



When looking at a subject like this it is often the case that people come at it from two extremes. **Firstly** believe all of this stuff is just a load of superstitious rubbish that has more to do with the medieval church, then the true condition of the planet today. There is a tendency to disbelieve in the reality of Satan and how he can influence people today. The **second extreme** is to believe in the reality of Satan, give him more power and authority than he actually has and see demons under every stone, nook and cranny. This is often where people declare that the devil made them do things and blame every sin down to the work of Satan.

Discuss – What do you think Spiritual Warfare is / is about?
How important do you think it is in the church today?

Right from the beginning of the bible we see that there is in existence two spiritual Kingdoms. The first is the Kingdom of God, the second is the kingdom of Satan. We need to understand that the existence of the demonic kingdom is allowed by God and has to work under the rules, authority and power that God Himself has established. Therefore the demonic is subject to God and is allowed to exist only for the ultimate purpose that God has allowed it to.

The bible makes it clear that before man was made Satan and a third of the angels in heaven used their free will to rebel against God and as a result were cast down from heaven to be bound to the earth. Just as Satan was tempted by a desire to be worshipped and have power and position like God, so Adam and Eve were also tempted and fell into rebellion and sin. As a result of the fall, Humanity is born spiritual dead, under the slavery of sin and Satan and under God's wrath and judgement. **Read Ephesians 2 v 1 – 3, Romans 1 v 18 – 32.** As a result of the fall, sickness, disease and suffering have become common place and the reality of death has been established for all humanity. Relationships with God, internal life of self and relationships with others have all been undermined. Physically, spiritually, emotionally, intellectually even sexually, humanity has been affected at every level by the ripple affect of the fall in that Garden of Eden.

Read – Genesis 3 v 1 – 6, Genesis 6 v 1 – 3, Job Ch 1 v 6 – 12, Job 2 v 1 – 9, Ezekiel 28 v 12 – 19 (belief that this prophecy is not only about the King of Tyre but also about the fall of Satan.(eg You were in Eden the garden of God. – you were anointed as a guardian cherub.) Matthew Ch 4 v 1 – 11, Matthew 4 v 23 – 24. Luke 10 v 17 – 20 Acts Ch 5 v 1 – 5, 1 Corinthians Ch 7 v 5.

This highlights for us the fact that the battle ground of Spiritual warfare is focused on the freedom of the will and the thought life of an individual. **Read 1 Peter Ch 5 v 8 – 9.** In these verses written to Christians we see how Peter makes it clear that the devil is looking for signs of weakness in our lives, behaviour and relationships that he can exploit and use.

Satan's desire for the lost is to blind and harden them to the Gospel of salvation that Jesus came to establish. He does this through creating false religions and philosophies that will blind and harden the mind and heart to the truth. (This is why true evangelism has to be accompanied by warfare prayer, of setting the captives free as we share our faith with them.) He does this by bombarding people with so much busyness and desire for pleasure that they do not have time to explore the important questions of life.

Satan's desire for the saved is to destroy the work of God in the world today. His desire is to dishonour God by bringing shame and even judgement upon God's people. He does this by tempting a Christian to sin or compromise, so as to discredit the Gospel of Jesus Christ and make people blind to its power. He does this by targeting areas of weakness in our character and behaviour and subjecting these areas to temptation and hardship. – The actual name Satan means **“Accuser of God's people.”**

It is simple truth that we cannot live in full victory as a Christians unless we seek fully to live a holy and disciplined life before God. Holiness is the key to NOT giving a foothold to the demonic on matters of behaviour and sin.

The reason that Satan desires is to blind people to the truth in Christ and destroy the ability of the church to witness, is because, he already stands condemned and under the judgement of God. **Read Revelation 20 v 7 – 10** Because of this he hates God and he hates God's people.

Discuss – In what ways do you think we are subject to temptation in this society today?
What other ways do you think that we can come under Spiritual attack?

Focus of Satanic attack – is human beings and especially the people of God. Revelation Ch 12 v 13 – 17

The battle ground – is the thought life of the individual

The tactics demons use – demons plant seeds of lustful and evil thoughts into our imaginations. If left alone, these thoughts work their way into the human heart and mind. The outcome is that sin is then conceived and sinful action results!! Demons feed thoughts into the human mind to intensify the evil that is already there. The whole focus is to