

Program Notes

TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE

6:00 p.m.	Musical Worship
6:20 p.m.	Teaching Segment 1
7:20 p.m.	Break
7:35 p.m.	Teaching Segment 2
8:35 p.m.	Area Highlight
8:55 p.m.	Break
9:10 p.m.	Teaching Segment 3
10:10 p.m.	Offering/Prayer
10:35 p.m.	Break
10:50 p.m.	Teaching Segment 4
11:50 p.m.	Musical Worship
12:00 a.m.	Dismiss

BOTTLED WATER ONLY is allowed in the Worship Room. Please do not bring food or other types of beverages into the Worship Room. Water and snacks will be available in the lobby for attendees during the break time.

RESTROOMS are located in the lobby. Additional men's and women's restrooms are located in the Modular Building area outside the lobby to the right as you exit.

SO AS NOT TO DISTRACT FROM THE STUDY, please turn all cell phones and pagers to the "silent" or "off" position while in the Worship Room. We realize many parents need to keep in touch with baby sitters, but if you must use your phone during the evening, please go into the lobby before calling.

BIBLES are available free of charge in the lobby. If you do not have your personal Bible, please keep the Bible you receive as our gift. Dr. Platt will be teaching from the New International Version (NIV) and the scriptures included in this study guide are from the New International Version (NIV).

SECRET CHURCH RESOURCES are available for purchase in the lobby before and after the sessions and during each break. In the coming weeks, a four-CD audio set of the sessions will be available for purchase for \$29. A two-DVD set of videos of the sessions will be available for \$39.

ONLINE RESOURCES, including free MP3 audio downloads of the teaching sessions, Quicktime (MOV) videos of the teaching sessions, study and prayer guides in Portable Document Format (PDF) and links to persecuted church resources are available at the Secret Church web site, www.secretchurch.org.

Beyond These Walls...

We're glad you've decided to attend tonight's Secret Church meeting. But even if nobody showed up, it would still be worth the effort. Actually, this Bible study will hopefully benefit far more people outside this room than those present. Here's why...

Tonight we will be recording the teaching sessions and, in the coming months, these sessions will be transcribed and translated into many different languages, including Spanish, Chinese, Hindi and Arabic. The foreign-language versions of Secret Church will be available online as translations are completed. But that is just the beginning.

Most Christ-followers around the world don't have access to seminaries or Bible colleges. In fact, most parts of the world have no formal Christian teaching at all. Dr. Platt will be leading additional Secret Church studies, creating thirty to forty hours of Bible teaching on the Old and New Testaments, Disciple-Making, Bible Study and other topics. We will then load all Secret Church teachings onto iPods® for distribution worldwide. These sessions together will comprise a "seminary on a stick"—a mini-course in solid Bible knowledge accessible to anyone.

During the evening we will be taking an offering. All proceeds will directly support persecuted Christians worldwide through both ongoing ministry initiatives, as well as providing Secret Church Bible teaching materials in many native languages. Imagine a house-church leader in Asia or the Middle East, now able to attend hours of Bible teaching classes as he plugs in a video iPod® with Secret Church teaching in his own language. With your help, this is becoming a reality.

ANGELS, DEMONS, AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Who We Are...

- A central question...
 - ▶ As the church, are we a troop carrier?
 - ▶ Or are we a luxury liner?
- Critical differences...
 - ▶ Our demeanor will be different.
 - ▶ Our use of resources will be different.
 - ▶ Our pace will be different.
- A crucial decision...
 - ▶ Will we indulge ourselves in the peaceful comforts of this world?
 - ▶ Or will we engage ourselves in battle for peoples around the world?

Where We're Going...

- Foundational Truths
- Angels
 - ▶ Who are they?
 - ▶ How are they organized?
 - ▶ What do they do?
 - ▶ How do they relate to us?
- Demons
 - ▶ What are demons?
 - ▶ Who is Satan?
 - ▶ How do Satan and demons relate to God?
 - ▶ How do Satan and demons relate to us?
- Spiritual Warfare
 - ▶ The Old Testament and Spiritual Warfare
 - ▶ Christ and Spiritual Warfare
 - ▶ The Church and Spiritual Warfare
- Controversial Questions
 - ▶ What about deliverance ministry?
 - ▶ Can a Christian be demon-possessed?
 - ▶ Should we talk with demons (conversing, naming, binding demons)?
 - ▶ Can we acquire or inherit demons from other places or people?
- Concluding Challenges

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

There is a spiritual world.

When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh, my lord, what shall we do?” the servant asked. “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, “O LORD, open his eyes so he may see.” Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, “Strike these people with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.

2 Kings 6:15-18

■ Three Objections to Consider...

- ▶ Spiritual explanations are primitive.
- ▶ Spiritual realities are not pervasive.
- ▶ Spiritual powers are not prevalent in Scripture.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

Genesis 3:1

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

Matthew 4:1

When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore.

Revelation 20:7-8

■ Two Errors to Avoid...

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or magician with the same delight.”

C.S. Lewis

- ▶ Empty rationalism.
- ▶ Excessive fanaticism.

We are involved in a spiritual war.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:12

■ Conflicting kingdoms...

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:4-6

- ▶ The kingdom of God.
- ▶ The kingdom of Satan.

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

John 18:36

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Ephesians 2:1-2

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."

Revelation 11:15

■ A continual struggle...

- ▶ A war against sin.

In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Hebrews 12:4

- ▶ A war within our souls.

Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

1 Peter 2:11

- ▶ We struggle for our faith.

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

Jude 3

- ▶ We struggle for the gospel.

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.... For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

Philippians 1:27-30

- ▶ We fight the good fight.

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6:12

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4:7

- ▶ We are soldiers.

Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer.

2 Timothy 2:3-4

- ▶ We have weapons.

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

2 Corinthians 10:4

Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

2 Corinthians 6:4-10

- ▶ War is raging in the heavenlies.

Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.” While he was saying this to me, I bowed with my face toward the ground and was speechless.

Daniel 10:12-15

- ▶ We are in war time, not peace time.

The basis for our understanding of this spiritual war is biblical.

- What will be our authority?
 - ▶ Fiction... or fact?
 - ▶ Experience... or exegesis?
 - ▶ Intuition... or interpretation?

- Where will we find answers?
 - ▶ Remember... the Bible doesn't answer every question we may ask.
 - ▶ Relax... the Bible does answer every question we need answered to live to the glory of God.

- How will we approach the text?
 - ▶ Observation – We explore the text.
 - ✦ Listen to the text...
 - Listen thoughtfully.
 - Listen repeatedly.
 - Listen patiently.
 - Listen imaginatively.
 - Listen meditatively.
 - Listen purposefully.
 - ✦ Look at the text...
 - Look for what the Word emphasizes.
 - Look for what the Word repeats.
 - Look for what the Word connects.
 - Look for what the Word communicates.

 - ▶ Interpretation – We examine the context.
 - ✦ Consider the literary context.
 - ✦ Consider the historical-cultural context.
 - ✦ Consider the theological context.
 - ✦ Principles to remember...
 - We are examining the author's original intent.
 - A biblical text can never mean what it never meant.
 - Context shapes meaning.
 - The rule of context: CONTEXT RULES!
 - ✦ Dangers to avoid...
 - Fragmentation – Isolating texts from their context.
 - Flattening – Importing texts from one context into the context of another text.

 - ▶ Application – We implement the text.
 - ✦ Identify the timeless truths.
 - ✦ Relate the timeless truths to today.
 - ✦ Practice the timeless truths.

