

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Demon Possession – When a person is partially or completely controlled/taken over by demon(s).

Demon Oppression – When a person is influenced by demon(s) from the outside. It will be through other people, situations, and desires. Everyone is under demon oppression. They come in different forms and levels.

There are some that have the gift of telling the difference between spirits - 1 Cor 12:10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

Jesus explains some patterns of evil spirits - Matt 12:43-45 - 43 "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. 44 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. 45 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."

What are some symptoms of Demon-Possession?

Some are possessed by multiple demons at one time - Luke 8:27-33

They can cause a person to be violent. - Matt 8:28-34

Some of the cases we may call mental illness today could be possessions - Mark 5:2-8

They can cause blindness and/or being mute. - Matt 12:22-23

They can cause paralysis - Acts 8:4-8

They can cause one to be crippled - Luke 13:10-13

They can give powers like predicting the future (i.e., psychic) - Acts 16:16-18

They can cause seizures, and bodily harm, and some require more to remove than others - Mark 9:29

"29 He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

Dealing with the Spiritual ignorantly is extremely dangerous!! - Jude 8-10 - 8 In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings. 9 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.**

We are to deal with the things that have been revealed to us. The things that aren't revealed belong to God - Deut 29:29 The **SECRET THINGS BELONG TO THE LORD OUR GOD**, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

How are these demons removed?

Jesus' exorcism was done with a word - Matt 8:16 "he drove out the spirits with a word ...

We must be in a relationship with Christ to be protected from these demons - Acts 19:13-16

CAN A CHRISTIAN BE POSSESSED?

Our Bodies, which indwell the Spirit of God, will not be divided - Matt 12:25-28 - 25 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. 26 If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? 27 And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. 28 But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Most sinful actions ARE NOT from demons, but from those living by the flesh and not the Spirit - Gal 5:19-21 - 19 The ACTS of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 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.

Once saved, you are protected while you stay in his protection - 1 John 5:18 We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.

Once saved, we receive the Holy Spirit - 2 Cor 1:21-22 - 21 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, 22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Our Bodies are the Temple of God - 1 Cor 6:19-20 - 19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

They can't dwell together - 2 Cor 6:15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

DEALING WITH DEMON OPPRESSION

***A major goal of demon oppression is to get us to look to the flesh instead of the Spirit, as was done with Eve**

Life is a race that we must live to win - 1 Cor 9:24-25 - 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

We as Christians SHOULD know the ONLY true struggle is spiritual - Eph 6:12 For **WE DO NOT WRESTLE AGAINST flesh and blood**, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

***Struggles come in various forms:**

Expected: difficult times, difficult situations, difficult relationships, & difficult people

Unexpected: desirable times, desirable situations, desirable relationships & desirable people

***Fleshly battles are distractions (or the weapon) while the spiritual battles are the true battle force, For example:**

*In any situation if we complain or argue, we are losing the struggle (Php 2:14-15),

*If we speak without listening and become emotional, we're losing the struggle (Jas 1:19-20)

*No matter how far you are pushed you must keep the peace or you're losing the battle (Rom 12:18)

*If we don't "grace-give" for any reason we are losing the struggle (2 Corinth 9:6-9)

** Satan wants you to SEE the benefits of fighting mentally and physically while FAITH shows there are no benefits at all. (Gal6:7-8)

Spiritual warfare missteps examples

My relationship with the world - James 4:4 You adulterous people, **don't you know** that friendship with the world IS hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world BECOMES an enemy of God.

Am I loving or hating my child - Prov 13:24 He who s pares the rod HATES HIS SON, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

Spiritual warfare summed up - Mark 8:31-33 - 31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. 32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the THINGS OF GOD, but the THINGS OF MEN."

