

**SPIRITUAL WARFARE
AND THE CRAFT OF
DECEPTION**

REVISED---UPDATED VERSION

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THE SWORD OF THE LORD IS IN THE HEART OF EVERY BELIEVER

AND HE HAS MADE MY MOUTH LIKE A SHARP SWORD, IN THE SHADOW OF HIS HAND HAS HE HID ME, AND MADE ME A POLISHED SHAFT, IN HIS QUIVER HAS HE HID ME. Isaiah, Chapter 49, Verse 2.

AND TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION, AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, AND WATCHING THEREUNTO WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE AND SUPPLICATION FOR ALL SAINTS. Ephesians, Chapter 6, Verse 17.

FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS SHARPER THAN A TWO-EDGED SWORD. Hebrews, Chapter 4, Verse 12.

AND HE HAD IN HIS RIGHT HAND SEVEN STARS AND OUT OF HIS MOUTH WENT A TWO-EDGED SWORD. Revelation, Chapter 1, Verse 16.

FOREWORD

It is a well-known fact that in this present world and within the Church demons and devils are using their influence to cause confusion, conflict, envy, strife and every evil work. To say they are hard at work spreading evil around this world would be an understatement. The term “working like the devil” contains more truth than people may realize. Unfortunately, many people in the Church deny that demons exist or the reality of a personal the devil. On the other hand, many Christians are so fearful of demons they refuse to acknowledge they exist, or doubt that they have power over them.

Satan knows how the Kingdom of God operates. He was once a member of the angelic hosts who worshiped God before they was cast out of Heaven. After being thrown out of Heaven Lucifer formed a kingdom of his own known as the Kingdom of Darkness. He then set himself up as a counterfeit deity.

This Spiritual Warfare book is about waging war with Satan and the Forces of Darkness. Our enemies objective is to create chaos, kill, steal, and destroy. The truth we absorb from God’s Word through knowledge, wisdom, and understanding enables us to cast down the strongholds and imaginations the enemy entrenches in our minds.

This book is an expose about demons, devils and spiritual wickedness in high places who try to control our daily lives and how we can be successful in defeating them. Casting down imaginations and every high thing which exalts itself against the knowledge of God is the only way

which we can live victoriously in a world that is being bombarded with sinful lusts and desires.

Studying the principles I have laid out in this book will give the reader new spiritual insight into the realm of darkness and the modus operandi of the enemy. Through intense spiritual warfare we can defeat our enemy, Satan, and the fiery darts of hell which he attacks us with daily. As Christians no weapon formed against us will prosper when we are engaging the enemy with the weapons we have at our disposal.

Several years ago I had a dream about two very large men who were in an arena participating in a wrestling match. There were many people standing around the arena watching these very large, muscular men wrestling in what was a “match to the death.”

As they fought, a poisonous snake came out of the top of the head of each wrestler. The tails of the snakes were embedded and rooted in the brain of each of these men. The snakes seemed to be directing the movements of the men as they viciously fought with each other. As the men wrestled intensely around the arena, each snake tried to bite the body of its opponent.

Each man tried desperately to find an advantage over his opponent as they wrestled with each other. There were no pre-set rules of engagement in the wrestling match and each man was keenly aware of the serpent trying to bite him.

The two men wrestled for a long time. Finally, one of the snakes found an opening and bit his opponent. The man bitten by the serpent fell to the floor of the arena and died. I observed the people and noticed a look of horror on their faces as they watched the man die before their eyes.

The scripture says: THE HEART IS DECEITFUL

ABOVE ALL THINGS AND DESPERATELY WICKED, WHO CAN KNOW IT. Jeremiah, Chapter 17, Verse 9. It also says: AND GOD SAW THE WICKEDNESS OF MAN WAS GREAT IN THE EARTH, AND THAT EVERY IMAGINATION OF THE THOUGHTS OF HIS HEART WAS ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY. Genesis, Chapter 6, Verse 5.

