

# **BIBLICAL SPIRITUAL WARFARE<sup>1</sup>**

## **The Christian Life as it Should Be!**

*We are here to undo the works of the devil!*

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- A. The Purpose of the Lord Jesus:** "Just as the Father has sent me, so I send you" (John 20:21)—just as . . . so. It is the Lord Jesus Christ, greatest of missionaries, our ultimate example, who is speaking. He expects, indeed demands, that we do like He did.
1. So then, what did He do? The Father decided and the Son obeyed: "I am here to do your will, O God" (Hebrews 10:7). (John 4:34—"My food is to do the will of Him who sent me, and to finish His work.") To any and all concerned Christians I say, we too must experience Hebrews 10:7. Any genuine, effective participation in the spiritual war begins with total commitment to the Lord Jesus, which needs to be renewed each day. Just like Sovereign Jesus, our life needs to revolve around the Father's will (John 5:19 & 12:49-50).
  2. And what was that will, in specific terms? We find it in Hebrews 2:14—the Son took on flesh and blood in order to destroy the devil (and He succeeded, Revelation 1:18); He came to undo his works (1 John 3:8). So why was that necessary? Back in the Garden, Adam turned over the administration of this world to Satan, who continued through time as the god/prince of this world [recall that after the 40 days Jesus did not deny Satan's right to offer what he did]. That is why a Second Adam (1 Corinthians 15:47; or "last", verse 45) had to come to recover all that the first one had lost [a perfect man—the virgin birth was necessary because any human seed was now contaminated].
  3. O.K., so why are we here? To continue the work of Christ. He came to destroy Satan, and He succeeded, hallelujah! (Colossians 2:15, John 16:11, Ephesians 1:20-21, John 12:31, 1 Peter 3:22, 1 John 4:4). In fact, Satan was indeed destroyed, his final destination has been decreed (Matthew 25:41), but for His own sovereign reasons, the Creator still allows the enemy to operate in this world. It is up to us to call his bluff—we have to oblige the devil to acknowledge his defeat in concrete terms (Matthew 18:18). Christ came to undo Satan's works, but since Satan continues to perpetrate all forms of evil, it is up to us to undo them, because as soon as He won the victory, Jesus went back to Heaven. Since the Church has been terribly remiss in this area, we are all obliged to live with the negative consequences of our omission. **We are here to undo the works of the devil!**
  4. From the beginning the Lord Jesus knew who He was, and why He was here. From 1 Peter 1:18-21 and Revelation 13:8 we understand that the Lamb was known and slain before the creation of this earth. In Hebrews 1:10, John 1:3, 10 and Colossians 1:16 we see that the Son was the primary agent in the creation of this world. In other words, Jehovah the Son went ahead and created this world even though He knew beforehand that He would have to be the Lamb so as to rescue it. [Our understanding is limited, but it is clear that the human race represents something that is very important to the Creator.] Upon entering this world the Son said: "Sacrifice and offering were not what you wanted, but You prepared a body for me" (Hebrews 10:5). Jehovah the Son accepted the body prepared for Him [as any true disciple also must], knowing just what was involved (John 12:27)—the Lord Jesus knew who He was and why He was here.
  5. So what? Well, "just as...so". We too must know who we are and why we are here. So, who are we?
    - a. We are human beings, created in the image and likeness of the Creator (Genesis 1:26) (a privilege and responsibility greater than we sometimes imagine). [Noah's ark; evolution is scientifically impossible; the earth is young.]
    - b. In Christ we are accepted in the Beloved (Ephesians 1:6).
    - c. In Christ we are at the Father's right hand, in Heaven, far above the whole army of fallen angels (Ephesians 1:20-21, 2:6).
    - d. "I give [as in some 98% of the Greek manuscripts] you **the** authority . . . over all the power of the enemy" (Luke 10:19). "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18).

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<sup>1</sup> All interpretations are the responsibility of the author, who does not subscribe to any denominational 'package'. (To place any doctrinal package above the Text is a form of idolatry.) I attempt to handle the Sacred text with total respect, because I understand it to be our highest authority. In passing we may observe that the Truth is not democratic, does not depend upon human opinion or vote; the Truth is. (It should also be obvious that the Kingdom of God is not a democracy.)

If the One who holds all authority has delegated to us the authority over Satan's power, then we can give orders to that power—we need to learn how to do this! However, since Luke 10:19 goes on to say, "nothing will by any means hurt you", the focus appears to be on defense—defending ourselves, and others, from Satan's attacks. But since we have access to Christ's limitless power (Ephesians 3:20), we do not need Satan's, and we should not give him the satisfaction of seeing us use it. Further, he is so crafty that the distinct possibility exists that he could deceive us into doing things that we should not. We need to ask God for an adequate understanding of just how we are to exercise our authority over the enemy's power.

- e. "As He is, so are we in this world" (1 John 4:17). The Church is the Body of Christ, so it is mainly through her that He deals with the world. (When you look at someone what you see is his body.) We are the Creator's spokesmen on this earth. (John 20:21, Luke 4:17-21/Isaiah 61:1-2, Matthew 28:20—"teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.") (In fact, we are spokesmen for the Trinity!—1 John 4:13-14, Genesis 1:26.)

**Attention:** Believers, it is time to wake up! We must realize and accept that we represent the Creator down here and He is expecting from us a posture and behavior that are worthy of our office.

