

"Our Spiritual Warfare With Satan And His Evil Forces"

(A Publication Of "The Inner-city Church Planting Mission")

"For 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." **Ephesians 6:12**



hat we as
followers of
the LORD JESUS
CHRIST are in
the midst of a
spiritual war.
An intense
war, because
of the power
and magnitude
of our very
wicked enemy.
That enemy of
course is
Satan and all
of his evil
forces, both
in the
spiritual and
physical
realms.
Scripture
warns us to

not be
ignorant of
Satan and his
ways (see II
Corinthians
2:11). This is
the purpose of
this study.
Not only to
give us
understanding
of Satan and
his ways, but
more
importantly to
give us
insight into
the "tools" we
have through
JESUS CHRIST
and HIS Word
to wage war
against him .
. . and win!

I. WHO IS SATAN AND WHO ARE HIS EVIL FORCES?

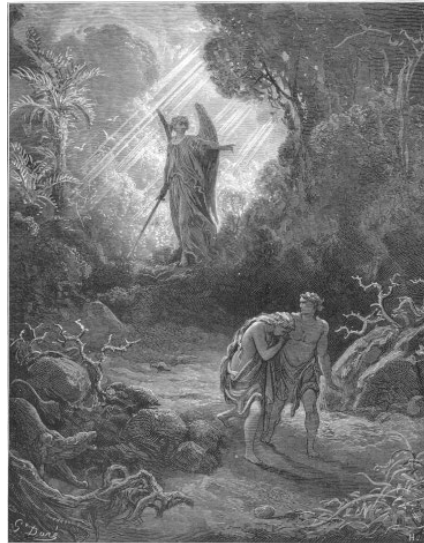
Before an army goes into battle, it is wise if that army learns as much as possible about the enemy. This also applies to us as we engage Satan and his evil forces in spiritual battle. We will do this in this study by first of all looking at the "history" of Satan and his evil forces. Then secondly looking at the many names and titles Scripture gives to them.

A. The History Of Satan And His Evil Forces

1. *“Moreover the Word of the LORD came unto me saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD GOD, Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of GOD, every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, the topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth, and I have set thee so, thou was upon the holy mountain of GOD, thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the storms of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned, therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of GOD, and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness, I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.”*
Ezekiel 28:11-17

This Scripture from Ezekiel is a very significant one in respect to understanding the very beginnings and nature of Satan. Following are several important truths that we can learn concerning him . . .

- Although the King of Tyrus is addressed here, Satan is really the one who is being described (Adam and Eve were the only human beings, *“... in Eden the garden of GOD...”* [v.13a]). Note: Many times throughout history Satan has worked through various world rulers to bring about his destructive purpose. (i.e. - Pharaoh of Egypt during Moses' day; King Herod during JESUS' infancy; etc.)



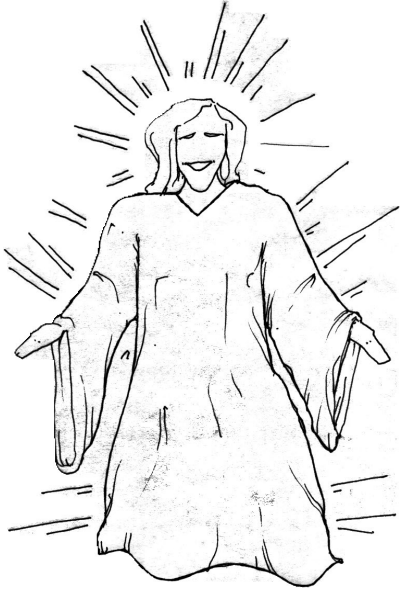
- *“Thou sealest up the sum...”*
- Satan was the model of perfection (see also v.15a)
- *“(Thou art) full of wisdom...”*
- Satan is very intelligent
- *“(Thou art) perfect in beauty...”*
- Satan is perhaps the most beautiful creature GOD has ever created (see also v.13b)

- *“ . . . the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee . . . ”* (v.13c)
- Satan is a musical being
- *“Thou art the anointed cherub . . . ”* (v.14a)
- Satan was the most powerful angel in heaven
- *“ . . . thou wast upon the holy mountain of GOD, thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.”* (v.14b)
- Satan had special privileges in heaven
- *“ . . . iniquity was found in thee.”* (v.15b)
- Satan was the first in GOD’s creation to sin
- *“By the multitude of thy merchandise . . . ”* (v.16a)
- Satan is very “wealthy”
- *“ . . . they have filled the midst of thee with violence . . . ”* (v.16b)
- Satan is a violent creature
- *“ . . . therefore I (GOD) will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of GOD, and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub from the midst of the stones of fire.”* (v.16c)
- Satan was judged by GOD and cast out of heaven (see also v.17c)
- *“Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty . . . ”* (v.17a)
- Satan became proud of his beauty
- *“ . . . thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness . . . ”* (v.17b)
- Satan and his reasoning became corrupted because of his sin

2. *“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst 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.”*
Isaiah 14:12-15

These verses from Isaiah are very important for us to study if we wish to understand the history of Satan, particularly his

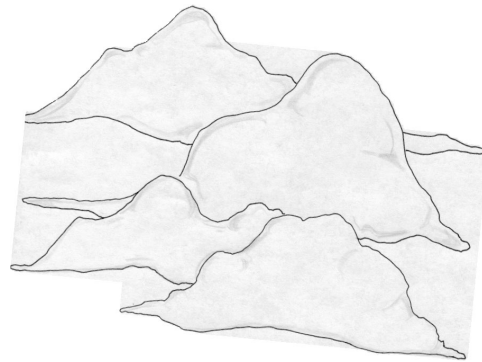
original sin and subsequent judgment. Notice several important truths that we learn in relationship to this . . .



a. Here Satan is referred to as "*... Lucifer, son of the morning.*" This was Satan's name before he Sinned. "*Lucifer*" means "day-star" or "shining-one", and refers to the great beauty GOD created him with as the highest ranking angel in heaven, (see Ezekiel 28:11-17)

b. In vv.13-14, we have described for us in detail Satan's original sin of pride (i.e. - self-will). These have often been described as the five "I wills" of Satan.