This scripture in Jeremiah tells us the heart of man is extremely evil. The verse in Genesis tells us the thoughts of men's hearts (before the flood) were continually evil. Jesus told us that "AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH SO SHALL IT ALSO BE IN THE DAYS OF THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN." Matthew, Chapter 24, Verse 37.

Evil is nothing new. Evil has journeyed alongside mankind since the beginning when Adam and Eve fell into sin in the Garden of Eden. Evil was present in the Garden of Eden. The personification of evil, the Serpent, beguiled Eve into eating of the fruit on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Adam ate of the same forbidden fruit. Evil was then passed down from generation to generation in the hearts and minds of mankind. Why are men so evil and why do they steal from each other? Why do men want to kill, deceive and destroy each another? Who, or what, is behind all the evil mankind promotes and entertains? How can we deal with evil and the evil that men do?

I believe the two men in the dream represented two types of evil mind-sets here on Earth. Both men represented evil, but the wrestler whose snake bit the other man and caused him to die possessed the greater evil. The greater evil was able to overcome the lesser evil because he was more vicious and evil minded than the other. The greater evil will always triumph over lesser evil because it

is more cunning and conniving. It will stop at nothing to destroy its opponent.

The serpents, of course, represented evil motives, desires and attitudes. Although some evil desires and motives may be worse than others, both are ungodly and reflect the wickedness of all men who are without Christ. The serpents also represented the “deceptive tactics” each man was using to usurp and gain power over his opponent. This art or “craft of deception” has been used since man was exposed to sin in the Garden of Eden.

I have witnessed the “craft of deception” in many ways and many places including churches. I have witnessed church leaders manipulate individuals and congregations when dealing with offerings, people, and religious sanctioned events. Most Christians do not realize the part manipulation and demonic deception plays in their lives in many of the things they do and everywhere they go. People all over the world, including many Christians, are influenced and/or controlled at times by evil spirits without their knowledge. Some people are devilishly influenced or controlled by these deceptive spirits more so than others.

The nations of this world at all levels of government have some demonic control and activity within their ranks. I could name some people in our own government in the United States who are demonically influenced and/or controlled by demon spirits.

Everybody comes in contact with demonic influences almost every day of their lives, but do not recognize them. We usually have to deal with people who are demonically influenced daily. Many television commercials use deception, manipulating tactics, and lies in advertising. Fake News is the new norm in journalism.

If we watch TV, we need to be keenly aware of

what we are watching. We all know the filth most television shows produce—not to mention the sin, crime and degradation which are a byproduct of all demonic and devilish programming. We may encounter evil on every hand, but we do not have to be partakers of its damnable ways; nor do we have to be subject to the deadly consequences which lie ahead for all who are under the influence and yoke of evil powers.

Satan, along with his “army of darkness,” are fighting a war of attrition. They give no quarter or reprieve and they hold nothing back in their attempts to steal, kill, and destroy. Satan is fighting an all out war and destroying the lives of many people who do not even believe he exists. There is no respite from his attacks except through the rest and peace which comes from faith in God. Our enemy’s lust to propagate evil in the hearts and minds of mankind motivates him as he attempts to gain every inch of territory he can gain in the lives of people everywhere.

Earthly battles are fought over control of people, territories and principles. Spiritual battles are fought for the same reasons. Our enemy wants to control the territory of our minds and the principles which produce freedom from oppression, depression and sin.

The mind is called “the fortress of the soul.” The mind is the battlefield where we either find hope and peace in victory or death and destruction in defeat. However, for Christians, defeat is not an option. Victory over sin is imperative if we are going to find peace and rest for our souls.

Recognizing we have an enemy and knowing how he operates is key to experiencing victory in our lives. We overcome Satan through knowledge, understanding,

wisdom and the Blood of Christ. We can be victorious on every hand if we learn, and put into action the principles God has written in His word. If we put on the **WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD**, no weapon formed against us can or will prosper.

