her home. The girl was eventually able to return to her own home.

REFLECT #2

1. Do you believe what this girl was experiencing was actually a demon possession?
2. Have you ever observed or been involved in a spiritual battle? Explain.
3. Evaluate the pastor's reaction to the situation. What can you learn from him? What might he have done differently?
4. Where do evil spirits go when they leave someone's body? (Support your response with scripture.)
5. Why is righteous living and confession of sin so important for the cross-cultural worker?

SATAN, HIS ORIGINS AND HIS NAMES

When helping others comprehend the purpose of God's incarnation and Jesus' death, it is important to help them understand why these acts of grace were necessary. A cross-cultural worker once showed a viewing of the Jesus Film among an unreached people. After the film was over, the worker asked the crowd, "Do you have any questions about what you have seen?" Several women in the crowd immediately responded, "Why did they kill Jesus? Why did he have to die?"

We cannot help others understand the story of Jesus' sacrificial death unless they first understand their need for forgiveness from sin. Sin, of course, enters the biblical drama in the beginning – in Eden. The culprit in this temptation scenario is Satan (*Stn* in Hebrew), the opponent of God, who takes on the form of a serpent. Eden, however, is not the beginning of this enemy of God. While some believe there are biblical insights into Satan's origins found in Isaiah 14:12-15 and in Ezekiel 28:12-19, the Bible most clearly reveals his origins in Revelation 12:7-9, where the Apostle John records this vision from Christ:

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“Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”

Satan is introduced into the biblical story in Eden as the tempting agent seeking to destroy the relationship between God and humankind. The rest of the biblical account tells of a loving God in pursuit of rebellious humanity, a story in which God always provides a means of restoration.

Satan, however, is pictured as relentless in his attempts to compete with God and gain man’s loyalty. He appears throughout scripture as the adversary of God.

Following is a list of names and descriptive titles by which God refers to Satan in his Word:

- Accuser – Revelation 12:10
- Adversary – 1 Peter 5:8
- Angel of the Abyss – Revelation 9:11
- Belial – 2 Corinthians 6:15
- Beelzebub – Matthew 12:24
- Devil – Ephesians 4:27, 6:11, James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:8-9
- Evil One – Matthew 13:19
- God of this Age – 2 Corinthians 4:4
- Murderer – John 8:44
- Prince of Demons – Matthew 12:24
- Prince of this World – John 14:30
- Ruler of Darkness – Ephesians 6:12
- Ruler of the Kingdom of the Air – Ephesians 2:2
- Serpent – Genesis 3:4
- Tempter – Matthew 4:3
- The Dragon – Revelation 12:7-9

REFLECT #3

Read the story of the fall of man in the following passages:

- Genesis 2:15-16
- Genesis 2:25
- Genesis 3:1-24

Answer the following questions:

1. In what ways did the serpent seek to mislead the woman?
2. How did Satan misrepresent God’s desires?
3. What were the unfortunate results of Adam and Eve’s choices to sin?
4. What does God reveal about the serpent’s future?
5. Review the names and descriptions of Satan in the list above. Make a list of the titles you least understand. Read the related scripture passages and record your insights or questions below.
6. Identify from the list above ways that you have experienced Satan’s work in your own life.

SATAN'S STRATEGIES OF WAR

Satan is at war with God. Longing to be “like God,” Satan set himself up as God’s opponent. While he is a powerful opponent, it is important to remember that he is not God’s direct opposite. Unlike God, his power is limited both in scope and in time. His major tactic is the destruction of the relationship between God and those who bear God’s image.

Ephesians 6:11-12 reminds us that there is a war that is raging unseen. Paul tells us that Satan possesses “spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms,” and describes a cosmic confrontation between YHWH (Yahweh) and Satan. It involves angelic armies and demonic forces. While there are aspects of this heavenly encounter that we cannot comprehend, man is used by Satan as a means of assault. Satan attacks the image-bearers of God and seeks to manipulate them like pawns as a means of striking at God. The loyalty of mankind is the prize Satan seeks to take as the spoil of each battle. God has equipped the believer with everything he or she needs to win the battle. Those who are outside of Christ, however, are defenseless against Satan’s schemes.

God wants the believer to be prepared for confrontations with Satan and the forces of evil. While evil is a subject that is often frightening, even to some believers, understanding what God says about Satan and his tactics in the Bible is essential in order to avoid his assault. Those who choose to enter places that are, for the most part, spiritually lost have by virtue of the path they have accepted become offenders of the enemy in his own territory. We should, therefore, all the more be prepared for spiritual battle. We can do this by understanding Satan’s tactics.

Read and consider what scripture says about some of Satan’s tactics and strategies:

Accusation

Zechariah 3:1-9; Revelation 12:10

This highly effective technique of Satan is used in the life of the believer to deceive and disable. Accusation is the anti-grace message. Accusation is a means of constantly reminding the believer of his or her failures, promoting a sense of unworthiness, and casting doubt about the character of a forgiving and gracious Father who possesses the unique ability to “separate our sins as far as the east is from the west and remember them no more” (Psalm 103:12). Accusation elevates the power of sin above God’s ability to forgive. Accusation focuses on past failures instead of future purposes of God’s children. Listening to Satan’s accusation results in shame that causes the believer to hide from God rather than to seek His presence and forgiveness.

Temptation

Luke 4:1-13

The fact that Jesus was confronted by Satan in the wilderness where Satan tempted Him to sin should be a vivid warning to every believer that Satan will attempt the same in the life of each Christ-follower. This story teaches us valuable lessons about Satan’s tactics, including:

- **Satan will attack us at our points of weakness and vulnerability.** Jesus was hungry, so Satan tried to persuade Him to turn stones to bread. Each believer has certain points of vulnerability,

whether physical, emotional or relational. Satan will target places of vulnerability in the life of each believer.

