

Exploring Life – part three
“Exploring Life in the Supernatural”
Pastor Dale Campfield – Eastgate Community Church
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Intro:

Matt 28:19 “Go and make disciples of all nations...”

ECC Process of Discipleship: Making an IMPACT...To Love...To Grow...To Serve

We have 3 priorities – To love...which is expressed in our Sunday morning celebration. To grow...which is expressed in our Connection Groups. To serve...which is expressed in our daily lives in the places we live, work and play; as well as through the local church. The vision of E.C.C. is to gather together weekly for corporate worship, loving God and each other; then to come together in small Connection Groups for discipleship and fellowship, and are regularly involved in reaching out to others with the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ through community outreach. To Love...To Grow...To Serve!

Sermon Series Title: Exploring Life:
“To Boldly Go Where No Man Has Gone Before!”

Series Synopsis: We’ve reset our assumptions of Jesus Christ; climbed the mountain learning about the teaching of Jesus Christ; learned how to live life in the valley – now.... Let’s begin to explore life!

Life happens one season at a time; filled with individual events - positive and negative, known and unknown. In this six week series we shall boldly go where no man has gone before; to explore the good, the bad and the ugly as it pertains to each of our lives – in our quest to make an IMPACT for the Kingdom of God.

Part One: “Exploring the Meaning of Life”

Part Two: “Exploring Life after Death”

Today...

Part Three: “Exploring Life in the Supernatural”

Question: Do angels and demons really exist?

Answer: YES!

A book that probably brought forth the reality of angels and demons and the battle that is being fought came through “This Present Darkness” by Frank Peretti. His description of angels and demons and the fight that takes place was the most vivid at that time. Now, the movies they make are very descriptive and don’t leave much for the imagination. We do know they exist and that the battle we are in is real. This battle though is more than just a fictional book, it’s real! And, it’s hard enough to fight an enemy you can see. It’s much harder to fight someone you can’t see. In his classic statement on spiritual warfare, Paul wrote:

Eph 6:12

“Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

This verse identifies the enemy, Satan and his demons. We’ll develop all of this as we go along, but the point I want to you to see here is that we make a big mistake if we think people are the real problem.

Ford Taylor, a friend of ours, always says.....

“We only have one enemy, and it’s not each other, it’s the devil.”

People can be bad, no doubt. But as bad as people can be, they are merely conduits for this greater battle. Satan has been successful in getting us to fight people rather than fighting that which is causing people to be the way they are.

All of us have tried to change people who are not doing right. What we need to understand is that what happens through people, including you and me, has its roots in something much larger. This fact does not excuse the wrong things people do. They are still responsible. But it helps us focus on the real enemy.

A DEFINITION OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Spiritual warfare is that conflict being waged in the invisible, spiritual realm that is being manifest in the visible, physical realm.

In other words, spiritual warfare is a battle between invisible, angelic forces that affect you and me the cause of the war is something you and I can’t see. But the effects are very visible in the kind of problems I mentioned earlier in the day-to-day stuff you and I face all the time.

A FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Everything we see in the visible, physical realm is caused, provoked, or at least influenced by something in the invisible, spiritual realm.

First of all – what is the fight for? IT’S ALL ABOUT SOULS!

There is a battle going on.... It’s between God and Satan. Satan could care less about us. The only reason he fights against us is because we are God’s children. He thinks if he can get to us, he can get to God. I’ve always said if you mess with my wife or my children – my family – you mess with me. God feels the same way. So the devil fights God by coming against us. And the fact is, Satan can only be at one place at one time, so he uses his demons to fight for him. God, on the other hand, can be everywhere at the same time, but He too uses His angels to fight on our behalf.

So today, let's look at the battle that is taking place in the world that we can't see. It's called a Supernatural Battle – a battle in the spirit realm. Let's look at the reality of angels, demons and then look at what we can do as Christians in this fight.