- "*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 ...*"
- "*I will ascend above the heights of the clouds ...*"
- "*I will be like the MOST HIGH.*"



Evidently, Satan's great beauty and high position in heaven caused him to be lifted up in pride, even to the point of desiring to be equal with ALMIGHTY GOD. This is what the Apostle John was referring to when he wrote,

"... the Devil sinneth from the beginning." I John 3:8b

C. Because of this rebellion against the LORD, Satan is judged by being cast out of heaven (vv.12, 15). This is probably also the time when the many angels (i.e. - demons) that chose to follow Satan in his rebellion were judged and cast out of heaven as well.

"For if GOD spared not the angels that sinned, but cast him down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment . . ."

I Peter 2:4 (see also Jude 6)

B. The Names And Titles Of Satan And His Evil

Forces

The Scriptures give us many names and titles for Satan and his evil forces. As we study them in detail, they give us rich insights into understanding just who these evil beings are.

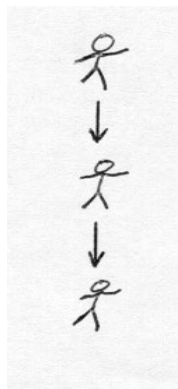
<u>Name Or Title</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Reference</u>
<i>"Satan"</i>	the hater	Job 1:6
<i>"Lucifer"</i>	day-star/shining one	Isaiah 14:12
<i>"cherub"</i>	angel	Ezekiel 28:14,16
<i>"the Devil"</i>	the accuser	Matthew 4:1
<i>"the Tempter"</i>	the tester	Matthew 4:3
<i>"devils"</i>	demon	Matthew 7:22
<i>"unclean spirit"</i>	impure	Mark 1:23
<i>"the Prince of this world"</i>	the chief	John 12:31
<i>"the god of this world"</i>	object of worship	II Corinthians 4:4
<i>"Belial"</i>	worthless, lawless	II Corinthians 6:15
<i>"the Prince of the power of the air"</i>	the chief	Ephesians 2:2
<i>"principalities"</i>	evil ruler	Ephesians 6:12
<i>"powers"</i>	evil authority	Ephesians 6:12
<i>"the rulers of the darkness of this world"</i>	world-ruler	Ephesians 6:12
<i>"the wicked One"</i>	bad, malignant	Ephesians 6:16
<i>"the angel of the bottomless pit"</i>	abyss	Revelation 9:11
<i>"Abaddon" (Hebrew)</i> <i>"Apollyon" (Greek)</i>	the destroyer	Revelation 9:11
<i>"the Dragon"</i>	large monster or serpent	Revelation 12:9

II. HOW DOES SATAN AND HIS EVIL FORCES WORK?

Not only is it of utmost importance that we learn as much as we can about who Satan and his evil forces are, but also how they work. Scripture tells us that, "... *we are not* (to be) *ignorant of* (their) *plans*" (II Corinthians 2:11b). The purpose of this portion of our study is to expose these evil "plans" so we can more effectively do battle against them!

A. They Work Through A Chain Of Command

In Revelation 9:1-11, the Apostle John describes for us a future incident where demons are released from "... *the bottomless pit* ..." (v.2), to bring great "torment" (v.5), to the inhabitants of earth. It is then in verse eleven that John says . . .



"And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon."

The fact that these demons "... *had a king over them* ...", tells us of an evil hierarchy within their kingdom, where some demons have more authority than others.

B. They Work Through Principalities And Powers

"For 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." Ephesians 6:2

"A municipality is an area of land over which there is governmental jurisdiction. A principality is an evil ruler over an area of land. There are 'principalities' over nations, cities, and districts." (Life Purpose, Volume 2 * Institute in Basic Life Principles, p.9
A Biblical example of this is found in Daniel 10:13 . . .

“But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days, but lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me . . .

Notice from the above Scripture, that we are also in a struggle against, “. . . *the rulers of the darkness of this world . . .*” (which speaks of the false philosophies and teachings of the world), and, “. . . *spiritual wickedness in high places.*” This refers to the warfare that is constantly taking place between spiritual powers.

C. They Work Through Human Beings

1. Through the wicked

When JESUS once rebuked the Jewish religious leaders of HIS day, HE said to them . . .

“Ye are of your father the Devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.”

John 8:44a

If we are to be effective in our struggle against Satan and his evil forces, we must never forget that many times they work through the unbeliever. Biblical illustrations of this would be . . .

- Cain (see Genesis 4:8)
- Balaam (see Numbers 22-24)
- Herod (see Matthew 2:16)
- Judas (see Luke 22:3-6)



More contemporary illustrations would be . . .

- present evil rulers
- illegal drug “pushers”
- rapists
- many “religious” leaders (i.e. - cults)
- alcohol makers and sellers
- pornographers

Scripture clearly teaches that Satan and his demons desire to indwell human beings. It would seem that when they are able to accomplish this, they can do their most effective destruction. Following are several illustrations from Scripture that prove this . . .

- a.) *“When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest (i.e. - possession of a human being), . . .”*

Matthew 12:43

- b.) *“And (JESUS and HIS disciples), came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. And when (JESUS) was come out of the ship, immediately there met HIM out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit . . .” Mark 5:1-2*
- b.) *“Then entered Satan into Judas sur-named Iscariot being of the number of the twelve.” Luke 22:3*
- d.) *“And it came to pass, as we (i.e. - Paul and Luke) , went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by sooth-sayings, the same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, ‘These men are the servants of the MOST HIGH GOD, which show unto us the way of salvation.’” Acts 16:16-17*

2. Through the CHRISTian

Just as Satan and his evil forces are able to work through the wicked, so they are able to work through the CHRISTian. Although they cannot indwell the CHRISTian, (see II Corinthians 6:14-16), Scripture clearly teaches that they can influence us for evil through our fellow believer.

“From that time forth began JESUS to show unto HIS disciples, how that HE must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took HIM, and began to rebuke HIM, saying, Be it far from THEE, LORD, this shall not be unto THEE. But HE turned and said unto Peter, Get thee behind ME, Satan, thou art an offense unto ME, for thou savorest not the things that be of GOD, but those that be of men.”