- **Satan will tempt us to worship him instead of God.** Jesus' destiny was to be the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, ruling over all creation in God's Kingdom. Satan desires more than anything else to be worshipped as God. He takes on many forms, idols, false gods, or false belief systems. Satan attempted to offer Jesus a fast track to His destiny by giving Him immediate gratification and reward. The life of the believer is filled with promises that often require perseverance. Satan appeals to our desire for immediate gratification and quick result by exposing avenues other than the ones God has ordained for us.
- **Satan tempts us to take the easy route instead of the path God has chosen for us.** Satan tempted Jesus to abuse the privileges of His position to gain public acceptance and rapid popularity. It was as if he was saying, "You can avoid this whole suffering and death scenario that God has planned for you." But Jesus knew that suffering and death were the means by which salvation would come to man. His willingness to take the path God had ordained for Him would accomplish God's desire for man's redemption.
- **Satan is always looking for an opportunity to cause the believer to sin.** Luke states, "When the Devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time." This reminds us of the importance of daily dependence upon God.

Spiritual Blindness

2 Corinthians 4:4

The role of the cross-cultural worker is praying for the blind to be healed and offering them the message of light.

Testing the Followers of God

Job 1:6-12; Job 2:1-10

While this is a very difficult truth to understand, there are times when God uses Satan as an instrument of testing. Such was the case with Jesus. The Bible says that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1). The story of Job reveals that God gave Satan liberty to test Job. God had great confidence in Job that he would not give in to Satan's temptation. God was glorified in the life of Jesus and in the life of Job. By successfully overcoming temptation, each of them was strengthened in their faith, God was glorified, and other believers received the encouragement to persevere.

Stirring Conflict in the Heavenly Realms that Affects Man in his Earthly Existence

Ephesians 6:10-18

The rebellion that Satan stirred in heaven prior to Eden has continued and will continue until the end of time. While Satan seems to have a measure of victory, the end of this story has already been written. Revelation 20:7-10 describes this future scene: "*And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and the devil who had*

deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

Inflicting Pain and Suffering

Job 2:7; Matthew 12:22

Satan introduced sin and rebellion into paradise. The destructive effect of sin causes all of creation to groan for the day of redemption (Romans 8:22). In a general sense, Satan has affected all of creation by injecting creation with pain and suffering. More specifically, Satan has the power to inflict pain and suffering into the life of individuals, even God’s people, for the purpose of leading them astray. His desire is to make the believer doubt God, His love, His goodness and His ability to heal. Doubt results in a deterioration of trust and thereby creates distance in the relationship between man and God.

Snatching Away the Word of God Before Hearers Have a Chance to Understand

Mark 4:1-20

In this parable of the sower, Jesus explains to the disciples that the farmer sows the word of God, but that Satan is like a bird that sweeps down and snatches the word from the hearer before it has a chance to be taken in and rooted. It is crucial for the cross-cultural worker to pray diligently for God to protect the gospel seed being sown. Before entering with the gospel into any new area, pray that God will till and prepare the soil (hearts of hearers) so the seed can readily be taken in and rooted.

Planting Weeds among the Wheat

Matthew 13:24-30

Jesus explains that as the gospel is producing wheat, the Enemy sneaks in while everyone is sleeping and sows weeds among the wheat. We learn from the parable of the sower that, at worst, the weeds can choke out the wheat, overpowering a movement of God among a people or destroying the work of God in an individual life. Many times, weeds just grow among the wheat, taking away the nutrients of the soil and being the presence of Satan among God’s people – speaking lies, distracting from and misrepresenting God.

Lying

John 8:43-44

Satan deceives man by telling him lies. From the beginning, Satan spoke lies to confuse mankind. “You shall not surely die,” he told Eve. In other words, he was saying, “God is telling you a lie because He knows that when you eat of the tree, you will be like Him.” This is Satan’s true desire which he projects onto man – the desire to be like God. Jesus describes him in John 8 by stating, “When he lies he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” Satan wants believers to doubt whether whatever God says is true. He wants to convince non-believers that there is another way or another god. He wants you to doubt the Spirit of God within you. This is why studying God’s word and memorizing it is so important. In the same way, the federal government trains inspectors to spot counterfeit money by studying real money, we will be able to spot Satan’s lies because we are so familiar with God’s truth.

Prompting Men and Women to Sin

1 Chronicles 21:1; John 13:2

The first time we see Satan's name used in the biblical story, he prompts King David to sin. Although David is known as a man after God's own heart, anointed as king over God's people, he is vulnerable to the persuasive voice of Satan. The Scripture says, "Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel." While we do not understand all the reasons why this angered God, the account reveals that the nation experienced judgment because David acted upon this prompting of Satan. For David, the sin was likely rooted in pride. Likewise, the New Testament account of Judas' betrayal of Jesus also attributes his actions to the prompting of Satan. Have you ever had a thought that was so out of harmony with God's heart or God's will that you asked yourself, "Where in the world did that thought come from?" Unfortunately, we often act on these impulses only to realize in retrospect that the origin of the thought was from the Enemy.

