

Spiritual Warfare

Christians, Demonization, and Deliverance

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Summary

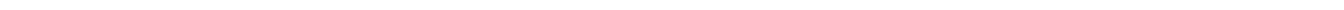
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Purpose of the Book

A wish, a hope, and a prayer are not the best response to attacks from the world, the flesh, and the devil. This book seeks to provide workable, transferable principles we can apply in our battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil.



1-Scripture is Inerrant: Manmade Paradigms Are Not

Demons are equal opportunity accusers with no regard for denominational ties or theological hobbyhorses.

2-How Did a Non-Charismatic Ordained Conservative Baptist Minister Ever Begin Working with Demonized Individuals?

The author was not seeking opportunities to work with demonized individuals.

God placed the author in circumstances where he had to attempt to help demonized individuals [[Eph 2:10](#)].

3-The Balancing Act

- The Bible indicates that the battles we face may be physical, mental, emotional, supernatural, or a combination [[Mat 4:23-24](#), [Luke 8:26-29](#), [Luke 13:10-17](#)].
- It is unwise to automatically dismiss causes that are outside your training or personal comfort zones.
- If your concern is the well-being of those God entrusted to you, you must have the integrity, security, and courage to send people where they are likely to receive the help they need.
- Fear leads people to trust in the devil's threats of harm more than Christ's promises to protect His followers [[Rom 8:31](#), [Rom 8:37-39](#)].
- Failure to prepare for spiritual war is just as irresponsible as excessive preoccupation with the subject.
- Although Christ has delegated authority to all Christians over the powers of the enemy, only those Christians who exercise this authority will realize the victory [[Luke 10:18-20](#), [1John 4:4](#)].
- Through Christ, believers are on the side of victory [[Col 2:13-15](#), [Jas 4:7-10](#), [1Pet 5:6-9](#)].

4-The World: External Solicitation to Sin

To ignore or glorify one part of the warfare pie at the expense of the other two is a tragic mistake.



3 Solicitations to Sin

The World	External
The Flesh	Internal
The Devil	Supernatural

the world = organized system in rebellion against God

- Do love the people in the world ([John 3:16](#)).
- Do NOT love the world system ([Jas 4:4](#), [1John 2:15-17](#)).
 - ▶ Lust of the Flesh: stimulation of physiological responses of our mind and body (ex. pornography, gluttony, addiction).

- ▶ Lust of the Eyes: desire for beautiful things in an attempt to achieve contentment (possessions, greed, envy).
- ▶ Pride of Life: selfish ambition (plans that leave God out).

Our struggles are much like Eve's

- Saw the tree was good for food (lust of the flesh).
- It was a delight to the eyes (lust of the eyes).
- It was desirable to make one wise (pride of life).

Biblical Solution = Evaluate

- Every time you feel tempted to trade the temporary trash of the world for eternal treasure with Christ, consider the price tag ([1John 2:15-17](#), [1Cor 3:10-15](#)).
- Always ask, "Is this a good decision from an eternal perspective?"
- Make sure you know the eternal perspective by knowing God's Word ([John 1:14](#), [John 8:32](#), [John 14:6](#), [John 17:18](#), [2Tim 2:15](#)).

5-The Flesh: Internal Solicitation to Sin

3 Solicitations to Sin

The World	External
The Flesh	Internal
The Devil	Supernatural

Don't exaggerate or minimize the reality of the flesh as an active and aggressive opponent within each Christian.

Flesh vs. Lust of the Flesh

- Lust of the flesh = external proposition intended to stimulate or control physiological urges

- Flesh = internal struggle waging war within us and against us ([Gal 5:16-17](#), [Rom 7:15-25](#))

Although life in Christ does mean we are no longer legally slaves of fleshly desires, it does **not** guarantee freedom from daily struggles. Our promise is victory in battle, not absence of conflict. We can choose to let either the flesh or the Spirit control us ([Gal 6:7-8](#)).

- Flesh ([Gal 5:19-21](#))
- Spirit ([Gal 5:22-23](#))

This is a moment-by-moment challenge. The more familiar you are with Scripture, the easier it is to recognize the choice before you at any given moment.

Methods to Overcome the Flesh

- Run [2Tim 2:22]. Don't play with fire.
- Renew Your Mind [Rom 12:1-2, Eph 4:22-24].
Fill your mind with God's thoughts to replace your fleshly thoughts.

- Walk Controlled by the Spirit [Gal 5:16].
Confess your sins to God. Yield control of your life to God. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to serve Christ.

6-The Devil: Supernatural Solicitation to Sin



3 Solicitations to Sin

The World	External
The Flesh	Internal
The Devil	Supernatural

The Christian mind is the primary battlefield of demonic attack [Eph 6:16, Rev 12:10]. A demon's strategy is to keep you so preoccupied and distracted that you don't feel available or qualified to serve God.

Demonic Accusation or the Holy Spirit?

It is demonic accusation when any of the following are true for the thought you have:

- violates Scripture
- is vague
- is demeaning and uses "you" or "we"

In these cases, pray offensively.

