

Major Spiritual Warfare Principles: Biblical Do's and Don'ts of Warfare

**Spiritual warfare book separating bible-based principles
from harmful non-biblical spiritual warfare teachings**

** Third Edition **

An ultimate spiritual warfare manual for all

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Major Spiritual Warfare Principles: Biblical Do's and Don'ts of Warfare
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Introduction

INTRODUCTION - SUB-TOPICS:

- Origins of the Erroneous Warfare and Deliverance Teachings**
- Nature of False Doctrine and False Teachings**
- Indirect confrontation Vs direct confrontation**
- The Sovereignty of God and His Set-up of Spiritual Laws**

This book could save you avoidable heartache in your life, in the lives of your loved ones, or in your ministry. It is a companion to the book on Christian deliverance, titled *Major Christian Deliverance Principles: Keys for Self-deliverance and Ministry*.

The deliverance book addresses major principles on Christian deliverance while this one addresses major principles on Christian spiritual warfare. The two books share Chapter 1 while beyond that they have totally different content altogether.

You will learn on spiritual warfare the do's and don'ts, what works and what doesn't, what's biblical and what's not, what brings victory and what invites attacks.

By the end of the book you'll be able to distinguish between the two worlds of biblical truth and misinterpretation or error on Christian spiritual warfare teachings. The book cautions on the potential dangers, consequences of applying erroneous teachings, and points to what bible based spiritual warfare principles are.

The book is empowering on major biblical principles on spiritual warfare. It is also valuable in avoiding the spiritual attacks that are caused by applying erroneous teachings on spiritual warfare. It's better learning through the easier way of understanding than through an avoidable shipwreck or crisis that enforces a change of perspective - like some of us once faced.

You will be amazed at the findings as we test the spirit and truth from each of the two worlds of spiritual warfare principles. Needless to say that the fruits or consequences from each version of teachings speak for themselves.

The biblical interpretation of spiritual warfare principles endorsed by this book are supported by the entire 2000 year church history -from Christ's time up to now.

On the other hand, the new end-time spiritual warfare teachings that advocate for direct confrontation with Satan emerged in the 1980s. They are mainly prescribed by two or three denominations among our various evangelical branches.

Evangelicals include Charismatics, Baptists, Pentecostals, Methodists, AME, Presbyterians, Assemblies of God, Lutherans, and so on, including most non-denominations. Our uniting beliefs include emphasis on spiritual rebirth through accepting and following Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and in upholding the inerrancy of the bible. Together we constitute the body of Christ, the church of our Lord that transcends denominational and geographical boundaries.

Origins of the Erroneous Warfare and Deliverance Teachings

Beginning in the 1980s we, in some evangelical circles, have followed matters we have called spiritual warfare teachings with little or no biblical scrutiny. C. Peter Wagner is considered among the chief architects of the spiritual warfare doctrine of direct confrontation with evil spirits.

The doctrine of direct confrontation advocates for making verbal proclamations against Satan and his fellow fallen angels (demons) in thin air, binding them up in the spirit realm, in geographical territories, and so on. Chapter 4: True Biblical Spiritual Warfare = Indirect Confrontation explains why this is nowhere in the bible. It shows the formula the bible gives: God's role = direct confrontation, and our role = indirect confrontation

Wagner went on to establish the Wagner Leadership Institute where Strategic Level Spiritual Warfare (SLSW) was taught as a major warfare strategy of winning territorial spiritual warfare against spiritual principalities. Scriptures have been taken out of context, given new meaning and the new spiritual warfare teachings became what we have today - among some of our fellow believers.

The zeal and sincerity for God's kingdom is not being disputed among advocates of teachings that misinterpret scripture. Our main concern is the fact that the body of Christ cannot afford erroneous and harmful teachings. As watchmen and women we have a mandate to reveal erroneous and harmful teachings circulating in the body of Christ.

The new movement in the eyes of its advocates began to be known as the "Third Wave," or "Signs and Wonders" movement. They called it a new move of the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ. Says Dr. Wagner, "The first wave was known as the Pentecostal movement, (p.16) the second, the Charismatics (p.17), and now "I see the Third Wave distinct from, but at the same time similar to the first and second waves."(p.18) C. Peter Wagner, *The Third Wave of the Holy Spirit: Encountering the Power of Signs and Wonders Today*. (Note that due partly to heavy criticism from fellow evangelicals this book is out of print. For any reference purposes used copies are available at online stores like Amazon.com and Half.ebay.com).

The Third Wave movement not only introduced the new spiritual warfare teachings, it also emphasized that baptism in the Holy Spirit is verified through speaking in tongues. No tongues no baptism, no heaven, even if you were Billy Graham. Although speaking in tongues re-emerged in the early 1900s it received a new association by the Third Wavers in the late 1900s.

Says Dr. Wagner, “The Third Wave is a new moving of the Holy Spirit among evangelicals who for one reason or another have chosen not to identify with either the Pentecostals or the Charismatics. Its roots go back a little further but I see it as mainly a movement beginning in the 1980's and gathering momentum through the closing years of the 20th century.

“I see,” says Wagner, “the Third Wave as distinct from, but at the same time, very similar to the first and second waves. They have to be similar because it is the same Spirit of God who is doing the work. ***The major variation comes in the understanding of the meaning of "Baptism in the Holy Spirit" and the role of tongues in authenticating this. I myself, for example, would rather not have people call me a Charismatic***, I do not consider myself a Charismatic, I am simply an Evangelical Congregationalist who is open to the Holy Spirit working through me and my church in any way He chooses,” C. Peter Wagner, cited by John F. MacArthur Jr in his book *Charismatic Chaos*.

Wagner disassociates himself from being a Charismatic or Pentecostal not primarily because of any doctrinal distinction, but primarily because of the stigma attached to such names (during the 1980s).

But not only did Wagner's teachings gain prominence among our Charismatic and Pentecostal evangelical churches we also became the major crusaders of his teachings. Without the support of Charismatics and Pentecostals Wagner and other pioneers of the non-biblical spiritual warfare teachings would have largely gone unnoticed.

Sincere believers of high prominence endorsed the non-biblical spiritual warfare and what followed is what we have today. The deception flood of the erroneous spiritual warfare teachings got so high that many of us easily found scripture to back up our resolve to directly fight evil spirits.

Believers were zealous in their determination to directly confront demonic spirits that scripture was easily taken out of context without even realizing it. Some are still zealous in the non-biblical spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings. The consequences among believers of following these teachings have been disturbing and unfortunate.

The mistaken understanding has been that spiritual warfare implies directly confronting Satan and his demonic spirits (fallen angels), making verbal proclamations in thin air against them, binding them up in the spirit world, in geographical territories, and so on. This, it has been assumed, was our responsibility according to the bible. Unfortunately the consequences speak for themselves on whether or not the bible supports this belief. This book covers on the

potential dangers, consequences and points to the true biblical spiritual warfare we have always followed throughout church history.

True biblical spiritual warfare is what we have held all along before the misinterpretation came in. It maintains that God fights our battles as we seek his intervention rather than confronting Satan ourselves. Our role in dealing with evil spirits in the spirit realm is indirect in nature, while God's role is direct. The only exception is when casting out evil spirits out of people. The book outlines all these areas.

