

To do this we need to regularly examine our lives and relationships for weak areas and cover these areas regularly with prayer and the authority of Jesus, making sure we do not put ourselves in a place of temptation.

3) Need to learn to apply the authority we have been given in the name of Jesus!! Time and time again we see that the witness of Scripture declares to us that in the name of Jesus we have victory and freedom from the evil one. **Read** – Matt 8 v 28 – 34, Mark 16 v 17 – 18, Eph 1 v 18 – 23, Col 1v 15 – 22, 2 v 13 – 15

We see in these verses that even the demons recognised who Jesus was and submitted to His authority. As His people we have been given the privilege of both living under His authority and using the authority He has freely given us. We belong to Him and have been given his authority today to manifest his full victory over the forces of evil.

4) We need to cover each others lives with faith prayer and blessing. One of the ways that we can have consistent victor over the forces of evil is to raise up the people of God to actively pray for each other. The idea is that as we pray for each other we interlock our shields of faith and blessing and create a powerful barrier that the forces of evil cannot pierce. So when one person is weak, their lives and relationships are being covered over by prayers of faith from the strong. This powerful barrier of protection and faith enables us to not only stand but move forward into our communities so that we can take the ground and see the lost come to salvation. As we seek to live a powerful Christian life and witness to the lost, there will be times when the forces of evil will attack us and try to cause us to compromise our faith, relationships and witness. As we seek as a church to move forward more and more in discharging the full ministry of Jesus in this area and win those in darkness, we will engage in a spiritual battle for the lost. We need to take this battle seriously for the lost and for the security of our own faith and together learn to prepare the ground and use the authority that Christ has given us. **When experiencing an attack** : command the demon to leave you alone in the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Sing songs of worship to Jesus. Read aloud the words of Scripture. If it is a severe attack ask Christians friends to pray for you. Demons are there and can influence your life if you let them. However their power is limited by God and in the name of Jesus we have the victory!!

Additional Readings:- (Please Read)

Genesis 3 v 1– 6, Genesis 6 v 1 – 3, Job 1 v 6 – 12, Ezekiel 28 v 12 – 19, Matthew 4 v 23 – 24, Luke 10 v 17 – 20, Acts 5 v 1– 5, 1 Corinthians 7 v 5, Ephesians 6 v 10 – 19, John 8 v 43 – 44, 2 Corinthians 10 v 3 – 5, Philippians 4 v 8, James 4 v 7 – 8, Luke 10 v 17 – 20

When looking at a subject like spiritual warfare it is often the case that people come at it from two extremes.

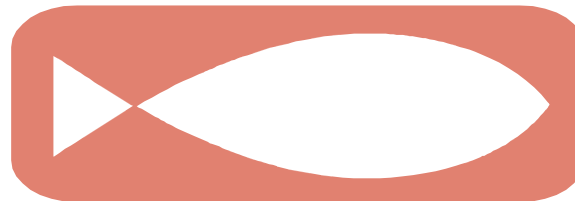
Either believe all this stuff is just a load of superstitious rubbish that has more to do with the medieval church, then the true condition of the planet today. For within the established church there is a tendency to disbelieve in the reality of Satan and how the demonic influences people today.

The second extreme is to believe in the existence of Satan and give him more power and authority than he actually has. Those infatuated with these ideas often wrongly raise the devil up to as high a position as God and see demons under every stone, nook and cranny.

Yet Scripture is clear that there are evil forces at work in the world today who have a particular agenda to accomplish.

We see within the ministry of Jesus that as he went around proclaiming the Kingdom of God is near, how often he came into contact with the demonic and how he had victory over them time and time again.

This tract is written to help you understand the reality of the battle we are in as Christians and how through Jesus we have the victory!!