I would prefer to write about the goodness of God and about all the things which God has done in my life and what He is doing and can do in the Church. However, I understand without knowledge and wisdom we cannot fight the good fight of faith and win the battle for control of our minds. We cannot defeat an enemy we cannot see without learning the principles of **SPIRITUAL WARFARE**. We can understand how our enemy works, his subtle tactics, strategies, vulnerabilities and weaknesses.

CHAPTER 1

YOUR ADVERSARY

As man ventures deeper and deeper into worldwide catastrophe, chaos, and conflict, there seems to be many questions on the minds of people everywhere. How did we get ourselves in this mess? Why is there so much hatred, murder, and destruction in the world today? What is this world destined for, and how will it end?

However, there is good news--God is still alive, and Jesus still saves and delivers. He said He will never leave us nor forsake us. As a matter of fact, God tells us He will be with us even until the end of the age. We can take heart in knowing that nothing by any means can harm us when we are trusting in God. (Luke 10:19).

In today's society where trouble and sin abounds on every hand, these questions as well as many others provoke even the most faithful of God's people to seek answers. Many Christians are finding themselves at their wit's end fighting to keep their sanity and the peace of mind God promises in His Word.

You can pick up a newspaper and read about satanic cults, soaring crime rates, new terrorist attacks, global financial worries, and wars and rumors of wars all around the world. We are inundated with stories of child molestation, incest, homosexual marriage, murder, and all manner of sin abounding on every hand. If things are contrary to what is pure and holy in the eyes of God, you find them overtaking society as a whole. The Lord spoke to me and told me "A total meltdown of society is coming."

Although there is a lot of bad news in the headlines today, we can take heart because the Scripture says “where sin abounds God’s grace is found in much greater abundance.” (Romans 5:20). Jesus is still Lord, and God has not, and never will be, dethroned. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. God’s Word is the only thing which remains constant in a world that is constantly changing and growing more evil day by day.

In Christ we can find peace which surpasses all understanding. In Christ we can find the help we need in times of trial and tribulation. In Christ we can find ourselves constantly being comforted, fed, and nourished when the rest of the world falls apart. Jesus is an ever present help in the time of tribulation and sorrow.

Christ is the light of our salvation and our hope in the time of need. In Christ we find the “Living Word.” In Christ we find all which is good, honorable and righteous. In Christ there is no darkness or shadow of turning. We find hope in the saving, delivering, and manifest presence and power of Christ.

With Satan we find just the opposite. With Satan we find death, destruction, and debauchery. In Satan we find ungodliness, unholiness, and evil. As unchanging in truth and righteousness as Christ is, we find Satan as unchanging in unholiness, depravity, and evil.

With sin abounding on every hand, we see Satan hard at work trying to destroy all that is good and pure in the Church. Satan is the sinner’s adversary and his god. To God’s chosen, the Church, Satan is their adversary but not their god. God’s chosen, through the Blood of Jesus, overcomes the adversary who walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.

Satan has a ministry to perform. He comes to steal,

kill, destroy, and devour all who fall into the snares he sets. Satan is the epitome and embodiment of all evil. He is the father of all sin, sacrilege, and self-deception. When an act of evil has been perpetrated any place in the universe, it is the offspring of the seed of Satan's evil nature and character.

There is no light, equity, goodness, righteousness, love or integrity in Satan's character, just pure ungodly, unadulterated and unfathomable evil. His soul is darker than the darkest night; his kingdom is more despicable, foul, nasty, vulgar and filthy than anything anyone can describe or imagine.

Before his fall from grace Satan was known as "The Covering Cherub." The Bible tells us that Lucifer was the most majestic and melodiously anointed angel of all the "angels of light." He is described as an angel with beauty, grace, and heralding which far surpassed all of his angelic peers. Lucifer had an army of angels of light under his command as he served God in Heaven.