Some changes towards biblical spiritual warfare and deliverance have been occurring as we have been learning from these unfortunate experiences. However we still have some way to go as fundamentalist evangelicals. This book, among others, facilitates our return to biblical principles of spiritual warfare. Without a true understanding we will continue facing avoidable consequences that our mistaken spiritual warfare teachings invite.

Nature of False Doctrine and False Teachings

False doctrine in the body of Christ refers to teachings with biblical half-truths containing errors that misinterpret the scripture. Presence of false doctrine does not imply a particular church or denomination is a cult. Far from it. A cult in its broadest meaning represents groups that worship or give reverence to a deity other than God, Father of Jesus Christ and deny the basic doctrines of the Christian faith.

False doctrine and cults can therefore refer to two separate matters, even though cults by their nature follow false doctrine. As Chapter 1 shows, church history has shown that every church body has had some level of error uncovered at some point or another. That error constituted false doctrine but did not imply that believers who fell for it were part of a cult.

This book is therefore, not about exposing cults but about false doctrines in the body of Christ. It is primarily about revealing and correcting one area of false doctrines: on spiritual warfare and deliverance principles.

The book is also not about attacking or condemning any individual, church or denomination in body of Christ. It is about pointing out erroneous and harmful teachings that pose major hindrances to believers and ultimately the entire body of Christ.

The book uncovers the errors on spiritual warfare and deliverance principles that have entered the body of Christ trapping many sincere believers who practice them. The biblical truths contained in this book facilitate their freedom from all consequences of the false doctrines on spiritual warfare teachings.

False doctrines or false teachings at their lowest level are a hindrance to true Christian living. At their worst level they are severely destructive to a believer spiritually, emotionally, socially, materially, or even physically.

For example, the false doctrines on slavery and gender biases brought psycho-social humiliation of inferiority complexes and economic deprivation on discriminated groups. Although other religions and cultures still embrace primitive gender biases our focus here is where scripture is misinterpreted in order to justify false beliefs.

One of our most recent false beliefs in the body of Christ are on spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings. This book and its companion on deliverance, titled *Major Christian Deliverance Principles: Keys for Self-deliverance and Ministry*, reveal how and why the spiritual warfare and Christian deliverance errors have among the worst consequences among false doctrines currently circulating in the body of Christ. Thankfully there is a way out and there are actually bible based principles that bring freedom.

Indirect confrontation Vs direct confrontation

The vicious cycle of strange problem after another befalls many sincere, heaven destined believers who assume scripture authorizes us to fight Satan ourselves. Thankfully there is a solution to whatever befalls anyone trapped in this false doctrine. It is in ceasing the practice of the assumed spiritual warfare and fighting the enemy the way scripture authorizes us to. This is through indirect confrontation.

Indirect confrontation is what scripture prescribes for us. Chapter 4, “True Spiritual Warfare = Indirect Confrontation,” shows how God has made indirect confrontation as our only spiritual warfare. Indirect confrontation implies that we do not fight with Satan and his evil forces by approaching them directly. We confront them by applying indirect means and ways that God has established for us.

Applying and fulfilling our required indirect roles secures our standing before God and allows him to directly act on our behalf. Attacks from Satan against us become God's battles as we obey and fulfill the roles required of us. In this spiritual battle God's role is direct in nature as he is able to directly deal with the spiritual forces unseen to our human eyes.

God through his heavenly government that has the authority and access to the kingdom of hell is able to directly deal with the enemy and his works. Indirect confrontation is how we can petition God in the name of Jesus to fight on our behalf over our lives or the lives of others.

Indirect confrontation seems simple yet it has the most powerful deliverance ministry tools given to us. Our weapons of warfare, which from a correct scriptural interpretation are indirect in nature, are the most powerful weapons God has entrusted us with. Scripture says they are more powerful than human weapons, able to devastate the activities of Satan on earth. May we effectively use them in setting captives free and practicing true deliverance ministry.

The Sovereignty of God and His Set-up of Spiritual Laws

Our God is almighty, all sovereign. This makes him in charge of everything, including over Satan. He thus has not left his throne to Satan to do whatever he pleases. Satan operates *within* the boundaries that God allows and has set-up as spiritual laws. Outside these boundaries he has NO means, authority, nor power to enforce his wishes.

That is why he uses traps to bring people into his boundaries -so that he can attack them. *Within* his boundaries he gains legal access to attack in whatever way he has access to—spiritually, socially, materially, physically, and so on. The methods he uses to gain legal access to people include deception, sin and ignorance. The false teachings on spiritual warfare and deliverance are therefore among his doorways. Other traps he uses among believers include love of money, pursuit of worldly pleasures, power, fame, knowledge, and so on.

Deliverance comes when people understand that direct confrontation with Satan takes us into his forbidden territory. Being outside the boundary brought by the assumed spiritual warfare ends his legal access to an individual or ministry. It closes the door he used to hinder a person's life.

God can still permit Satan to operate outside his boundary, e.g. in the case of Job. However, Satan had to first obtain permission from God because all avenues of legal access were closed. The same applies to all believers who walk in truth and are under the righteousness of Christ. Satan can only gain access into our lives only after getting permission from God.

God giving Satan permission is an exception rather than a rule. God does not delight in our affliction, especially in areas that Satan has no legal access. The ultimate outcome when God gives Satan permission always brings victory rather than defeat for the believer and for God's kingdom.

We know how Job ended up with more than he lost. Similarly, our Lord Jesus got the greatest victory for all humanity after being innocently oppressed and killed by Satan. God ultimately upholds his faithfulness and righteousness.

1. The Fallibility of the Church (Body of Christ)

CHAPTER 1 SUB-TOPICS:

- The Church (body of Christ) is Liable to Err**
- Consequences of Church Errors on Believers**
- Consequences of the Erroneous Spiritual Warfare Teachings**

The Church (body of Christ) is Liable to Err

This brief chapter addresses the reality of false or erroneous teachings in the church (body of Christ). The body of Christ or God's worldwide troops of believers is not perfect. That is why there are many denominations with each one at point in time claiming to be the only chosen denomination. There is more maturity now in the body of Christ. However we're now more united as a result of learning from historical missteps (very polite word).

This is no cause for alarm, doubt or for skepticism about Christianity. Rather it is to equip believers in understanding the flaws in the body of Christ and how to deal with them in our walk with God. Among these flaws are erroneous teachings on spiritual warfare.

It's worth making a clarification before proceeding: every *sincere* and *practicing* born again believer in evangelical circles is heaven-bound. Not even hell can contest that. We are sealed as God's children in the body of Christ and the Spirit in us bears witness to that. "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children," Romans 8:16.

However, it would be wrong to assume that all the doctrinal beliefs held in our various evangelical denominations are infallible or free from error. The church, the bride of Christ, is fallible and liable to err.

By the end of this book you'll understand how fallible we are and that in our fallibility we are still 100 percent God's children and his elect. You'll also learn that being in err has its consequences in this life. It may not affect our place in eternity if we are innocently deceived yet it does affect our outcomes in this life. That is why it's not worth entertaining erroneous teachings when they are revealed.

No single denomination can claim to be free from error on all its doctrines and beliefs. Such a claim would be at best naïve and at worst an expression of pride. It is a false assumption even when we may not know what the major error(s) may be.