ANGELS

There are different classes of angels:

- **Archangels**

Only Michael is referred to in Scripture as an "archangel" - Jude 9, "But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Michael is also spoken of as being the great prince who protects God's People - Daniel 12:1, "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued." Revelation 12:6-10, "Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night"

Gabriel is also thought to be an archangel because of his being called by name and because of his prominence in the Scriptures. Gabriel was sent to Daniel to help him understand prophetic visions - Daniel 8:15-17, "When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it; and behold, standing before me was one who looked like a man. And I heard the voice of a man between the banks of Ulai, and he called out and said, "Gabriel, give this man an understanding of the vision." So he came near to where I was standing, and when he came I was frightened and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Son of man, understand that the vision pertains to the time of the end." Daniel 9:20-23, "Now while I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God, while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering. He gave me instruction and talked with me and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding. "At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision." And, of course, Gabriel is the angel who announced the coming births of John and Jesus - Luke 1:5-19, 26-33, "In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years. Now it happened that while he was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division, according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering. And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense.

Zacharias was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN', and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zacharias said to the angel, "How will I know this for certain? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years." The angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and

to bring you this good news...Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

- **Cherubim**

They seem to be four in number and are found at the foot of God's throne. They have wings and hands - 2 Kings 19:15 "Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said, ""O LORD, the God of Israel, who are enthroned above the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth." Psalm 80:1, "Oh, give ear, Shepherd of Israel, You who lead like a flock; You who are enthroned above the cherubim, shine forth!" Ezekiel 10:8-9, "The cherubim appeared to have the form of a man's hand under their wings. Then I looked, and behold, four wheels beside the cherubim, one wheel beside each cherub; and the appearance of the wheels was like the gleam of a Tarshish stone."

- **Seraphim**

These six-winged angelic beings are found above the throne of God - Isaiah 6:1-3, "In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

12 Biblical Facts Concerning Angels

Hebrews 13:2

"Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!"

1. They are creations of God before earth was created.

The angels were created by God before the earth was made:

Psalm 148:1-5, "Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all stars of light! Praise Him, highest heavens, And the waters that are above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created."

Psalm 148:1-5

"...Praise Him, all His angels...For He commanded and they were created."

Col. 1:15-17, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities all things have been created through Him and for Him."

Job 38:4-7, "'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

2. They are innumerable.

Revelation 5:11, "Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands."

Hebrews 12:22

"But you are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels."

3. They are a higher order than man.

Psalms 8:3-8

"What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visit him? For you have made him a little lower than the angels, and have crowned him with glory and honor."

4. They are eternal.

Luke 20:35-36, "but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection."

Luke 20:35-36

"...for man cannot die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection."

5. They are mighty in strength.

Psalms 103:20

"Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!"

2 Peter 2:11, "...whereas angels who are greater in might and power..."

6. They are ministers of the Lord.

Psalms 103:20-21

"Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word! Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You who serve Him, doing His will."

7. They are worshipers of God.

Nehemiah 9:6

"You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You."

8. They are deliverers of divine revelation to man.

Galatians 3:19, "Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made." Acts 7:53, "This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and who was with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you."

Revelation 1:1-2

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw."

9. They are executors of God's judgments.

Genesis 19:1, 12-13, "Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground Then the two men said to Lot, 'Whom else have you here? A son-in-law, and your sons, and your daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring them out of the place; for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the LORD that the LORD has sent us to destroy it.'"

Acts 12:21-23

"On an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the throne and began delivering an address to them. The people kept crying out, 'The voice of a god and not of a man!' And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died."

Matthew 13:37-42, "And He said, ""The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one; and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10, "For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed for our testimony to you was believed."

10. They are ministers to God's people.

Hebrews 1:13-14, "But to which of the angels has He ever said, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?"

Hebrews 1:14

"...angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation."

1 Kings 19:1-8 "Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."

And he was afraid and arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers." He lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, "Arise, eat." Then he looked and behold, there was at his head a bread cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again. The angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you." So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God."

Matthew 4:1, 11

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil....Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him."