6. "As He is so are we in this world"—in this world, not the next. "Just as the Father sent me, so send I you." Let us think a bit about our Lord's example. We have already said that He knew who He was and why He was here. At twelve years of age He knew that He was about "my Father's business" (Luke 2:49). He was always in control of the situation, He never showed fear. In Luke 4:28-30 He made use of God's power to avoid a premature death. In John 8:59 we find another instance where He extracted Himself in a sovereign way (see also John 10:39). In Mark 4:35-41 Satan used nature in an effort to kill Him. Even in the garden, when Judas brought the guards to take Him, Jesus, hearing that they were looking for Him, said, "I am He"—and they fell to the ground (John 18:6). He was only taken prisoner because He permitted it. As He said to Peter, He had only to ask and the Father would immediately send "more than twelve legions of angels" (Matthew 26:53). But the hour had come for Him to die, as He well knew before He came (John 12:27). Everything was under control. [John 19:11—Pilate; Matthew 27:34—gall; He shouted *τετελεσται* (John 19:30); John 10:18, 19:30 (Matthew 27:50)—He dismissed His spirit; Mark 15:37-39—centurion] {2 Timothy 1:7, Proverbs 25:26,28, 29:11, 29:25 X Proverbs 28:1} We must recover a principle that was known in the O.T. (Elijah—fire [2 Kings 1:9-15]; Elisha—bears [2 Kings 2:23-24], blinded Syrians [2 Kings 6:18]). Paul also (Acts 13:8-11).
7. That was then, but this is now, so how about us? The example of Jesus is precisely to the point, because what He did He did as a man. In John 14:12, in the upper room, that last night before the crucifixion, the Lord Jesus said to the Disciples: "Most assuredly I declare to you that he who **believes** into Me will also do the works that I do; he **will do** even greater than these, because I go to my Father." Note well, Jesus did not say, "you the Apostles", but rather, "he who believes". ("Believe" is present tense; if you believed yesterday it is not enough, you must believe today.) He did not say, "perhaps do", but rather, "will do". He did not say, "if the doctrine of your church allows", but rather, "will do". It follows that if I am not 'doing' I am not believing. That conclusion is inescapable. I used to think that to actually do the same works that Jesus did would be great, so I would have been satisfied if I could manage it. But **Jesus** would not be satisfied, because He now expects "greater" things. The secret is in the final phrase, "because I am going to my Father". With that phrase He was foreseeing His victory, because if He had sinned on His own account He would have had to pay the "wages of sin" and thus could never return to the Father. But He won, Hallelujah, and is now really and truly at the Father's right hand, "far above every principality, power, might," etc. (Ephesians 1:20-21). But Ephesians 2:6 gives us to understand that whoever belongs to Jesus is there too. That is why we can and should be doing the "greater things".
- a. Although He was indeed God, He walked this earth as a human being submissive to the Holy Spirit. [The 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam, a perfect man, had to recover everything as a human being.] It follows that we too can do the works that He did; if we are submissive to the Holy Spirit. "Just as . . . so"—we can and we should do as He did (Luke 10:19).
- b. But the Lord Jesus expects and demands "greater things"; because now He is at the Father's right hand, and **we are too** (Ephesians 1:19-22, 2:6). Ephesians 3:20—the power **at work** in us is practically unlimited, potentially; so we have all we need in order to walk as Jesus walked, wielding the power of God on behalf of God's Kingdom.
- c. Matthew 17:17-20—"perverse and faithless generation", "like a grain of mustard seed *has*". To go against known truth is to be perverse.

- d. Luke 16:10-12—"faithful in the unjust riches" → will receive the true riches (it is wise to get rid of any financial debt before taking an active role in the war). (Romans 13:8; Leviticus 19:13)
- e. John 20:21, John 14:12, 1 John 4:17—if we fail to do the "greater things" we will be cheating the Lord Jesus out of what He deserves = to see His victory being used and applied on behalf of the salvation of the world.
- f. (Our own participation in the administration of the Kingdom is at stake [Revelation 2:26-27].)

Before taking up the "greater things", as such, let us consider the Apostle Paul's missionary commission.

### B. Paul's Missionary Commission (Acts 26:17-8).

1. Jesus came back from Heaven to commission Paul—he was to carry on with the war against Satan (see Isaiah 42:7).
  - a. Open eyes—light does not help the blind; one must open their eyes first (by prohibiting the satanic blinding, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4).
  - b. Rescue people from Satan's power; bring them back to God—"so that they may receive remission of sins and a place among the sanctified".
  - c. Handcuff the strong man so as to steal his goods (Mark 3:27).
  - d. Because he interferes in the thought processes of those who are being evangelized (2 Corinthians 4:3-4, Mark 4:15, Luke 8:12). (To my mind, this access of the enemy may well be the most terrible reality that exists in this life.)

N.B.—to remove people from Satan's house is a principal way to "undo the works of the devil".

2. The strategic effect—anyone who fails to take account of these things will produce little effect, make little difference (accomplice of the enemy).
  - a. I got clobbered, being skeptical; in spite of a ThM I did not know how to bind the enemy. I was demoralized, and since I was Christ's representative He was too! (Jesus sent me to the Amazon jungle to an indigenous people to try to extract them from Satan's house.)
  - b. Most of the ethnic groups of the world are animists or otherwise concerned to coexist with evil spirits, waiting for a power able to free them from the demons. Lamentably, the large majority of missionaries working with such peoples are also skeptical (as I once was)—they do not know how to impose the victory of Christ upon the enemy. The general result has been **evangelical syncretism**.
  - c. "A place among the sanctified"—in the first place this presumably refers to our position in Christ (final sanctification), but I believe it also refers to our daily experience—most of those who are called to transcultural work are defeated by the enemy before they leave home; of those who do reach a mission field, half return home defeated within four years—we must understand that we are at war!
3. The spiritual war (Ephesians 6:10-19)—we are in a war universal in sphere, and everything we do acquires its main significance in the context of that war (Luke 11:23); actually we are on the battlefield—it is necessary to take all due precaution. To be more precise, we are in a wrestling match with malignant spirits (Ephesians 6:12) [1 Peter 5:8].
4. The guarantee of the victory—Jesus died in order to destroy Satan, and succeeded! (Hallelujah!) In any war it is normally an advantage to take the offensive and maintain the initiative. The wars that the USA fought in Korea and Vietnam illustrate clearly the calamitous consequences of fighting a war of containment, only [the Persian Gulf war was far better in terms of strategy]. We should learn from such examples. We should attack the enemy at his base of supply, his backyard, his headquarters. The idea is to get rid of him, if possible. Satan and his angels, the demons, are totally bad, malignant, incurable, irrecoverable—there is absolutely no way to help them, improve them, save them. They hate us and are becoming ever more aggressive against us. Knowing that they are condemned (Matthew 25:41), their only 'pleasure' is to do as much damage as possible, dragging the 'image of the Creator' in the mud. We need to get it into our heads that we are in a war without truce, quarter, pity or compassion. So now let us take up the "greater things".

### C. Taking the Offensive—the "greater things" (John 14:12, Ephesians 3:20-21). Things that the Lord Jesus refrained from doing until He won the victory (got to the cross without sinning) we now can and should do, on the basis of the victory already won.