Matthew 16:21-23



D. They Work Through Deception

“When (Satan) speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own, for he is a liar, and the father of it.” John 8:44c

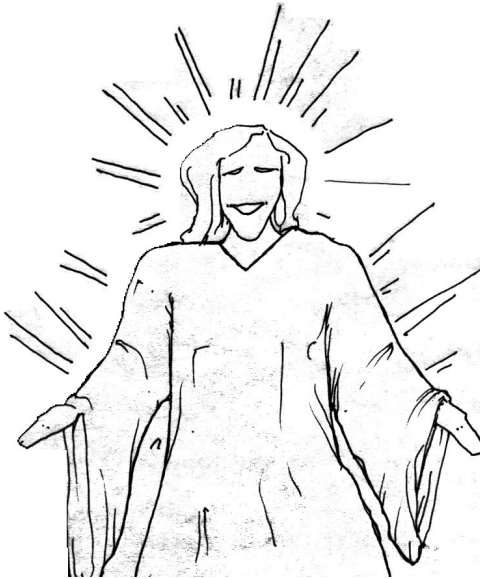
Deception is perhaps Satan's greatest means of warfare against us. As the Scripture above asserts, *“... he is a*

liar . . .”, and the source of all lies! Indeed, deception was how he was successful in getting the first human beings to sin (see Genesis 3:1-7), and he has been using the same tactic ever since.

When speaking of the judgment of Satan and his evil forces in the end, Scripture records . . .

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world, he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Revelation 12:9

Notice from this Scripture that we are all guilty of falling prey to Satan’s deceptive ways. Whether it be through the more obvious means of such evils as illegal drug abuse, drunkenness, and sexual immorality, or through his more subtle ways of lying, cheating and stealing.



Satan and his evil angels are so deceptive, Scripture tells us that they can even make themselves appear to us as GOD’s righteous angels . . .

“ . . . for Satan himself transformeth himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves as the ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works.” II Corinthians 11:14b-15

E. They Work Through Spiritual Blindness

“But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost. In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of CHRIST, WHO is the image of GOD, should shine unto them.” II Corinthians 4:3-4

This Scripture is speaking about those that are without CHRIST of course. According to this Scripture, Satan’s desire is to keep the unsaved “lost”. He accomplishes this

by blinding their minds to “... *the glorious Gospel of CHRIST...*”, which is the only means by which they can be delivered from the condemnation and judgment of their sins.



JESUS HIMSELF gives us further insight into how Satan is successful in this. When explaining the parable of the sower in Mark chapter 4, HE explains what HE meant by the seed which, “... *fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.*” In verse 14 HE says . . .

“And those are they by the way side, where the Word is sown, but then they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the Word that was sown in their hearts.”

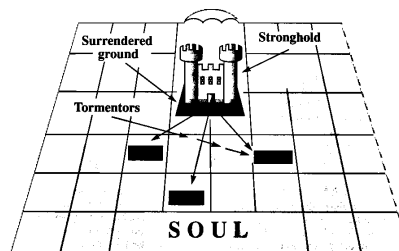
F. They Work Through Surrendered Ground

“Neither give place to the Devil.” Ephesians 4:27

“place” (Greek: topos) = ground

According to this Scripture, Satan seeks to acquire “ground” in our lives. That is, he seeks to take more and more control over our soul (i.e. - mind, will and emotions). This happens as we surrender “ground” through persistent sins in our lives. From that surrendered ground Satan “attacks” us in our mind, will and emotions.

One sin that Satan uses to gain ground in our lives is bitterness [i.e. - unforgiveness] (see II Corinthians 2:10-11; Ephesians 4:26, 31-32). Using bitterness as an example, the following diagram with explanations helps us to understand how Satan works in this way . . .



- According to Ephesians 4:26-32, we surrender an area of our souls to Satan when we are bitter toward someone.

Satan then has the legal right to construct a stronghold on his property.

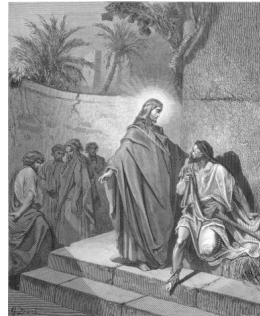
- A stronghold is a way of thinking that is contrary to GOD's will. From his stronghold, Satan torments us with fear, anger, worry, and other destructive emotions.
- GOD tells us in Scripture that HE will turn us over to the tormentors if we do not forgive our offenders (see Matthew 18:34). If we try to fight the tormentors, Satan simply retreats to his stronghold and waits for another opportunity to attack. (Note: The above diagram and explanations are from pp. 2-3 * Weapons Of Truth Series * Institute Of Basic Life Principles)

G. They Work Through Inflicting Physical Ailments

Certainly not all physical maladies are a result of Satan and his evil forces. Many are from the LORD HIMSELF (see Exodus 4:11). However, it is very evident from the testimony of Scripture that Satan and his evil forces are very successful in using this tactic against both CHRISTian and non-CHRISTian alike. Following are several means in which they employ this weapon . . .

1. They can inflict dumbness

"As they went out, behold, they brought to (JESUS) a dumb man possessed with a devil. And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake . . ." Matthew 9:32-33a
(see also Matthew 12:22; Mark 9:17)



2. They can inflict blindness

"Then was brought unto (JESUS) one possessed with a devil, blind and dumb, and HE healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw." Matthew 12:22

3. They can inflict destructive behavior



“And they brought (a possessed boy) unto (JESUS) , and when he saw HIM, straightway the spirit tare him, and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And (JESUS) asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto HIM? And he said, of a child. And oft-times it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him . . .” Mark 9:20-22 (see also Mark 5:5; Luke 6:18; 9:39)

4. They can inflict infirmities

“And behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And (JESUS said), ought not this woman . . . whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?” Luke 13:11, 16 (see also II Corinthians 12:7)

5. They can inflict death

“(the devil) was a murderer from the beginning . . .” John 8:44b

H. They Work Through Cursed Articles In Our Possession

“What say I then? That the idol is anything, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is anything? But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to GOD, and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.” I Corinthians 10:19-20

Here the Apostle Paul warns us about *“idols”* used in the worship of *“devils”*. According to Paul, to be associated in any way with these *“idols”*, is to *“... have fellowship with devils”*

There are of course millions of these *“idols”* around the world today, and they are becoming more and more prevalent in America. However, we should be alert to the fact that Satan and his evil forces also work through articles *“indirectly”* associated with this demon worship! Following are some examples . . .