The Lord has exposed some level of error in every church and denomination throughout history. Thus even today no single denomination can be the exception, not in this fallible life. *The International Standard Bible Encyclope-*

dia says “The history of the church shows that it has been as liable to error, and as readily influenced by natural conditions, as any other human institutions,” (ISB Encyclopedia, “Authority in Religion: V. Classification of Theories”).

Exposing the errors has been our Lord’s way of building, growing and maturing his church. Those that made changes have steered the church to higher levels of obedience, truth, and usefulness.

The Bible says we do not yet have perfect knowledge of everything, until this present world passes away. “For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.” 1 Corinthians 13:9-10. The imperfect knowledge we have will be replaced by the perfect.

We therefore only know in part, according to the level the Lord chooses to reveal. More revelation brings more freedom and more power in the body of Christ against Satan’s works on earth. “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free,” John 8:31-32.

A truth revealed to correct an error is therefore a sign that the Lord is taking us to a new level of freedom. It’s a sign that he is closing the door Satan legally used to attack us through our ignorance. We understand that hell will stop at nothing in attempting to rob or even destroy God’s elect. Deception has been his major weapon of attack. Deception feeds on ignorance. Our level of deception therefore depends on our level of ignorance.

The Lord also allows that we remain ignorant on particular truths we may not be able to handle. “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear,” John 16:12. At each point in church history and even in our individual lives the Lord has been revealing more to us in relation to what we can effectively bear.

There is therefore more to be revealed to us in the measure that we can handle. He reveals to us the amount we can handle per time. This often happens when dealing with revelations that will drastically change our understanding. By the time we get the whole truth we’re able to accept it without it seeming controversial. It’s able to replace old beliefs we had always assumed were true.

Consequences of Church Errors on Believers

Unfortunately every error has had its level of negative consequences. Being outside God’s will it opens legal access for Satan to attack. In the body of Christ, errors limit our effectiveness, fruitfulness and triumph over evil on both an individual and corporate level.

For example, the Pope of the Catholic Church was in 1870, declared to be infallible. He was said to be immune from liability to error or failure. He exalted himself above humanity and equated himself with heavenly beings. At some point something had to bring the papacy (church government of the

1. The Fallibility of the Church (Body of Christ)

Roman Catholic Church) to the truth before their claim to infallibility brought more chaos.

Combined with other errors this infallibility false doctrine/teaching added to the decline of the reign of the Catholic Church. It continued to lose its immense political authority God entrusted it with over the most powerful nations at the time.

By 1929, the Catholic Church's political influence was reduced to what is now the Vatican nation, a tiny piece of land. This is a church that once controlled the power and wealth of numerous nations throughout the world for about 1,000 years!!

Since its downfall the Lord has never entrusted any other church body with so much political, economic, social, and spiritual authority. The gospel would have been evangelized throughout the world by now had such immense authority remained to the body of Christ, particularly with the evangelical denominations.

With few of the major errors on scripture corrected the Catholic Church has been labeled by many Protestants as a modern day Pharisee. Obedience to maintaining established tradition became more important than the willingness to change when errors were revealed. It has been accused of resisting to move with the Spirit of God.

We, in the evangelical circles, will not be spared from consequences of embracing errors if we fall in the same trap. This includes embracing errors on spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings.

The erroneous spiritual warfare teachings advocating for direct confrontation against the kingdom of hell started primarily in the 1980s. The enemy showed up, disguised as an "angel of light" to add in his poison as the Body of Christ has been advancing and preparing the soon return of Christ.

Many of the deceptive kinds of spiritual warfare strategies that infiltrated the church have been revealed in the body of Christ. These include scolding Satan, repeated chants of binding and rebuking him, stomping on the ground in a symbolic expression of crushing him, chaining him or his demons and casting him into some imaginary place, like fire, hell, a pot, and so on. It's amazing what we, in the body of Christ, have been doing in the name of spiritual warfare for the past few decades.

Such erroneous spiritual warfare and deliverance has only led us to stray into spiritual territory that's not in our realm of authority (domain) and led to unfortunate counterattacks. The counterattacks could have been avoided if we had not trespassed into forbidden territory. This has been much to the enemy's pleasure to see God's people being destroyed for lack of proper knowledge.

Consequences of the Erroneous Spiritual Warfare Teachings

The negative consequences may sound like science fiction to observers who do not practice the erroneous spiritual warfare teachings. However these are real matters that people involved in the false doctrine on spiritual warfare experience. The experiences may be spiritual, social, material, physical or any combination.

The unpleasant experiences are the devil's direct acts of coming to "steal and kill and destroy," (John 10:10) using the spiritual warfare and deliverance deception of direct confrontation. They are not trials of faith, or persecution for righteousness' sake. They are acts of terror from Satan after he gains access through false teachings. The unfortunate experiences tell us that there is something wrong with the spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings being applied.

Even when a "breakthrough" happens through the erroneous spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings twice the trouble comes out elsewhere. If we cannot learn from the scriptures we're at least enabled to learn from the experiences the erroneous spiritual warfare teachings bring.

Perry Stone, a prominent evangelist that went through much trouble in his early days of ministry says, "Focus on the devil and he shows up, focus on Christ and he shows up," (3:00 in the Morning: Tapping into the Spirit World (audio sermon)). He was warned about his preoccupation with the evil spirit realm in his early years of ministry but never listened. He experienced much trouble from following unscriptural practices concerning the spirit realm.

Some of us may identify with Perry Stone from various troubles we may have gone through as a result of being caught up with the erroneous spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings that advocate for direct confrontation. It is quite simple to spot these experiences.

Firstly they really can never be classified as genuine marks of Christ. They're more marks of the enemy than anything else. Secondly, they leave this uneasiness in us that somehow the Lord ought to have stopped these matters from turning out the way they did. This is regardless of whether or not they eventually worked to our good. The Lord works even our past sins and negative backgrounds to our good yet he never ordained or orchestrated them for us to go through.

The marks of Christ come from enduring persecution and living a sacrificial life. They do not come from crippling illnesses, tormenting setbacks, losses, and so on. Unless one believes that God delights in giving good gifts to his children then only to allow the enemy to steal or destroy them. Such theology is not biblical. Even the book of Job has its own contextual meaning. It is not intended to be easily used to justify such terror.

1. The Fallibility of the Church (Body of Christ)

The problem is that we have been swayed by the lie that the attacks are mere acts of the enemy trying to put a counterattack that he'll eventually lose. The enemy loves to play the deception card which works on ignorance to trap God's people. Ignorance is no excuse in the realm of the spirit. That is why God says his own blood bought and heaven-bound people are destroyed for lack of proper knowledge (Hosea 4.6). It may be destruction spiritually (God forbid), socially, physically or materially.

It is our burden and prayer that this book will end to consequences resulting from practicing the erroneous spiritual warfare teachings that advocate for direct confrontation against Satan. It is also our burden and prayer that fellow believers will be armed with true biblical spiritual warfare principles that advocate for INdirect confrontation against Satan.

Chapter 4. True Biblical Spiritual Warfare = Indirect Confrontation shows how powerful indirect confrontation against Satan is and how Jesus applied it, how the early church followed suit, and how all of church history throughout our AD centuries applied it. It is the direct confrontation against Satan that is new and unscriptural, as Chapter 4 shows biblically.

