

The Adversary

The Christian Verses Demon Activity

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Summary

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Purpose of the Book

The purpose of the book is to approach the subject of spiritual warfare from a practical viewpoint. Believers need to know what to do and how to proceed with their responsibility to be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might ([Eph 6:10](#)).

1-The Biblical Perspective of Warfare

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph 6:12, KJV).

Satan does not yield to emotion or sincerity. He retreats only before the authority the believer has through his union with the Lord Jesus Christ and the absolute of the Word of God.

2-Warfare with the Flesh

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace (Rom 8:6, KJV).

Man's sin nature resulted from his departure from God. The Bible uses the word "flesh" to identify man's fallen, depraved nature. [\[1Cor 2:14-15, Rom 8:7-8, Rom 7:23\]](#)

The flesh tempts us to sin in several ways. [\[Mat 15:19, Mark 7:21-23, Gal 5:19-21\]](#) These all tap into our selfish desires for physical and mental gratification without spiritual responsibility. They all rebel against God.

- Adultery: sex outside of marriage
- Fornication: sex before marriage
- Uncleaness: evil or impure thoughts (viewing pornography, reading erotic books)
- Lasciviousness: stirring up lustful desires through behavior, speech, attire
- Idolatry: physically or mentally putting anything above God
- Witchcraft: occult, sorcery
- Hatred: bitterness, contempt, loathing
- Variance, quarreling: discord
- Emulation, jealousy: resentment that someone else is or has what we want
- Wrath: anger, resentment
- Strife: rivalry
- Seditions: undermining unity
- Heresies: attempts to support conduct with unbiblical teaching
- Envy: inner discontent when comparing ourselves to others

- Murder
- Drunkenness: reliance on intoxicants to create a sense of well-being
- Revelings: general sensual escapism

Warfare with our flesh is a lifetime battle. When believers exercise their will to commit fleshly sins, they give occasion for Satan to have his way in their lives [\[Eph 4:27\]](#). Failure to claim our Lord's provided victory will lead to more serious warfare and defeat.

Steps to Victory over the Flesh

1. Walk of Honesty: Ask the Holy Spirit to show you your fleshly sins [\[Gal 5:17-21\]](#).
2. Walk of Death: Consider yourself dead to sin, but alive to God [\[Rom 6:11\]](#). With each temptation, remind yourself that you have been crucified with Christ [\[Gal 2:20\]](#).
3. Walk by the Spirit: Allow the Holy Spirit to control your life [\[Eph 5:18\]](#). [Caution-This is not a subjective feeling, it is faith based on objective fact.]
 - ▶ Admit your sins [\[2Cor 13:5\]](#).
 - ▶ Confess your sins to God [\[1John 1:9\]](#).
 - ▶ Yield all areas of your life to God [\[Rom 6:13\]](#).
 - ▶ Express your desire for the Holy Spirit to control you [\[Luke 11:13\]](#).
 - ▶ Believe the Holy Spirit is in control [\[Rom 14:23\]](#).
 - ▶ Continue to obey God's Word [\[Gal 5:22-23\]](#).

3-Warfare with the World

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world (Gal 6:14, KJV).

Christians are citizens of heaven. This world's system runs counter to our high calling [Php 3:20].

Satan rules over the world system [1John 5:19]. This includes social, economic, materialistic, and religious philosophies that oppose God [1John 2:16]. The world system surrounds us with things that tempt the flesh and try to get us to question God's Word.

The world system pressures us to:

- Seek its treasure [Luke 9:23-25].
- Be ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ [Luke 9:26, 1Cor 1:18-31].
- Conform to its standards [John 15:18-19].

Victory through Our Faith

We can have victory through our faith [1John 5:4-5]. Our faith overcomes the world by:

- Inner assimilation of God's Word.
- Recalling and claiming Jesus' victory [John 16:33, John 12:31, 1John 5:5, Gal 1:4, Heb 2:18].
- Letting the Holy Spirit control our lives [Rom 12:2, 1John 4:4].

4-The Sword of the Spirit is Still the Word

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2Tim 2:15, KJV).