- evil music
- horoscope books and magazines

- "toys" and "games" (i.e. - ouiji boards, tarot cards, cabbage patch dolls, etc.)
- eastern "religious" books
- occult comic books & novels
- hypnotic tapes

**Several Concluding Thoughts Concerning The Ways
And Characteristics Of Satan
And His Evil Forces**

A. They Can Speak If They So Desire

"Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD GOD had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath GOD said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" **Genesis 3:1** (see also **Matthew 4:3,6,9**)

"But when (the unclean spirit) saw JESUS afar off, he ran and worshipped HIM, and cried with a loud voice, and said, what have I to do with THEE, JESUS, THOU SON of the MOST HIGH GOD? I adjure THEE by GOD, that THOU torment me not."

Mark 5:6-7



Many times when people complain of hearing "voices", they are actually hearing Satan or his demons speak to them!

B. They Seek To Tempt Us When We're Weak

"Then was JESUS led up of the SPIRIT into the wilderness to be tempted of the Devil. And when HE had fasted forty days and forty nights, HE was afterward an hungered. And when the Tempter came to HIM, he said, If THOU be the SON of GOD, command that these stones be made bread."

Matthew 4:1-3

In this record of CHRIST's forty day fast, Scripture tells us that JESUS was hungry. It was at this point that the Devil himself came to JESUS and tempted HIM in this

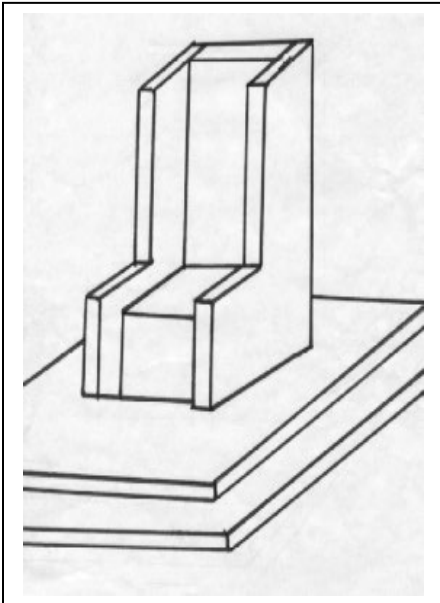
HIS most vulnerable area. (Note: JESUS would not have sinned if HE had made the stones into bread. HIS sin would have been doing this out of GOD the FATHER's perfect will)

Satan and his evil forces know our weaknesses. They are wise enough to know that this is where we are most vulnerable. Thus, this is where they will seek to tempt us to sin as will.

C. They Seek To Discredit Us Before The LORD

"And I (the Apostle John), heard a loud voice saying in heaven, now is come salvation and strength and the kingdom of our GOD, and the power of HIS CHRIST, for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our GOD day and night."

Revelation 12:10



The picture that John the Apostle paints for us here is one of a courtroom-like scene in heaven. GOD the FATHER is on HIS judgment seat, and the Devil (which literally means "accuser"), is like an attorney, who brings accusation after accusation to the LORD concerning our unworthiness. Yes, even we as children of GOD do not deserve salvation or GOD's blessings, but because of HIS mercy and forgiveness through the blood of JESUS CHRIST, these evil accusations carry no weight. Someday, when Satan is eventually judged and "*cast down*" out of heaven, this attempt to discredit shall cease.

III. How Are We To Fight Satan And HIS Evil Forces And Have Victory?

We have learned from our study so far, who Satan and his evil forces are and how they work. We have learned that they are very powerful and a very formidable enemy. However, we will learn in this next portion of the powerful and effective spiritual weapons that the LORD has given to us to wage war against them. And not only to wage war against them . . . but to experience complete victory over them on a daily basis!

A. By Remembering Our Position In CHRIST

“Blessed be the GOD and FATHER of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in CHRIST.” Ephesians 1:3



When it comes to being victorious over Satan and his evil forces, it begins with knowing who we are in CHRIST and all the power we have at our disposal because of our position in HIM. This is what the Apostle Paul meant when he spoke of *“all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in CHRIST.”*

Satan is the originator of all deception (see John 8:44). One of the weapons he uses to attack us and the believers we are ministering to is doubt and confusion. If he cannot get us to doubt and question who we are in CHRIST, he will at least attempt to confuse us in understanding this important doctrine. However, as we remember who we are in CHRIST, we have that assurance of not only possessing eternal life, but also experiencing daily victory over this formidable enemy and his evil schemes!

B. By Maintaining A Close And Pure Relationship With The LORD

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath CHRIST with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of GOD with idols? For ye are the temple of the living GOD, as GOD hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them, and I will be their GOD, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the LORD, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you, and will be a FATHER unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the LORD ALMIGHTY. Having therefore these promises dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of GOD.” II

Corinthians 6:4-7:2

According to this Scripture above, it is very clear that if we desire to have complete and lasting victory over our spiritual enemies, we must maintain a close and pure relationship with the LORD JESUS CHRIST. We have seen from our study so far that Satan and his evil forces are vicious as they seek to destroy us. This is why the answer to each one of these rhetorical questions above is an emphatic “No!” A consistently close and pure walk with the LORD means an utter hatred and disdain of Satan and his ways, and for all activities and objects that would draw us away from that holy relationship with HIM!

C. By Cleansing Our Lives Of Articles That Have A Curse Upon Them

“The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire, thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein, for it is an abomination to the LORD thy GOD. Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it, but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it, for it is a cursed thing.” Deuteronomy 7:25-26

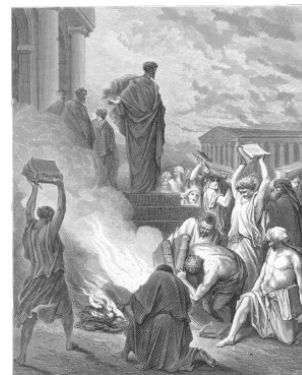


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that Satan and his evil forces often will use "idols" (called "*graven images*" here), or articles "indirectly" associated with them to bring havoc and destruction into our lives. Earlier in our study we listed some of these articles that are being used by the enemy in this way. Evil music, horoscope books and magazines, ouiji boards, tarot cards and Cabbage Patch dolls to name a few. It naturally follows that for us to "cleanse" our lives of these articles is an important element of our spiritual warfare.

The Apostle Paul once instructed some first century CHRISTians concerning the importance of this cleansing. They lived in Ephesus, and the following is their testimony . . .