The enemy in this spiritual war is formidable.

- Why even think about the enemy?

If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

- ▶ We need to open our eyes.
 - ▶ We need to get on our knees.
 - ▶ We must know who he is.
 - ▶ We must know how he works.
- Satan's two primary objectives...
 - ▶ To destroy God's people.
 - ▶ To defame God's glory.

*Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.
Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.*

Psalm 96:1-4

The scope of this spiritual war is universal.

- Every language.
- Every people.
- Every nation.
- Every tribe.
- Every life.

Involvement in this spiritual war is inevitable.

- The battle is continual.
- The battle is fierce.
- Spiritual retreat only leads to spiritual defeat.

The stakes in this spiritual war are eternal.

- The God over this world wants people to be saved.

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

- The god of this world wants people to burn in hell.

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:14-15

The outcome of this spiritual war is irreversible.

- Satan has been defeated.

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Genesis 3:15

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Colossians 2:15

- Satan will be destroyed.

And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Revelation 20:10

- Therefore, we do not fight this war for victory; we fight from victory.

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 John 4:4

For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world?

Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

1 John 5:4-5

ANGELS

What are angels?

- Angels are spiritual beings without physical bodies.
- Angels are mentioned many times...
 - ▶ 108 appearances in the Old Testament.
 - ▶ 165 appearances in the New Testament.
- Angels have many names...

*He makes winds his **messengers**, flames of fire his servants.*
Psalm 104:4

*One day the **angels** came to present themselves before the LORD,
and Satan also came with them.*
Job 1:6

*The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones. For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD? Who is like the LORD among the heavenly beings? In the council of the **holy ones** God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him.*
Psalm 89:5-7

*Are not all angels **ministering spirits** sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?*
Hebrews 1:14

*“In the visions I saw while lying in my bed, I looked, and there before me was a **messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven.**”*
Daniel 4:13

*“The decision is announced by **messengers, the holy ones** declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men.”*
Daniel 4:17

*“You, O king, saw a **messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump, bound with iron and bronze, in the grass of the field, while its roots remain in the ground. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven; let him live like the wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.’**”*
Daniel 4:23

- Angels are spiritual beings.

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?
Hebrews 1:14

- Angels are created spiritual beings.

Praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights above.

Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars.

Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

Psalm 148:1-5

- Angels are personal spiritual beings.

- ▶ They have moral capacities.

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment...

2 Peter 2:4

- ▶ They have intellectual capacities.

It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

1 Peter 1:12

- ▶ They have emotional capacities.

On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone- while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

Job 38:6-7

"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Luke 15:10

- Angels are powerful spiritual beings.

Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.

Psalm 103:20

- Angels are limited spiritual beings.

- ▶ They are limited in space.

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David.

The virgin's name was Mary.

Luke 1:26-27

- ▶ They are limited in knowledge.

*“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven,
nor the Son, but only the Father.”*

Mark 13:32

- Angels are single (unmarried) spiritual beings.

Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’?

He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”

Matthew 22:29-32

- Angels are immortal spiritual beings.

Jesus replied, “The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God’s children, since they are children of the resurrection.”

Luke 20:34-36

- Angels are versatile spiritual beings.

- ▶ They can appear in a physical way.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John.”

Luke 1:11-13

- ▶ They can appear in dreams and visions.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 1:20

- ▶ They can appear in other forms.

I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist. His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

Daniel 10:5-6

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

Matthew 28:2-4

Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings.

Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

Revelation 4:6-8

When were angels created?

- Definitely before the seventh day of creation.

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

Genesis 2:1

For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Exodus 20:11

- Probably on the first day of creation.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Genesis 1:1-2

On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone- while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

Job 38:6-7

How many angels are there?

- Multitudes...

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

Luke 2:13-15

■ Legions...

Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?

Matthew. 26:53

■ Myriads...

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

Revelation 5:11

■ A lot...

A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

Daniel 7:10

■ As numerous as the stars?

- ▶ Possibly...

Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born.

Revelation 12:3-4

■ Guardian angels for every one of us?

- ▶ Not necessarily...

“See to it that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.”

Matthew 18:10-11

How are angels organized?

■ Cherubim...

- ▶ The highest order or rank of angels.
- ▶ Protecting and proclaiming the glory of God.

After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Genesis 3:24

Place the cover on top of the ark and put in the ark the Testimony, which I will give you. There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the Testimony, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites.
Exodus 25:21-22

He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind.
Psalm 18:10

■ Seraphim...

- ▶ Literally “ablaze” with adoration of God.
- ▶ Continually worshipping the Lord.

Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.
Isaiah 6:2-4

■ Living Creatures...

- ▶ Mighty representatives of God’s creation.

Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”
Revelation 4:6-8

■ The archangel, Michael...

But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.
Daniel 10:13

But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”
Jude 9

■ Gabriel, God’s messenger...

And I heard a man’s voice from the Ulai calling, “Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision.”
Daniel 8:16

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.
Luke 1:26-27

■ Holy angels...

If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."
Mark 8:38

I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.
1 Timothy 5:21

■ Evil angels...

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out...
Luke 8:1-2

■ What about the angel of the Lord?

Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." The angel added, "I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count." The angel of the LORD also said to her: "You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery. He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers." She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.
Genesis 16:9-14

▶ Sometimes identified as the Lord.

"In breeding season I once had a dream in which I looked up and saw that the male goats mating with the flock were streaked, speckled or spotted. The angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob.' I answered, 'Here I am.' And he said, 'Look up and see that all the male goats mating with the flock are streaked, speckled or spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land.'"
Genesis 31:10-13

- ▶ Sometimes distinguished from the Lord.

So the LORD sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The angel of the LORD was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

2 Samuel 24:15-16

What do angels do?

- Angels glorify God's Name.

Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Psalm 148:2

- ▶ They glorify God for His greatness.

Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

Isaiah 6:2-3

- ▶ They glorify God for His goodness.

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Luke 2:13-14

- Angels obey God's will.

The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.

Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.

Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the LORD, O my soul.

Psalm 103:19-22

- Angels carry out God's plans.

- ▶ They administer God's judgment.

So the LORD sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The angel of the LORD was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

2 Samuel 24:15-16

That night the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies! So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there.

2 Kings 19:35-36

- ▶ They serve as God's representatives.

I asked, "What are these, my lord?" The angel who was talking with me answered, "I will show you what they are." Then the man standing among the myrtle trees explained, "They are the ones the LORD has sent to go throughout the earth." And they reported to the angel of the LORD, who was standing among the myrtle trees, "We have gone throughout the earth and found the whole world at rest and in peace."

Zechariah 1:9-11

- ▶ They accomplish God's work.

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

Matthew 28:2

- ▶ They influence God's creation.

Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."

Revelation 7:2-3

- ▶ They will announce Christ's return.

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Therefore encourage each other with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

How do angels relate to us?

- They are different from us.
 - ▶ We reflect God's image.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:26-27

*“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed;
for in the image of God has God made man.”*

Genesis 9:6

- ▶ We can reproduce.

*When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness,
in his own image; and he named him Seth.*

Genesis 5:3

- ▶ We can be redeemed.

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants.

Hebrew 2:14-16

*For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell,
putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment...*

2 Peter 2:4

*And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their
own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting
chains for judgment on the great Day.*

Jude 6

- ▶ We will one day reign.

Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

1 Corinthians 6:3

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

Hebrews 1:14

- They are all around us.

- ▶ They join us in worship.

*But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.
You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of
the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all
men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant,
and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.*

Hebrews 12:22-24

- ▶ They observe our obedience.

I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.

1 Timothy 5:21

For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men. We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored!

1 Corinthians 4:9-10

- ▶ They administer God's protection.

Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king." The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Daniel 6:21-23

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

Psalms 91:11-12

- ▶ They deliver God's plans.

One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!" Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea."

Acts 10:3-6

Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.'

Acts 27:23-26

- ▶ They give God's provision.

Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

1 Kings 19:5-8

- ▶ They serve God's people.

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Matthew 4:11

- ▶ They bring God's deliverance.

Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life."

Acts 5:17-20

The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating."

Acts 12:6-11

- ▶ They supply God's guidance.

"In breeding season I once had a dream in which I looked up and saw that the male goats mating with the flock were streaked, speckled or spotted. The angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob.' I answered, 'Here I am.' And he said, 'Look up and see that all the male goats mating with the flock are streaked, speckled or spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land.'"

Genesis 31:10-13

- ▶ They will gather together God's people.

“At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

Matthew 24:30-31

- They are an example for us.
 - ▶ They remind us of the wonder of worship.

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.” And again they shouted: Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.” The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: “Amen, Hallelujah!” Then a voice came from the throne, saying: “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!” Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.”

Revelation 19:1-8

- ▶ They remind us of the importance of obedience.

“This, then, is how you should pray: “ ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:9-10

Three cautions with angels...

- We must avoid being tempted to worship angels.

Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

Colossians 2:18-19

At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

Revelation 19:10

- We must avoid being tempted to pray to angels.

*For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...
1 Timothy 2:5*

- We must avoid being deceived by angels.

*And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.
2 Corinthians 11:14-15*

DEMONS

What are demons?

- Demons are evil angels who sinned against God and who now continually work out evil in the world.
- They were created good by Genesis 1:31.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Genesis 1:31

- They had become evil by Genesis 3:1.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

Genesis 3:1

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment...

2 Peter 2:4

And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

Jude 6

Who is Satan?

- An angel created by God who served as a cherub until he rebelled against God and now opposes God in every way.
 - ▶ An angel...

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

Matthew 25:41

- ▶ Created by God...

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

Colossians 1:15-16

- ▶ Who served as a cherub...

You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.

Ezekiel 28:14-16

- ▶ Until he rebelled against God...

How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.

Isaiah 14:12-15

- ✦ The occasion of his sin was power.
- ✦ The nature of his sin was pride.
- ▶ And now opposes God in every way.

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you!

Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"

Zechariah 3:1-2

■ His names reveal his tactics.

- ▶ He is Satan – the adversary.

One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

Job 1:6-7

*For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did,
again and again—but Satan stopped us.*

1 Thessalonians 2:18

- ▶ He is the devil – the slanderer.

*Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like
a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

1 Peter 5:8

- ▶ He is Lucifer – son of the morning.

How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

Isaiah 14:12

- ▶ He is Beelzebub – lord of the flies.

But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.”

Matthew 12:24

- ▶ He is Belial – a false god.

What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

2 Corinthians 6:15

- ▶ He is the evil one.

We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

1 John 5:19

- ▶ He is the tempter.

For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.

1 Thessalonians 3:5

- ▶ He is the prince of this world.

Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

John 12:31

- ▶ He is the accuser.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.”

Revelation 12:10

- ▶ He is represented as...
 - ✦ A serpent.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"
 Genesis 3:1

- ✦ A dragon.

And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.
 Revelation 12:7-9

- ✦ An angel of light.

And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.
 2 Corinthians 11:14

How do Satan and the demons relate to God?

- God is the Creator; Satan is the destroyer.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
 Genesis 1:1

They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months. They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon (Destruction), and in Greek, Apollyon (Destroyer).
 Revelation 9:10-11

- God is the Almighty; Satan is limited by God.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless."
 Genesis 17:1

The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.
 Job 1:12

- God is true; Satan is the father of lies.

Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O Lord, the God of truth.
 Psalm 31:5

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
John 8:44

■ God is love; Satan is hatred/murderer.

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
1 John 4:8

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
John 8:44

■ God is righteousness; Satan is evil.

In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.
Jeremiah 23:6

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
Matthew 6:13

■ God is our advocate; Satan is our accuser.

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
1 John 2:1

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.
Zechariah 3:1

■ God is our protection in temptation; Satan is the tempter.

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.
1 Corinthians 10:13

The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."
Matthew 4:3

- God is our ultimate Judge; Satan is ultimately judged by God.

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11-15

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

Revelation 20:1-3

How do Satan and the demons relate to us?

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8

If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

- Satan deceives through...
 - ▶ False philosophies.

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

Colossians 2:8

- ▶ False religions .

No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.

1 Corinthians 10:20

- ▶ False ministers.

And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness.

Their end will be what their actions deserve.

2 Corinthians 11:14-15

▶ False doctrine.

Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.

1 John 2:18

▶ False disciples.

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' " "An enemy did this," he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' " "No," he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.' "

Matthew 13:24-30

▶ False morals.

For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

■ Satan attacks by...

▶ Directing governments.

But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

Daniel 10:13

▶ Bringing sickness.

"Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."

Job 2:4-6

Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"

Luke 13:16

- ▶ Destroying lives.

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil...

Hebrews 2:14

- ▶ Persecuting the saints.

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Revelation 2:10

- ▶ Preventing service.

For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan stopped us.

1 Thessalonians 2:18

- ▶ Promoting division.

I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Romans 16:17-20

- ▶ Planting doubt.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Genesis 3:1-5

- ▶ Producing sects and cults.

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

1 Timothy 4:1

- Satan tempts to...

- ▶ Anger.

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

Ephesians 4:26-27

- ▶ Pride.

He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.

1 Timothy 3:6

- ▶ Worry.

When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart....The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

Matthew 13:19-22

- ▶ Worldliness.

For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world.

1 John 2:16

- ▶ Lying.

Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?”

Acts 5:3

- ▶ Immorality.

Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

1 Corinthians 7:5

■ Satan blinds unbelievers.

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Corinthians 4:4

■ Satan holds captives.

Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

2 Timothy 2:25-26

■ Satan misuses Scripture.

“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

Matthew 4:6

■ Satan attacks faith.

But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:3

For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.

1 Thessalonians 3:5

■ Satan thwarts mission.

They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, “You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?”

Acts 13:6-10

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The Old Testament and Spiritual Warfare

- The world surrounding Israel...
 - ▶ The Canaanite, Egyptian, and Babylonian contexts were all dominated by occult beliefs and practices.
 - ✦ Demonism and spiritism.
 - Demonic agents.
 - Demonic activities.
 - ✦ Possession and exorcism.
 - ▶ Demonic explanations were prevalent.
 - ▶ Idolatrous manifestations were pervasive.

They made him jealous with their foreign gods and angered him with their detestable idols. They sacrificed to demons, which are not God— gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your fathers did not fear.

Deuteronomy 32:16-17

- ▶ The result...
 - ✦ Moral degradation.

No Israelite man or woman is to become a shrine prostitute. You must not bring the earnings of a female prostitute or of a male prostitute into the house of the LORD your God to pay any vow, because the LORD your God detests them both.