*Lord, if that is a demon telling me _____,
please torment the one who is tormenting me,
destroy the destroyer, contend with the one who
is contending against me.*

Psalm 35:1-8 is an example of an offensive prayer.

When accusatory thoughts continue even after consistent offensive prayers, the problem could be physiological or mental.

When demons discover a Christian who fights back with offensive prayer, they switch to less obvious and subtle tactics [John 8:32, 1John 4:4, 2Tim 1:7].

As a Christ-follower, you can choose to yield your whole self to God. You can also choose to refuse to yield certain areas of your life to God. To demons, those areas appear to have signs reading 'Vacancy-Rooms Available.' The more areas you refuse to yield to God, the less light you have to shine to others.

- Demons cannot fully own a Christ-follower. They are squatters who can do much damage [Eph 4:26-27].
- The most common method of demonic attack is habitual debilitating mental accusation [Eph 6:10-18].
- God expects us to know about the weapons systems He has designed for our protection so that we can correctly match the right system with the right enemy [2Cor 10:35].

Demons have two primary avenues for controlling Christians.

1. Unconfessed Sin: When we fail to keep sin under control, we give the devil a weakness to exploit [Eph 4:25-27].

2. Ancestral Sin: [Exo 20:4-5].

What about Rom 5:19?

■ A believer's will to fight is key. You can encourage a person to stand in Christ and fight, but you cannot stand or fight in that person's place.

■ Demons will not willingly leave individuals who are unwilling to submit every area of their lives to God.

7-Demonic Warfare: Blatant or Stealth?

The more dedicated and consistent a Christian is, the more the person must face the enemy's fiery arrows.

In North America, demons use subtle attacks. It is easier to let people who are spiritually asleep alone. There's simply no need to confront them.

8-Demonic Warfare: How Confrontation Works

God has freely given the authority, victory, protection, and position necessary for successfully challenging demons to every Christ-follower. Demons leave because the demonized individual:

1. **Confesses** the sin(s) that provided the foothold.
2. Asks God to **cancel** the ground they have given to the demons.
3. **Commands** the demons to leave, standing on the authority, victory, protection, and position God purchased and delegated to every true Christian through the death, resurrection, and intercession of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Process for Confronting Demons

1. Have the person list areas that are habitual problems including the ones in [Gal 5:19-21](#), [Col 3:5-8](#), [Mark 7:21-23](#).
2. Honestly confess all sins.
3. Lay down ground rules that the demons must follow. [See Appendix.]
4. Verbally affirm the four declarations that are true for all Christ-followers. [See Appendix.]
5. Ask five questions: Name, Source, Work, Habitual Lies, and Ground Still Held, if any. [See Appendix.]

6. Command the demon leader to leave, taking his works and effects, and all of his associates with their works and effects with him.
7. Have the person ask the Holy Spirit to fill every place, space, or territory the demons have vacated and now use those same areas to the glory of God.
8. When you have addressed all identifiable areas, command to speak to the highest ranking spirit left, other than the Holy Spirit, in case you have overlooked any demon or area.

Three Keys to Quenching Fiery Arrows

1. Practice keeping short accounts with sin.
2. Consistently practice offensive prayer ([Psa 35:1-8](#)). Read through Psalms. Put an "O" beside each offensive prayer you find.
3. Read God's Word and apply what you learn. It is difficult to respond correctly to error if you don't know what is true.

9-Demonic Warfare: Common Questions

Q: Why is there no systematic spiritual warfare instruction in the Bible?

A: Spiritual warfare was familiar to those in Jesus and Paul's day. There was no need for an instruction manual.

Q: Is it true Christians can be oppressed and non-Christians possessed?

A: It depends on how you define possession. A demon cannot own a Christ-follower; however, a Christ-follower can experience mental, emotional, and physical attacks.

Q: Why do we refer to demonized Christians if a demon cannot possess a person?

A: There's a difference between possession (ownership) and demonization (internal attacks).

Q: In what way do demons attach themselves to believers?

A: As a believer, Christ owns you; however, He has appointed you as the landlord. For any area of your life that you refuse to turn over to the lordship of Christ, there is a vacancy sign. Demons take advantage of those vacant areas. They move in and do as much damage as possible. To evict them, you must confess your sins to the owner (Jesus) and ask Him to use His power and authority to remove them.

Q: How can it be possible for a real Christian to play games with the world, the flesh, and the devil?

A: Read the Bible and be honest with yourself [[1Cor 3:1-3](#), [1Cor 6:11-12](#), [1John 1:8-2:1](#)].

Q: Can people pray for themselves to make demons leave or must someone else pray?

A: Spiritual or special gifts are not a factor in delegated authority [[Eph 1:20-2:7](#)]. All believers are equal in value and delegated

authority [[Gal 3:28](#)]. Demons do not fear people. They fear Christ. They respond to believers because of their delegated authority as members of the body of Christ. The key elements to deliverance are:

- ▶ The volitional decision to surrender all areas of your life to the control of Christ
- ▶ **Confession** of all known sins
- ▶ **Cancelling** all footholds or ground that the demons hold
- ▶ Identifying spirits and **commanding** them to leave
- ▶ Good follow-up.