"And many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men, and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the Word of GOD and prevailed."
Acts 19:18-20



D. By Living Under GOD-given Authority

“Submit yourselves therefore to GOD. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7

All of us have various GOD-appointed authorities over us in our lives. For instance, we all are under government authority (see Romans 13:1-7); if we are an employee, we are under our employer (see Ephesians 6:5-8); if we have parents living yet, we are to honor and respect them (see Ephesians 6:2-3); if we are part of a local church, we are to submit to the spiritual leaders there (see Hebrew 13:17).

Because the above mentioned authorities are GOD-appointed, for us to rebel against them, is to rebel against GOD HIMSELF! This is why the Scriptures give us the following warning . . .

“... rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft...” I Samuel 15:23a

Satan's
Attacks

Authorities

When we rebel against our GOD-appointed authorities, we open ourselves up to all kinds of Satanic attack which we will have no power to withstand. However, if we *“Submit (ourselves) therefore to GOD”* (including HIS Divinely-appointed human authorities), we then have the power to *“Resist the Devil”*, with the result being, *“... he will flee from (us).”*

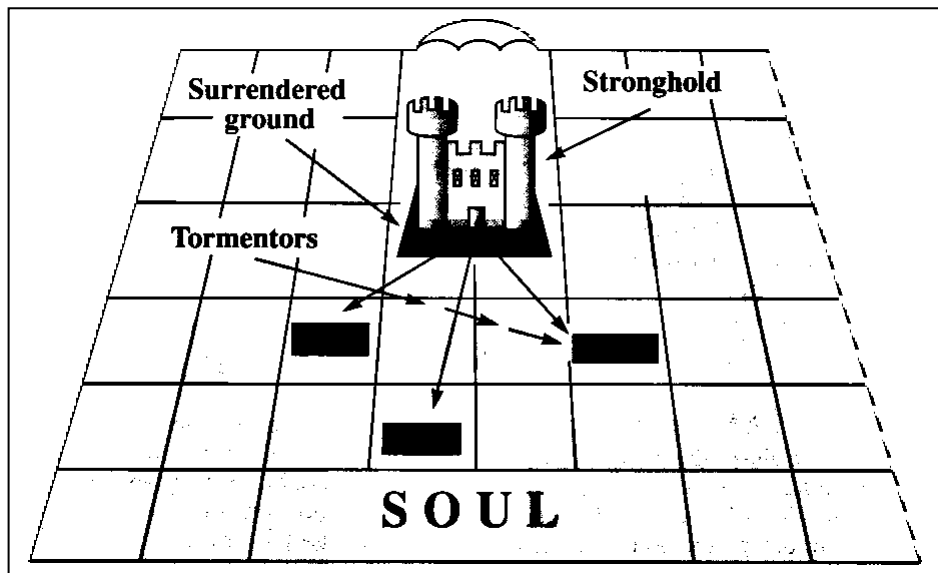
E. By Gaining Back Surrendered Ground

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through GOD to the pulling down of strongholds.” II Corinthians 10:4

We learned earlier in our study that Satan desires to acquire “ground” in our lives (see Ephesians 4:27). That

is, he desires to take more and more control over our soul (i.e. - mind, will and emotions). This happens as we surrender "ground" through persistent sin in our lives. From that surrendered ground Satan "attacks" us in our mind, will and emotions.

Using "bitterness" as an example following diagram to illustrate how Satan does this. We will of one sin that Satan uses to gain ground in our soul, we used the use this same diagram (with Steps To Victory), to illustrate how by GOD's power we can win back that surrendered ground, and thus experience victory over Satan and his evil forces once again.



Steps To Victory

1. Confess bitterness as sin.

Many of us excuse bitterness. We continually rehearse the damage done to us by our offenders, and in so doing we justify our guilt with blame. We also redefine bitterness, by saying: "I'm not bitter; I was just deeply hurt." The fact remains that we have closed off our affections to our offender, and GOD says, "*He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now*" (I John 2:9). Darkness is Satan's realm; thus the one who is bitter is living in sin and is under Satan's power.

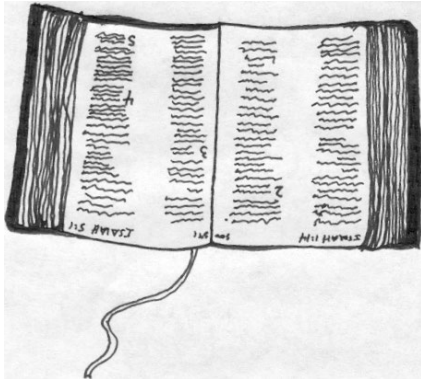
However, *“If we confess our sins, HE is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (I John 1:9).

2. Ask GOD to regain surrendered “ground.”

According to Ephesians 4:26-27, we surrender “ground” to Satan every time we let the sun go down upon our wrath. For each of these occasions, we must ask GOD to regain the “ground” we gave to Satan. We have the assurance that GOD will hear our prayer in accordance with the comforting statement of Psalm 23:3, *“HE restoreth my soul.”* The Hebrew word for “restore” means “returning to the starting point.”

We should ask GOD to rebuke Satan in the Name and through the blood of the LORD JESUS CHRIST and gain the ground that CHRIST won by HIS death, burial, and resurrection.

3. Tear down strongholds with truth.



It is GOD’s responsibility to regain the ground we surrendered, but it is our responsibility to tear down the strongholds that Satan built on the territory. GOD has given us powerful weapons of truth to accomplish this task. *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (bitter retaliation), but mighty through GOD to the pulling down of strong holds”* (II Corinthians 10:4).

We must purpose to search out and destroy every false idea or conclusion we have accepted from Satan and to build up towers of truth by reading, memorizing, and meditating on Scripture.

4. Show mercy by forgiving your offender.

Now that we understand the spiritual destruction that comes with bitterness and how forgiveness is an aspect of mercy, we should have the motivation to fully forgive our offenders in the same way that we have been forgiven by CHRIST. *“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as GOD for CHRIST’s sake hath forgiven you”* (Ephesians 4:31-32).