Luke 22:41-43, "And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him."

BONUS NOT PREACHED SUNDAY...They are guarding and protecting man.

Psalms 91:9-12, "For you have made the LORD, my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place. No evil will befall you, Nor will any plague come near your tent. For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone."

2 Kings 6:11-17, "Now the heart of the king of Aram was enraged over this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, ""Will you tell me which of us is for the king of Israel?" One of his servants said, ""No, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your

bedroom." So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and take him." And it was told him, saying, "Behold, he is in Dothan." He sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

Psalm 91:11-12

"For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone."

Daniel 6:16-22, "Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lions' den. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you." A stone was brought and laid over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing would be changed in regard to Daniel. Then the king went off to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him; and his sleep fled from him. Then the king arose at dawn, at the break of day, and went in haste to the lions' den. When he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?" Then Daniel spoke to the king, "O king, live forever! "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime."

Acts 5:17-21, "But the high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy. They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, "Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life." Upon hearing this, they entered into the temple about daybreak and began to teach.

11. They are receivers of departed saints.

Luke 16:20-22

"And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. *Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom...*"

12. They rejoice when one sinner repents.

Luke 15:10

"I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

DEMONS

Question: Where did they come from? They were cast from heaven along with Satan as they desired to be more powerful than God. 1/3 of the angels were cast out of heaven. There will be no more demons created... For Satan can't create anything. So, he only has what he has to work with.

4 Biblical Facts Concerning Demons

A. The Forces Of Evil Are Powerful.

Note: This verse stresses the enormous power of evil forces that stand against the believer. But God is more powerful.

Matthew 17:14-18

"A man approached Jesus and knelt before him. 'Lord, have mercy on my son,' he said. 'He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him.' . . . 'Bring the boy here to me.' Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment."

B. The Forces Of Evil Are Plentiful.

Colossians 2:15

"He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets."

Note: Principalities, powers, rulers – all convey the idea of a large number of evil forces who are struggling against the believer. But God's forces are more numerous.

C. The Forces Of Evil Are Prepared.

1 Timothy 4:1

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

There is an apparent government or a hierarchy of evil. This illustrates a ranking of spiritual forces with enormous authority, position, and rule. Note: God's authority is greater. (Matthew 28:18)

D. The Forces Of Evil Are Predatory.

1 Peter 5:8

"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour."

NOW..... what's our part in all of this. If indeed the battle is beyond fought in the supernatural, what is our job as Christians? How do we live in a supernatural life?

BELIVERS

6 Biblical Facts Concerning Believers

1. WALK IN THE AUTHORITY OF GOD ALMIGHTY

Most believers are very ignorant about the authority that they have to use against the devil.

Matthew 28:18-19

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.”

How much authority did Jesus have? All. Where did it come from? Heaven and earth. That covers everything. “*All authority is given to Me.*” Then He says, “*Therefore go and make disciples...*” Do you see the transference of authority? He says, “I’ve got all authority, therefore you go. Go and make disciples.”

2 Corinthians 5:20

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors.”

When you send an ambassador to another country, that ambassador has the full authority to represent that country. The Bible says that you as a believer on ministry are Christ’s ambassador. You’re a Christian ambassador. You represent Christ. That means you are given the authority to represent Him in your ministry.

John 15:16

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed (ordained) you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

Look what Jesus said, “*You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you. I have ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain.*” Circle “ordained”. Probably the biggest misconception today is this word “ordained”. The way most churches talk about it, whether Protestant or Catholic, is an unbiblical sense. The Bible teaches that if you’re a Christian – everybody’s ordained. There really is no such thing as an ordained person and a non-ordained person. Frankly, I don’t care if somebody gave me a piece of paper that said I was ordained or not because the Bible says that every Christian is ordained to ministry. There’s no special status of those who’ve got it and those who don’t. If anybody ever asks you, “Are you ordained?”, say “Yes. Absolutely. I’m an ordained minister of Jesus Christ.” When did it happen? The moment I became a believer. There’s no such thing as a first class and second class Christian. That’s why I couldn’t care less about a piece of paper. The Bible says you are all ordained to different kinds of ministries based on what your gifts are.