Q: Was the authority Christ delegated to believers over demonic powers limited to the original apostles?

A: Jesus did not limit the authority to overcome demons to the original apostles [[Luke 10:17-20](#), [Luke 9:49-50](#), [John 17:7-23](#), [2Tim 2:2](#)].

Q: What is "ground" in relation to demonization?

A: Ground is permission to control an area in a Christian's life. When we fail to confess our sin, demons regard this as giving them ground in that area [[Eph 4:27](#)]. They will attack us in the area until we submit that area of our lives to Christ.

Q: What is the difference between oppression and demonization?

<i>Oppression</i>	<i>Demonization</i>
External	Internal
Seasons of relief	Daily
Extreme temptation	Debilitating mental anguish
Demon solicits	Demon invades

10-Demonic Warfare: Subtleties in the Battle

- Spiritual warfare is primarily mental and therefore can be subtle ([2Cor 11:1-4](#)).
- The faith and resolute obedience of the person ensnared is more important than the faith and sincerity of the person guiding them through a deliverance process.
- There is no point in trying to force someone to confront demons. They have to want to do it to please God, not you.
- Demons will adapt their approach to the individual. Tactics include lies, intimidation, distraction, confusion, and condemnation.
- A demon may give its name as the one that you had already forced to leave. The point of this lie is to get you to think that it didn't really leave because your faith was not enough. It also hopes you will think that God is not strong enough to remove it. When you sense a demon is telling a lie, ask it to declare if what it said would stand as truth before the white throne of God.
- Demons strive to divide the body of Christ. One way to do that is to get us to focus on our spiritual gifts rather than the Giver of the gifts ([John 14:21-24](#), [1Cor 14:12](#)).
- Demons enjoy getting us to believe that Jesus is not enough, that we should seek something more ([Rom 8:32](#), [Eph 1:3](#)).
- We should qualify all spiritual gifts biblically.
- To test a spirit, ask, "Will you confess Jesus Christ as having come in the flesh?" If it objects, state that the Holy Spirit commands in [1John 4:1-6](#) that we ask the question.
- Victory occurs when we resist the devil in humble obedience to God ([Jas 4:7-10](#), [1Pet 5:6-9](#)).

The Challenge: Fight Strategically, Not Just Sincerely

- It is past time for Christians to stand up to the challenge of successfully identifying and confronting the world, the flesh, and the devil. We can't afford to run from or ignore them.
- We must learn to fight our opposition biblically rather than just sincerely.
- We are living in the midst of a spiritual war ([1Cor 16:13-14](#)).
- God has called us to be soldiers, not spectators.

Appendix

The Ground Rules

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ:

- *We bind the strong man. He will not interfere in this process in any way. There will be no reinforcements of any kind.*
- *There will be one-way traffic only, from [person] to the pit. When you leave, you and your associates will take all of your works and effects with you. You are not free to reenter [person] or anyone else in the room.*
- *The answers you give must stand as truth before the throne of God.*
- *There will be no profanity.*
- *[Person] is to have complete and full control of his tongue, mind, and body. You may not control them.*
- *I will give commands stating “We command” because this is [person’s] fight. The Holy Spirit of God is going before us. We stand as a majority together against you. [Person] does not want anything to do with you. [Person] is a child of God standing against you. You are an unwanted intruder who must leave upon command.*
- *When I give commands, you will give clear, concise, complete answers in [person’s] mind. You will not confuse the mind of [person]. The Holy Spirit of God will punish you if you attempt to do so.*
- *You will clearly give your answers to [person]. You do not have the privilege of speaking directly through him in this confrontation.*
- *There will be no hiding, duplicating, or changing of authority and rank. We bind you by the authority structure you now have.*
- *When I give commands for you to answer, you will give them to [person] who will share them with me. I will not speak directly to you. You are a defeated enemy. You must cooperate with these ground rules. Your authority is smashed.*
- *We ask the Holy Spirit of God to enforce all the ground rules and severely punish any demons who attempt to violate them.*

Four Declarations

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ:

1. We declare our **victory** over all the powers of darkness through our head, the Lord Jesus Christ ([Col 2:13-15](#)).
2. We declare our **authority** over the powers of darkness through the Lord Jesus Christ ([Luke 10:18-20](#)).
3. We declare our **protection** from the power of darkness through the Lord Jesus Christ ([Luke 10:18-20](#)).
4. We declare our **position** over the powers of darkness through the Lord Jesus Christ ([Eph 1:18-23](#), [Eph 2:6](#)).

Five Questions

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ:

1. What is your name?
2. Who commissioned you in the work you are doing against [person]?
3. What work have you been commissioned to do against [person]? By what means do you hope to destroy him/her?
4. What lies do you tell [person] on a habitual basis?
5. Do you still hold any ground against [person] that would keep you from leaving him/her upon command?