Satan controls the whole world - 1 John 5:19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

Therefore, how our relationship is with the world is key - 1 John 2:15-17 - 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. 16 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.** 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

The three spiritual foundations that are used in spiritual attacks

- What man desires
- What and how a man SEES things
- The me factor (pride of life)

Many look to the wrong places for life while in reality to have life you must have Christ - John 10:9 - "The thief comes **only to steal**, and **kill**, and **destroy**; I came that they might **have life**, and might have it abundantly. NASB

Satan's goal is to find those to attack - 1 Peter 5: 8 **Be self-controlled and alert.** Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

***Those he attacks are the unrestrained and Inattentive**

Satan and his demons use us in order to attack us - James 1:13-15 - 13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted →

→ when, **by his own evil desire**, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (**Desire in a nutshell: Likes, Dislikes, & Purposes**)

*** If you don't keep your Likes & Dislikes in line with God, and if your purpose is not "God" you will be attacked and defeated!**

How Satan and his demons attack and the **ONLY** way to handle it

Attack 1 - Matt 4:1-4 - Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, **he was hungry**. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "**If you are the Son of God**, tell these **stones to become bread**." 4 Jesus answered, "**It is written**: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

- **Weaknesses, Vulnerabilities, and Ego/emotions**

Attack 2 - Matt 4:5-7 - 5 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.'" 7 Jesus answered him, "**It is also written**: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

- **Our ignorance**

Attack 3 - Matt 4:8-11 - 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and **showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor**. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." 10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! **For it is written**: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

- **Our viewpoint & Desires** (likes, dislikes, & purpose)

At times he will win some battles - 1 Thess 2:17-18 - 17 But, brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. 18 For we wanted to come to you — certainly I, Paul, did, again and again — **BUT SATAN STOPPED US**.

*** We may see this in situations that take multiple people and not everyone involved is spiritually prepared (i.e. parenting)**

However, we already won the War - 1 Cor 15:56-57-56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**.

Only through Christ are we conquerors - Rom 8:37-39 - 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors THROUGH HIM who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THE DIFFERENT WAYS WE ARE ATTACKED AND WHOM HE HAS THE MOST SUCCESS WITH.

We must first understand we give away the fight through disobedience - Eph 2:1-3 - As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 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**. 3 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.

Disobedience - apeitheia (ap-i'-thi-ah) disbelief (obstinate and rebellious):

*** Disobedience is not just those who clearly do wrong, but everyone who does anything any other way than God's**

- If my marriage is different than what God says
- Raise my children different than what God says
- Managing my wealth different than what God says.

Through everyday life and situations - Rom 7:21-25 - 21 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God-through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Through False teachers and false teachings - Col 2:8 **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.

Through our relationships –

Wrong relationships - 2 Cor 6:14-16 - 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? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 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."

Correct relationships done wrong - Matt 10:37 "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;

Through grievances - 2 Cor 2:10-11 - 10 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, 11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Through the immature and the enabled - 1 Tim 5:11-15 - 11 As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. 12 Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. 13 Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to. 14 So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to **give the enemy no opportunity for slander**. 15 Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.

Through self-sufficiency and comfort (church in Laodicea) - Rev 3:15-19 - 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm — neither hot nor cold — I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 YOU SAY, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But YOU DO NOT REALIZE that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. 19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. **(i.e., story of the rich man)**

There is a difference between “trials due to attack” and “God ordained trials” but both are treated the same
Recognize most hard times ARE NOT SATAN attacking - James 1:2-4 - 2 **CONSIDER IT PURE JOY**, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

The true path to strength must go through weakness - 2 Cor 12:7-10 - 7 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. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 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. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

The pain of suffering now should never surpass the glory to come - Rom 8:17 - I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Like Christ, gain something from the storm to get closer to God - Heb 5:8-9 - 8 **ALTHOUGH HE WAS A SON, HE LEARNED** obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

Like Christ, we benefit from it if we allow it - Heb 12:11 **No discipline seems pleasant at the time, BUT PAINFUL. Later on**, however, it PRODUCES a harvest of righteousness and peace for **those who have been trained by it**.

