

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

If we believe that once we are a Christian that life will be all “sunshine, rainbows, and butterflies,” Scripture gives us a good dose of our reality and the spiritual warfare among us:



- Ephesians 6:12, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, **against the spiritual forces of evil** in the heavenly places.”
- 1 Peter 5:8, “Be sober-minded; be watchful. **Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion**, seeking someone to devour.”
- John 10:10, “The thief comes only **to steal and kill and destroy.**”

**WE ALL HAVE A COMMON ENEMY AND HIS NAME IS “SATAN,”
WHO IS ALSO KNOWN AS “THE DEVIL.”**



As ministers of God, we will face spiritual warfare as we serve Him. But how do we discern when we are under spiritual attack when 2 Corinthians 11:14 says, “Satan disguises himself as an angel of light”? **What does spiritual warfare look like? And how can we combat the darts of the enemy?**

Four Typical Attacks that Christians Experience	Examples	Scriptural Truth to Combat the Darts of the Enemy
Mental —the devil plays mind tricks with our thoughts and feelings that are often not a reflection of the truth and reality	Having feelings of anxiety, despair, depression, shame, anger, sadness, and disgust	<i>2 Corinthians 10:5, “We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.”</i>
Accusations —condemning words about us that makes us feel unworthy	Words and phrases like, “You’re not good enough!” “You’re ugly!” “You’re too fat!” “You’re dumb!”	<i>Romans 8:1, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” John 8:32, “The truth will set you free”</i>

Divisions, distractions, and distortions —when we are trying to serve God but there are obstacles in the way of accomplishing the task	Worldly cares that take our focus away from the kingdom of God.	<i>James 4:7, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."</i>
Isolation —when we feel like we are all alone in the problem that we are facing and are unwilling to reach out to God and/or other Christians for help	Letting unforgiveness, or bitterness get in the way of connecting with God and/or others	<i>Mark 11:25, "And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."</i>

Steps to Deliverance from Spiritual Warfare:

- 1) **REMEMBER** our identity in Christ
 - John 1:12; 2 Corinthians 5:17
- 2) **THANK GOD** for Jesus Christ's finished work on the cross that has victory over Satan
 - 1 Corinthians 15: 54b-57
- 3) **PUT ON** the amour of God
 - Ephesians 6:11-17
- 4) **REBUKE** the enemy's lies with God's truth
 - Matt 4:1-11
- 5) **PRAY** for God's deliverance
 - Psalm 143; Matthew 6:13
- 6) **ASK** for the Holy Spirit to fill every place, space or territory vacated
 - Romans 8:9; 1 John 4:13; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 Corinthians 3:16
- 7) **KNOW** that by the power of Christ in you, the enemy has left
 - James 4:7



We are only scratching the surface of spiritual warfare, for more information on this topic, please check out the resources below:

- Charles Spurgeon's *Satan: A Defeated Foe*
- Clinton E. Arnold's *3 Crucial Questions about Spiritual Warfare*
- Karl I. Payne's *Spiritual Warfare: Christians, Demonization, and Deliverance*
- Marcus Warner's *What Every Believer Should Know About Spiritual Warfare*
- Mark I. Bubeck's *The Adversary: The Christian Versus Demon Activity*
- Neil T. Anderson's *Victory Over the Darkness: Realizing the Power of Your Identity in Christ*
- Neil T. Anderson's *The Bondage Breaker: Overcoming Negative Thoughts, Irrational Feelings, Habitual Sins*
- Phil Hopper's *Defeating the Enemy: Exposing and Overcoming the Strategies of Satan*
- Priscilla Shirer's *Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan to Series, Specific and Strategic Prayer*
- Ricker Renner's *Dressed to Kill: A Biblical Approach to Spiritual Warfare and Armor*
- Tony Evan's *Victory in Spiritual Warfare: Outfitting Yourself for the Battle*