Memorization and meditation upon Scripture is perhaps the single greatest step a believer can take in helping overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Why We Should Memorize Scriptures

1. God's Word reveals and affects the motivations of our heart [Heb 4:12].
2. God's Word nourishes and heals us [Isa 55:11].
3. Memorizing God's Word makes meditation more effective.

We can't ignore Satan's power. The only way to stand against him is to put on the full armor of God [Eph 6:11-12].

Victory Over Satan

- The triumph of Jesus Christ is our surety of victory [Mat 4:1-11, Rom 5:12-19, 1John 3:8, Col 2:15, Eph 2:4-6, 1Pet 3:22].
- God has set believers legally free from Satan's power [Acts 26:18, Luke 10:17-20].
- By working with God, we maintain our legally purchased freedom [Jas 4:7, 1Pet 5:8-9, Eph 4:17-32, Eph 6:10-18].

5-Facing Satan's Kingdom

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (Eph 6:11, KJV).

Avoid two extremes in warfare against Satan.

1. Treating the subject of demonology lightly.
2. Being fearfully preoccupied with Satan and his kingdom.

Principles for Facing Spiritual Warfare

- Be strong in the Lord (**Eph 6:10**).
- Have a biblical understanding of the enemy (**Eph 6:11**).
- Have a biblical understanding of the powers of darkness that work with Satan (**Eph 6:12**).
- Actively put on the armor of God (**Eph 6:10-18**).

6-Understand and Don't Be Afraid

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind (2Tim 1:7, KJV).

Fear is the opposite of faith. Fear numbs and dulls our alertness. It has the capacity to make us freeze in terror. We should know about Satan's tactics and attack methods (**2Cor 2:11**, **1Pet 5:8**). We must know the biblical basis of our victory over Satan.

Satan's Tactics

- Cast doubt upon God's Word (**Gen 3:1**).
- Question God's truthfulness (**Gen 3:4**).
- Question God's goodness and motives (**Gen 3:5**).
- Tempt us to lie or believe his lie (**John 8:44**, **Eph 4:25**).
- Project evil thoughts into our mind then accuse us (**Rev 12:10**).

- Attack us physically (**John 8:44**).
- Tempt us to not forgive others (**2Cor 2:10-11**).
- Tempt us to be prideful (**1Tim 3:6**).

Levels of Warfare

- Demonic Oppression: Satan opposes each of us to varying degrees from external assaults.
- Demonic Obsession: Sometimes God allows Satan to constantly nag us. Doing this actually works out His will in our lives.
- Demonic Possession: Some unsaved people welcome possession. They think it will give them power. Others get trapped as they dabble in the occult. While Satan can intensely afflict a believer, he cannot totally control a believer because the Holy Spirit seals a believer's spirit.

7-There's Still a Place for Objective Doctrine

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (2Tim 3:16-17, KJV).

- The only effective weapon against Satan is the absolute truth of God's Word (**Mat 4:1-11**).
- We must apply the truth of God's Word in our daily lives (**2Tim 3:16-17**).
- One of the best ways to use sound Bible teaching is in doctrinal praying.
Doctrinal praying = using God's Word to claim His attributes and promises

Ways to Defeat Satan's Work Against Us

1. Resist him (**Jas 4:7**, **1Pet 5:8-9**). Submit to God. Claim your union with the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Give control to the Holy Spirit (**Eph 5:18**, **John 14:16-17**).
3. Firmly state your faith in Christ's shed blood and His resurrection (**Heb 2:14-15**).
4. Prayerfully put on the armor of God (**Eph 6:10-18**).

8-Aggressive Prayer Wins Again

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ⁵Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; (2Cor 10:3-5, KJV)

- Prayer is the chief means God gives us to appropriate victory over principalities and powers.

- It is our privilege to enter into warfare prayer on behalf of others. Some examples of intercessory prayer in the Bible include:
 - ▶ Nehemiah confessing the sins of Israel (**Neh 1:6-7**)
 - ▶ Daniel praying for his nation (**Dan 9**)
 - ▶ Paul praying for his loved ones (numerous examples in his epistles)

9-Bold Confrontation May Be Needed

And he asked him, *What is thy name?* And he answered, saying, *My name is Legion: for we are many* (Mark 5:9, KJV).