Preying upon Men and Women

1 Peter 5:8-9

The image presented in this Scripture passage is that of a lion, prowling and seeking prey. Those most vulnerable are those who lack self-control and those who are spiritually inattentive. Non-believers definitely fall in these categories, but also so do many believers who lack spiritual discipline. We sometimes feel we are free to explore anything we choose with our minds and therefore, we give evil forces an entry into our minds and a place to linger. Dr. Marion G. Fray says in his book, *It Is Enough: A Healthy Inner Life*, "The Bible speaks of leftover sin (James 1:21) or the sin which so easily entangles us (Hebrews 12:1). These usually refer to some practice of habit which does not get dealt with or swept out at conversion and then becomes a source of a stronghold in our lives."

Deceit by Appearing to be Good

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

How often that which is evil so closely resembles that which is of God! These verses describe Satan as a master of masquerades, deceiving men by appearing to be good. Mohammed testifies of receiving the Koranic message from an angel of light. His wife describes his physical state during these times of revelation being characterized by foaming at the mouth (a symptom often associated with demon possession in the Scripture.) The message of the Koran is an anti-Christ message. A comparison of the message from the Sermon on the Mount (a message of peace, loving and praying for enemies, meekness and absence of retaliation) with that of Mohammed's writings forces one to ask, how could both messages be from the heart of the same God? It is likely Mohammed was deceived by Satan, who was disguised as an angel of light. How many have been led by the enemy over the edge of a spiritual cliff while believing their lives and actions are pleasing to God.

Leading a Force of Fallen Angels as a Prince of Demons

Revelation 12:9

When Satan was cast out of heaven, he was accompanied by angels who had joined his evil force. Scripture is filled with accounts of the activity of these demons in the lives of individuals. Revelation reveals the final encounter between Satan's army and the rider on the

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white horse (Jesus), in which the beast and the false prophet are cast into a lake of burning sulfur. The rest of the fallen angels die by the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the white horse. Until the day of this encounter, Satan's demons will exercise evil power on his behalf.

REFLECT #4

1. Identify an area of failure or past sin that often resurfaces to remind you of your unworthiness to share the gospel or represent God.
2. What role does the Accuser play in this process? Based upon scripture, what would God say to the Accuser about your past?
3. How would an honest search of your life and habits reveal areas where you have allowed evil thoughts or images to take root? What avenues has Satan used to plant these evil thoughts or images in your mind? What would it take to be freed from this stronghold?
4. As you seek to share the gospel in an unreached culture, what are some predictable tactics of Satan you are likely to encounter?
5. Do you feel a sense of shame about something in your past or current life that you tend to cover up? Could Satan be holding you in bondage or isolating you from God and His grace through a sense of shame? Confess this situation to God and pray. Ask Him to cleanse you from shame and guilt. Ask Him to restore a sense of purity in your self-image.

CASE STUDY: MOTHER BRINGS CURSE ON DAUGHTER

A pastor of a local congregation received an unexpected visit from a husband and wife who were experiencing spiritual oppression. Both the man and the woman were educated and held responsible positions in their community.

The couple shared their story with the pastor. They had grown up in an animistic culture where witchcraft and sorcery were common. The mother of the woman was extremely involved in evil practices involving voodoo, manipulation of spirits, and communication with the dead. The couple had been introduced to the gospel as teenagers. Both of them chose to reject the religious practices of their families and embrace Christ as Savior.

In the last few years, however, the wife had grown apathetic in her relationship with God. After fifteen years of marriage, the mother of the woman asked if she could come and live with the couple. Believing that they could be a positive influence in her life, they agreed.

Only a short time after moving into their home, the mother began seeking out witches and sorcerers in her new community. She began practicing her religion under their roof. Because they feared her influence on their teenage daughter, the wife threatened to put her mother out of the house if she would not cease the practice of witchcraft in their home. Angered by her daughter's threats, the mother called for evil spirits to bring a curse upon her daughter. Within days, the daughter began to sense a spirit of oppression. Within a few days, the wife began having episodes of uncontrollable bizarre behavior in which she would appear to be in a trance, would hiss like a snake and make sounds like a monkey. Her husband was distressed by her sudden change of behavior. He began praying for God to protect her from the force of evil spirits her mother had called into her life. Things went from bad to worse. His wife's behavior became so unpredictable she had to quit her job, which involved working with children. In desperation, the couple came to the pastor for help.

Realizing the situation was one of spiritual warfare, the pastor called his wife to come into the

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room where the couple was sitting. As he began to share the story with his wife, the woman became fixated on the pastor's wife. Her body began to sway like a snake, fixated upon a prey and ready to strike. She hissed at the pastor's wife or would make sounds like those of a monkey. The woman seemed unaware of attempts to talk to her or communicate with her. Then she would collapse in the chair as if lifeless.

The pastor and his wife began to pray for the woman. In the name of Jesus, they commanded the evil spirits to leave her. They prayed for God to exercise his strong arm against the enemy. Just when things would become calm, the woman would once again enter an uncontrollable episode. The pastor and his wife continued to pray for her continually for over an hour. But it seemed they were powerless to cast out the demons that were plaguing the young woman.

Finally, with a sense of defeat, the pastor's wife suggested they take the woman to a local hospital to see if there was some other reason for her behavior. The husband of the young woman was disappointed and somewhat resistant. He was convinced that his mother-in-law brought the curse upon his wife. He knew he would not be able to share the truth with medical professionals because they would think that he was crazy. Loading the young woman into a van and restraining her with his arms, the man wept as the pastor and his wife drove them to the local hospital.