Many believers may already be familiar with controversial experiences in their Christian lives that contradict scripture a bit too far. Have you experienced or are experiencing strange problems in your life that seem to have no scriptural basis? Or you're unable to bear fruit for the cause of Christ. For some your Christian lives are literally sustained by church attendance. All the years of sermons heard have given you nothing to show for in your walk with God, except the statement that you're a Christian.

The experiences could be in any area or combination of spiritual, emotional, social, material, or physical areas. They usually follow after some time of practicing the assumed spiritual warfare. The strange experiences are neither trials of faith nor persecution for righteousness' sake. No other scriptural basis seems to fit in. Not even sin, with the righteousness of Christ covering your blemishes.

Or you have no peace, with your self or even with God. No smooth road promised in the bible, yet much inner peace usually accompanies us in the midst of our various trials. It may also include a spiritual heaviness where one is seeing or hearing spirit beings.

And the "spiritual warfare" or some "deliverance seminars" from a "deliverance ministry" only keep making things worse. Strange dreams and nightmares maybe a norm for some believers. Any explanation of your experiences to someone unfamiliar with what's going on makes him/her think you have some mental problems.

Some strange problems may be in the lives of your loved ones or ministry. Years of prayer have had little or no fruit. It's like receiving a snake after having asked for a fish. Many snakes in some experiences.

Have you ever considered your involvement in what many of us in some fundamentalist evangelical circles have called “spiritual warfare?” How about the “deliverance seminars” that some ministries practice on believers?

There is nothing wrong with us being radical for Jesus yet many things go wrong if misinformed. “**My people** are destroyed from lack of knowledge,” Hosea 4:6.

This book uncovers the effects of the practice of the unscriptural spiritual warfare teachings, its background, and points to the true spiritual warfare principles from the correct biblical interpretation. It will be a lifesaver for many sincere believers innocently caught up in false teachings on spiritual warfare.

2. Our Territory and Nature of Our Christian Authority

CHAPTER 2 SUB-TOPICS:

- Sphere of Influence**
- Exercising our Christian Authority on Earth**
- 1. Exercising our Christian Authority on Earth: True Binding and Loosing**
 - a) What True Biblical Binding and Loosing Authority is**
 - b) Limitations of the Binding and Loosing Christian Authority**
- 2. Our Christian Authority through our Roles in Body of Christ**
 - a) Implies Divine Choice**
 - b) Implies Representation**
 - c) Implies Offering Living Sacrifice (ourselves)**

This is quite a boring chapter with its detailed coverage on church doctrine and 2,000 years of interpretation of particular scriptures. It is nonetheless essential to understanding our boundaries of authority according to the bible in relation to matters we deal with in life, both physical (seen) and spiritual (unseen). It's also a short chapter compared to the book's principle chapters.

God has his unlimited sphere of authority, we have our limited one, and Satan too has his limited authority. We cannot afford to go beyond our limited sphere of influence because we end up straying into unauthorized territory that does not have heaven's backing.

Without heaven's backing we end up merely operating in our own strength, a sure strategy for defeat. This chapter explains where our limited sphere of influence lies.

Sphere of Influence

Knowing our sphere or territory of influence is important to avoid going into unauthorized territory and matters. Much error has arisen here in the body of Christ. On the extreme right some have assumed we could exercise authority over everything on earth and in the spirit realm except God.

One example is that the church as an institution assumed it had the authority to forgive (loose) or withhold (bind) the sins of its members. Another concerns spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings where believers assume they have authority to directly confront evil spirits that live outside people and in the heavenly realms. Both have used scripture to justify their understanding.

On the extreme left some have assumed we are mere passengers in God's master plan that only he dictates while we follow. He is the Potter while we're the clay so we have no say in how our lives unfold. Whatever experience or matter in our lives, good or bad, big or small, he predestined it to come our way. All we can do, like Job, is to trust him that he knows what he is doing even though we may not understand. By faith we keep going. This assumption also uses scripture. Both extremes, plus the other extreme given above, are harmful to believers in the Body of Christ.

The authority or influence assigned to the Body of Christ belonged to all mankind from the beginning of creation. God told Adam and Eve, "fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground," Genesis 1:28.

The earth was ours to rule over while God retained authority in the heavens. "The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth he has given to man," Psalm 115:16.

However, through sin that came by Satan's deception on Adam and Eve we lost this authority on earth. What Jesus did on the cross was to restore it to us. He was restoring the authority mankind lost by giving it to his church. Unbelievers however, are still under the influence and authority of Satan who stole our birthright of ruling the earth. The church on the other hand, is immune to Satan's authority. He can try to influence us but cannot rule over us. Through the Holy Spirit living in us we have the final say in determining our decisions and ultimately the course of our lives.

Although the sphere of authority changed very little when Christ restored it to us, the assignment for using the authority changed. The sphere or realm of authority remains on the earthly realm. However, the purpose for using the authority changed. We now have a higher purpose than just populating the earth and releasing our creative potential to better manage our lives.

Our new purpose is to populate God's kingdom. It is a priestly purpose. It involves fulfilling all our priestly duties assigned to each one of us in the body of Christ. Through our various priestly duties people are set free from their bondage to Satan, spiritually, socially, physically and materially. It is deliverance ministry in its totality from Satan's kingdom into God's kingdom. Each one of us in the body of Christ has a form of deliverance ministry we've been commissioned to fulfill.

The only addition to our authority on earth concerned confronting evil spirits living in people. This is not the same thing as confronting evil spirits living in the spiritual realm, in geographical areas, or in thin air where they do not occupy any human vessel. The chapter on "Exception for Direct Confrontation" explains the authority on confronting evil spirits living in people. Going outside its boundaries has recently been getting us into trouble.

1. Exercising our Christian Authority on Earth: True Binding and Loosing

a) What True Biblical Binding and Loosing Authority is

A scripture that helps us understand how we exercise our assigned authority is in Matthew 16. Our Lord said, “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven,” Matthew 16:19.

Matthew Henry’s Concise Commentary says, “This binding and loosing, in the common language of the Jews, signified to forbid and to allow, or to teach what is lawful or unlawful.”

John Wesley’s Bible Notes say, “Under the term of binding and loosing are contained all those acts of discipline which Peter and his brethren performed as apostles: and undoubtedly what they thus performed on earth, God confirmed in heaven.”

The Matthew Henry Complete Commentary says the authority to bind and loose among the Jews, “signified to prohibit and permit; to teach or declare a thing to be unlawful was to bind; to be lawful, was to loose.

“Now the apostles had an extraordinary power of this kind; some things forbidden by the law of Moses were now to be allowed, as the eating of such and such meats; some things allowed there were now to be forbidden, as divorce; and the apostles were empowered to declare this to the world, and men might take it upon their words. When Peter was first taught himself, and then taught others, to call nothing common or unclean, this power was exercised.”

It says the authority to bind and loose, “is a power which Christ has promised to own the due administration of; he will ratify the sentences of his stewards with his own approbation; It shall be bound in heaven, and loosed in heaven: not that Christ hath hereby obliged himself to confirm all church-censures, right or wrong; but such as are duly passed according to the word, *clave non errante*—the key turning the right way, such are sealed in heaven; that is, the word of the gospel, in the mouth of faithful ministers, is to be looked upon, not as the word of man, but as the word of God, and to be received accordingly, 1 Thessalonians 2:13; John 12:20.” (sorry for the difficult bygone English version)

Binding and loosing therefore implies making decisions on allowing or forbidding matters on earth which once agreed upon would be supported in heaven. These matters could be in *whatever* area of life –spiritual, social, political, physical and material. They have largely been spiritual or religious matters throughout history. Unfortunately we recently (in the past few decades) took the binding and loosing to imply the authority to go after evil spirits.