1. Our position and authority.

- a. We are in Christ at the Father's right hand (Ephesians 1:19-22, 2:6, 1 John 4:4) and therefore (far) above Satan and all the demons, in all their ranks.
  - b. Satan is already defeated (Colossians 2:15, John 16:11, 1 Peter 3:22, Hebrews 2:14, John 12:31, Ephesians 1:21). But God, for His own sovereign reasons (which He has not revealed very clearly), permits the enemy to continue operating here, on the basis of bluff or usurpation, as if nothing had happened. It is up to us to call his bluff, to impose his defeat upon him.
2. Bind Satan (Mark 3:27, Matthew 18:18). Jesus declares that it is necessary, but does not explain how it is done. In our experience it works like this: you take your place in Christ (consciously), claim His victory and authority, and in so many words forbid any satanic or demonic interference or activity with reference to a specific person, place, occasion, etc. (Do not forget those who are being evangelized.)
    - a. It appears that we must be specific. I have tried to bind Satan once for all until the end of the world, but it did not work. Why? I suppose that if it should work it would frustrate God's sovereign purpose whereby He still allows Satan to work, and obviously He will not permit that; also, He is training us for our future responsibilities.
    - b. Bind local 'strongmen'—territorial demons (Daniel 10). Pound the enemy with heavy artillery before the arrival of the missionary. [war in the Persian Gulf]
      - 1) Pacts with demons made by ancestors. Spiritual mapping.
      - 2) Injustices perpetrated in the past (2 Samuel 21:1-6, 14). Identificational prayer.
      - 3) Local curses/maledictions: Matthew 10:14-15 (Acts 13:51, Matthew 11:21-24)—missionaries and pastors who left defeated/bitter (John 20:23).
  3. Send demons to the Abyss (Luke 8:31, Revelation 9:1-11).
  4. Destroy strongholds and "sophistries" (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). Retaking areas from territorial spirits (cardinal points).
    - a. At the level of countries or regions: religions / worldviews / ideologies. We can wage war around the world, in the spiritual realm, fighting beside our missionaries.
    - b. At the level of the individual: strongholds (beachheads) in people—curses, pacts, fetishes (Exodus 20 X Ezekiel 18). [2 Corinthians 5:17 "everything became new" = potentially. Neither the blood of Christ nor the grace of God will necessarily or automatically free us from the consequences of our sins in this life (just in the hereafter).] Jeremiah 17:5—to confide in man brings a curse.
  5. Impose the authority of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5-6, Matthew 18:18b) (activate angels—Hebrews 1:14; Matthew 26:53, 18:10; Acts 12:15).
    - a. Influence governments—"take thoughts captive". (Influence the thoughts of government officials.)
    - b. Influence people and nature (Luke 10:19 and Mark 16:18) (Jesus—Luke 4:28-30, John 8:59, 10:39; Mark 4:35-41—He quieted wind and water).
    - c. "Punish disobedience"—2 Corinthians 10:6 (judgment begins at House of God); Psalm 149:7-8.
  6. Undo the works of the devil (1 John 3:8; Luke 10:19).
    - a. In society (1 Timothy 2:1-4). The Church, "pillar and foundation of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15). Proverbs 25:26 X Proverbs 28:1; Proverbs 28:4, Zechariah 5:1-4. (Psalm 149:5-11)
    - b. Consequences in specific cases (disease, etc.)—(Jesus—Mark 4:37-9).
    - c. In nature, especially in human bodies. [Some years ago Dr. Ralph Winter suggested that all pathogens are the work of Satan—he alters good bacteria created by God. The hypothesis is plausible; since he manages to alter human beings (who are infinitely more complex) to alter a microbe is 'small potatoes'. By all means, let all of us work at testing the thesis—the potential is staggering.] See my essay, "Concerning Pathogens—Origin and Solution".
  7. Order Satan to return what he has stolen from us, directly or indirectly ("four/five times as much"—Exodus 22:1; or even "seven times"—Proverbs 6:31). The 'goods' that we are to plunder, Mark 3:27, include more than the persons that are in Satan's 'house'; they also include the money and material goods that he has stolen from God's servants and the Cause of Christ over the years. [I am not yet sure as to just how to go about this; if you know, please tell me.]
  8. "As He is, so are we in this world" (1 John 4:17). The Church is the body of Christ. The prerogative to judge the world—John 5:22, 27; Psalm 149:5-9; 1 Corinthians 6:2-3; Zechariah 5:1-4. [dominion of the world: God → Adam → Satan → Christ → us]

- (9. Careful with competition against ‘saints’ and shamans—take care that God will receive the glory for a healing, etc.)

Now then, be not deceived. We are at war, and the enemy will certainly fight back, retaliate. It is absolutely necessary to be alert and prepared, and to know how to defend yourself.

**D. Weapons of Defense:** God does not send us against Satan without defense—we have the best weapons, but we must know what they are and be prepared to use them.

1. Free yourself from aftereffects of the past—‘interior healing’.
  - a. Be baptized (break your link with the world and the devil). Invoke the Lord (1 Peter 3:21).
  - b. Pacts and curses that come through others (Exodus 20:5). Leviticus 26:40 teaches explicitly, Jehovah speaking, that it can be necessary to confess the iniquity of our forebears. (But against current attacks we should bind the enemy.)
  - c. Contamination by ‘transferred’ spirits (Ness). If you embrace a lie, you invite Satan into your mind.
  - d. Pacts and curses for which we ourselves are responsible (Jeremiah 17:5, 48:10 [against ‘pacifism’], Revelation 3:16, Malachi 1:8, 13-14, 3:8-9).
  - e. “I won’t accept that!” If resisted, the Holy Spirit withdraws, and Satan takes advantage—that area may become a stronghold of Satan in one’s life. Our ignorance of the Bible and of spiritual realities is an open door inviting Satan into our minds. When someone is more concerned to defend his point of view than to hear God’s Word, it is quite possible that his point of view is in fact a stronghold of Satan in his mind.
  - f. Snares of the devil (masonry—John 8:12, transcendental meditation, theory of evolution, pornographic material, etc.)—2 Timothy 2:26, Acts 8:23, Exodus 23:33, Joshua 23:13, 2 Timothy 2:26, 1 Timothy 3:7, Acts 19:19.
  - g. Alliances with sin—Hebrews 12:1 (fornication, abortion, divorce) (Judges 2:23, 3:4) (Psalm 109:17-18). (Satan exploits trauma, any and all trauma.) Idolatry—the doctrine of the church is placed above the Word of God, Mark 7:7-8 (Isaiah 29:13). (Like a dog on a leash, with Satan holding the other end.)
  - h. Capital sins—God decrees death: witchcraft (Exodus 22:18,20, Leviticus 18:21,29, 20:27); bestiality (Exodus 22:19, Leviticus 18:23,29, 20:15-16); homosexuality (Leviticus 18:22,29, 20:13, Romans 1:26-27); incest (Leviticus 18:6-17,29, 20:11-12); adultery (Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 18:20,29, 20:10, Proverbs 6:32-33—it destroys the soul, the reproach lasts until the grave). Romans 1:32 makes clear that those who practice such things (among others) “**are** deserving of death”—it does not say “were”, but “**are**”, now, in this time of grace (Romans was written after Pentecost). God’s moral standards do not change, because His character does not change—with “the Father of lights” there is “no variation or shadow of turning” (James 1:17); “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). It would not surprise me if such crimes against the Creator were to require special procedures so as to become liberated to really get involved in the war. (See chapters 9 and 12 of *Becoming a Vessel of Honor in the Master’s Service*, by Rebecca Brown.)
2. Free yourself from complications in the present.
  - a. Do not give place to the devil—Ephesians 4:27.
    - 1) Ephesians 4:26—anger, hate, resentment if harbored and nurtured become Satan’s saddle horses.
    - 2) Lack of pardon—Matthew 6:14-15 (Ephesians 4:30-32). (“Your Father in heaven will not pardon you”—what did the Lord Jesus mean? Even if we choose a less troublesome interpretation—that there are two types or areas of divine pardon, the pardon that gives justification and eternal life to the regenerated and the pardon that reestablishes fellowship and depends on constant confession [1 John 1:9], and that the pardon here is of the second type—we are looking at a serious matter. If God does not pardon me, because I do not want to pardon, then I remain out of fellowship, which will certainly affect my protection—I am open to the enemy’s attacks without understanding what is going on.)
    - 3) Do not dally with Delilah (Samson). Do not set anything wicked before your eyes—Psalm 101:3 (Psalm 119:37, Philippians 4:8). (Television, videos, Internet—a diet of pornography, violence, perverted values, occult, destruction, etc., is guaranteed to subject you to satanic influence, because if you feed the flesh, the Spirit withdraws.)
  - b. You must understand that we are not automatically free from curses and other attacks from witches and warlocks; they can project their spirits, etc. (See also Psalm 37:14-15.) Retaliation most

certainly exists, and it will come against anyone who gets involved in spiritual warfare, but there is protection—Joel 3:4.