According to scripture, all the light and glory which Lucifer possessed in Heaven as praise and worship leader was not enough for him. He wanted to ascend to God's Throne and become "like the Most High God." (Isaiah 14:14). Lucifer, also known as "The Son of the Morning," was not satisfied with just being the great "covering angel." He desired to possess greater status among the "heavenly hosts." Lucifer's greatest desire was to sit and rule upon the Throne of God.

THE FALL

Isaiah, Chapter 14, Verses 11-17, reads: **THY**

POMP IS BROUGHT DOWN TO THE GRAVE, AND THE NOISE OF THY VIOLS; THE WORM IS SPREAD UNDER THEE, AND THE WORMS COVER THEE. HOW ART THOU FALLEN, O LUCIFER, SON OF THE MORNING! HOW ART THOU CUT DOWN TO THE GROUND, WHICH DID WEAKEN THE NATIONS! FOR THOU HAST SAID IN THINE HEART, I WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN, I WILL EXALT MY THRONE ABOVE THE STARS OF GOD; I WILL SIT ALSO UPON THE MOUNT OF THE CONGREGATION, IN THE SIDES OF THE NORTH; I WILL ASCEND ABOVE THE HEIGHTS OF THE CLOUDS; I WILL BE LIKE THE MOST HIGH. YET THOU SHALT BE BROUGHT DOWN TO HELL, TO THE SIDES OF THE PIT. THEY THAT SEE THEE SHALL NARROWLY LOOK UPON THEE, AND CONSIDER THEE SAYING, IS THIS THE MAN THAT MADE THE EARTH TO TREMBLE, THAT DID SHAKE KINGDOMS.

It may or may not be the will of God for us to know all that transpired before and during the fall of Lucifer, Son of the Morning. I can speculate and wonder about all that happened during the fall, but all of that is not important. The important thing is the fact that Satan has been cast down from Heaven, and now we have to deal with him here on Earth. Understanding the reason God cast Satan out of Heaven and the way in which He did it will give us a greater understanding of how we can deal with Satan here on Earth. Knowledge of our adversary's attitudes, strengths, and motives will lead us to victory when he comes to "steal, kill, and destroy."

It is an elementary statement to say that everything evil comes from Satan and everything good comes from God. Yes, God is good, and the Devil is bad. Yes,

everything God does, He does for righteousness sake. Everything Satan does, he does because he is motivated by the evil which resides within him. All evil which exists can be found in Satan or traced back to him.

If we know that God is good and the devil is bad, why do so many Christians follow the wrong path and perform (as the Apostle Paul said) the evil instead of the good that lies within them? Why do so many Christians miss the mark of their calling from on high? Why does sin have control in certain areas of the lives of some people and not others? Why do some Christians have problems with certain sins, while other Christians have trouble with different sins in their lives?

Why do Christians have a problem with sin at all? Why do some Christians have to go through life being subject to sin and the condemnation sin brings? Why did Christ die on the cross? Does the cleansing Blood of Christ give us power over sin and spiritual death? These are some of the questions many Christians wrestle with.

One of the travesties in the Church today is the doctrine which says “You are going to sin every day,” or even worse that “You HAVE to sin every day.” To some believers these statements seem absurd, which indeed they are. However, some Christians are taught these ungodly doctrines in their churches. This doctrine is not biblical and it is founded upon doctrines of devils.

A young man who worked for me came to me one Monday morning and told me a message was preached in his Church the day before saying “people have to sin every day.” I was totally appalled by what he told me. I have visited churches where pastors and teachers have propagated this ungodly doctrine as well. This doctrine is a slap in the face of Jesus. Jesus was crucified so we

would have power over sin, not so sin would have power over us. The redemptive plan of God was carried out so we would not have to sin, not so we could sin.