Before this assumption, there was another error of using the authority given to the church. The church, under the Roman Catholic Church, as an

institution used it to forgive (loose) or withhold (bind) the sins of its members. After the Lord revealed this error many Christians, led by Martin Luther, protested. They called such acts as blasphemy, since religious leaders were acting as God, able to forgive or retain sins.

What would we then call the act of going to bind and loose evil spirits? We were never assigned to do it. The book of Jude calls it “slander” against “celestial beings,” because “men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand,” Jude 1:8-10. It is spiritual slander. We cannot afford taking scripture out of its context and assigning it a different meaning just to justify a point that we have authority over evil spirits.

Authority over evil spirits is given in another passage of scripture and not in Matthew 16. This authority is however, limited in its nature –like any other form of authority. The chapter on “Exception for Direct Confrontation” explains this area of authority.

Notice also that the binding and loosing power given to Christians involved the church. The church in its literal meaning is a council or a congregation of the “called out ones.” *The Matthew Henry Complete Commentary* defines it as “the children of men called out of the world, and set apart from it, and dedicated to Christ.”

The church is a representative congregation of people who decide on matters that affect their lives and the lives of people they represent before heaven, not hell. They render the matters as binding or loosed in the sense of annulling whatever was considered bound. As the council or church presents its decisions before heaven once agreed upon on earth God in his heavenly government also considers them binding in the heavenly realms.

How these matters are enforced as bound or loosed in the heavenly realm may not be a big issue to know. All we know is that God’s angels are involved in fulfilling what he has considered binding.

The angels do the work of fighting any spiritual beings that oppose his will. We do not have any business to directly deal with these heavenly beings. My book *Breaking Curses, Including Generational Curses* has more info on the work of angels (see the book’s Chapter 6 “The Nature of Angels: God’s Angels and Fallen Angels”).

The authority of binding and loosing was therefore not intended for going after evil spirits. It was Christ giving the power of agreement on matters between us in the church (body of Christ) and heaven. The minimum number to operate in this authority is two. “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. Again, I tell you that **if two of you** on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them,” Matthew 18:18-20.

Two or more people thus constitute a church with enough power on earth to receive the full backing of heaven on whatever matters they’re entrusted

2. Our Territory and Nature of Our Christian Authority

with. Whatever they agree upon is then left to heaven to fulfill the rest. This includes heaven's role in directly overcoming the evil spiritual forces that try to oppose what has been considered a binding matter between heaven and earth. We're not to interfere how God's government deals with these matters in the heavenly (celestial) realm. Our jurisdiction is down here - authority over whatever (spiritual, social, political, physical) matters that exist on earth. "**Whatever** you bind **on earth**..."

"**Whatever** you bind **on earth**..." It is "on earth," not in the spirit realm, nor in the heavenly and nor in the unseen world. It is also "whatever" matters or issues, not "whatever" spirits nor demonic beings. Taking the original meaning out of context invalidates what Christ actually meant. Changing what he meant creates a totally different scripture that's not in the bible and one that does not have the backing of heaven.

b) Limitations of the Binding and Loosing Christian Authority

The authority of binding and loosing on whatever matters that exist on earth is limited by our level of obedience to God. Even in the secular world, anyone given authority is answerable to the one who gave him/her the authority.

Presidents are answerable to the people, managers to shareholders, and so on. Their legitimacy or claim to be in office is compromised once they start making decisions that are contrary to those who have given them the authority. The bigger the violation of authority the higher the risk of being dismissed even with severe punishment.

The same is true for us. God who gave us authority over affairs on earth is only committed to fulfilling his will on earth and in each of our lives. He has a will for us on who, where, when, how, why and what needs to be done. When we submit to his agenda for our lives and for others we receive his full support in the matters we have been assigned to represent him.

Binding and loosing whatever matters that exist on earth in whatever way we desire would be a permit to representing our own wishes on earth. Not only would that be a license to anarchy, it would reduce God to a mere observer as we use our given authority to advance our agendas.

Our Lord remains in charge and thus remains the one giving the orders on where, when, how, why and what matters need to be bound or loosed on earth. Many of us who have proceeded to fulfill whatever our minds considered have gone through unnecessary stress. Heaven's support was not with us and it became our own struggle to fulfill them.

The key to binding and loosing whatever matters that exist on earth is therefore obedience to the will of God on earth. We're able to receive his plans as we submit to him in prayer, by allowing his Spirit to work through us and through his word.

As believers we can always bring all our thoughts, plans and convictions before the Lord. He will be faithful to give us the right understanding. We

have access to his throne of grace for wisdom and every provision for fulfilling our purposed callings. “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need,” Hebrews 4:16.

Just as we're able to know more of each other as we spend more time together, we're also able to know and understand the language of the Holy Spirit the more time we spend with God - in prayer, his Word, evangelism and so on.

The Holy Spirit who lives inside every one of us born again is able to speak more clearly to us the more we submit to God. “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?” (1 Corinthians 6:19). He is able to more effectively fulfill the purposes of heaven through us on earth. “God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure,” (Philippians 2:13).

The Scriptures have many examples of people who had a close relationship with God. It illustrates how God leads us on an individual level and on a corporate level. The people spoke to him and heard him speak to them in words and ways they understood it was him speaking. The presence of God was what characterized people that submitted their lives to him.

Tom Marshall in his book, *Free Indeed*, says, “We may not be able to explain or describe how we know but we “just know” in a certain and unshakable way that God has spoken to us, or that God has heard our prayer, or that we are in presence of God. Many times, because we do not understand this, we are not aware that it is God who has been speaking to us.”

The inner witness of God registers in the conscience which is the unseen spiritual part of us. The bible says, “The Holy Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children,” (Romans 8:16).

When this reliance on God's Spirit to testify (bear witness) with our spirits over issues becomes habitual our minds become tuned to the voice of the Holy Spirit. We are able to be led by the Spirit because we give him first priority over our thoughts and desires.

Scripture says that, “Those who live according to the sinful nature (the flesh) have their minds set on what nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires,” (Ro 8:5-6)

2. Exercising our Authority Through our Roles in the Body of Christ

Another area that enables us to understand our given authority on earth is by examining our roles in the body of Christ. Our duties show us where our authority lies. This authority enables us to effectively fulfill our responsibilities in our assigned areas. Our major obligations can all be summed up into one role—priesthood. The nature of the priestly office is as follows:

2. a) Implies Divine Choice

“You are a *chosen* people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light,” 1 Peter 2:9.

Whatever role we may have in the body of Christ will not be by our own choosing or an appointment from others. It will be from God. Any matter that we involve ourselves outside his appointment will at best not have lasting results. At worst it may have negative consequences on us, like the sons of Sceva experienced (Acts 19: 15-16). Since there will be no support from heaven it will be a labor or battle under our own strength.

God will use people, various experiences and imparting necessary gifts to confirm to us the areas of work he has for us per time. Ultimately it is him who orchestrates everything to ensure we end up knowing our assigned duties. Our burden for particular matters or people, level of commitment and other marks will show that the areas are not our choosing but a divine choice. We are enabled to effectively fulfill our priestly role in those areas and to put up with any opposition Satan tries to use against us.