Deuteronomy 23:17-18

They did not destroy the peoples as the LORD had commanded them, but they mingled with the nations and adopted their customs. They worshiped their idols, which became a snare to them. They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons. They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was desecrated by their blood. They defiled themselves by what they did; by their deeds they prostituted themselves.

Psalms 106:34-39

- ✦ Physical devastation.

So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed.

1 Kings 18:28

Then Elijah commanded them, "Seize the prophets of Baal. Don't let anyone get away!" They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there.

1 Kings 18:40

■ Individual texts...

- ▶ Genesis 3:1-15
 - ✦ The nature of our adversary...
 - God is Creator; Satan is creature.
 - God is sovereign; Satan is subordinate.
 - This is not dualism; this is domination!
 - ▶ Satan is accountable to God.
 - ▶ Satan is cursed by God.
 - Characteristics of Satan
 - ▶ He can speak.
 - ▶ He is smart.
 - ▶ He maligns God's character.
 - ▶ He questions God's Word.
 - Satan is a malicious liar and murderer.
 - ✦ The nature of our warfare...
 - Who will rule our hearts?
 - Whose voice will we listen to?
 - Who will we trust and obey?
 - ✦ The consequences of our defeat...
 - The result of sin is temporal suffering.
 - The penalty of sin is eternal death.
 - Those who listen to the serpent's voice will feel the serpent's fangs.

- ▶ 1 Samuel 6:13-23
 - ✦ Two important purposes...
 - God was judging Saul.
 - God was exalting David.
 - ✦ Two important principles...
 - The powers of evil are inferior to God.
 - The spirit tormenting Saul is a consequence of his own sin.

- ▶ 1 Samuel 28:3-25
 - ✦ God's sovereignty reigns over all spiritual evil.
 - ✦ God's wrath rains down on all human rebellion.

Saul died because he was unfaithful to the LORD; he did not keep the word of the LORD and even consulted a medium for guidance, and did not inquire of the LORD. So the LORD put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David son of Jesse.

1 Chronicles 10:13-14

- ▶ 1 Kings 22:6-28
 - ✦ A holy God uses an evil spirit as an agent of His judgment.
 - ✦ A holy God uses an evil spirit to accomplish His purposes.

- ▶ Job 1:6-2:10
 - ✦ The primary truth is God's sovereignty.
 - Satan speaks when spoken to.
 - Satan acts within God's permission.
 - Satan acts to fulfill God's purpose.
 - ✦ The primary victory is Job's morality.
 - Job glorifies God.
 - Job humiliates Satan.

- ▶ Zechariah 3
 - ✦ Satan is limited.
 - ✦ Sin is the problem.
 - ✦ A Savior is coming.

■ Interesting observations...

- ▶ The Old Testament minimizes Satan and demons.
 - ✦ It does not endorse the occultic worldview of the surrounding nations.
 - ✦ It does not accommodate their demonic explanations.
- ▶ The Old Testament maximizes human responsibility.
 - ✦ The problem is not in inhabiting demons.
 - ✦ The problem is in the human heart.

The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

Genesis 6:5

This is the evil in everything that happens under the sun: The same destiny overtakes all. The hearts of men, moreover, are full of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live, and afterward they join the dead.

Ecclesiastes 9:3

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Jeremiah 17:9

■ Old Testament conclusions...

- ▶ God is sovereign over Satan.
 - ✦ Satan possesses unlimited malice.
 - ✦ Satan possesses limited power.
- ▶ Sin is the primary human problem.
 - ✦ We are responsible for our sin.
 - ✦ We must respond to God in light of our sin.
 - Either we repent of our sin.
 - Or we die in our sin.
- ▶ Spiritual warfare is God-centered, not demon-centered.

■ The Old Testament question... How does God relate to sin?

- ▶ God relates to sin variably.
- ♦ He prevents sin.

Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her.

Genesis 20:6

Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then will I be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

Psalm 19:13

- ♦ He permits sin.

"But my people would not listen to me; Israel would not submit to me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices.

Psalm 81:11-12

- ♦ He directs sin.

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Genesis 50:19-20

- ♦ He limits sin.

The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

Job 1:12

- ♦ God never directly causes sin.
 - God never sins in Scripture.
 - God is never blamed for sin in Scripture.
- ▶ God relates to good and evil asymmetrically (in different ways).
 - ♦ God and good...
 - All that is good is under His sovereignty.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalm 107:1

Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?'

Ezekiel 33:11

For men are not cast off by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men.

Lamentations 3:31-33

- All that is good is morally chargeable to Him.

He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

Deuteronomy 32:4

✦ God and evil...

- All that is evil is under His sovereignty.

To crush underfoot all prisoners in the land, to deny a man his rights before the Most High, to deprive a man of justice— would not the Lord see such things? Who can speak and have it happen if the Lord has not decreed it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both calamities and good things come?

Lamentations 3:34-38

The Lord said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go. Then say to Pharaoh, “This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son, and I told you, “Let my son go, so he may worship me.”

But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.’ ”

Exodus 4:21-23

For it was the Lord himself who hardened their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Joshua 11:20

If a man sins against another man, God may mediate for him; but if a man sins against the Lord, who will intercede for him?” His sons, however, did not listen to their father’s rebuke, for it was the Lord’s will to put them to death.

1 Samuel 2:25

At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.” In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

Job 1:20-22

I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things.

Isaiah 45:7

- All that is evil is not morally chargeable to Him.

But whoever sacrifices a bull is like one who kills a man, and whoever offers a lamb, like one who breaks a dog's neck; whoever makes a grain offering is like one who presents pig's blood, and whoever burns memorial incense, like one who worships an idol. They have chosen their own ways, and their souls delight in their abominations; so I also will choose harsh treatment for them and will bring upon them what they dread.

For when I called, no one answered, when I spoke, no one listened.

They did evil in my sight and chose what displeases me."

Isaiah 66:3-4

- ▶ Remember the compatible plan of God...
 - ✦ God is in control.
 - ✦ We make choices.

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Genesis 50:19-20

"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

Acts 2:22-24

Christ and Spiritual Warfare

- A thorough battle...
 - ▶ At the beginning of His life.

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

Matthew 2:16-18

▶ At the beginning of His ministry.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: " 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' " Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.' "

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Matthew 4:1-11

▶ In the middle of His life and ministry.

+ Casting out demons.

The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. A man in the crowd called out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him. I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not." O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.

Luke 9:37-43

+ Asserting His dominion.

Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons." Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

"Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house.

Matthew 12:22-29

- Jesus' ministry on earth: Satan has been bound.
- Jesus' promise for eternity: Satan will be destroyed.

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

Matthew 25:41

- ▶ At the end of His life.
 - ♦ The cross is the ultimate exorcism.

Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."

John 12:31-32

- ♦ The resurrection is the ultimate victory.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God!

He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

- ▶ At the end of His ministry.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Matthew 28:18

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Daniel 7:13-14

■ A two-sided battlefront...

- ▶ Jesus wars against both moral evil and natural evil.
 - ✦ Moral evil includes sin.
 - ✦ Natural evil includes suffering.
 - ✦ Moral evil is ultimately the cause of natural evil.
- ▶ Satan is...
 - ✦ A liar who provokes moral evil (sin).
 - ✦ A murderer who applies natural evil (suffering).
- ▶ Jesus wars against moral evil and natural evil differently.
 - ✦ Jesus used declaration of truth to fight moral evil.

*Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' " Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: " ' He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' " Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'
"Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.*

Matthew 4:1-11

*When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." From that time on Jesus began to preach,
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."*

Matthew 4:12-17

- Jesus exposed sin.
- Jesus called for repentance.
- ✦ Jesus used declaration of truth AND demonstration of power to fight natural evil.

For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him. Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." But he gave them strict orders not to tell who he was.

Mark 3:10-12

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

Matthew 4:23-25

He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

Luke 6:17-19

At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind.

Luke 7:21

On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath." The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?" When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

Luke 13:10-17

- Jesus does NOT cast out demons in cases of moral evil (dealing primarily with sin).
- Jesus casts out demons in cases of natural evil (dealing primarily with suffering).
- Jesus approaches the demon-possessed primarily as sufferers needing relief, not sinners needing repentance.

The Church and Spiritual Warfare

- Do we fight spiritual warfare exactly as Christ fought spiritual warfare?
 - ▶ We address issues that are similar.
 - ▶ We address these issues in different ways.
 - ▶ Think about paying taxes...

After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?" "Yes, he does," he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own sons or from others?" "From others," Peter answered. "Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him. "But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

Matthew 17:24-27

- ✦ Jesus: Catch a fish and pay the tax.
- ✦ Us: Work a job and pay the tax.
- ▶ Think about catching fish...

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

John 21:1-6

- ✦ Jesus: Command the fish to be at the side of the boat, then eat.
- ✦ Us: Wait patiently for the fish to come anywhere near the boat, then eat.
- ▶ Think about walking on water...

but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Matthew 14:24-33

- ✦ Jesus: Express faith by walking on top of the water.
- ✦ Us: Express faith by walking through deep waters.

- ▶ Think about feeding the hungry...

Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

John 6:10-13

- + Jesus: Reveals himself as God by miraculously providing food for the needy.
- + Us: Pray to God as we work to provide food for the needy.
- ▶ Think about speaking...

"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Matthew 5:21-22

- + Jesus: An inherent authority
 - "I say to you..."
- + Us: A derived authority
 - "The Bible says..."
- ▶ Think about forgiveness of sins...

Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . ." He said to the paralytic, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Mark 2:8-12

- + Jesus: Authority to provide for the forgiveness of sins.
- + Us: Ambassadors who proclaim the forgiveness of sins.
- ▶ Think about raising the dead...

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

John 11:41-44

- ✦ Jesus: Both an authoritative command and a Gospel invitation.
- ✦ Us: A Gospel invitation.
- ▶ Think about controlling the weather...

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Mark 4:35-41

- ✦ Jesus: He speaks and the weather obeys.
- ✦ Us: We pray and God responds.
- ▶ Think about healing the sick...

If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." "Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him."

Matthew 4:23-25

- ✦ Jesus: Command for healing.
- ✦ Us: Intercession for healing.
- ▶ Think about spiritual warfare...

When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!" Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned

Mark 5:6-13

- ✦ Jesus: Casting demons out of individuals.
- ✦ Us: Never commanded to cast demons out of individuals.
- So how do we fight spiritual warfare?
 - ▶ New Testament churches in the battle...
 - ✦ Ephesus – To a church surrounded by idolatry and immorality...
 - Repent of your sin.
 - Reclaim your first love.

- ✦ Smyrna – To a church facing persecution...
 - Trust God in faith.
 - Persevere in patience.
- ✦ Pergamum – To a church dwelling amidst Satan's throne...
 - Be pure in thought.
 - Be pure in deed.
- ✦ Thyatira – To a church engulfed in false teaching...
 - Listen to holy truth.
 - Commit to holy living.
- ✦ Sardis – To a church that was basically dead...
 - Turn from sin.
 - Turn to Christ.
- ✦ Philadelphia – To a church opposed by a synagogue of Satan...
 - Hold fast to His Word.
 - Proclaim His Name.
- ✦ Laodicea – To a church that was lukewarm...
 - Seek your treasure in Christ.
 - Clothe your lives in Christ.
 - Fix your eyes on Christ.
- ▶ Two primary actions...
 - ✦ Stand firm.
 - A defensive posture.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Be self-controlled and alert.

Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:8-11

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

James 4:7-10

- ✦ Press forward.
 - An offensive posture.

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
Matthew 28:18-20

*Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains.
Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.*
Ephesians 6:10-20

- ▶ Three primary fronts...
 - ✦ The world.
 - ✦ The flesh.
 - ✦ The devil.

*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts.
Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.*
Ephesians 2:1-3

Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.
James 3:15

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.
1 John 2:15-17

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.
1 John 3:7-10

- ✦ The world is around us.
 - The unhealthy social environment in which we live.

We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

1 John 5:19

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

1 Corinthians 2:12

- ✦ The flesh is within us.
 - The inner propensity to do evil.

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-25

- ✦ Satan is against us.
 - The evil spiritual being and his demons intent on perpetrating evil in our lives.

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour

1 Peter 5:8

- ✦ Remember...
 - The Bible differentiates these three strands of evil without dividing them.

- The Bible addresses people, not demons.
 - To fight conformity to the world and friendship with the world is to fight Satan.
 - To fight the dark lies and lusts of the flesh is to fight Satan.
- All three of these are working together.
 - The flesh is the hook.
 - The world is the bait.
 - Satan is constantly baiting the hook.
- Spiritual warfare, then, is a lifelong struggle, not a one-time fix.

■ Engagement in warfare...

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Ephesians 6:13-15

- We must respond urgently.
- We must respond consciously.
- We must respond vigorously.
- We must respond corporately.
- We must respond specifically.

■ Weapons for warfare...

- The armor of God.
 - ✦ A reflection of the character of God.
 - Spiritual warfare is not primarily about technique, but character.
 - We need to appropriate the character of God.

Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

Isaiah 11:5

He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

Isaiah 59:17

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion,

“Your God reigns!”

Isaiah 52:7

He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver.

Isaiah 49:2

- ✦ A demonstration of the power of God.
 - A new source of power.

But to each one of us grace has been give as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

Ephesians 4:7-10

- A new means of power.

For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:18

- A new purpose for power.

Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2

■ The Belt of Truth

- ▶ A true understanding of who Christ is.

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

- ✦ "Jesus is not fully man."

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.

This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

1 John 4:1-3

- ✦ "Jesus is not fully God."

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

Colossians 2:8-10

✦ “Jesus is not superior.”

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”?

Hebrews 1:3-5

✦ “Jesus is not sufficient.”

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

Colossians 2:16-19

✦ Beware of subtle distortions...

- Jesus without a body.
- Jesus who is far away.
- Healthy, wealthy Jesus.
- Jesus my pal.
- Jesus who did not suffer.
- Jesus with no mission.
- Jesus with no heart.
- Unforgiving Jesus.
- Jesus who does not discipline.

✦ Beware of false doctrine...

“Here is the great evangelical disaster – the failure of the evangelical world to stand for truth as truth. There is only one word for this – accommodation: the evangelical church has accommodated to the world spirit of the age... Truth carries with it confrontation. Truth demands confrontation: loving confrontation, but confrontation nevertheless. If our reflex action is always accommodation regardless of the centrality of the truth involved, there is something wrong.”

Francis Schaeffer

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Matthew 7:15-20

- False doctrine is subtle.

“A horrible and shocking thing has happened in the land: The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?”
Jeremiah 5:30-31

- False doctrine is powerful.

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.”
Matthew 23:15

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.
Ephesians 4:14

- False doctrine is dangerous.

You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.” I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion will pay the penalty, whoever he may be. Brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!
Galatians 5:7-12

- ♦ Beware of satanic deception...