(Note: The above diagram and explanations are from pp. 3 & 7 * Weapons Of Truth Series * Institute Of

Basic Life Principles)

F. By Wearing The "Armour Of GOD"

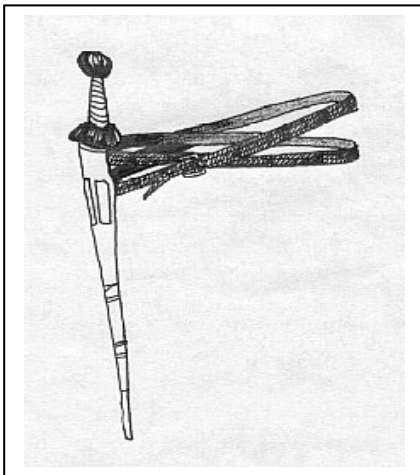
"Put on the whole armour of GOD, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with Truth, and having on the breast plate of righteousness, and your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace, above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the SPIRIT, which is the Word of GOD."

Ephesians 6:11, 14-17

As the Apostle Paul wrote this Scripture almost two thousand years ago, he pictured in his mind the Roman soldier of his day. As we study these six pieces of the soldier's armour, we can liken a spiritual discipline to each one.



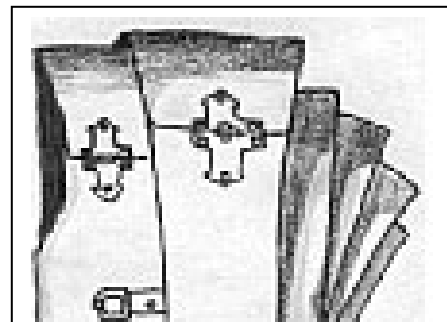
1. The belt of "Truth"



JESUS once proclaimed, *"... ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free"* (John 8:32). Putting on the belt of "Truth" means that we fight our spiritual enemies with the "Truth" of Scripture. JESUS later said that Satan is the originator of all deception (see John 8:44). As we do battle with Satan and his evil forces, we overcome them and their lies by fighting back with the "Truth"!

2. The "breastplate of righteousness"

We have learned from our study so far that Satan and his evil forces are desperately evil, and their



desire is to destroy each one of us (see John 8:44). The spiritual discipline we need to fight off this wickedness is the "breastplate" of a righteous and holy life. To live a righteous and holy life means to allow no evil in our lives. As we do this, Satan and his evil forces have no place in our lives as well!

3. The *"feet shod with the . . . Gospel"*

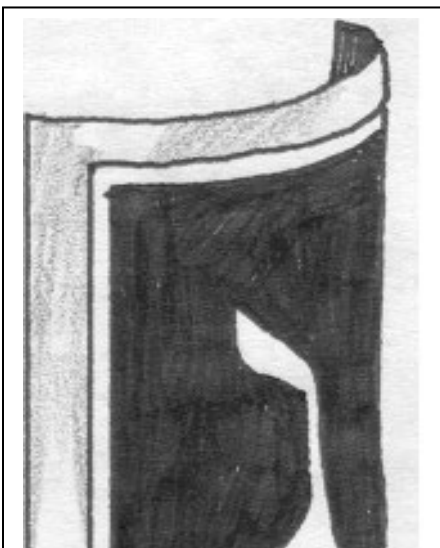
The *"Gospel"* is the Good News of JESUS CHRIST and HIS power to save men from eternal destruction in hell, but also the detailed instruction of how believers are to live for CHRIST on this earth. Satan and his evil forces hate the *"Gospel"*. This is confirmed by what the Apostle tells us in II Corinthians 4:3-4 . . .

"But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost, In whom the god of this world (i.e. - Satan), hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of CHRIST . . . should shine unto them."

This is why Scripture goes on to proclaim . . .

"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15b

4. The *"shield of faith"*

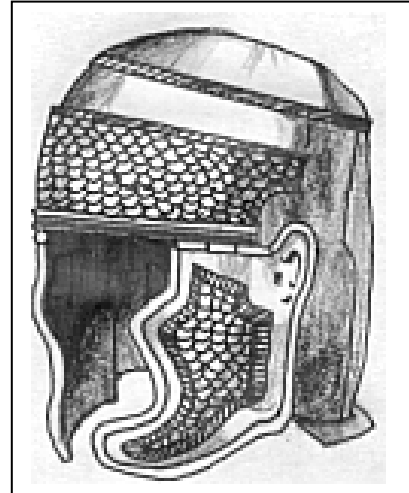


This piece of our armour is a very important one. As the Apostle Paul warns us here, Satan is constantly throwing his *"fiery darts"* of temptation at us. To lift up the *"shield of faith"*, means to practice the spiritual discipline of putting our trust in the LORD for deliverance from Satan's vicious attacks. We are no

match for Satan and his evil forces alone, but as we fight them with the LORD's resources through faith, they are defeated. This is what the Scripture means when it says, "... *greater is HE (the LORD) that is in you, than he (Satan) that is in the world.*" I John 4:4b

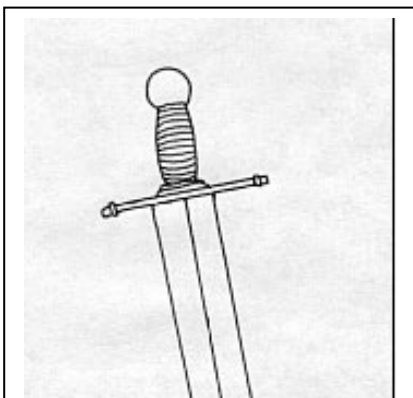
5. The "*helmet of salvation*"

Much of our spiritual warfare with the enemy is waged in the mind. There the enemy seeks to tempt us with the initial thoughts of sin. It is as we entertain these thoughts, that those thoughts become sinful actions and the following truth of Scripture becomes a reality, "... *the wages of sin is death...*" (Romans 6:23a).



As we put on the "*helmet of salvation*", we practice the spiritual discipline of standing up against the attacks of Satan and his evil forces, especially in the battle over our minds. Four times in Ephesians 6:10-17, we are commanded to "*stand*" against them. As we practice this important discipline, the truth of James 4:7 becomes a reality, "*Resist (stand against), the Devil, and he will flee from you.*"

6. The "*Sword of the SPIRIT*"



It is quite obvious what spiritual discipline the Apostle Paul is referring to here, for he tells us that, "... *the sword of the SPIRIT... is the Word of GOD...*" Of the six pieces of our spiritual armour, this is

the only one that is "offensive" in nature. Though Satan knows the Word of GOD, and even quotes it (out of context however and for his own perverted purposes), he fears it and has to flee from us as we "wield" it against him.