Even our Lord Jesus was sent by God. He received his commission and his authority from God. He was able to declare, “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. *He has sent me* to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,” Luke 4:18.

Jeremiah was ordained before his birth, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations,” Jeremiah 1:5. Paul was chosen in spite of the initial controversy it brought among the early disciples. “This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel,” Acts 9:15.

2. b) Implies Representation

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia says, “A priest is one who is duly authorized to minister in sacred things, particularly to offer sacrifices at the altar, and who acts as mediator between men and God,” (ISB Encyclopedia, “Priest”).

Our primary representation is the work of Jesus on earth. He was sent to sacrifice his life for the sin of humanity. He offered the last and most perfect sacrifice for the sins for all people: himself. That is why sin offerings are no longer necessary. He was the ultimate sacrifice for all the sins of people who receive him and accept him as Lord and Savior.

“Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. . . . Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him,” Hebrews 9:24-28.

Jesus served the role of High Priest by offering up a sacrifice to God – his life. “He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek,” Hebrews 5:9-10.

The role of high priest now belongs to Christ while our priestly work is to serve under him. He is our head in the priestly office. “Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior,” Ephesians 5:23.

The High Priest who offered his sin offering has assigned us to fulfill the other priestly duties that facilitate his mediation for all mankind. “There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men,” 1 Timothy 2:5-6.

Through us, his body, he is able to reach the lost and disadvantaged spiritually, socially, materially, physically and so on. He is also able to reveal to them his ultimate sacrifice for our sins. Whatever role we have been assigned in his body, big or small, is useful in his outreach to all humanity. We are Christ's representatives or ambassadors to all humanity here on earth.

2. c) Implies Offering Living Sacrifice (ourselves)

Offering of sacrifices was the most important priestly duty. Blood sacrifices served to reconcile men to God by making atonement for their sins. Jesus became our high priest by completing the major purpose of sacrifices through his death on the cross (Hebrews 5:1,4-5)

The requirement of offering of sacrifices for our sins is now irrelevant. However his work on the cross did not abolish offering of all sacrifices to God. In the Old Testament God commanded the children of Israel to make five types of offerings and sacrifices to him:

i. Trespass or guilt offering (Ended with Christ)

A trespass or guilt offering was made to seek forgiveness both from God, and the person wronged when people sinned against their neighbors. The

2. Our Territory and Nature of Our Christian Authority

trespassers who violated the rights of others were also required to return any stolen property or service, plus 20%, to their neighbors on the day that they offered up their guilt offering. The priest then proceeded to make restitution between the sinner and God by making a blood offering before God.

ii. Sin Offering (Ended with Christ)

This included both sins of ignorance and sins committed unintentionally. The offerings gave the people and the priest a way to confess their sin before God and to be cleansed from their inequity.

iii. Burnt Offerings

The burnt offering mainly served as an act of worship to God. The offering was burnt entirely as a surrender to God of the individual or congregation, while the one presenting the offering received nothing. It served as a thankful prayer to God, an acknowledgment of his mercy, wisdom and love. Unlike the other offerings Gentiles could participate in the burnt offering sacrifice. However their presence was prohibited during the burnt offering ceremony.

We are still required to make sacrifices to God of worship. Unlike in the Old Testament our sacrifice to him is in form of giving ourselves to his service spiritually, physically, materially and socially. "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," Romans 12:1-2.

Our service in the body of Christ serves as a spiritual offering. "You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering *spiritual sacrifices* acceptable to God through Jesus Christ," 1 Peter 2:5.

Our highest level of worship is when we endeavor to live at the obedient and submissive level Christ walked with God in his earthly ministry. "A time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth," John 4:23-24.

iv. Grain Offerings

Offerings brought were meant to satisfy God by honoring him with the provisions he made for his people. The offering is known by various titles such as the cereal, grain, meat, meal, and drink offering. It was the only bloodless offering of the Israelites. They included fine flour, unleavened cakes, with oil.

Although the format may have changed we are still required to honor God with all that he provides for us spiritually, materially, socially and physically. We honor him by sharing our gifts with those less privileged. "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased," Hebrews 13:16.

Through our sacrificial service to those in need we indirectly offer sacrifices to God. Whatever acceptable form of service to them whether spiritually, materially, socially or physically is a form of service to God.

“I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me,” Matthew 25:35-36.

It is actually our righteous living and Christian service to others that the Lord, our High Priest, will judge on Judgment Day, put in the fire as an offering for us. Sacrifices founded on Christ as a genuine cross that we carried for the sake of others will be revealed.

Sacrifices made merely for selfish gain will also be revealed. “If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames,” 1 Corinthians 3:12-15.

iv. Peace Offerings (Ended with Christ)

The peace offerings indicated right relations with God. They were of three types that consisted of thanksgiving, votive (“vow”), and freewill offerings. Jesus became our ultimate peace-maker. Through him we find peace with God. Our priestly role is to lead people to the Peace-Maker.

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross,” Colossians 1:19-20.

Summary on Our Christian Authority through Roles in Body of Christ

Elaborating on our priesthood can be a lengthy topic. The point we see is that the priestly office had no time being preoccupied with Satan or directly confronting him. The same pattern of priesthood can be seen in the New Testament, though in a different format. The change is mainly in terms of animal and food sacrifices, and rituals that characterized the old covenant. Christ was our ultimate sacrifice.

Part of the similar pattern is that consecration, obedience, and fellowship with God, for our own sake and for the sake of others remains the major role of the priestly office. This office equips us with weapons of righteousness.

For example the passage in Ephesians 6:11-18 shows a spiritual armour that is composed of Truth, Righteousness, Gospel of Peace, Faith, Salvation,

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and the Word of God. All these are matters of consecration, obedience and fellowship with God. The Lord uses our consecration and obedience to overturn Satan's legal hold over matters in our lives and the lives of those we've been assigned to minister to –spiritually, socially, materially and physically. The chapter on “True Spiritual Warfare = Indirect Confrontation” elaborates on this.

There is no role where the priest is assigned to have any form of dialogue with Satan or to make proclamations to Satan. Fulfilling our priestly roles to God and to people represented is what enables God to bring the blessings and enables him to overcome Satanic opposition.

3. Heavenly Access: Prohibited and Permitted Areas

CHAPTER 3 SUB-TOPICS:

- Prohibited Areas
- Exception for Heavenly Access: Permitted Areas

Prohibited Areas

“The highest heavens *belong to the Lord*, but the *earth he has given to man*,” Psalm 115:16 (emphasis added).

The heavens or the spirit world, or the unseen world, are a restricted territory to us human beings. They belong to the Lord. The spirit realm is forbidden territory for us. God has prohibited us from accessing the spirit world. It belongs to him. However, God gave us something else that is also very precious: the earth. The earth belongs to us. That’s why we play such a big role in determining the state and destiny of this world.

God can easily come down and clean things up here on earth but he has constrained himself to the heavens. When it comes to earthly matters he works through us. He does not bypass us. When Christ returns he’ll take back the earth and will be the one in charge. We’ll be under him, under his government.