- c. Inappropriate prayers and maledictions proffered against us by fellow Christians—Gal. 5:15 (Proverbs 28:9, John 20:23). A believer can curse just with his thought. (When God cannot use a prayer it plays right into the enemy's hand. Our churches are full of people who have been wounded by other believers.) (We need to keep alert, repel such attacks, ask for God's counter blessing [Psalm 109:28], take their thoughts captive [2 Corinthians 10:5], overcome evil with good [Romans 12:14, 17-21]—do not descend to their level.)
- d. Curses through the church—Malachi 2:1-3, 7; Hosea 4:6<sup>b,c</sup>; Jeremiah 23:14,17,22. ['the Lord's anointed'—only by direct command from God; that anointing is not for life; it does not exist in the NT] ['apostolic succession'—ordination by pastors who are masons, evolutionistic, arrogant sinners, etc.] When the hierarchy has an alliance with evil (Jeremiah 20:1-4)—when the head pastor persecutes a prophet sent by God, that pastor becomes a curse. See also Matthew 23:2,13,15,33, 15:9. The spirit of impunity that pervades the society at large has invaded the churches; the same holds for the spirits of materialism, humanism, relativism. They curse lives.
- e. Protection/coverage lacking—irresponsible husband, etc. (1 Corinthians 11:9-10; Numbers 30:3-15.)

3. The armor in Ephesians 6:13-18 (there is nothing to protect the back—we must face the enemy).

- a. Truth—any lack of truth in my life will be an opening that the enemy will certainly take advantage of.
- b. Justice—any lack of justice in my life, likewise.
- c. Training—to go out to war without adequate training is like going barefoot; you step on something sharp and then have to limp. A wounded foot in a wrestling match is very serious.
- d. Faith—in God (Ephesians 6:16). We must know that our God is the greatest! (Rebecca Brown, in *Becoming a Vessel*, says we can use the shield and sword literally against witches/warlocks.)
- e. Assurance of salvation.
- f. The Word of God (Ephesians 6:17)—Jesus illustrated the defensive use after the 40 days (repel fear, accusations, etc. on the basis of the Word).
- g. Prayer (Ephesians 6:18-9)—since our war is spiritual it is mainly waged in the spiritual realm, that is, in prayer. (A missionary needs a good number who will pray for him, verse 19, and with perseverance.)

4. The greatest defensive weapon = "resist" (James 4:7).<sup>2</sup> One must submit to God first. "Resisting" works like this: recognize that the enemy is at work in a specific case and then repel him in the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. 'Casting out' demons = "resist"; it works in the same way.

Now then, Satan prefers to keep people and churches in ignorance and skepticism about him, but when someone wakes up to this truth then the enemy works to confuse the issue, thereby reducing the damage he will suffer. Calmly and humbly I wish to discuss certain 'myths' in this area, at least as I see it.

- a. "Resist" is not a gift; it is a command (1 Peter 5:9). A gift is for the few who receive it, a command is for all. (Protect your own family.)
- b. Do not ask God to do it; He has ordered us to do it (on the basis of His victory / in His name). It would be disobedience, not humility. We can do what the archangel Michael could not (Jude 9)—in essence we are superior to the angels (Genesis 1:26, Romans 8:17, 1 Corinthians 6:3, Colossians 2:18, Hebrews 1:14, Ephesians 1:21, 2:6).
- c. Do not ask permission—war is war. It is not necessary to be physically present; in the spiritual realm we can fight around the world.
- d. Prayer and fasting (Mark 9:29, Matthew 17:21 [over 99% of the Greek manuscripts have "fasting"—the few that do not are of inferior quality]. Does my fasting add anything to the victory of Christ or the power of God? (The 'rules of the game' may now be different, since the Victory—Ephesians 1:20, 2:6.)
  - 1) if you have authority you do not need to yell (demons are not deaf)—avoid any semblance of sensationalism [religious culture].
  - 2) it is not necessary to lay on hands or burn objects (except that fetishes and satanic artifacts should be destroyed). (In the O.T. things were different, but with Christ's victory the rules changed.)
  - 3) do not destroy things without the permission of the owner.

<sup>2</sup> I first wrote this some thirty years ago, and I have learned a few things since then. I would now say that Luke 10:19 offers us a still better weapon than James 4:7, but I will leave this discussion as it is, with the promise that I will take up Luke 10 in a bit.

- e. Demons are 'con men'—they will try anything to mislead or confuse us.
- 1) resist any and all and forbid their return—better yet, send them to the Abyss; also seal off the person or place against any other demons.
  - 2) do not converse with them—they are liars by nature. Note Deuteronomy 18:9-14 and John 8:44. To be a spirit medium is sin; to interrogate a demon is to oblige the demonized person to serve as a medium. To listen to a demon speaking through a witch is to be an accomplice to sin.
  - 3) you do not need to know its name—expel all at one time, like Jesus did (Luke 8:30-33).
  - 4) careful with 'experiences' ; Satan is a veritable 'factory' of experiences.
- f. What if the demon does not obey? (When a 'demon' does not obey our command, remember that it may not be a demon at all, but a projected human spirit; not being a demon the spirit does not obey; in such an event it is necessary to repulse the projected spirit, specifically.)
- 1) start with the boss (James 4:7).
  - 2) join forces (Matthew 18:19, Mark 9:29).
  - 3) send to the Abyss (Luke 8:31, John 14:12).
  - 4) God is sovereign—He wants to teach us something new. Or else, hear from Him if there is a pact or other complication.
    - a) praise.
    - b) forgive.
    - c) humility.
    - d) faith—"faith is the substance of things not seen" (James 4:7 "will flee"). Why keep repeating the order? It is God who makes it work, and **He** is not deaf (so why repeat?).
  - 5) activate angels—Hebrews 1:14, Matthew 26:53.
  - 6) at times people pretend to be demonized (to get attention or to get even).
5. 'Cover with the blood of Christ', forbid attacks before they happen. (Bind Satan every morning and every night.)
6. Questions to be researched.
- a. Do certain cases require that you speak out loud? When the challenge is public the answer should also be.
  - b. Are there time limits? For instance, with reference to forbidding new attacks. (A demon that has been sent to the Abyss should not return.)
  - c. Satanism ups the ante. (demon + human = ?)  
 ['astral projection'—possible biblical examples (2 Kings 5:26, 6:12 [Elisha]; Matthew 17:25, John 1:48 [Jesus]; 1 Corinthians 5:3-4, Colossians 2:5 [Paul]).  
 [human robots, werewolves, humanoids, etc.]
7. Careful with 'gifts' that may be cursed; bless everything you eat, or that you bring into your home.
8. Dangers.
- a. Counter-attacks / retaliation [accidents, sickness, calamity, financial problems, child born with defect].
  - b. Watch out for pride (James 4:6).
  - c. Do not leave a vacuum (Matthew 12:44). When you repel an evil interference you should also introduce a positive influence (Matthew 18:18, 26:53).
  - d. Spiritual pacifism (Psalm 78:9, Jeremiah 48:10).