REFLECT #5

1. Do you believe the things the pastor observed in the woman were the result of evil spirits? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think the pastor and his wife were unable to cast out the spirits that plagued the woman?
3. What would you have done if the man had brought his wife to you?
4. In Dr. Marion G. Fray's book, *It is Enough – A Healthy Inner Life*, he makes the following statement:
"Most authorities in this area agree that strongholds of the devil within believers are possible. They can be mental – in the mind, including our thoughts and imagination. They can be emotional – in the emotions, including excessive anxiety, anger, fears, feelings of inferiority, attitudes, or roots of bitterness. They can be physical – in the body of a person, manifesting themselves in sickness, sexual hang-ups, addictions, etc. Often, the thing that opens the way for strongholds is compromise or incomplete surrender to Jesus. Sometimes strongholds develop because of emotional weakness. Other times strongholds develop because we maintain that our minds are a part of our intellectual prerogative. We feel that we are free to explore anything we choose with our minds and therefore the devil finds a place to hide."

Write a response to Dr. Fray's claims about strongholds in the life of a believer.

FORMS OF EVIL IN OTHER CULTURES

God prepares His people to enter lost cultures by giving them specific instruction through His Word. As the Israelites spent time in the wilderness, God used those forty years to reveal Himself, to clarify His expectations of a chosen people (kingdom of priests), and to warn them about the forces of evil they would face once they crossed the river into the Promised Land. The end of Moses' life was spent preparing the people for entry into a lost culture among peoples whose way of life and religious practices would be in stark contrast to the worship of the one true God. After living the past forty years in relative nomadic isolation, they would find themselves entering into a land where the desire of Satan would be to infiltrate their true religion with practices of the local people. God, therefore, spoke through Moses to provide some clear examples of the types of practices that should be avoided. These are the same types of practices you may encounter as you enter an unreached culture as a light-bearer.

The most apparent expression of evil in the culture you will face is the worship of false gods. In

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some instances, the god will have a name and a personality. Sometimes there will be a plurality of gods. In animistic cultures, inanimate objects are often worshipped as god. In certain cults, a human being will claim to be God. The LORD clearly states, “You shall have no other gods before me...You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything...” (Exodus 20:3-4). In the same way that Moses warned the Israelites to be loyal in their commitment to YHWH as the One and Only God, the cross-cultural worker needs to be warned that Satan will do his best to persuade you to complete enculturation.

Bryan, a young cross-cultural worker, left his Austin, Texas church with blessing to serve among the Hindus of India. Bryan was not adequately prepared to enter Satan’s territory. Without a firm foundation in his own Christian worldview, the suffering, novelty, sincerity and forces of evil in the sea of Hindu culture soon overtook him. Four years later, after rejecting his Christian faith, Bryan returned to live in India as a Hindu and to do humanitarian work.

The cross-cultural worker must have a vital and well-informed faith to protect him or her from relating too closely to the untruth of the second culture.

FORBIDDEN PRACTICES FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Leviticus 19:31 warns, “Do not turn to mediums or necromancers; do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them.”

A description of the evil practices, which the Israelites would encounter, can be found in Deuteronomy 18:9-12: “When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord...”

Other forbidden practices for the people of God include:

- Astrology (Deuteronomy 17:3; Isaiah 47:13)
- False Prophecy (Deuteronomy 18:20)
- Human Sacrifice (Deuteronomy 18:10)

These types of practices are frequently found in unreached cultures. Utilizing James Strong’s *A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Hebrew Bible* we will explore the meaning of the forbidden evil practices the Israelites would encounter in the Canaanite peoples. (Parenthetical vocabulary numbers from Strong’s book are inserted for reference.)

Below are Strong’s definitions of these types of practices:

- **Medium** – inquires of demons and tells you what they said (7592); communicates with the dead, spirit using the voice of the person like a ventriloquist (178)
- **Spiritist / Wizard** – ability to hear from a spirit and deliver a message; worships spirits (3049)
- **Divination** – to go to Satan and his demons for counsel or questioning (7081)

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- **Sorcery** – to practice “magic” (3785)
- **Interprets Omens** – prognosticates, enchants or foretells the future (5172)
- **Witchcraft** – whispers a spell; to cast a spell, enchant, do black magic (5172)
- **Charmer** – one who casts spells (2267)
- **Necromancer** – KJV – consults the dead (4191)

God clearly identifies these practices as evil and detestable to a Holy God. These types of practices occur not only in unreached peoples, but can also be found in many North, Central, and South American subcultures where there has been a gospel presence for hundreds of years. Most unreached people groups practice these in some form. Even among Islamic people who claim to follow the teachings of Moses, it is common to use the “evil eye” to manipulate spiritual power, interact with jinns (heavenly beings who can stir mischief and can even be captured and ridden upon), use power objects such as charms to ward off evil spirits, and power encounters/locations that bring one special power or enlightenment. (The PANORAMA session on Animism and Folk Religions further explores these practices.)

REFLECT #6

You may be asking yourself, “Do people really possess this kind of power? Read 1 Samuel 28:1-25.

1. Did Saul know that seeking the advice of a medium was wrong? Why or why not?
2. Why did Saul turn to this evil power?
3. After being “called up” by the medium, do you think Samuel could have refused to communicate?
4. In what ways is this story troubling to you?

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

It is important to remember that Satan and the evil spirits must submit to God. They are often even used by God to accomplish his will. Such was the case with Job. Satan sought permission from God to test Job. Jesus told Peter, “Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat” (Luke 22:31). Satan had his way in Peter’s life for a season, provoking him to deny Jesus and separate himself from the disciples. In the case of the witch of Endor, God used the vision or ghost of Samuel to deliver a prophetic message of judgment to Saul.

While Satan has a particular measure of power, God’s will and power are immeasurably greater than that of Satan. God can use even evil people and evil acts to accomplish His will.