I realize that we all possess the propensity to sin, but to say that “we must sin or we will sin every day” is a heretical abomination which has no scriptural foundation. If I thought I had to commit at least one sin every day, I would not want to get out of bed in the morning. If I knew I was going to commit sin every day, I could not wake up with praise on my lips for my Lord. If I knew that sin was expected to be a part of my daily life, I could not serve my Lord with a joyful heart.

Jesus paid the price to set us free from the bondage of sin so we would not have to commit sin anymore. However, I know that if I do sin, God is faithful and just to forgive me of my sins and cleanse me from all unrighteousness when I sincerely repent. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Only Jesus was without sin. Fortunately, as Christians, Christ dwells within us giving us power to overcome sin. If we walk in the Spirit, we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

Doctrines like these keep many believers from experiencing all the grace and power God has promised His children. The propagation of doctrines of devils keeps the body of Christ from experiencing miracles, signs, and wonders of God in their midst.

Job, Chapter 1, Verses 6-7 reads: NOW THERE WAS A DAY WHEN THE SONS OF GOD CAME TO PRESENT THEMSELVES BEFORE THE LORD, AND SATAN CAME ALSO AMONG THEM AND THE LORD SAID UNTO SATAN, WHENCE COMEST THOU? THEN SATAN ANSWERED THE LORD, FROM GOING TO AND FRO IN THE EARTH, AND WALKING UP

AND DOWN IN IT.

The Apostle Paul said “Satan as a roaring lion walks around seeking whom he may devour.” I think we can safely say Satan’s main objective, as Jesus said, was to steal, kill, and destroy. Satan walks to and fro on Earth seeking to devour the weak in faith.

We know that God cast Satan out of Heaven along with his angelic entourage consisting of one-third of the angels. These rebellious angels were cursed and bound in “chains of darkness” which separated them from the God of Light and the Light of God.

Some people have a lack of knowledge and understanding of what effect these cursed angels have on their lives and how they can powerfully and effectively deal with them. Many believers fail to realize that most of their problems are caused by demonic influences and the doctrines they promote. The weak in faith have enough problems dealing with the flesh, and certainly do not need their enemies pouring more fuel on the fire.

THE DECEPTION

In the beginning God planted a garden which He called Eden. He created Adam and Eve and gave them the responsibility of working and “keeping (guarding) the garden.” We all know the story of how the Serpent deceived Eve in the garden which eventually brought about the downfall of mankind.

It was in the Garden of Eden where the deceiver, Satan, used what we now call the “spirit of witchcraft” to deceive Eve into eating the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. I will write more about the Spirit of Witchcraft in a later Chapter. After being adopted

by the Father and Mother of all living, that spirit became a part of their human nature. This aspect of the “fallen nature” has since been passed down from generation to generation. Adam’s nature was much different “in the beginning” before he sinned. After God created Adam, He breathed His own Spirit into the frame of Adam, and he became a “living soul.”

After Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden Eve conceived and bore two sons. Cain, the first born, became a “tiller of the ground.” Abel, the second son, was a “keeper of sheep.” Both Cain and Abel brought a sacrifice unto the Lord. God was not pleased with Cain’s sacrifice because it was a “sacrifice of works” and not of faith. God was looking for a heart-felt sacrifice. A sacrifice of blood prophetically represents Christ pouring out His Blood as a sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. The Blood of Christ is the only acceptable sacrifice for our sins.

Because his sacrifice was rejected by God Cain slew Abel in a jealous rage. It was obvious that the “nature of the Serpent” had been passed down to Cain and was now residing in and ruling his heart. Cain’s sacrifice represented a “sacrifice of works.” The doctrine espoused through salvation by works can never cleanse the heart and wash away sin.

Instead of the godly characteristics which Abel possessed, Cain possessed and displayed many of the characteristics of the Serpent, Satan. Those characteristics had been passed down to Cain by his parents who had disobeyed God and had eaten of the forbidden fruit.

Cain was prideful like the Serpent who had been cast out of Heaven for his rebellion. Rage, hate, jealousy, pride, and murder were all part of the ungodly character

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