This is illustrated in a powerful way in Matthew 4:1-11. Here we have the record of the LORD JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF being tempted by Satan in the wilderness. Three times the Devil comes to HIM, seeking to get HIM to sin by doing something out of the FATHER's will (see vv. 3, 6 & 9). Instead of yielding to these temptations, JESUS answers each of these attacks by quoting the Scriptures (see vv. 4, 7 & 10). This strategy works, for the Scripture declares . . .

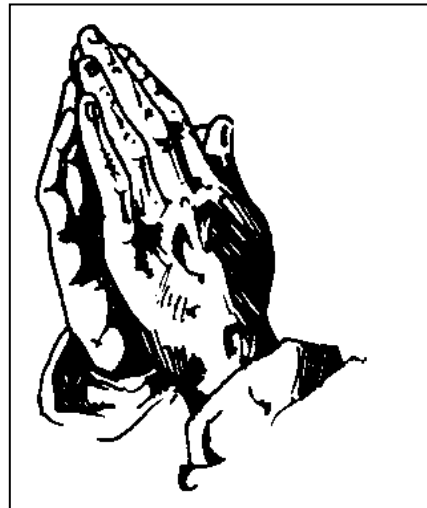
"Then the Devil leaveth HIM, and behold, angels came and ministered unto HIM." (v.11)

JESUS, the SON of GOD HIMSELF, understood the importance of knowing and using the Word of GOD to fight off these personal attacks from the wicked one. If we hope to have victory in our spiritual battles, we too must get to know and use the Word of GOD more and more as well!

G. By Engaging In Warfare Prayer

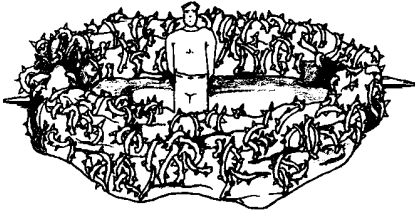
"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the SPIRIT . . ."
Ephesians 6:18a

This admonition from Ephesians 6:18a, directly follows the portion we have just studied concerning the armour of GOD. Because of this, some Bible teachers experienced in spiritual warfare would contend that "warfare prayer" is part of that armour. Regardless, we shall soon learn that "warfare prayer" is yet another powerful weapon at our disposal as we do battle against Satan and his evil forces.



There are two types of "warfare prayer" given to us in Scripture that have proven to be very effective in this struggle. One is defensive in nature, while the other is offensive.

1. The "hedge of thorns" prayer



This defensive type prayer is based on the principle found in Job 1:6-12. Here we have the record of Satan's conversation with GOD concerning Job and his righteous lifestyle. Satan comments that he would like to "attack" Job, but he cannot get at him because the LORD has . . .

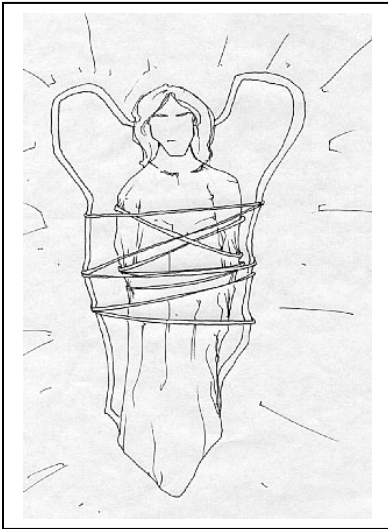
"... made an hedge about him and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side . . ." (v.10a)

Satan desires to destroy us, our families, and our possessions, but we have this powerful weapon of protection that we can use to defend ourselves. To illustrate how this prayer can be used to accomplish this, following is a model prayer . . .

"Heavenly FATHER, in the Name and through the blood of the LORD JESUS CHRIST (see John 14:13-14 and Revelation 12:11), I pray that YOU would bind Satan (see Matthew 12:29), right now in the life of (name of person), or, in the area of (name of place or thing). I ask YOU to build a hedge of thorns high and deep around (name of person, place, or thing). I pray this so YOU can keep Satan and his evil influences from (name of person, place, or thing). Heavenly FATHER, I pray all this in the Name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST, Amen."

In light of other Scripture, there are three important elements that must be a part of this prayer . . .

- a. we must pray that Satan and his evil forces will be bound



“Or else how can one enter into a strong man’s house (i.e. - territory), and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? And then he will spoil his house (i.e. - territory).”

Matthew 12:29

Much of the world is under Satan’s power. He is the “*strong man*” that is in control. As we live in this world and engage in this spiritual warfare, we need the LORD to “... *bind the strong man...*”, so in a sense we can take over his kingdom (i.e. - his “house”), and “... *spoil his goods...*”

b. we must pray in the Name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST

“And whatsoever ye shall ask in MY (JESUS) Name, that will I do, that the FATHER may be glorified in the SON. If ye shall ask anything in MY (JESUS) Name, I will do it.” John 14:13-14

In the Scripture above, JESUS gives us this wonderful promise of receiving anything we ask if it is done in HIS “Name”. Surely the LORD wants us to have victory over Satan and his evil forces, thus we can be assured that HE will give us this victory as we pray for it in HIS “Name”!



Fig. 9. The Sermon on the Mount (5:1-2).

Following are two Biblical illustrations of the power of JESUS’ Name in giving victory over Satan and his evil forces . . .

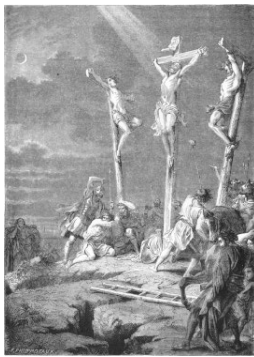
“And the seventy (disciples) returned again with joy, saying, LORD, even the devils are subject unto us through THY Name. And (JESUS) said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.” Luke 10:17-18

“And it came to pass, as we (Paul and Silas) went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying. The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servant of the MOST HIGH GOD,

which show unto us the way of salvation. And this she did many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the Name of JESUS CHRIST to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.” Acts 16:16-18

c. we must pray through the blood of the LORD JESUS CHRIST

“And they (the saints) overcome him (the Devil) by the blood of the LAMB...” Revelation 12:11a



Satan and his evil forces hate the blood of CHRIST, for it was HIS blood shed at Calvary that defeated them once and for all, and eternally stripped them of their spiritual power. This is why we claim the blood of CHRIST in our spiritual warfare, Satan and his evil forces must flee in retreat and defeat!