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient.
Ephesians 5:6

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.
Galatians 6:7

Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.
James 1:16-17

- ▶ A true understanding of who we are in Christ.
 - ♦ We have been saved by the grace of Christ.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts.

Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Ephesians 2:1-3

- What we once were...
 - ▶ We were dead in sin.
 - ▶ We were living in darkness.
 - ▶ We were children of disobedience.
 - ▶ We were captivated by sinful desire.
 - ▶ We were doomed to hell.

- What He has done...

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will - to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment - to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession - to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:3-14

- ▶ The Father planned our salvation.
 - ▶ The Son purchased our salvation.
 - ▶ The Spirit preserves our salvation.
-
- Who we now are...
 - ▶ We are His body.

For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

Ephesians 5:23

- ▶ We are His building.

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22

- ▶ We are His bride.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Ephesians 5:25-27

- ♦ We have been filled with the power of Christ.

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 1:18-23

- Christ has all authority.

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him...

Colossians 1:19

- ▶ He is the risen Savior.
- ▶ He is the exalted King.
- ▶ He is the sovereign Lord.
- The church has the fullness of Christ.

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

Colossians 2:9-10

- All the authority in all the earth belongs to the church.

So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future - all are yours, and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

1 Corinthians 3:21-23

- ✦ We now display the glory of Christ.
 - God's design is to use the body of His Son to show the glory of His Son to the world.

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Ephesians 3:10-11

- God says, "Look at the church and you will see my Son."
- ▶ The belt of truth involves honesty...
 - ✦ With God.
 - ✦ With ourselves.
 - ✦ With others.
- The Breastplate of Righteousness
 - ▶ Not self-righteousness.

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'
Luke 18:10-13

- ▶ Positional righteousness.

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
Colossians 1:27

- ✦ The empowered life.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.
Colossians 1:15-20

- He is the image of God.
- He is the author of creation.
- He is the head of the church.
- He is the Savior of the world.

✦ The exchanged life.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21

- He has taken our sin.
- We are clothed in His righteousness.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
Galatians 2:20

- He died our death.
- We now live His life.

✦ The secured life.

- Christ is in you.

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
Colossians 1:27

- You are in Christ.

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.
Colossians 1:28

- Christ is in God.

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.
Colossians 3:3

✦ The completed life.

When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
Colossians 3:4

- ▶ Christ in you now means Christ in you forever.

▶ Practical righteousness.

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:22-24

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:1-4

- ♦ Jesus died for you so that He might live in you.
- ♦ Authentic spiritual transformation happens from the inside out.
- ♦ Jesus has no desire to improve you; He desires to transform you.
- ♦ Christianity is nothing less than the outliving of the indwelling Christ.

My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you...

Galatians 4:19

■ Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace

- ▶ We need a ready offense to accompany a staunch defense.

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

But do this with gentleness and respect,

1 Peter 3:15

- ▶ Proclaiming the Gospel is the best way to know the power of the Gospel.

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

Philemon 1:6

- ▶ We need to remember whose we are.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.

Romans 1:1-5

- ✦ We are servants of the Gospel.
- ✦ We are sent out with the Gospel.
- ✦ We are set apart for the Gospel.

▶ We need to recognize what we believe.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

1 Corinthians 15:3-5

- ✦ The character of God.
- ✦ The sinfulness of man.
- ✦ The sufficiency of Christ.
- ✦ The necessity of faith.
- ✦ The urgency of eternity.

▶ We need to realize why we're here.

I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome.

Romans 1:14-15

- ✦ We are here to exalt His Name.
- ✦ We are here to penetrate the nations.
 - We have a responsibility to pray.
 - We have a debt to pay.

▶ We need to resolve how we'll live.

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written:

“The righteous will live by faith.”

Romans 1:16-17

- ✦ We will live like nothing can shame us.
- ✦ We will live like nothing can stop us.

For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile - the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written,

“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Romans 10:12-15

■ The Shield of Faith

- ▶ Faith in God's character.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

Psalm 84:11

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:32

- ▶ Faith in God's promises.

God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

Numbers 23:19

- ▶ Faith in God's power.

To God's elect... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:1-5

Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:5-11

- ▶ Faith that quenches flaming arrows...
 - ♦ Schemes, temptations, lies, deceptions, attacks.
 - ♦ When we are taking significant steps of faith.
 - ♦ When we are invading enemy territory.
 - ♦ When we are exposing Satan for who he really is.
 - ♦ When we repent of a long-held sin pattern or unholy relationship.
 - ♦ When God is preparing us, individually or corporately, for a great work for His glory.

■ The Helmet of Salvation

- ▶ Victory in spiritual warfare is grounded in a holistic understanding of salvation.
- ▶ We have been saved.

“We who are Jews by birth and not ‘Gentile sinners’ know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified. “If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! If I rebuild what I destroyed, I prove that I am a lawbreaker. For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:15-20

“How are you righteous before God? Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. In spite of the fact that my conscience accuses me that I have grievously sinned against all the commandments of God, and have not kept any one of them, and that I am still ever prone to all that is evil, nevertheless, God, without any merit of my own, out of pure grace, grants me the benefits of the perfect [sacrifice] of Christ, imputing to me his righteousness and holiness as if I had never committed a single sin or had ever been sinful, having fulfilled myself all the obedience which Christ has carried out for me, if only I accept such favor with a trusting heart.”

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 60

✦ Justification... Freedom from the penalty of sin.

- ▶ We are being saved.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Philippians 2:12-13

✦ Sanctification... Freedom from the power of sin.

- ▶ We will be saved.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Romans 8:28-30

✦ Glorification... Freedom from the presence of sin.

■ The Sword of the Spirit

- ▶ An offensive AND a defensive weapon.

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

- ▶ A non-negotiable weapon.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Matthew 4:1-11

- ✦ Read the Word.
- ✦ Study the Word.
- ✦ Memorize the Word.
- ✦ Meditate on the Word.
- ✦ Apply the Word.

■ Prayer

- ▶ Prayer is the heart of spiritual warfare.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Ephesians 6:18-20

- ▶ We must pray consistently.
- ▶ We must pray intensely.
- ▶ We must pray strategically.

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

Acts 2:42

- ▶ The New Testament church prayed to...
- ✦ The God who is sovereign over everything in the world.

*On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported
all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.*

Acts 4:23

- ✦ The God who supplies everything we need.

*And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself
gives all men life and breath and everything else.*

Acts 17:25

- ▶ The New Testament church prayed because...
- ✦ They were utterly dependent on God's power.

*After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were
all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

Acts 4:31

- ✦ They were utterly desperate for God's grace.

*With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus,
and much grace was upon them all.*

Acts 4:33

- ✦ They were utterly devoted to God's mission.

*Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your
word with great boldness.*

Acts 4:29

- ▶ The New Testament church prayed when...
- ✦ They were gathered together.

*They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary
the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.*

Acts 1:14

In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.

Acts 13:1-4

- ✦ They were scattered apart.

Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

Acts 16:6-8

- ▶ The New Testament church prayed for...
 - ✦ For the success of God's Word.

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.
John 14:13

- ✦ For the needs of each other and the world.

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.
Acts 12:5

- ✦ For the spread of God's worship.