Cautions in Confronting the Enemy

We must come with an attitude of humility and dependence on God.

- Avoid being presumptuous by putting hope in your knowledge or ability. Effective warfare requires a deep commitment to the lordship of Jesus Christ and daily abiding in Him.
- Know what the Bible says about Christ's victory over sin and Satan (**Eph 1:21**,

Eph 2:6).

- Memorize passages of Scripture to use in response to attacks (**1John 5:18**).
- Depend on the Holy Spirit to guide you in responding to the enemy's deceptions.
- When helping an individual under spiritual attack, be sure the person is ready to follow Jesus upon release from the grip of evil.
- Don't assume that all physical and emotional disorders are demonic.

Sample Cleansing Prayer

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I take back from Satan the ground I gave him when I [what you did that was sinful]. I confess this as sin against my Lord and ask for Your cleansing through the blood of Christ.

10-Challenging Satan's Hindrance of Revival

Turn us, O God of our salvation, And cause thine anger toward us to cease. ⁵Wilt thou be angry with us for ever? Wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations? ⁶Wilt thou not revive us again: That thy people may rejoice in thee? (Psa 85:4-6, KJV)

Satan will do everything he can to stop a revival and the declaration of the gospel. Here are some of his methods:

- Corrupt believers [[Acts 4:31-5:11](#)].
- Create fear through persecution [[Acts 5:17-18, 27-29](#)].

- Confuse people by imitating the Spirit's work [[Mat 24:24-25, 2Cor 11:14](#)].
- Tempt believers to place experiences above the truths of Scripture [[1John 4:1](#)].
[We must measure all experience in the light of God's Word.]

Believers should cry out to God for revival [[Rev 3:18-20](#)].

11-Weapons for Warfare

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him (Jas 1:12, KJV).

Christ has provided us all the weapons we need to fight the world, the flesh, and the devil. It is our responsibility to use those weapons.

Daily Affirmation of Faith

Following is a summary of Dr. Victor Matthews "The Daily Affirmation of Faith."

I recognize by faith that:

- the triune God is worthy of all honor, praise, and worship. I choose to live for Him [[Rev 5:9-10, Rev 4:11](#)].
- as a Christ-follower, I am seated with Christ and sealed with the Holy Spirit [[Rom 8:26-39, Php 4:6-9, Eph 1:3, Eph 2:5-6](#)].
- as a Christ-follower, I am part of God's family [[John 1:12, Eph 1:5-7, John 17:11](#)].

- I am complete in Christ [[Col 2:10, Rom 8:3-4, Rom 10:4](#)]. Each day, He offers Himself to me through prayer and decisions of faith [[Gal 2:20, John 14:13-14, Rom 6:1-19, Heb 4:1-3](#)].
- the Holy Spirit seeks to lead me into a deeper walk with Christ [[John 15:26-27, John 16:13-15, Rom 8:11-16](#)].
- only through my surrender to Him can I overcome sin [[John 1:12, 1Cor 1:30, 2Cor 9:8, Gal 2:20, Heb 4:9, 1John 5:4, Jude 24](#)].

Today, I make the decision of faith to:

- wholly surrender to the authority of God as He has revealed it to me in His Word [[Rom 6:16-20, 1John 1:7-9, Heb 3:7](#)].
- renounce all non-biblical motives, goals, and activities which serve my sinful pride [[Rom 6:1-14, Gal 6:14, Eph 4:22](#)].
- resist the devil [[Eph 1:20-23, Eph 2:5, Eph 4:27, Eph 6:10-18, Col 1:13, Heb 2:14-15, Jas 4:7, 1Pet 3:22, 1Pet 5:8-9](#)].

12-Warfare through Our Oneness Together

Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits (Rom 12:16, KJV).

- Together, we are more resistant to spiritual attacks than we are apart. With this in mind, be alert and always keep praying for other believers ([Eph 6:18](#)).
- Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace ([Eph 4:3](#)).
- We wait for the blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ ([Titus 2:13](#)).