The best way to address the forces of evil you will encounter is to seek guidance from the Word of God. The Bible is full of advice, directives, and examples to assist the Christ-follower who is being confronted by evil forces.

Read the following passages from Scripture and list three things you learn about evil forces and confronting evil forces from each passage:

Satan Asks to Sift Simon Peter

Luke 22:31-34

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Fortune Teller Slave Girl with Paul and Silas

Acts 16:16-24

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Jesus Healed Demon-Possessed Boy

Luke 9:37-43 and Mark 9:14-29

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Jesus Gave Power Over the Enemy to the 72 Messengers

Luke 10:17-20

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Evil Spirits Recognized Jesus

Mark 3:7-12

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Jesus and the Demon-Possessed Man from Gerasene

Luke 8:26-39

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Evil Spirits Return to Wicked Generation

Matthew 12:43-45

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Satan Tempts Jesus in the Desert

Matthew 4:1-11

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

God by His Spirit Promises Divine Nature

2 Peter 1:3-4

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

CASE STUDY 3: WHEN YOU BECOME THE TARGET OF EVIL

The following experience was related in a journal entry from Paul Richardson, a cross-cultural worker in SE Asia, in his *Improv Artist*:

On Saturday morning, I woke up in a deep, dark suffocating depression. All day long I was in a dark cloud and having terrible thoughts. I was in quiet yet powerful despair. Every direction I turned, I was seeing despair and believing that I was totally worthless and that all my life stands for is worthless and empty. As strange as this sounds, I even began to imagine how I might kill myself without hurting my family. I had no energy whatsoever, all day long. I could hardly even lift my hand or eat or drink. The Pearsons needed my help to unpack a crate that had arrived. I couldn't even find the energy to go help them for one hour. I was to preach in an Indonesian church at 6:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. But I did not lift one finger to prepare for that message all day, and I went to bed on Saturday night without even one thought of preparation.

Then at 3:30 in the morning someone woke me up. He was talking to me out of the darkness. He told me that he had been sent to me to instruct me to pray. So, I got up and I went to the toilet and was going to go out in the living room to pray, but I had no strength. So I lay back down in my bed. The person again told me to pray, but I answered him and said, "I can't, I have no strength to pray." Then the voice told me that demons had been sent to my house on Friday night to attack me and to destroy me. The reason they came to attack me was that I was going to bring forth God's Word in the pulpit of a church that was in the midst of a great spiritual battle. Then I was told that if I could not pray, just to start saying the Name. So with great effort, I said the word, "Jesus." Then I said it again and again and again. Then I found that energy began flowing into my body.

*WHAT REALLY AMAZED ME LATER,
AFTER I SAT DOWN, WAS THAT MY
INDONESIAN LANGUAGE HAD
FLOWED OUT OF ME SO
EFFORTLESSLY.*

After a few minutes, I sat up, then stood up, and was eventually walking around my house. I was praying in the full-blown power of the Spirit, praying over my family, and worshipping God. Then in the power of the Spirit, I expelled the demons completely out of my home.

At about 4:30 a.m., I sat down to prepare my sermon, but then I was told not to prepare this time, but just to keep praying, that God would give me my sermon later. So eventually I went to the church and there were about 300 people there. All through the worship I still didn't know what I was going to say but I was totally relaxed, even excited and with a sense of urgency to stand up and hear what the Spirit was going to say through me. I was introduced and I went up to the pulpit.

I began to preach and the Gospel came pouring out of my soul. I was fully alive in the power of the Spirit. I could see in the faces of many of the people that they had never heard this theme before, the theme that was emerging from my soul in that moment. The theme was the Consuming Fire. God is the Consuming Fire within us, awakening us. He is the Living God expressing his passions through us. We are his hands, his feet, his heart, his mind, his body. We are filled with Wind and Fire and set on Fire with the Spirit of Christ. We are Jesus blazing

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among the lost, creating his Kingdom, advancing his Domain of love in a broken and hurting world. I could see that this message was connecting deeply and powerfully with the people.

What really amazed me later, after I sat down, was that my Indonesian language had flowed out of me so effortlessly.

After church while I was having breakfast with the elders, I discovered a little more about the history of that church. The pastor is a Spirit flowing leader and many in that church had been saved out of darkness. Hundreds of children from the community were coming to their Sunday school programs. The reason I had been invited to come and speak was that the pastor had been struck down with cancer.

REFLECT #7

1. Have you ever experienced oppression that you knew was from Satan? Please explain.
2. Is Richardson's experience of hearing a voice coming from the darkness unnerving or troublesome to you? Why?
3. What are some of the ways Richardson defended himself from the enemy in this situation?
4. Why do you think Satan was so determined to stop him from preaching?

PREPARING TO DEFEND YOURSELF

While there are many books written on doing battle with Satan, there is no instruction as reliable or as clear as the prescribed method God revealed through the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians. The armor of God described in this biblical passage is not as much an act for a specific battle (although it can be that), but rather it is a way of life that safeguards the believer from vulnerability to the power and influence of Satan.

How are you to prepare yourself and your family for the forces of evil you will be encountering among the people and culture you will enter as a cross-cultural worker?

Read Ephesians 6:10-18. This passage of scripture serves as an admonition after several previous chapters in which Paul describes to the Ephesians how to live as children of light in a dark culture. He draws sharp contrast between the lifestyle of the believer and the lifestyle of those who live in the futility of their thinking...darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them.