"This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Matthew 6:9-10

- Warfare at Corinth...
 - ▶ The Belt of Truth

The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?
1 Corinthians 6:7

For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head.
1 Corinthians 11:10

Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say.
2 Corinthians 12:6

For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.
2 Corinthians 13:8

▶ The Breastplate of Righteousness

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21

Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one.
2 Corinthians 7:2

in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;
2 Corinthians 6:7

▶ Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.
2 Corinthians 5:18-20

For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.
2 Corinthians 11:4

We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ.
2 Corinthians 10:14

In this self-confident boasting I am not talking as the Lord would, but as a fool.
2 Corinthians 11:17

▶ The Shield of Faith

We live by faith, not by sight.
2 Corinthians 5:7

Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

2 Corinthians 6:4-10

Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me. But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands.

2 Corinthians 11:23-33

► The Helmet of Salvation

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

For he says,

*"In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor,
now is the day of salvation.*

2 Corinthians 6:2

► The Sword of the Spirit

*[He] set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit,
guaranteeing what is to come.*

2 Corinthians 1:22

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
2 Corinthians 3:6

Will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?
2 Corinthians 3:8

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.
2 Corinthians 5:5

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
2 Corinthians 13:14

► Prayer

Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. Not that people will see that we have stood the test but that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed.
2 Corinthians 13:7

We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is for your perfection.
2 Corinthians 13:9

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
2 Corinthians 13:14

CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS

What about deliverance ministry?

- Deliverance ministry involves the practice of casting out demons.
- Examples...

Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority!

He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him." News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Mark 1:23-28

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Luke 10:17-20

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. When the the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. With shrieks, evil spirit spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed.

So there was great joy in that city.

Acts 8:4-8

But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun."

Acts 13:8-11

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit,

"In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!"

At that moment the spirit left her.

Acts 16:16-18

■ Positives...

- ▶ Deliverance ministries remind us of the reality of the spiritual world around us.
- ▶ Deliverance ministries challenge the idea that personal problems can be reduced to purely psychological, social, physiological, or circumstantial factors.
- ▶ Deliverance ministries often emphasize prayer and other clearly biblical modes of spiritual warfare.

■ Problems...

- ▶ Extremism.
- ▶ Fanaticism.
- ▶ Confusion.
- ▶ Experientialism.
- ▶ Blame-Shifting.

■ Two main arguments for deliverance ministry...

- ▶ Jesus and the disciples did it.
- ▶ The Bible never forbids it.

■ Two major errors in these arguments for deliverance ministry...

- ▶ They fail to distinguish between moral and natural evil, casting out demons in cases of moral evil, something that is not taught or illustrated anywhere in Scripture.

When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.

For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."

Acts 8:18-23

"Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' " 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

Acts 26:15-18

The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper. They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun." Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

Acts 13:4-12

- ▶ They fail to account for the discontinuities that exist between us and Christ.
- Two major cautions regarding deliverance ministry...
 - ▶ There is no direct command in Scripture to do deliverance ministry, even to relieve suffering, but there are numerous direct commands in Scripture to do personal ministry, using the Word of God to call people to repent of sin and turn to Christ.
 - ▶ We must make sure to follow Scripture's emphasis on personal responsibility, particularly regarding moral evil.
 - ✦ The Bible often talks about our responsibility without mentioning the devil.

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed."

James 1:13-14

- ✦ The Bible never talks about the devil without mentioning our responsibility.

Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Luke 8:12-15

Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.

Luke 22:3

Then Jesus replied, “Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!”

John 6:70

The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.

John 13:2

As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

John 13:27

And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money. He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

Luke 22:4-6

While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

Luke 22:47-48

Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?”

Acts 5:3

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions— it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:1-5

Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

2 Timothy 2:25-26

- One interesting thought regarding deliverance ministry...
 - ▶ When it comes to deliverance ministry, the only thing the New Testament definitively addresses is delivering an unrepentant Christian to Satan.

Hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 5:5

Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

1 Timothy 1:18-20

- So how do we respond to moral evil?
 - ▶ Recognize Satan's power to influence us morally.
 - ▶ Recognize our responsibility to repent personally.

- And how do we respond to natural evil?

Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

Acts 5:14-16

- ▶ Remember the purpose of healings...
 - ✦ Healings authenticate the Gospel.
 - ✦ Healings remove hindrances to ministry.
 - ✦ Healings glorify God.
- ▶ Focus on prayer for healings...

When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked. A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." "O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit,"

he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

Mark 9:14-29

- ✦ Pray with purpose for healings.
- For the advancement of the Gospel.

God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

Acts 19:11-12

- For success in ministry.

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. When the the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. With shrieks, evil spirit spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed.

So there was great joy in that city.

Acts 8:4-8

- For the glory of God.

Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Acts 3:6-10

By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.

Acts 3:16

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most high God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit. "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!"

At that moment the spirit left her.

Acts 16:16-18

- ✦ Pray with faith for healings.

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

James 5:13-16

- The Kingdom is here.

When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?'" At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.

Luke 7:20-22

- The Kingdom is coming.

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

Can a Christian be demon-possessed?

- Some confusion in terms...

- ▶ Demon "possession" never appears in the Bible.
- ▶ Many have chosen to use the term "demonized."

- So the question is...

- ▶ To what degree can a Christian come under the influence of a demonic spirit?

- And the answer is...

- ▶ The Christian belongs to Christ and is indwelt by the Spirit.
 - ✦ A demon cannot own a Christian.
 - ✦ A demon cannot control a Christian.

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13-14

*Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."
2 Corinthians 6:14-16*

- ▶ However, Christians can be influenced and/or attacked by demons to varying degrees.

*For forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.
Luke 4:2*

*Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"
Acts 5:3*

*To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.
2 Corinthians 12:7*

*Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
Ephesians 4:25-32*

- ▶ Nevertheless, Scripture never pictures someone casting a demon out of a Christian.

Should we talk with demons?

- What does Scripture say about conversing with demons?
 - ▶ Scripture includes specific commands not to have anything to do with evil spirits or their mediums.

*"Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them.
I am the LORD your God."
Leviticus 19:31*

“I will set my face against the person who turns to mediums and spiritists to prostitute himself by following them, and I will cut him off from his people.”

Leviticus 20:6

He sacrificed his own son in the fire, practiced sorcery and divination, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger.

2 Kings 21:6

Furthermore, Josiah got rid of the mediums and spiritists, the household gods, the idols and all the other detestable things seen in Judah and Jerusalem. This he did to fulfill the requirements of the law written in the book that Hilkiah the priest had discovered in the temple of the LORD.

2 Kings 23:24

When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.

Isaiah 8:19-20

- ▶ Scripture warns against the danger of addressing seducing spirits.

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

1 Timothy 4:1

In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings. But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”¹⁰ Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand; and what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals—these are the very things that destroy them.

Jude 1:8-10

- ▶ Jesus often demanded demons’ silence.

Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

Mark 1:34

Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ.

Luke 4:41

- ▶ Most often, Jesus cast out demons immediately.

When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

Matthew 8:16

- What does Scripture say about naming demons?
 - ▶ The New Testament nowhere mentions a strategy for naming evil spirits.

*Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"
"My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many."
Mark 5:9*

+ Even here, Jesus got a number more than a name!

- What does Scripture say about binding demons?

*"Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house."
Matthew 12:29*

- ▶ The house is the world.
- ▶ The strong man is Satan.
- ▶ The possessions are people whom Jesus has saved, robbing the devil.
- ▶ The tying up is the work of Christ.
- ▶ This passage does not teach us to bind evil spirits.