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THE PRINCIPLES



OF

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

“Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is NOT against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the Spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Right from the beginning of Scripture we see that there is a belief in the existence of two spiritual kingdoms. The first is the Kingdom of God, the second is the Kingdom of Satan. **This demonic kingdom is allowed to exist by God and is subject to His authority, rules and power.** Both Scripture and the historical teachings of the

church makes it clear that before man was made Lucifer 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 and bound to the earth. Just as Lucifer 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 (another name for Lucifer) and under

God’s wrath and judgement. See (Eph 2v 1-3, Rm 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. **What we find in Scripture is that there is a spiritual battle for the lost**

and there is a spiritual battle that surrounds the people of God. The focus of Spiritual warfare is centred on the freedom of the will and the thought life of the individual. **1 Peter 5 v 8 - 9**, written to Christians makes it clear that the devil is looking for signs of weakness in our lives, behaviour and relationships that he can exploit and use against us.

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 evangelism has to be accompanied by warfare prayer, of setting the

“Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of one body. In your anger do not sin; do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold in your life.”
Ephesians 4 v 25 - 27



Captives free, as we share our faith with them.) Satan blinds people by bombarding them with so much busyness and desire for pleasure that they do not have time or the desire to explore the important questions of life.

Satan’s desire for the saved is to undermine the work that God is doing in our lives. He tries to destroy peace of mind, security of faith, intimacy of relationship not only with God, but in marriages, families and in the church. 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 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” **His desire is to be able to accuse God’s people of sin and compromise. Demons have NO authority or power over a Christian, except what we willingly give them through our sin and compromise.**

It is a simple truth that we cannot live in full victory as a Christian 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 why Satan desires 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. He knows that this is the destiny that he will inherit and because of this he hates God and he hates God’s people. His desire is to take as many people as he can to hell to share the same fate that he himself will share. If you truly belong to God and you desire to live a holy life and a life that powerfully

witnesses to Jesus, then you have entered into a spiritual battle where you wear the marks of Christ upon you and you will on occasion be spiritually attacked!!

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

The battle ground - is the thought and emotional life of the individual.

The tactics demons use - is to plant seeds of lust, pride and evil into our thoughts and imaginations. If left alone these thoughts work their way into human hearts and minds. The outcome is that sin is then conceived and sinful action results!!



Demons feed thoughts into the human mind to intensify the desire and lusts that are already there. The whole focus is to deceive God’s people. (1 Peter 5 v 8)

Process of thought attack:- **evil thought or doubt** - leads to - **free will choice** - leads to - **habit of sin or doubt** - leads to - **loss of control** - leads to - **demonic bondage** - leads to - **almost total possession.**

As you can see we are the ones who by our decisions give Satan a foothold in our lives!!

What is clear is that **Satan can only be in one place at any one time.** He is **NOT** all knowing and he is **NOT** all powerful!! But what he does have is a demonic structure that covers the whole earth that he rules over. Therefore every area of the earth has territorial rulers who oversee smaller demons that are used to tempt people, cause problems in relationships and blind people to the truth. A part of this territorial power is to try to cause depression and failure into the lives of Christians who are not disciplined in their faith. **This is all with the intention of discrediting the witness of God’s people in the world today.** Ephesians 6 v 10 - 19.

Pathway to Spiritual Victory!!

1) Jesus’ ministry was all about destroying the work of the evil one!! (1 John 3 v 7 - 8)

We see in the ministry of Jesus that not only did he come to die to save us but also that His purpose in coming was to destroy all the work of the evil one and regenerate us from the consequences of the fall. This means: Restoring the image of God within people - deliverance and sanctification.

Healing sicknesses - In His name.

Taking away the stain and slavery of sin - through his blood shed upon the cross.

Restoring people’s relationship with God - justification
Defeating death - both spiritual and physical by rising again and enabling people to truly be Born Again.

As Christians we need to understand the full victory that Jesus has established over Satan and the fall. Not only do we need to understand this but we also need to apply this victory into our everyday lives and circumstances.

2) You need to be aware of how demons attack you as an individual, attack your family and attack the church.