Paul reminds believers to "be careful how you live" (Ephesians 5:15). He goes as far as discussing the relationships with those who live in your very household – how to relate to them and how to love them best. Finally, he closes with this familiar passage on spiritual warfare in which we as believers are encouraged to put on the full armor of God.

PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

Call it armor or call it preventive spiritual health care, Paul encourages us to equip ourselves for an ongoing battle in which we become targets of Satan's assault on the people and the purposes of God. As you work among unreached people, you are entering the enemy's territory. He will not be pleased and you will not go unnoticed. It is difficult to hide a light in the depths of darkness.

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You are urged, therefore, to put on the full armor of God in order to stand successfully against Satan's tactics and schemes. Take this admonition and reflect upon the importance of each word:

PUT

Put is an action word. Preparing yourself for spiritual battle is something in which you must be proactive. You must will and act in order to be prepared.

FULL

Leaving off a piece of armor is going to leave you vulnerable to the sharpshooter. In order to stand, you must address every area mentioned in this passage.

ARMOR

This is about the defensive wear of the offensive warrior. You are entering to assault the forces of evil. You will be attacked.

OF GOD

The armor you wear was neither of your design nor the design of man. It was actually designed by God and has been worn by Him in prior battle with Satan.

The people and the focus culture are not your enemy. You will encounter culture shock. You will find yourself frequently at odds with the culture. There may be times when you are tempted to view those around you as the enemy. Ephesians 6:12 clearly states that your struggle is not against flesh and blood. It is against the spiritual authorities and powers of this dark world and against spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places.

So what is your goal? To stand, and to keep standing as the presence of Christ in the culture, even when it seems that everything is against you.

Consider the armor you are to wear:

THE BELT OF TRUTH

The Word of God is trustworthy. Over 75 times in the Gospels, Jesus begins a sentence with the phrase, "I tell you the truth." Jesus also said He is the truth. Multiple times in the scripture, God claims that His word is truth.

The belting part of ancient armor was the foundational piece upon which the skirt below and the breastplate above were attached. Positioned at center, it held the other pieces of armor in place. In the same way, Jesus is the center of our lives and the centerpiece of our message. He is truth and expects us to live in truth. That means that we seek truth, meditate on truth, speak truth, and live out truth. There is no room for deception, white lies, hypocrisy or false accusation in the life of the believer.

THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The first time we find the breastplate of righteousness being worn in scripture, God Himself is wearing it. Isaiah 59:15-20 tells of God's wrath coming like a pent-up flood because of the lack of truth and justice on earth. "...His own righteousness sustained him...He put on righteousness as his breastplate and the helmet of salvation on his head."

Paul uses this same imagery as he describes our own preparation for spiritual battle. In our

case, however, it is not our own righteousness that we wear, but it is God's righteousness in and through us that gives us strength to stand. The moment we depend upon our own righteousness, we are doomed to fall. Righteousness is not so much what we do, it is who we are. 2 Corinthians 5:21 explains it this way: "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." The righteous will stand by faith. So be faithful. Live righteousness and keep standing.

READINESS FROM THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

When the term "readiness" is looked up in the dictionary, the following definitions are found: "Prepared; Available for service; Mentally disposed; Willing; Likely or about to do something; Prompt in apprehending or reacting; Available."

Based on the Ephesians 6:10-18 passage, our readiness for spiritual battle is the result of the effective work of the gospel of peace in our life and through our life. Paul says to have our feet fitted for readiness by the gospel of peace. Again, this is not the first time we find the "feet" image in Scripture. Read Isaiah 52:7 and see how it is repeated in Romans 10:12-15. The consistent image in scripture is of swift and ready feet scaling the mountains and running to far reaches of the dark world with good news delivered by a messenger of the gospel of peace. Our ready feet are described as beautiful.

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

Isaiah 7 is a prophetic passage which tells of the coming of Immanuel, literally meaning "God with us." In this passage, the Lord encourages Ahaz as he prepares to face his enemies. Through the prophet Isaiah, God delivers a message to Ahaz, "if you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all."

How does faith act as a shield in the life of a believer? It catches and propels the flaming arrows that Satan will use to bring us down. Ben Sustar states, "The devil has many of these arrows that he regularly launches our way. Aims for some of them can be fear, doubt, anger, confusion, frustration, and half-truth. I think a favorite arrow of Satan is named 'no one will know.' While some of Satan's arrows are flaming and easily identifiable as threats from the enemy, some of them come at us with such attraction and subtlety that we lower our shield and welcome the arrow straight into our hearts."

THE HELMET OF SALVATION

The helmet is a covering for your head – the central control system of your life. When we look at references to the helmet of salvation in scripture, we find that God wears the helmet of salvation as He sweeps through in judgment, pouring out His wrath upon a people that completely lack holy reasoning and self-control (Isaiah 59).

The greatest commandment, says Jesus, is to love your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind. Prior to salvation, however, our minds made us enemies of God. Romans 8:7 says the sinful mind is hostile toward God. It is only through salvation that we have the ability to possess a transformed mind. A transformed mind moves us toward becoming like Christ. In fact, we have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). This mind, protected by salvation, helps us to make godly choices that lead to life.

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT – THE WORD OF GOD

In our war against the dark forces of Satan, take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of

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God. God describes His Word this way: “the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

So how do we take the sword of the Spirit into battle? Read it. Think about it. Meditate on it. Memorize it. Speak it. Refer to it. Use it as the standard by which all decisions are made. Teach it to children. Quote it. Eat the book (Ezekiel 3:1). Our lives depend upon it.