Thus our primary business is here on earth as the scripture above says. If the heavens were not so restricted to us we’d be able to see, hear and talk with the spiritual beings that exist in the spiritual world. These beings are God’s angels on one side and the fallen angels, including Satan, on the other side. They exist in the spirit realm even if we can’t see them. My book *Breaking Curses, Including Generational Curses* has more info on the work of angels (see the book’s Chapter 6 “The Nature of Angels: God’s Angels and Fallen Angels”).

It is therefore for a reason that the Lord closed our eyes, ears and other senses from having any contact with the spirit world. The main reason is that it’s his business to handle matters in the spirit world while it’s our business to focus on matters on earth.

John Jackson in his book, *Needless Casualties of War*, distinguishes between terrestrial (earthly) and celestial (heavenly) realms, showing where our jurisdiction lies and where it does not. He shows where our given authority is – the earthly (terrestrial) realm. This is a commendable book by Jackson that I totally endorse.

His other books on the spirit realm are questionable. They have extra-biblical teachings. Getting into extra-biblical teachings is not theologically wise. Thus the reservations about his other books on the spirit realm. They’re not

worth reading unless you're a well grounded and mature Christian that's able to separate the wheat from the weeds.

In Jackson's book, *Needless Casualties of War*, that I endorse, Jackson says, "Sending us into the world to preach the Gospel, Jesus commissioned us to cast out demons, heal the sick, cleanse the lepers and raise the dead—all warfare activities in the terrestrial (earthly) sphere."

It may be easy for some to understand this distinction between the two realms. The Lord is keeping you from danger in a good way. For some of us, understanding may have come through going through some avoidable experiences. These experiences came as a result of applying erroneous and harmful teachings.

The erroneous teachings are primarily the ones in the area of spiritual warfare and deliverance. We're able to see that certain types of "spiritual warfare prayers," and some "deliverance seminars," tap into spirit realms we were never commissioned for. Most of the erroneous spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings trespass into celestial (heavenly) realms that are outside our domain.

Jackson says, "Only God has power to command his heavenly realms. Therefore, we who at present remain a little lower than the angels ought not to presume to command those spiritual beings who are higher ranking in the created order. This includes all of God's heavenly hosts – Michael, Gabriel, or even any lesser angel. Remember, Gabrielle struck mute Zacharias, the high priest, because he spoke presumptively and simply questioned the angel (Luke 1:11-20).

"If we can't even question angels, why do we think we can speak presumptively to command celestial beings?... Since scripture is clear that angels only follow commands from God, neither will their counterparts in the second Heaven (i.e. principalities, and so on.) respond to our commands. The consequences of such behavior maybe grave." (*Needless Casualties of War*, p. 92-93)

The bible says that destruction will come upon people who "speak abusively against whatever they do not understand." It says, "These dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings. 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!" 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.**" Jude 1:8-10.

The scripture above may be difficult to think it also refers to sincere believers since the people mainly mentioned are "dreamers" who pollute their own bodies (with sin) and reject authority (including in the heavenly realm). But those who "slander celestial beings," end up falling in the same category because they "speak abusively against whatever they do not understand."

3. Heavenly Access: Prohibited and Permitted Areas

This sin may not take us to hell like the other “dreamers” being referred who also pollute themselves by pursuing evil desires. However it still brings destruction in our lives because we operate outside the will of God by trying to confront these celestial (heavenly) beings ourselves. God’s setup in his heavenly government is that he is the one to deal directly with the spiritual forces while we mind our business here on earth, committing such matters into his hands.

Scripture says these beings are higher ranking in the created order than we are. Yes they are fallen angels yet we are not, in this life, entitled to rule over them in their various ranks. Even the archangel Michael, in disputing with Satan about the body of Moses, had to follow protocols that God has set up. And we being “a little lower than the angels,” (Hebrews 2:7) deceive ourselves when we assume we can do otherwise –with serious consequences.

Another similar scripture to the one given earlier from the book of Jude is in 2 Peter. It says, “Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. 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,” 2 Peter 2:10-12 (emphasis added).

Satan’s territory is therefore outside our given realm of authority. Ours is on earth and only God has power and authority over the celestial beings in heavenly realms or the spirit world. Anything done outside our given realm of authority is, as the book of Jude says, considered rejection of authority. It is rejection of God’s authority on the limited spheres of influence he gave us.

The consequences of this behavior can be catastrophic as many of us have experienced. It still came even if we did not willfully or knowingly go outside our given realm of authority. Virtually all of us were merely enticed by the enemy, through false teachings, to directly confront him as a way of exercising our assumed authority in spiritual warfare and deliverance matters.

Jackson says, “We need not vent our anger, shake our fist, stomp our feet, and revile Satan. The Bible encourages us to humble ourselves, repent and ask God to remove principalities that curse our land. (p.57)

“Jesus focused on intimacy with God, thus establishing prayer as a form of worship and communion. And he said (in the Lord’s prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)) to petition God for the establishment of his kingdom on earth. . . . When Jesus encouraged his disciples to petition God the Father, he was recognizing God’s authority and protection in our lives –to deliver us from the evil one. When we pray, we are entreating God to act on our behalf.” (p.108-109)

Thus to avoid unnecessary negative consequences we remain in our own realm of authority (terrestrial (earthly)) and commit the Lord to deal with the heavenly (celestial) structures the enemy has set up to influence certain people, matters, places and times. As we do our assigned obligations in the

warfare against the enemy the Lord will commit his forces to pull down and demolish these spiritual strongholds.

We therefore seek God to “deliver us from the evil one,” Matthew 6:13 in all matters Satan is working against us. We cannot deliver ourselves from the evil one.

As we do our part of fulfilling what God requires of us in walking uprightly he is able to do his part of overcoming forces that we humanly are neither able to fight nor have access to. Doing our part is basically positioning ourselves to enable him to fight on our behalf in the spirit realm. We position ourselves through our walk with him - focusing on him as our deliverer, walking uprightly, walking in love, forgiveness, charity, occasional fasting, and so on.

Complete list of beings we have no access to in the spirit realm

We do not have the authority or permission to have access to the following created beings in the spirit realm:

1. Satan and his fellow fallen angels. We have no direct fellowship or access to Satan and his fellow fallen angels. My book *Breaking Curses, Including Generational Curses* has more detailed info on the work of angels (see the book's Chapter 6, “The Nature of Angels: God's Angels and Fallen Angels”). Satan is an angel created by God, and is now in the ranks of fallen angels.
2. God's angels. God sometimes gives his angels direct access to us. He sometimes allows them to fellowship with us or communicate to us. This can happen in dreams, visions and on rare occasions God's angels being physically given human bodies.
“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it,” Hebrews 13:2.
God's angels being given occasional access to us does not translate to us having access to them. We're allowed to communicate with them when they are granted access to any of us. However we're not allowed to go out and look for them. Only they can look for us, as they're instructed by God to communicate to us.
Again my book *Breaking Curses, Including Generational Curses* has more detailed info on the work of angels (see the book's Chapter 6, “The Nature of Angels: God's Angels and Fallen Angels”).
3. Spirits of fellow human beings (dead or living humans). We're triune beings, having three parts in our human makeup: spirit, soul and body. We have access to each other as humans on a body and soul level. On the spiritual level we do not have access to each other.
This is why we do not have access to the people that die. The bible strictly forbids us to contact spirits of the dead. Their spirits are alive somewhere in the spirit realm yet we have no access to them. Contact-

3. Heavenly Access: Prohibited and Permitted Areas

ing spirits of the dead is known by the various terms that include necromancy and divination. It is part of the occult or non-Christian practices.

