

# Breaking the Power of the Devil

EPHESIANS 6:12 - ... *WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD, AGAINST SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES.*

- THE WORD OF GOD TEACHES US THAT THESE EVIL SPIRITS ARE FALLEN ANGELS WHO HAVE BEEN DETHRONED BY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.
- WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE DEMONS HAVE BEEN DEFEATED BY CHRIST. COLOSSIANS 2:15 – *And having spoiled principalities and powers he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*
- AND NOW THAT JESUS HAS DETHRONED THEM, WE CAN REIGN OVER THEM.

## **GENESIS 1:26-30**

- ⇒ ORIGINALLY, GOD MADE THE EARTH AND THE FULLNESS THEREOF, GIVING ADAM DOMINION OVER ALL THE WORKS OF HIS HANDS.
- ⇒ ADAM SOLD OUT TO SATAN AND THROUGH ADAM SATAN BECAME THE GOD OF THIS WORLD.
- ⇒ SATAN HAS A RIGHT TO BE HERE AND BE THE GOD OF THIS WORLD.
- ⇒ SATAN EVEN HAS THE RIGHT TO RULE OVER US UNTIL...WE BECOME A NEW CREATURE AND JOIN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

COLOSSIANS 1:12-13 – *GIVING THANKS UNTO THE FATHER... WHO HATH DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS, AND HATH TRANSLATED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF HIS DEAR SON...*

- SATAN HAS NO MORAL OR LEGAL RIGHT TO RULE OR SOMINATE YOU AND I.
- YET THE AVERAGE CHRISTIAN HAS MORE FAITH IN SATAN'S AUTHORITY AND POWER THAN IN GOD'S.

1 COR. 15:45 – *AND SO IT IS WRITTEN, THE FIRST MAN ADAM WAS MADE A LIVING SOUL; THE LAST ADAM WAS MADE A QUICKENING SPIRIT.*

1 COR. 15:47 – *THE FIRST MAN IS OF THE EARTH, EARTHY: THE SECOND MAN IS THE LORD FROM HEAVEN.*

- JESUS CHRIST BECAME OUR SUBSITUTE.
- MOST CHURCH PEOPLE BELIEVE WE WILL EXERCISE OUR SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY SOMETIME IN THE MILLENNIUM.
- IF THAT IS SO, WHY DOES THE BIBLE SAY SATAN WILL BE BOUND DURING THE MILLENIUM?
  
- THE TIME IS NOW! WE HAVE THE AUTHORITY.
- ALTHOUGH WE ARE IN THE WORLD, WE ARE NOT OF THE WORLD.
- SATAN MAYBE RUNNING A LOT OF THINGS AND PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD, BUT HE IS NOT RUNNING ME.
- HE IS NOT RUNNING THE CHURCH.
- HE CAN NOT DOMINATE YOU AND I
- WE CAN DOMINATE HIM----WE HAVE THE AUTHORITY.

### **LUKE 10:19**

- WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST.
- EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE PRAYED...”NOW, LORD, YOU DO THIS AND THAT”, LEAVING EVERYTHING UP TO HIM.
- HE HAS GIVEN US HIS AUTHORITY ON THE EARTH TO HIS BODY, WHICH IS THE CHURCH.
- YOU AND I MUST REALIZE THAT MANY PROBLEMS EXIST BECAUSE WE PERMIT THEM TO. WE DON'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THEM.

#### ➤ *EXPECT FROM GOD*

➤ **ACTS 12:5-16**

➤ **DANIEL 3:15-18**

- AS LONG AS SATAN CAN KEEP YOU IN UNBELIEF OR HOLD YOU HIS REASONING, HE'LL WHIP YOU IN EVERY BATTLE.

- BUT IF YOU AND I WILL GO TO BATTLE WITH FAITH IN CHRIST YOU'LL WHIP HIM EVERY TIME.

*The Christian is not only a Saint, but also a:*

□ Child - Servant - Steward - Soldier

- ! All Christians are involved in a battle, whether they recognize it or not
- ! One of the most difficult things in life is to maintain a balance of Sovereignty through the word of God and by our faith in Christ.
- ! Many of us are unaware of the Devil and his schemes.

**2 Corinthians 2:11** - lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

## **KNOW WHO THE ENEMY IS:**

### **A. He is Accountable to God**

1. A creature—with a personality
  - a) Mind
  - b) Emotions
  - c) Will
  - d) Self-conscious
2. A free moral agent
3. One who is responsible to God
4. One who is included in God's eternal plan

### **B. He has Access to Heaven (and our Hearts {Mind})**

(His old home)

1. Not omnipresent – but presence felt everywhere
2. Not omniscient
3. He is a devout worker – a roaring lion
4. He has access to our hearts – goes as far as we let him
5. He is a “wounded lion” who became a “man-eater”
6. God will let him go as far as He (God) determines.
  - a) When things go wrong look at:
    - 1) Self
    - 2) God
    - 3) Situation

### **C. He is the Accuser of the Brethren (Zach 3:1 “Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.”)**

1. Before God

2. In our consciences
3. In the face of others

Our sins are imperfections that are before us, but Christ is our Atoning Sacrifice and Advocate.

Two approaches of the Enemy:

- a) Assassinates:
  - 1) Character (being)
  - 2) Personality (worth)
  - 3) Reputation (criticize)
- b) Attributes motives (judge)

#### **D. The Adversary of God and the Saints**

1. The enemy of all that is good and God's
2. He is called the *Destroyer* (Rev 9:11) and the *Deceiver* (Rev 12:9; 20:3)
  - a) In Church Age:
    - 1) False doctrines
    - 2) False Religions
  - b) In the Trials and Tribulations of Saints:
    - 1) Persecution
    - 2) False Prophets
- ! Calls God a liar (Gen 3:1-5)
- ! Calls believers no good (1 John 3:12)

#### **E. His Activities are limited by God**

(Jn 20:11-17; 1 Cor. 10:12-14)

- ! *God sets the limit—He is too wise to make a mistake and too good to do wrong.*
1. Satan is not sovereign
  2. Satan is a servant
  3. God always has our best interest and welfare in mind
  4. God is always in control (**Rom 8:28** “**And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.**”)

#### **We sin by our:**

⇒ Words - Actions - Attitude

The Son of God will not always calm the storms of life, but He is always there with us and for us.

## **Conclusion:**

1. Keep your eyes on God
  2. Remain faithful to Him
  3. Resist the Devil and he will flee from you
  4. Maintain a spirit of thanksgiving and worship
  5. Be filled with the Spirit
  6. Be strong in the Lord
  7. Pray, Fast, read the Scriptures, Witness, and Fellowship with others.
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- YOU AND I MUST BASE OUR FAITH ON WHAT THE WORD OF GOD SAYS.
  - SMITH WIGGLESWORTH SAID: “I’M NOT MOVED BY WHAT I SEE. I’M NOT MOVED BY WHAT I FEEL. I’M MOVED ONLY BY WHAT I BELIEVE.
  - WE NEED TO STAND OUR GROUND.