PRAYER

The guidelines on prayer given in Ephesians 6 specify that we are to pray in the Spirit. There is a suggestion of submission in this phrase. In the same way, Jesus commanded us to pray, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,” we are to pray with an earnest desire for God’s will to be accomplished even if we do not get our way.

When should we pray? “On all occasions,” Paul says. How should we pray? “With all kinds of prayers and requests,” he says. Prayer is our walkie-talkie, our commando radio, our satellite phone with God. When behind “enemy lines,” it is very important for us to know exactly what God is doing and what He would have us do in response to His moves. More than that, though, the God of the universe wants to have intimate conversation with each of us, His children whom He dearly loves.

BEING ALERT

In the account of the wilderness temptation of Christ, the story closes with the statement, “when the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.” Satan is looking for times of vulnerability – times when our defenses are down or we have a gap in our armor.

Some of our most vulnerable times as humans are times of fatigue and illness. Other times we are most vulnerable are when we are feeling overly confident in our own abilities, disappointed in results or lack of progress, or in times when our focus is not on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

REFLECT #8

1. By memory, list the armor Paul describes in Ephesians 6:10-18.
2. Which of these pieces of armor do you neglect to wear most often? What is the result of that neglect?
3. What fears do you have as you prepare to engage spiritual battle in your target culture?
4. How will you help your family prepare for the spiritual battles you will encounter?

AN EXAMPLE FROM HISTORY

October 31, 1517, was a pivotal day in the history of the church. In response to the corruption of and deviation from the canonized biblical material, Martin Luther chose to confront the evils that had permeated the Church and that threatened the clarity of the message of the gospel for a lost world.

While the Catholic Church was selling indulgences in order for sinners to receive God’s grace, Luther was struggling with the apparent distortions of biblical truth. He became the “enemy” of the established church. The commitment to obedience led him on a long journey that

resulted in the defection of the protestors (Protestants) from the established church, which had been the previous recipient of his loyalties and the seed-bed of his faith.

To Luther, the aberrations from truth were apparent. The elevation of the pope's authority above that of God's Word was unacceptable. The selling of God's forgiveness and grace for money was beyond his ability to tolerate. The smothering of the praises of God's people by permitting only clerics to sing was stifling. Luther knew that God was not pleased with these distortions of truth. The criticism, ostracizing, and persecution that followed were disheartening. By 1529, the movement became known as Protestantism.

It is believed that Luther composed his most famous hymn, "**A Mighty Fortress is Our God**," to share with the Protestant Reformers at the Diet of Spires that year. In that great hymn, Luther expresses his profound trust in the safety and defense of a faithful God. It is a profound message about all battles against the Enemy. Read the poetry of the hymn lyrics below and reflect upon the biblical truth contained in them. Listen on YouTube.

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Music and Lyrics by Martin Luther (1529); Translated from German to English by Frederic H. Hedge (1853). Based on Psalm 46:1 — "God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble."

A mighty fortress is our God,
 A bulwark never failing;
 Our helper He amid the flood
 Of mortal ills prevailing.
 For still our ancient foe
 Doth seek to work us woe,
 His craft and power are great,
 And armed with cruel hate,
 On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
 Our striving would be losing,
 Were not the right Man on our side,
 The Man of God's own choosing.
 Dost ask who that may be?
 Christ Jesus, it is He.
 Lord Sabaoth His name,
 From age to age the same,
 And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
 Should threaten to un-do us,
 We will not fear, for God hath willed
 His truth to triumph through us.
 The prince of darkness grim,
 We tremble not for him,
 His rage we can endure,

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For lo, his doom is sure:
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also,
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still:
His kingdom is forever.

SESSION SUMMARY

As we enter a lost culture or people group, it is inevitable that evil forces will be encountered. The Bible calls Satan the prince of this world. He is powerful in his attempts to thwart the purposes of God. Yet he is also limited in his abilities.

Satan is God's opponent, not God's opposite. As we enter his territory, it is prudent to be prepared. As Jesus was sending His first disciples into the towns and places He was about to go, He warns them: "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves" (Matthew 10:16). He also instructs them to be "as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."

A denial of the power of Satan would be counter-biblical, naïve at the least, and possibly dangerous to ourselves and those we love. As we prepare to encounter evil forces, we must understand the enemy. God has gone to great measures within His Word to prepare us for the foe we will encounter. He has provided biblical example and instruction to deal with the schemes of Satan. Readiness for spiritual confrontation, however, is proactive. We must be disciplined and trained to stand in the midst of the enemy attack. Faith in God is essential as we seek to stand in situations that test our strength and our endurance. It is crucial, however, that we remember the truth of the matter – the end of this story has already been written. Satan is a defeated foe. Greater is He that is you than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4).

SELF-AWARENESS, SURVIVAL, AND SOLUTION

1. What is your default mode when faced with unusual spiritual occurrences, evil activity, or feelings of oppression?
2. How do you respond? Do you attribute such occurrences to forces of evil or simply write them off as abnormalities?
3. How would you respond to a person in your target people group who came to you and said, "Please help me...my wife is possessed by a demon"?

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4. If you encountered a person you believed was possessed by an evil spirit and you prayed and commanded the spirit to come out, but it did not obey you, what would you do?

Imagine

Imagine that you are on a team with people who are very sensitive and frequently focus on spiritual warfare. How will you relate to this group of people?

Lifestyle

Satan would love to keep you in your safety zone. Are you currently engaging people or communities of people who allow Satan to rule their lives? Salt is no good in the shaker. You need to penetrate the world. What will you do this week to engage someone intentionally who needs to hear about Jesus?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR *EVIL FORCES*

Kraft, Charles. *I Give You Authority*. Grand Rapids, Michigan, Chosen Books, 1997.