### 9. Luke 10:19—Defense that shades into offense

Luke 10:19—"Take note, I am giving<sup>3</sup> you the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions,<sup>4</sup> and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing at all may harm you." In Matthew 28:18 Sovereign Jesus

<sup>3</sup> Instead of 'am giving', perhaps 2.5% of the Greek manuscripts, of objectively inferior quality, have 'have given' (as in NIV, NASB, LB, TEV, etc.)—a serious error. Jesus said this perhaps five months before His death and resurrection, addressing the seventy (not just the twelve). The Lord is talking about the future, not the past; a future that includes us!

<sup>4</sup> The Lord gives us the authority to "trample snakes and scorpions". Well now, to smash the literal insect, a scorpion, you do not need power from on High, just a slipper. To trample a snake I prefer a boot, but we can kill literal snakes without supernatural help. It becomes obvious that Jesus was referring to something other than reptiles and insects. I understand Mark 16:18 to be referring to the same reality—Jesus declares that certain signs will accompany the believers (the turn of phrase virtually has the effect of commands): they will expel demons, they will speak strange languages, they will remove 'snakes', they will place hands on the sick. ("If they drink . . ." is not a command; it refers to an eventuality.) But what did the Lord Jesus mean by 'snakes'?

In a list of distinct activities Jesus has already referred to demons, so the 'snakes' must be something else. In Matthew 12:34 Jesus called the Pharisees a 'brood of vipers', and in 23:33, 'snakes, brood of vipers'. In John 8:44, after they claimed God as their father, Jesus said, "You are of your father the devil". And 1 John 3:10 makes clear that Satan has many other 'sons'. In Revelation 20:2

affirms that He holds "all authority in heaven and on earth", so He is clearly competent to delegate some of that authority to us—note that He has given us the authority, the Greek Text has the definite article. We may have any number of enemies, but the enemy is Satan. The phrase, "all the power", presumably includes his works, followed by their consequences. Now then, just how does "authority over all the power of the enemy" work, in practice? Authority controls power, so can we command Satan to do things? Perhaps, but I would not recommend it (Satan is so much smarter than we are that he could easily trip us up, get us to do wrong things). More important, we have access to a power that is far greater; consider Ephesians 3:20.

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to the power that is working in us,<sup>5</sup> 21 to Him be the glory in the Church in Christ Jesus, to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."<sup>6</sup> Ephesians 1:19 spoke of "the exceeding greatness of His power **into** us who are believing"—note that the verb is in the present tense; having believed yesterday won't hack it, we must believe today. This tremendous power that God pours into us, as we believe, exceeds our powers of imagination. Well now, my personal horizon is limited and defined by my ability to imagine. Anything that I cannot imagine lies outside my horizon, and so obviously I won't ask for it. But for all that we can imagine we should use Christ's limitless power, not Satan's. Since He goes on to say, "nothing at all may harm you", I suppose that we are to forbid Satan (and his servants) from using his power against us. This I am doing. We can protect ourselves, our families, our ministries—anything within Christ's Kingdom. I do this every day, so as not to forget and not to get careless. A defense that stops attacks from reaching us is obviously a great defense! But why stop at defending ourselves? Why not forbid the use of Satan's power in other ways? How about forbidding any use of Satan's power in our government, in our schools, in our hospitals, in the media? And why limit our activity to our country? How about forbidding any use of Satan's power in Iraq, in Iran, in North Korea, in Kenya, etc.? Well, well, well, am I getting carried away? Perhaps, but have I given you food for thought?

Seriously, there may be a significant difference between defense and offense. For defense we have the Lord's promise, so we can bank on that. As to offense, some other factors probably enter in.

- 1) The consequences of sin: we should not try to protect people from such consequences. This includes the religion and the government that people choose.
- 2) God sovereignly allows Satan and the demons to continue operating in this world, and presumably He will not allow us to frustrate His purpose in so doing.
- 3) A word of caution occurs to me: we are at war, and the more we expand our radius of operation, the more effort the enemy will expend to hinder us (be prepared).

We will be well advised to maintain a conscious submission to the Holy Spirit. More precisely, we need to try to follow the example of Sovereign Jesus. In John 5:19 He said: "Most assuredly I say to you, the Son is not able to do anything from Himself, except something He sees the Father doing; because whatever things He does, precisely these the Son also does." I find this statement to be amazing, revealing and challenging. Jesus only did what He saw the Father doing; so how about us? I would say that my main 'ministry' problem is that I often do not know what the Father is doing, and so I waste a lot of time and effort. But with reference to taking the fight to the enemy, we most certainly need the Father's backing.

**N.B.:** Our defensive weapons are the best and perfectly adequate (once you know how to use them), but it is not wise to remain in a defensive posture, just waiting for the next blow, letting the enemy keep the initiative. Let us take the offensive; we should control the sequence of events. In any war it is important to know the enemy.

**E. Who is the Enemy?**—Satan, "your adversary" (1 Peter 5:8). The Bible has much to say about Satan and his angels (the demons), and the Lord Jesus gave clear teaching about them—so if you do not believe in them you are rejecting His Word. Satan "deceives the whole world" (Revelation 12:9), is our "accuser" (Revelation 12:10), is the "tempter" (1 Thessalonians 3:5), presents himself as an "angel of light" [he once was] (2 Corinthians 11:14), is "prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2), is "the god of this world" (2

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we read: "He seized the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is a slanderer, even Satan, who deceives the whole inhabited earth, and bound him for a thousand years." If Satan is a snake, then his children are also snakes. So then, I take it that our 'snakes' are human beings who chose to serve Satan, who sold themselves to evil. I conclude that the 'snakes' in Luke 10:19 are the same as those in Mark 16:18, but what of the 'scorpions'? Since they also are of the enemy, they may be demons, in which case the term may well include their offspring, the humanoids [see my essay, "In the Days of Noah"]. I am still working on the question of just how the removal is done.

<sup>5</sup> I sadly confess that I have not yet arrived at a spiritual level where I can unleash this power—I have yet to make the truth in this verse work for me. But I understand that the truth affirmed here is literal, and I only hope that others will get there before I do (so I can learn from them), if I keep on delaying. The whole point of the exercise (verse 21) is for God to get glory [not for me to have a good time, although if I ever get there I will certainly have a great good time!], and to the extent that we do not put His power in us to work we are depriving Him of glory that He could and should have.

<sup>6</sup> The glory that God gets from the Church will go on forever.

Corinthians 4:4), is "the prince of this world" (John 16:11, but already deposed—John 12:31), and the whole world "lies" in him (1 John 5:19).