2. The “prayer target” prayer

This warfare prayer is offensive in nature and is based on the principle found in Ephesians 6:18-19.

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the SPIRIT, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints, and for me (the Apostle Paul), that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the Gospel.”

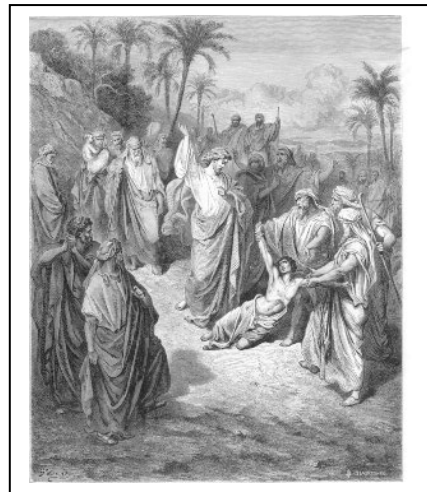
Notice the two-fold thrust in the Apostle Paul’s prayer here in Ephesians 6. First of all he admonishes us to pray for other “saints”, secondly to pray that unbelievers would come to know “. . . the mystery of the Gospel.” As we pray for the “saints” to grow in their walk with the LORD and for the lost to be saved, Satan’s kingdom suffers damage!

This is what "prayer targets" will do. A "prayer target" is someone we pray for (whether a CHRISTian or non-CHRISTian), when we or someone we're ministering to is being attacked by Satan and his evil forces. As we continue to do this on a regular basis, Satan soon stops his assault, because he certainly doesn't want his evil causes to be thwarted!

In conclusion to this section of our study concerning spiritual warfare and prayer, we would be wise to remember that the LORD has given us another powerful weapon, that when combined with warfare prayer, can bring us victory over Satan and his evil forces.

This weapon is "fasting". Voluntarily going without food, so the LORD is free to unleash even greater spiritual power through us.

In Luke 17:14-21, we have the story where JESUS' disciples are unable to deliver the "*lunatic*" boy from demon possession (v.16). However, JESUS rebukes the demon and the boy is made whole (v.18). Later when the disciples ask JESUS why they could not cast out the demon, HE answers by saying, "*Because of your unbelief. . .*" (v.20). HE then concludes by teaching them, "*Howbeit this kind (of demon) goeth not out but by prayer and fasting*" (v.21). Evidently this demon was extra powerful, and in order for it to be rebuked, extra righteous power was needed. Fasting combined with prayer brought that extra righteous power!



H. By Utilizing GODly Music

“And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from GOD was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with hid hand, so Saul was refreshed and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.” I Samuel 16:23

GODly, melodious music is a powerful weapon at our disposal for our fight against Satan and his evil forces. Satan and his emissaries hate this kind of music, and as the above Scripture declares, they must flee when it is played!

Martin Luther (who knew what spiritual warfare was all about), once said, “Come, let us sing a psalm and drive away the Devil!”

Conclusion: Satan and his evil forces are powerful and formidable enemies. This is why Scripture commands us to, *“Be sober (i.e. - watchful), be vigilant (i.e. - alert), because (our) adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”* (I Peter 5:8). However, GOD has promised us victory as we implement these many weapons HE has put at our disposal. Then will we be able to confirm the words of the Apostle Paul, when he reminds us in II Corinthians 10:4 that . . .

“. . . the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through GOD to the pulling down of strongholds.”

IV. WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF SATAN AND HIS EVIL FORCES?

Scripture declares that one of the reasons the LORD JESUS CHRIST came to earth the first time was to do battle against Satan and his evil forces.

“For this purpose the SON OF GOD was manifest, that HE might destroy the works of the Devil.” I John 3:8b

HE was completely successful of course, as the following Scripture gives testimony . . .

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, HE (CHRIST) HIMSELF likewise took part of the same, that through death HE might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the Devil.” Hebrews 2:14

It was at the cross of Calvary, where JESUS shed HIS innocent blood for our sins, that Satan and his evil forces were defeated!

However, if this is so, why is Satan and his evil forces still so powerful? Why do they still today do so much damage to the kingdom of GOD and we HIS people?

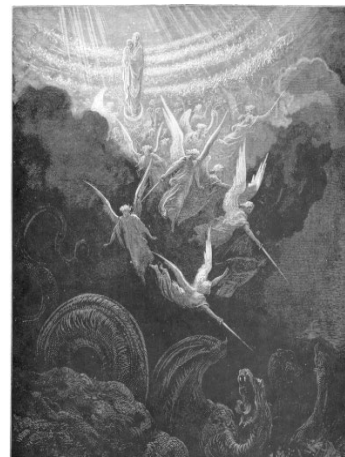
The answer can be explained by using the analogy of a modern day court of law. Let's say that a man is found guilty of murder by a jury of his peers. Let us further say that the sentence given is execution by the electric chair. But before the guilty man is actually executed, he spends a number of years in prison on "death row". The judgment has been determined, the sentence has been given, but the actual execution is years later.



So it is with Satan and his evil forces. Their judgment has been determined . . . guilty of rebellion against GOD and HIS righteousness. The sentence has been delivered . . . eternal banishment to the lake of fire. Now we await their final "execution" . . . which only the LORD knows is when.

Following are the Scriptures that give testimony to their eternal destination . . .

“And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world, he



was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our GOD, and the power of HIS CHRIST, for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our GOD day and night.”

Revelation 12:7-10

“And the Devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” **Revelation 20:10**

MY LIFE COMMITMENT

“Heavenly FATHER, I have learned from the study of YOUR Word, that Satan and his evil forces are formidable enemies, dedicated to bringing as much destruction as they can to YOUR kingdom and to me as a follower of YOURS. I understand that even though they have been defeated and judged through the death of the LORD JESUS CHRIST on the cross, I must still be alert to their attacks upon me. I now purpose, through YOUR grace and the power of YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, to be alert to these attacks, and to be wise in using all the spiritual weapons YOU have given me. I thank YOU now for the victories YOU will give me on a daily basis, and the ultimate, final victory YOU will give me in heaven someday. I pray this in the Name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST and for HIS glory, Amen.”

Signed _____

Date