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

*Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.
Matthew 16:16-20*

*"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."
Matthew 18:15-20*

- ▶ These passages both talk about people being either inside or outside of the community of faith, not spirits being inside or outside of individuals.

- What does Scripture say about engaging territorial spirits?
 - ▶ Scripture gives little direct teaching about angelic spirits over cities, territories, regions, or nations.
 - ▶ We never see Jesus, John, Peter, James, or Paul ever attempting to take on a territorial spirit.

- What does Scripture say about conversations in spiritual warfare?
 - ▶ Pray to God.
 - ▶ Don't pray to demons.

Can we acquire or inherit demons from other places or people?

You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,
Exodus 20:5

- The simple meaning of this text...
 - ▶ Sin has consequences.
 - ▶ Sin will be judged.

- Nowhere in the Bible is there an example of a Christian who...
 - ▶ Inherits demons from his ancestors.
 - ▶ Is invaded by demons because of former occult practices.
 - ▶ Is inhabited by demons because of a transfer.
 - ▶ Needs continual deliverance from demons.

“When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.”

Matthew 12:43-45

- ♦ This is a parable warning that the unrepentant will perish.
- ♦ Jesus is warning Israel about final judgment, not warning believers to do periodic self-deliverance to protect against demons coming back.

What if I experience something that is not in Scripture?

- Be open regarding the spiritual world.
- Be discerning according to the written Word.
 - ▶ Beware of highly charged expectations of demonic manifestations.
 - ▶ Beware of minimizing personal responsibility for sin.
 - ▶ Beware of Satanic tactics to divert us from Christ, the Gospel, or God's Word.
 - ▶ Be confident in the truth and power of Christ revealed in His Word.

CONCLUDING CHALLENGES

Look forward to the final battle in this war...

And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

Revelation 12:7-12

- Christ will be honored as King.
 - ▶ The salvation of God will be here!
 - ▶ The power of God will be here!
 - ▶ The kingdom of God will be here!

- The devil will be cast down in defeat.
 - ▶ The ancient serpent of the garden.
 - ▶ The great adversary (Satan).
 - ▶ The accuser of believers.

- The church will rise up in victory.
 - ▶ By the blood of Christ shed on a cross.
 - ✦ The accusations of the devil are empty.
 - ✦ The peace of Christ is eternal.
 - ▶ By the lives of Christians sacrificed in this cause.
 - ✦ Persecuted believers share in Christ's sufferings.
 - ✦ Persecuted believers participate in Satan's defeat.
 - When Satan uses persecution to destroy the life of a believer, he ultimately participates in their eternal delight and his own eternal destruction.

“As soon as God’s Word becomes known through you, the devil will afflict you and will make a real doctor of you, and will teach you by his temptations to seek and to love God’s Word. For I myself... owe my papists many thanks for so breaking, pressing and frightening me through the devil’s raging that they have turned me into a fairly good theologian, driving me to a goal I never should have reached.”

Martin Luther

Live now with all you have to bring about the end of this war...

“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 24:9-14

- The purpose: the Gospel and the glory of God declared in all nations.
 - ▶ Number of people groups worldwide: 11,690.
 - ▶ Number of people groups still unreached with the Gospel: 6,400.
 - ▶ Number of people groups still unreached and unengaged with the Gospel: 5,845.

- The price: following Christ to the ends of the earth may cost you everything you have.
 - ▶ Satan is prolonging that day as long as he possibly can.
 - ▶ If you give your life to advancing the Gospel to the ends of the earth, you can expect to be met in force by the devil and all the demons of hell.

- The promise: Jesus is coming back for His church.
 - ▶ We will be a part of a people made up of every language, tribe, and nation.
 - ▶ We will experience His peace and His presence forever and ever.

RECOMMENDED READING

If you are interested in further study of angels, demons, and spiritual warfare, the following resources are recommended. Many of these resources were foundational for the truths we explored in our study. Please note, however, that though these books are recommended, Dr. Platt does not necessarily agree with everything written in every one of them. We urge you to read and learn from these books, but at the same time, be wise in your reading to discern good teaching from men's opinions.

- Devotional books regarding spiritual warfare...
 - ▶ C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*
 - ▶ Joel Beeke, *Striving Against Satan*
 - ▶ Jerry Rankin, *Spiritual Warfare*

- Exegetical books regarding spiritual warfare...
 - ▶ John MacArthur, *How To Meet The Enemy*
 - ▶ Chip Ingram, *The Invisible War*
 - ▶ Clinton Arnold, *3 Crucial Questions About Spiritual Warfare*
 - ▶ Clinton Arnold, *Powers of Darkness: Principalities and Powers in Paul's Letters*
 - ▶ Edward Gross, *Miracles, Demons, and Spiritual Warfare: An Urgent Call for Discernment*

- Counseling books regarding spiritual warfare...
 - ▶ David Powlison, *Power Encounters: Reclaiming Spiritual Warfare*
 - ▶ Jay Adams, *Winning the War Within: A Biblical Strategy for Spiritual Warfare*

- Historical books regarding spiritual warfare...
 - ▶ Thomas Brooks, *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*
 - ▶ William Gurnall, *The Christian in Complete Armor*
 - ▶ John Owen, *Overcoming Sin and Temptation*

- Theological books that address spiritual warfare...
 - ▶ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*
 - ▶ Millard Erickson, *Systematic Theology*

About the Teacher

Dr. David Platt is deeply devoted to Christ and His Word. David's first love in ministry is disciple-making—the simple Biblical model of teaching God's Word, mentoring others and sharing faith. He has traveled extensively to teach the Bible and church leaders throughout the United States and around the world. Atlanta natives, he and his wife, Heather, made their home in New Orleans until they were displaced by flooding following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

A life-long learner, David has earned two undergraduate and three advanced degrees. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism (A.B.J.) from the University of Georgia, and a Master of Divinity (M.Div.), Master of Theology (Th.M.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has previously served at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary as Dean of Chapel and Assistant Professor of Expository Preaching and Apologetics, and as Staff Evangelist at Edgewater Baptist Church in New Orleans.

David holds a deep and abiding passion for global disciple-making. "I believe that God has uniquely created every one of His people to impact the world. Some may count it as idealistic, but I believe it is thoroughly biblical, rooted in Psalm 67:1-2, yet covering Scripture from beginning to end. God is in the business of blessing His people so that His ways and His salvation might be made known among all people."

David practices what he preaches through his travel nationally and internationally, teaching from God's Word in churches, seminaries, the underground church or even under a shade tree in Africa.

David and Heather were married in 1999. They are the parents of two sons, Caleb and Joshua and are in the process of adopting a daughter from Nepal.

Brook Hills' Weekends

If you are not a part of Brook Hills we welcome you as our guest this evening. If you are not currently involved in a local church, we invite you to join us for worship gatherings and small groups at Brook Hills this week:

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m.	Adult Small Groups
9:00 a.m.	Small Groups for All Ages Worship Gathering
11:00 a.m.	Small Groups for All Ages Worship Gathering
6:00 p.m.	Worship Gathering Small Groups

SMALL GROUPS

Brook Hills Small Groups of 8-12 adults gather weekly for Bible study, prayer, friend-building and ministry action. What's great about Small Groups is that they meet at all days, times and locations. Some meet on the church campus on Sundays, others meet in homes or area gathering places during the weekend—so there's one near you at a time and day that fits your family and schedule.

For a complete listing of Small Group opportunities visit us online at www.brookhills.org/local or stop by the Connection Central desk in the lobby for assistance connecting to a group.

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