1. His origin and fall—the highest created (angelic) being (Ezekiel 28:12-17, Isaiah 14:12-15)—he did not fall alone (Daniel 10:12-13, Revelation 12:4)—he did not lose his rank (Jude 9, Ephesians 6:12, 1:21)—they number over 50 million (Revelation 5:11).
2. Consequences for us: So what? What does all this have to do with evangelism and transcultural mission? Everything (Mark 3:27, 2 Corinthians 4:4, Mark 4:15).
  - a. When you attempt to extract a people (or person) from Satan's power, all you have facing you is merely the most powerful, intelligent and now malevolent created being in the universe.
  - b. Why does not God protect His servants? He must allow us to take the consequences of our culpable ignorance. We have to learn.
  - c. Did not Jesus win? Was not Satan defeated? So why do we have such a problem? (They operate on the basis of bluff or usurpation—it is up to us to call their bluff; we must oblige them to recognize their defeat.)

**F. How do Satan and the Demons Operate?** Let us go directly to the Sacred Text (Luke 9:18-22 and Matthew 16:13-23)—we are faced with a terrible truth, we have an invisible enemy who has access to our minds!

N.B. One needs to understand that the moment that he was born in this world, he was born in a battlefield. Satan and his demons hate people because we are in the image of the Creator (spite). But when you believe into Sovereign Jesus their rage increases, because now you are an enemy soldier (not a civilian). You will be attacked.

1. They attack our minds—Peter (Matthew 16:23; the "sifting"—Luke 22:31), my own experience, business meetings [blanks, inverted ideas].
  - a. Against prayer (Daniel 10:12-13)—serious prayer attracts interference [sleep, phone, visitor, dogs, children].
  - b. Against physical life—Ananias (Acts 4:32-5:10; cf. 1 Chronicles 21:1).
  - c. Against eternal life—Judas (John 13:2 and 27; cf. John 17:12, Matthew 26:24)—and not only Judas (2 Corinthians 4:4, Mark 4:15).
  - d. Other evidences—Satan "corrupts minds" (of believers, 2 Corinthians 11:3), the tongue "inflamed by hell" (James 3:2-12), fear in witnessing (2 Timothy 1:7), nightmares ('nightmare' 400 years ago), Spiritism and Satanism (drugs, pornography, 'rock', homosexuality, abortion, etc.).
  - e. They falsify the gifts of the Spirit—to deal with the charismatic gifts demands discernment, because Satan also gives prophecy, tongues, healings, etc. The damage that the enemy produces in this area is terrible. (Casting out demons has no necessary connection with the charismatic gifts.) 1 Corinthians 14:39.
  - f. They deceive and give false doctrine (1 Timothy 4:1) ['brilliant' ideas]. They build up strongholds of the enemy in people's lives; and in churches, missions, ministries (you cannot be too careful).
    - 1) Systems of thought (evolution, relativism, humanism, 'free' sex, homosexuality, etc.)
    - 2) More restricted theories (against the Sacred Text, against language).
    - 3) Within the churches ('a demon cannot read one's thoughts'; 'a believer cannot be demon possessed').
  - g. They read our thoughts—it is not a big problem, but avoid a false 'security'. This has nothing to do with omniscience (advanced technology in aviation—our thoughts project beyond our skulls).
2. They influence physical objects.
  - a. They attack health: Job, Paul (2 Corinthians 12:7), "daughter of Abraham" (Luke 13:11,16), personal experience, mixed symptoms.
  - b. They manipulate objects: computers, haunted houses, ex-spiritists.
  - c. They materialize themselves (werewolves, rape, UFOs).
  - d. They use objects to plague lives and homes (fetishes, artifacts, cursed objects).
3. Within Spiritism.
  - a. They imitate deceased persons.
  - b. They can cure (for a price).

- c. A higher ranking demon can expel a lower ranking one (Matthew 7:22).
  - d. They can cause supernatural phenomena.
  - e. By order of a medium they attack (and kill).
  - f. They assist a person in 'projecting' his spirit (and to materialize in another form [really!]).
4. They tempt us to evil (this is not demonization)—Christ (Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13), us (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13)—but God does not tempt (James 1:13).
  5. Things attributed to Satan.
    - a. He influences human culture (1 John 5:19, "the world") and people (Ephesians 2:2).
    - b. He prepares "snares"—deceived Christians (2 Timothy 2:26), pastors (1 Timothy 3:7).
    - c. He tempts, deceives, accuses (see F).
  6. Implications.
    - a. If we could really appreciate how much they disturb our lives (they also attack our finances) we could transform them (remember Ephesians 6:12). (Most of us cannot imagine what goes on out in the world—there is heavy demonic participation in suicides, drug addicts, homosexuals, pornography, rock music, crime, violence, etc.
    - b. However, there is not necessarily a demon under every stone or behind every tree—we must use discernment.
    - c. Do not try to blame the enemy for the evil that you do—we are sinners by nature.
    - d. Their attacks may be indirect (letters, telegrams, phone calls); they attack a child to trouble the parents, etc.

N.B.: My purpose in spending so much time on the enemy is not to exalt him or venerate him, assuredly, but to help the reader recognize and realize the danger that faces him. To deal successfully with a wild animal one must respect the danger it represents; if you do not, you will get the worst of the encounter. We have a terrible enemy that must be dealt with, but our Master, Sovereign Jesus, has placed at our disposal a variety of weapons that are entirely adequate, not only for defense but also for offense, so as to impose on the enemy the defeat he suffered long ago.

There is still one question that demands attention: how is it that there is so much ignorance on this subject in evangelical circles?

**G. But, why is there so much ignorance among us?** (To ignore the enemy is to give him a deadly advantage.)

1. We are influenced by the culture that surrounds us, which is very materialistic, skeptical of the supernatural. Recall 1 John 5:19. Materialism is one of the sophistries (2 Corinthians 10:5) that Satan has devised to remove people from the knowledge of the Creator (also Islam, Marxism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Animism, Humanism, Spiritism, etc.). (A materialist researcher who investigates parapsychological phenomena will almost certainly be demonized—he is asking for it.)
2. Certain groups have a false notion of blame such that they are ashamed to talk about the subject (but silence favors the enemy).
3. Our primary versions of the Bible have misled us—we should read "demonized" instead of "possessed by a demon". The word 'possessed' does not exist in the Original Text; it was invented by the translators.
  - a. The central idea of 'possession' is property, which is misleading on this subject. First, a human being cannot be the property of a demon (although they sometimes make that claim). Worse, it has given rise in the churches to an idea that brings serious consequences—since a believer belongs to God he presumably cannot belong to a demon at the same time. But the real question involves control, not property—we should retire the term 'possessed'. Demon control certainly exists, but represents only a small part of the enemy's activity against human beings, precisely the more extreme cases. The following chart shows the areas included in 'demonization' (at least as I understand the term).