Matt. 18:18

¹⁸ "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Jesus says *"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."* That's strong authority. I don't understand all of what this scripture talks about but the Bible says if you are a believer you are given the authority of Christ in spiritual warfare. You have the right to fight back. You have the right to bind and to loose.

Col 2:9-10, "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority."

Luke 8:28 Jesus meets a demon possessed man, in verse 33 a whole crowd of them are running...
"When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places. Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss. A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into them, and he gave them permission. When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned."

Jesus has all AUTHORITY, given to Him by the Father. All He has to do is command the evil spirit to leave and they run like dogs... In the same way, as His disciples, you are empowered, deputized and authorized by your RELATIONSHIP to the One with all the authority. Remember, the devil has no authority over your life unless you give it to him. Take back the authority you've given to him now!

As long as you are "in Christ," Satan cannot touch you without God's permission. However, it is when you begin to live outside of God's protection that you become fair game to evil spiritual influences.

Evil spirits are very restless and anxious. They know their end is near. They move back and forth through the land, searching for places to haunt. It's the spiritual equivalent of House Hunters, except fallen angels aren't looking for a lakeside property with a spacious kitchen, or even a spooky house to take shelter in... They're prime property is a dark and empty soul.

2. WALK IN THE LIGHT OF GOD ALMIGHTY

Walk into the light. Uncover darkness. Expose the grime!

John 3:21

"But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

Invite God to shed light on your life and expose the dark areas so you can come to know Him better.
Beg Him to make you who He wants you to be so you can BECOME LIGHT to a dark world!

FILL UP! THE FULLNESS OF LIFE IN CHRIST: COL 2:9-10, EPH 1:18-23

Col 2:9-10, "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority."

Fill the empty places with Jesus so there's no room for all the unclean thoughts and persuasions like jealousy, hatred, anger and revenge... Don't make a foothold for Satan!

BE FULL OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD!

3. WALK IN THE TRUTH OF GOD ALMIGHTY

The Truth is His Word. The Word of God is a weapon in which we use.....

John 8:32

“You’ll know the truth and the truth will set you free.”

The Bible says that the sword of the spirit is the word of God. The word of God is the truth. The truth is our sword. It cuts through all the mustard. It gets right to the point. When you are in a conflict, the question you want to ask yourself is this: What does God say about this? Because the truth is the first weapon. You ask yourself, How does the Lord see this situation? How does the Lord see this service? How does the Lord see this act of ministry I’m about to do? So our first weapon – 1 Peter 1:13 *“Therefore prepare your mind for action. Be self-controlled. Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you.”* What is grace? It’s not only the power to save you, it’s the power that enables you to minister. So before you minister, set your mind for action, be controlled, set your hope on the grace that’s going to be given to you. Say, “Lord, I know You’re going to give me the power. You’re going to give me the power to do this.”

4. WALK IN THE PROTECTION OF GOD ALMIGHTY

Eph 6:13-18 (NIV)

¹³ *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.

There are six pieces of armor here.

- **When Paul wrote this, he was in prison.**

Illustrate this. He was chained 24-hours a day to a Roman guard. As he wrote this, he sat there, chained to this man, looked at him and used the Roman centurion as a model for spiritual armor. He had on a breastplate – a piece of metal to protect his chest from spear attack. He had on a strong, leather girdle around his mid waste to protect him. He had on boots, a shield, a helmet, a sword. Paul says just as the Roman soldier goes out and do battle, when you’re in ministry you need to be dressed for battle.

- 1 – Shoes of Peace
- 2 – Belt of Truth.
- 3 – Breastplate of Righteousness
- 4 – Shield of Faith
- 5 – Helmet of Salvation
- 6 – Sword of the Spirit

Add to all of this: PRAYER

Every piece is mental warfare: truth, righteousness, peace, faith, helmet of salvation (which covers the head), and the word of God is the truth that goes into your mind. It's mental preparation for battle. These are things you need to put on mentally before you do your ministry because you expect attack.