HOW NOT TO FIGHT THE BATTLES.

Ignorantly - 1 Tim 4:1-2 - The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

Example - Acts 19:13-16 - 13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 [One day] the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

False teachers teach ignorant & dangerous practices - 2 Peter 2:10-12 - Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; 11 yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. 12 But these men **BLASPHEME IN MATTERS THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND**. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.

Using anything considered supernatural other than God is demonic - 1 Cor 10:20-22 - 20 No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. 21 **You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.** 22 Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he? (Gal 5:19-21) (Rev 21:8)

Through fear - 2 Tim 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

***Get behind me Satan?** (Mark 8:31-33) - *** Saying it is meaningless if my living keeps inviting him in.**

Don't provide room for Satan in your life - Eph 4:27 - neither give place to the devil. ASV (**not allowing things that lead to sin in your life**)

THE "IT IS WRITTEN" GIVEN BATTLE PLANS.

Rely on God's Spirit - Rom 8:26-27 - 26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

There is only one way to fight, that's IN Faith - 1 Tim 1:18-19 - 18 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, 19 **HOLDING ON TO FAITH AND A GOOD CONSCIENCE**. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith.

Build your faith - Rom 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Live by faith - 2 Cor 5:7 We live by faith, not by sight.

Trust God in HIS life preparation - 2 Cor 1:8-9 - 8 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, **FAR BEYOND OUR ABILITY TO ENDURE**, so that we despaired even of life. 9 Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But **THIS HAPPENED THAT WE MIGHT NOT RELY ON OURSELVES BUT ON GOD**, who raises the dead.

Stop leaving your heart wide open - Prov 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Take EVERYTHING to God (prayer) - Phil 4:6-7 - 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Get ready for the real battle - Eph 6:13-18 - 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. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one**. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **WORD OF GOD**. 18 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.

Use the divine weapons to deal with spiritual battles - 2 Cor 10:3-6 - 3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 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.
...6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

Be in control of your mind & body not the other way round - 1 Cor 9:26-27 - 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

We get rid of Satan by resisting him

Submitting to God - James 4:7-10 - 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Standing FIRM in the FAITH - 1 Peter 5:9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

*****Firm** - stereos (ster-eh-os') stiff, i.e. solid, stable***

TEST the spirits!!! - 1 John 4:1-3 - 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.** 2 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, 3 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.

Prepare NOW for later situations - 1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Two traits we must acknowledge and deal with, Selfishness and envy - James 3:14-16 - 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

Stop sinning - 1 John 3:7-10 - 7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. 8 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. 9 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. 10 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.

Realize there will be times you may have to release a person to Satan in order to win them

1 Cor 5:1-5 - It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife. 2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this? 3 Even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. And I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present. 4 When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, 5 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 Tim 1:20 Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

In a Nutshell - 1 Cor 16:13-14 - 13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. 14 Do everything in love.

We must TOTALLY offer our lives to God, and change our way of thinking to God's thinking - Rom 12:1-2 - Therefore, **I urge you, brothers,** in view of **God's mercy,** to **offer your bodies as living sacrifices, HOLY and PLEASING to God** — this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1. What is the difference between Demon Possession and Demon Oppression?

2. The effects of all possessions are the same (True or False?) -

3. How can Christians be possessed?

4. Give some examples of expected and unexpected struggles.

5. What does our relationship with the world have to do with spiritual battles?

6. What is Satan's main weapon against us?

7. Give an example of Satan doing attack 1 on you.

8. Give an example of Satan doing attack 2 on you.

9. Give an example of Satan doing attack 3 on you.

10. How do we fail Spiritual attacks with everyday life?

11. Explain the powers the Holy Spirit gives us to combat timid fear.

12. Explain the three divine weapons in your own words.

13. Give an example of resisting Satan.

14. Explain when to use Satan in the spiritual battle.