our minds | objects | obsession | oppression | control

- b. Consequences: In 'traditional' churches and schools the subject simply is not included in the menu, perhaps because they think in terms of 'property' and therefore imagine that the believer is exempt. Even in churches that have a ministry of liberation, they usually deal only with cases of control—the greater part of the enemy's action against us is never recognized. Thus, the idea that 'a believer can't be possessed' brings with it serious negative consequences.
4. There exists the catastrophic idea that we are exempt or 'untouchable'—1 John 5:18.
- a. Wherein might the "touch" in the Text consist? (Christ—Matthew 4:1-11; Paul—2 Corinthians 12:7; Peter—Matthew 16:22-23).
  - b. The correct Text and translation is "does not sin" and "keeps himself"—but who is the "born of God"? Since only Jesus was literally born of God from His mother's womb, the rest of us receive the 'new man' at regeneration, so the believer as a whole person is not in view.
  - c. Ephesians 6:12 is clear enough—"our wrestling match" is against wicked spirits (wrestling is direct, physical, violent—it is impossible to be in a wrestling match and not be 'touched'). Consider also 1 Peter 5:8—why "be vigilant" if that lion cannot touch us? You may be absolutely certain that believers can be and are demonized! The crucial thing is a **conscious** submission to the Holy Spirit (while controlled by the Spirit you will never be controlled by a demon).
  - d. But can a believer really be controlled ('possessed')?
    - 1) First, it is a question of control, not just presence. God is omnipresent and therefore coexists with Satan and the demons, inescapably (Job 2:1, Revelation 12:10). Have you turned all areas of your life over to God? If not . . . .
    - 2) Next, when we sin deliberately (=rebellion) we make common cause with Satan. When a believer remains in sin he gives a beachhead or foothold to the enemy—he enters the life and sets about increasing the area that he influences; you get obsession, then oppression, and finally, control. A believer who lives in sin becomes progressively weaker, and may reach the point where he is too weak to help himself; he must then be helped by others, but if that help does not arrive . . . .
    - 3) **Exception:** retaliation that comes against a warrior of Christ who is conducting offensive action against Satan is totally different—it is not because of sin in the life (although any lapse will surely be exploited).
    - 4) In any case, I must make an appeal: even if you feel that you cannot accept the idea of a believer being controlled by a demon, please do not reject the plain biblical truth that a believer can be demonized. The best thing is to live controlled by the Holy Spirit, then you will never be controlled by the enemy.
5. The cowed—some (many?) preachers and teachers seem to be afraid to touch on the subject. Perhaps early in his ministry he preached a dandy sermon against Satan, but there was a prompt counterattack and the preacher got the worst of it, so now he remains silent about the enemy. Yet 2 Timothy 1:7 makes it clear that any spirit of fear or cowardice does not come from God. (Recall Psalm 78:9 and Jeremiah 48:10.) [Here in Brazil many pastors are masons, and they are forbidden to teach on the subject.]

**H. Putting into Practice—Some Prerequisites.** "It is enough for a disciple to be like his Master" (Matthew 10:25). It is important to follow our Savior's example in the following items.

1. Maintain fellowship with the Father. An effective participation in spiritual warfare begins with total commitment to Jesus Christ and His Kingdom, a commitment that must be renewed each day (Hebrews 10:7, Romans 12:1-2, Luke 9:23). We need to keep short accounts.
  - a. Humility—God requires humility on our part (James 4:6).
  - b. Holiness (1 Peter 1:15-16; Hebrews 12:14)—God requires pure hands and a pure heart (James 4:8), that we walk in communion with Him and submissive to the Holy Spirit—in this way we can walk clothed with the authority He gives us and wielding His power. (Dirty hands cannot grasp God's power.)
  - c. Intimacy—friends, neither horses nor yet mere slaves (Psalm 32:9, John 13:13 & 16, 15:15 & 20). The 'presence' of God upon us depends on intimacy VS 'grace' that all have. Intimacy → sensitivity (Psalm 32:8)—do what you see the Father doing (John 5:19); speak what you hear the Father saying (John 12:49).

2. Be radical in the defense of the authority of the Sacred Text. "If you abide in my Word then you will truly be my disciples" (John 8:31).
  - a. In Matthew 24:35 the Lord Jesus declared: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." "My words" represents the word of the Creator (Jesus knew who He was). He declares the eternal authority of His own word. As for the O.T., He was no less emphatic—in John 5:45-47 He virtually equates the writings of Moses with His own word. After affirming that He came to fulfill the law and the prophets He affirms: "Assuredly I tell you that until Heaven and earth pass not one jot or one tittle will by any means pass from the law until all is fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18). "It is easier for Heaven and earth to pass than for one tittle to fall from the Law" (Luke 16:17). "The Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35). Observe that He guarantees the form of the Text to the minimal detail (the "jot" is the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet). Jesus took the Sacred Text seriously—He sometimes increased the range or application of the Word, but never retreated an inch from its literal meaning (see Matthew 5:17-48).
  - b. As for Revelation, and by extension the N.T., the One seated upon the throne guarantees that the words written are "faithful and true" (Revelation 21:5). (The precise throne here is presumably the great white throne [Revelation 20:11], and since it is the Son who judges [John 5:22, 2 Timothy 4:1] we may understand that it is the glorified Christ.) The use of the plural, "words", includes each component that contributes to the whole—God guarantees **each** word.
  - c. In Matthew 4:4 the Lord Jesus affirmed: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Now then, if we are to live by "every word" of God today, then each one needs to be in existence today—so we have a guarantee of the preservation of the Text through the centuries. See 1 Chronicles 16:15. Indeed, almost the last words in the Bible (Revelation 22:18-19) clearly reflect God's concern for the exact transmission of each word in the Book.

So, what do you say? Shall we be like our Master?

3. Rise above culture. 1 John 5:19 and Ephesians 2:2—every human culture has aspects that come from the enemy and do not mesh with the values of the Kingdom. (1 Thessalonians 5:21, Romans 12:1-2, 1 John 2:15)
  - a. The Lord Jesus criticized His own culture (of the Jews)—Matthew 23:13-28, 11:21-24, 5:33-48; He always did things on the Sabbath that the Jewish leaders did not like. He was not afraid of contaminating Himself—He could deal with a prostitute or touch a leper.
  - b. He criticized Samaritan culture—John 4:22 (verse 18).
  - c. He criticized Gentile culture—Matthew 15:26 (the O.T. contains severe criticisms of Canaanite culture, etc.).
  - d. And how about your culture? Matthew 5:37, 2 Thessalonians 3:10, Ephesians 4:28, Proverbs 22:15, 23:13-14, Hebrews 12:6.
  - e. And how about our religious culture? John 3:8 (the Holy Spirit is unpredictable), 2 Timothy 3:5 (a form of godliness X power; 'image').
4. Hate evil. To hate evil is a necessary part of God's love, because of the **consequences** of sin.
  - a. Hebrews 1:8-9 cites Psalm 45:6-7, declaring that it refers to the Son: among other things it affirms that He hates iniquity. The glorified Christ Himself declares that He hates the works of the Nicolaitans (Revelation 2:6). Jehovah hates stealing (Isaiah 61:8), divorce (Malachi 2:16) and seven other transgressions (Proverbs 6:16-19). "The fear of Jehovah is to hate evil" (Proverbs 8:13, 9:10). In Psalm 97:10 we have a command: "You, who love Jehovah, **hate evil**". Shall we obey?
  - b. Psalms 5:5-6 informs us that Jehovah hates everyone who practices iniquity. We usually preach that God hates sin but loves the sinner. Presumably so, up to a point. But when someone teams up with Satan, insisting upon practicing evil, he incurs the wrath of God—Deuteronomy 7:10. (See Psalm 26:5, 31:6, 101:3, 119:104, 113, 128, 163—this helps us understand David's attitude in Psalm 139:21-22; it is those who act with "evil intent" [verse 20] that he hates.) We must learn to hate sin, evil in all its forms, Satan and his angels—since they cannot be recuperated (Matthew 25:41, 2 Peter 2:4, Revelation 20:10), we are in a war without quarter, to the death. [Remember that God only pardons **confessed** sin (1 John 1:9).]
  - c. Jehovah the Son came the first time as the Lamb, meek and lowly—a broken reed He did not crush, a smoldering wick He did not quench, until He made justice triumph (Matthew 12:20). But now, He has already won the victory; Satan has been judged. Jesus will return as the Lion, to judge and reign with a rod of iron. He who made the propitiation, alone (1 John 2:2, Hebrews 1:3), will also