Kraft examines the Biblical basis of our spiritual authority and power.

Van Rheenen, Gailyn. *Communicating Christ in Animistic Contexts*. Pasadena, CA, William Carey Library.

This former African missionary points out animistic undercurrents in all major religions, including Catholics, Hindus, and Muslims. He presents the biblical, theological, and anthropological foundations for ministering in animistic contexts.

Fape, Michael O. *Powers in Encounters with Power*. Scotland, Christian Focus Publications, 2003.

Spiritual warfare in pagan cultures. Fape, an Anglican Algerian minister, examines Paul's concept of spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6:10-12. Then looking at the African concept of spiritual warfare, he discusses the use of powers as weapons.

Arnold, Clinton. *Three Crucial Questions about Spiritual Warfare*. Grand Rapids, Michigan, Baker Books, 1997.

Theology professor Arnold has written a number of books on principality and powers. Here he addresses three questions — What is spiritual warfare? Can a Christian be demonized? Are we called to engage territorial spirits?

Kraft, Charles. *Defeating Dark Angels: Breaking Demonic Oppression in the Believer's Life*. Ventura, CA, Regal Books, 1992.

Kraft explains demonic myths, activity, influence, and deliverance.

Kraft, Charles. *Deep Wounds, Deep Healing*. Ventura, CA, Regal Books, 1993.

Discovering the Vital Link Between Spiritual Warfare and Inner Healing. Kraft explains the practical approach to his prayer and healing ministry that addresses the emotional roots of deep level problems.

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Arnold, Clinton. *Powers of Darkness: Principalities and Powers in Paul's Letters*. Downers Grove, Illinois, Intervarsity Press, 1992.

Arnold analyzes demons, principalities, and powers in Paul's letters. He introduces the subject by examining first century Greek, Roman, Jewish and the teachings of Jesus on magic, sorcery, and divination.

Anderson, Neil. *The Bondage Breaker: Overcoming Darkness and Resolving Spiritual Conflict*. Eugene, Oregon, Harvest House, 1990.

Anderson explains his steps to freedom in Christ. He identifies major problem areas and has prayers dealing with these areas.

Anderson, Neil. *The Steps to Freedom in Christ: A Step by Step Guide to Help You*. Ventura, CA, Gospel Light, 2001.

This small booklet contains brief explanations and prayers for the seven major areas of bondage.

Burnett, David. *World of the Spirits: A Christian Perspective on Traditional and Folk Religions*. Oxford, UK, Monarch Books, 2000.

Burnett has written a number of books on comparative religion, Hinduism, and Buddhism. In this book, he explores topics such as ghosts, ancestors, witchcraft, divination, shamans, spirit possession, sorcery and magic in folk beliefs and practices in the world religions.

Dickason, C. Fred. *Demon Possession and the Christian: A New Perspective*. Chicago, Illinois, Moody Press, 1987.

Dickason's new perspective is a return to the ancient. He makes a biblical case for the demonization of the believer supporting his case with references and cases.

Johns, Loren L., and James R. Krabill. *Even the Demons Submit: Continuing Jesus' Ministry of Deliverance*. Scottsdale, Pennsylvania, Herald Press

This compendium of papers from the Institute of Mennonite Studies contains some excellent articles. These include Paul Hebert's *World Views and Why They Matter*, and Willard Swartley's *Biblical Faith Confronts Evil Spiritual Realities*. Dean Hochstetler discusses his personal discovery of truth and includes a discussion of the issues of occult practices in today's church as well as a comprehensive pre-ministry questionnaire and definitions.

Kraft, Charles and David DeBord. *The Rules of Engagement: Understanding the Principles that Govern the Spiritual Battles in Our Lives*. Eugene, OR, Wipf and Stock, 1997.

Kraft systematically outlines the principles of spiritual conflict, ranging from the personal level to the territorial level.

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Kylstra, Chester & Betsy. *Biblical Healing and Deliverance*. Grand Rapids, Michigan, Chosen Books.

This couple focuses on four areas: ancestral sins and curses, ungodly beliefs, soul/spirit hurts, and demonic oppression.

Logan, Jim. *Reclaiming Surrendered Ground*. Illinois, Moody Press, 1995.

Protecting Your Family from Spiritual Attacks. Logan is a counselor who deals with difficult spiritual warfare issues. He begins at Ephesians 4:27 pointing out that we give spiritual ground to Satan. He discusses the most frequent areas where we give ground and steps to reclaiming round.

Wagner, Doris M. *How to Cast Out Demons: A Guide to the Basics*. Ventura, CA, Renew Books, 2000.

Wagner gives practical guidance to working with those who are demonized. The most helpful part of her book is the questionnaire and explanations of the significance of some of the questions. She also has post-prayer instructions as well as the prayer of release for Freemasons (Freemasons mainly operate within the continental USA) and their descendants.

Wolford, Marvin S. *Free Indeed from Sorcery Bondage*. Cleveland, TN, Pathway Press, 1999.

Wolford, a Congolese missionary for more than four decades, points out that sorcery binds virtually all animistic peoples. He discusses the cultural impact of sorcery, examines relevant scriptures, and provides direction for bringing freedom to those in bondage.

AUTHORS

Ben Sustar serves with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in West Africa.

Eddy Hallock is a longtime practitioner who served in many roles. Most recently Eddy was the Minister of Mission and Evangelism at Talwood Baptist Church. Eddy and his family served 16 years in Brazil. Eddy also pastored churches in Texas and Nebraska.

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