The other thing I want to say is that these six things is a perfect picture of Jesus. Jesus is truth, He is righteousness, He is peace, He is faith, He is salvation, He is the Word (the Word became flesh). And to put on the spiritual armor simply means to put on Jesus. When you put on Jesus in your life, when you let the Spirit of Christ live through you, you've put on the armor. That's what Jesus Christ is. He is righteousness and all these things. You put it on, before you teach that Bible study, before you teach that Sunday School class, before you play that note in worship, you need to put on your armor of God. I do this every time I speak. I mentally run through this thing. I mentally run through it and put it on. I say, for instance, "Lord, as I put on the helmet of salvation that will protect me from the thoughts the devil will try to give me. I want to think not the devil's thoughts. I don't want to think my thoughts. I want to think Your thoughts, that I may be a voice for You. I put on the belt of truth. Lord, I want to share the truth, not falsehood. I want to lead people into righteousness." All of these things. I mentally put them on as I prepare for spiritual battle in order to minister.

5. WALK IN THE HUMILITY OF GOD ALMIGHTY

James 4:6-7

"God gives strength to the humble but sets Himself against the proud and haughty. So give yourselves humbly to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

The more you humble yourself before God, the more power you will have in your life. That's just the way it works. As we walk before the Lord humbly and say, "Lord, I humble myself before You. I can't do this ministry on my own. But You are the vine and I am the branch. Apart from You I can bear nothing but with You I can do what I need to do." It doesn't matter what you do. Whether you're being a Care Caller or a Greeter or Lay Pastor or Singer or whatever, you say, "Lord, I'm depending on You to help me as I deal with people." If you deal with people, you're in for a lot of surprises. Just stand on the patio and talk to people for three weeks and you'll get the most off the wall things you can think of. People are strange. Humility. God gives strength to the humble. Humble yourself.

6. WALK IN THE WORSHIP OF GOD ALMIGHTY

Revelation 12:11-12

"They overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony. Therefore rejoice, you heavens, and you who inhabit them."

It says rejoice. How did they overcome the devil? By the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony. They were praising God. God says when people praise, the Bible says "*God inhabits the praises of His people.*" Sometimes after a particular worship service, I honestly feel like Mickey Mouse could preach and people would come to know Christ. The praise has cleansed the air. There's power in the praise of God.

Remember, when the praise goes up, the power comes down!

Conclusion:

We are exploring life, going where no man has gone before. And as we explore, we know we are facing a real opponent because this world bears the bloody, painful scars of this conflict: war among nations, shattered lives, broken homes, suicide, rape, abuse, and immorality of every kind.

My goal is to help you see that this battle in which you and I are engaged is first and foremost the Lord's battle, not ours. Only when we see this will we be able to wage victorious spiritual warfare.

I have a declaration to make. You and I are at war! In fact, we are engaged right now in the mother of all battles. No war in history can compare with the battle you and I are fighting. It can be either the cause of your greatest joy as a Christian, or of your deepest pain.

The war I am talking about is the spiritual warfare that you became a part of the day you trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

This war affects every area of your life. There is no way you can avoid the conflict. There is no bunker or foxhole you can crawl into that will shield you from the effects of this battle between the forces of God and the forces of Satan.

A lot of Christians don't even know they're at war. But others can see the results of the battle in their lives, because they have become casualties of spiritual warfare. They are discouraged, depressed, downtrodden, and defeated. Others are marital and family casualties. Divorce, conflict, and abuse are some of the battle scars these believers bear.

Since we are at war, and since there is so much at stake both here on earth and in eternity, we'd better find out what spiritual warfare is about and how to fight the battle successfully.

And as you fight; always remember – **YOU ARE MORE THAN A CONQUEROR!**

You watch... you wait... you'll See!