tread the winepress of the **wrath** of God, alone (Revelation 19:15) (cf. Acts 3:23). Albeit we are spokesmen for the Lamb, we are also spokesmen for the **Lion**, right now. The "greater things" depend on the victory **already won**.

- d. Remove "snakes" (Mark 16:18, Luke 10:19) (they are people who have sold out to evil—"brood of vipers", "your father the devil"). I am reminded of Matthew 6:22-23, words of the Sovereign Creator while He walked this earth: "The lamp of the body is the eye. So if your eye is sound your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is evil your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" Of course we have two eyes, but the Text has "eye" in the singular. I take it that the reference is to the way we interpret what we see (which is our real "eye")—two people, one pure and one vile, observing the same scene will give very different interpretations to it. "Evil" here has the idea of malignant—aggressively evil. Someone with a malignant mind will give an evil interpretation to everything he sees, and in consequence his being will be filled with unrelenting darkness. That is what it says in Titus 1:15; to someone who is defiled **nothing** is pure. With a defiled mind and conscience such a person is simply incapable of giving a decent interpretation to anything at all in this whole wide world. That is why Paul goes on to say in the next verse that such a person is disqualified for any good work. Surely, if you are full of evil how can you do good? (However, we need to distinguish between two types of bad men—those who deliberately scheme evil, who have sold themselves to the devil, and those who gradually lost the ability to distinguish good from evil; for the second type there may be hope.)
5. Understand our function to judge. In John 5:22,27 (2 Timothy 4:1) the Lord Jesus affirms that the prerogative to judge is His, and in 1 John 4:17 He informs us that "as He is so are we in this world"—in this world, not the next.
    - a. When Paul asks, "do you not know that the saints will judge the world?" (1 Corinthians 6:2-3) it is clear that his readers should know. So it must be something that had already been revealed. In fact, it is in Psalm 149:5-9. It is up to the saints to take the "two-edged sword in hand, to bring vengeance on the nations and to punish the peoples, to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with bars of iron, to execute upon them the written judgment; this is the glory [or 'honor'] of all the saints." "All the saints"—if you are a saint, to execute written judgment is within your prerogative.
 

For example: in Zechariah 5:1-4 we find a written curse against thieves. How about the government of your country—are there no thieves there, and big ones? Why not invoke upon them "the written judgment"? We should be "bold as lions" and "fight against the wicked" (Proverbs 28:1 and 4). (Revelation 18:6—God's people will judge Babylon.)
    - b. The Lord Jesus granted to His disciples the authority to condemn a city (Matthew 10:14-15), and the Apostle Paul made use of the expedient at least once (Acts 13:51). The Lord Jesus Himself had given the example (Matthew 11:21-4, 23:13-38). But *it is possible to reverse such a curse*. At least twice Paul delivered someone to Satan (1 Corinthians 5:5, 1 Timothy 1:20). The risen Christ granted to the disciples the authority to forgive or retain sins (John 20:23).
    - c. 1 John 4:3-4 affirms that we have already defeated the spirits of antichrist. One day we will judge the angels, presumably the good ones (1 Corinthians 6:3), but Satan and his angels, the demons, already stand judged (John 16:11, Ephesians 1:21), and we have authority over them (Ephesians 2:6). So then, disciples all, let us take our prerogative seriously—it has much to do with spiritual warfare.
  6. Accept the "cup" prepared for us—John 12:27, Hebrews 12:1-3.
    - a. The prepared "body"—Hebrews 10:5.
    - b. The "cup" and the "baptism"—Mark 10:37-8.
    - c. Endure "hardship" as a good soldier of Jesus Christ—2 Timothy 2:3, 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4.
    - d. Complete the sufferings of Christ—Colossians 1:24.

7. Have the servant mentality—Matthew 20:26-28, John 13:14-15. Jesus worked with His hands.

#### I. Strategic Implications for Missions:

1. The true world is the spiritual world (Hebrews 9:8-9, 22-24; 2 Corinthians 4:18 [1 Corinthians 9:11, Romans 15:27, Galatians 6:6]); it follows that the real war takes place in the spiritual realm. We need to increase our sensitiveness toward the spiritual—our churches are full of wounded 'soldiers', who do not realize it.

2. The majority of those who are called to be missionaries are defeated by Satan at the beginning—they never leave their home land. Of those who do manage to reach a foreign field, half are removed from action within the first four years—it is a matter of statistics.
3. We need workers who know how to conduct spiritual warfare, who know how to impose Christ's victory upon Satan and the demons. If we can fill the world with such workers we will finish reaching the world, fulfilling the Great Commission. And it will not take very long because such workers will produce far more, in much less time, than those who do not understand spiritual warfare (most of those presently at work).
4. We need churches full of believers who also know how to conduct the war. We need sharpshooters, people who can hit a specific target. The elderly and homemakers can be great warriors. Protect your family daily.
5. With reference to 1,000 ethnic groups we are the ones who are handcuffed; with reference to 1,000 ethnic groups Christ's victory still makes no difference! Since the Gospel has yet to reach them there is little point in binding Satan with reference to them. (Another 1,000 may have heard superficially but have no disciplers.) It is necessary that each ethnic group receive its discipler, its apostle! "Pray the Lord of the harvest" (Matthew 9:38).
6. In Matthew 16:18 the Lord Jesus affirms, "I will build my Church and the gates of Hades shall not withstand it". This is an important promise that should encourage us. Let us fight with confidence!
7. If every believer would learn how to conduct spiritual warfare we could wipe the floor with Satan. We could transform our lives, our families, our churches, our society and maybe even our world. What do you say? Shall we go for it? Let us do!

Brasília, July, 2014