The bible also forbids us to have access to spirits of people that are still living. This practice is in the category of sorcery and witchcraft. It also includes telepathy, channeling and clairvoyance. Telepathy is the transfer of thoughts, feelings, or images directly from the mind of one person to another without using physical communication means like speech, gestures and visuals.

According to the bible these are occult practices. We're forbidden from practicing them. For example witches and witch doctors use telepathic means to attempt to influence people in fulfilling their objectives. Some witches and others in the occult also send out spells to people using telepathic means by enchanting the identities of people.

A spell that is cast out is a written, spoken or drawn statement that is intentionally intended to remotely or distantly manipulate the mind, thoughts and state of another person. Some call them magic spells.

Casting of spells is also used by witch doctors for purposes such as love charms (attracting someone loved) and remotely manipulating the mind and thoughts of another person.

Some in the body of Christ, with good intentions, use telepathic means to attempt to influence other people. For example, a believer wants a family member to receive salvation and to change from bad behavior. Part of his/her strategy to ensure this takes place is calling the person's name or identity and speaking to him, telling him to accept the desired behavior. This is done remotely, that is, when the person of concern is out of the presence of the one making the proclamations.

Some even have a picture, hair, clothing or any item of the person(s) of concern. They speak to the picture or item with the assumption that the person(s) of concern is being reached and that the person's spirit is subject to the believing Christian.

Such practices are not biblical and therefore not Christian. There are only two ways we can endeavor to influence other people in a biblical and therefore Christian approach. **The first** is by communicating with the person(s) directly in person or through physical communication means such as by mail, by phone or by sharing something like a sermon or book.

It has to be communication means that are in the earthly or human perceptual realm. A person has to receive the message through any of his human or earthly five senses of sight, hearing, smell, touch, and taste. It is through these natural senses that the communicated message to an individual will travel through to reach his supernatural makeup—his spirit.

This is why evangelism is required to reach people. If speaking to their spirits directly was permissible all we would do is take pictures of them or grab a telephone directory and then speak to their spirits. This is not allowed so we have to use the tough road of reaching them through their human or earthly senses.

“How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?...As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’” Romans 10:14.

“Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ,” Romans 10:17.

The second way is by submitting the person(s) of concern to God through prayer. This is called intercessory prayer. We speak their names and identities to God and ask him to change them. He is the one that is able to reach their spirits and enable them to change.

When submitting them to God can we take a picture, hair, clothing or any item of the person(s) of concern?

Some say these are necessary as points of contact. The question is, does God, the Almighty, need a point of contact. The answer is no. Taking such items to God may not be a serious violation but it's not necessary.

Serious violations of God's spiritual laws and statutes include the occult practices covered above. This one, of taking pictures, hair, clothing or any item of the person(s) of concern before God is not a serious violation. It is just not necessary. Their names and identities are sufficient for God to know who you're praying for. Identities include descriptions such as grandmother, father, sister, brother in-law, pastor, teacher, president and so on.

Thus the main thing we can do is read or speak out their names or identities before God. Grabbing a telephone directory in endeavoring to intercede for people is also within scriptural boundaries. This is as long as the names are being submitted to God.

For example, it is biblically fitting to say, “Father God I submit Eric Gondwe into your hands, in Jesus' name.”

On the other hand it is not biblical when it's reversed: “Eric Gondwe, I submit you into God's hands, in Jesus' name.” When you say this you are speaking to Eric Gondwe, not to God. Speaking to Eric in his absence in an attempt to influence him is not scriptural. It is speaking to God about Eric that is scriptural.

Exception for Heavenly Access: Permitted Areas

There are two exceptions of our access to the spirit realm. One involves the authority to cast out demons possessing people. The other concerns access to God himself.

1. Casting Demons Out of People Possessed by Evil Spirits

Where do demons belong? They belong to the spirit realm. Demons are fallen angels. Together with their leader, Satan, who is also a fallen angel, they rebelled against God. Fallen angels, including Satan, share the same names or references that include devils, demons, evil spirits, unclean spirits, principalities and powers, and so on.

All angelic beings, whether fallen angels or God's angels belong to the spirit realm, not the earthly realm. That is why we do not see angels physically roaming around us. However both fallen angels and God's angels are all around us. The realm they're in is the spirit realm. It is beyond our natural five senses of sight, hearing, smell, touch, and taste.

My book *Breaking Curses, Including Generational Curses* has more info on the work of angels (see the book's Chapter 6, "The Nature of Angels: God's Angels and Fallen Angels").

What takes place when demons or fallen angels take possession of people is that they enter the earthly realm. Spirits do not have bodies. This is the biggest obstacle they have in their access to affairs in the physical realm. Without bodies they have no access to the physical or earthly realm. They remain confined to the spirit realm.

Fallen angels could be able to exercise some of their angelic abilities such as manipulating oceanic, atmospheric and land-based events. However this would be under the watch of God, with his angels on guard. Thus their activities on earth would be totally limited.

To get around this limitation of access to affairs in the earthly realm fallen angels looked for loopholes. These so called loopholes are what have enabled them to have increased access to affairs in the earthly realm. God in his own design allowed fallen angels to use these avenues. There are two key avenues fallen angels use to increase their access to affairs in the earthly realm:

1. Access to faculties of human beings: a form of demonic influence,
2. Possession of human beings: a form of demonic possession

Access to faculties of human beings is an external activity. They do not possess or own the faculties of a person but are able to spiritually connect with a person. Faculties of a person are in two major forms: spiritual (unseen) faculties and the bodily (seen) faculties. The spiritual faculties are the mind, emotions and the will. The bodily faculties include the eyes, ears and all our physical makeup of our organs.

Access to spiritual faculties is largely what is called temptation. It is a form of demonic influence. We do not physically see evil spirits tempting us. We can only figure out it's them when we realize the thoughts or emotions in us are contrary to the will of God.

Demon possession is more severe than demonic influence. Possession of human beings is their deepest penetration to our human makeup. Through possession they literally own or occupy the person in a given area of his faculties. The area that is possessed is at their will and they can express themselves through the area without the person's own control. Demonic possession is in the same areas that demonic influence takes place in people.

The good news is that as believers we have been given the authority to cast out demons that possess or own people. We cast them out. Once they are cast out they return to their allocated area of residence –the spirit realm. God gave us the authority to cast out unseen spirit beings that possess people. We can only see the spirit beings through the evil work they are bringing on the person or doing through the person.

The authority to cast out demons that possess people has brought some misunderstanding among some of our siblings in the body of Christ. Some have assumed it was a license to directly confront unseen spirit beings everywhere – in geographical regions, in thin air, and in the spirit realm. This is not what Jesus said when his words are put into context.

When taken out of context all kinds of assumptions and erroneous teachings can be derived from the bible. Concerning the authority granted to cast out demons please read see chapter 5, "Demonic Possession: The Exception for Direct Confrontation."

2. Christians' Access to Heaven, God's Throne: Access to God himself

The kingdom of God is the only celestial (heavenly) realm we have access to. Our Lord Jesus even gave us the keys to God's heavenly kingdom: "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven," Matthew 16:19.

(On what binding and loosing means according to the bible, please read the previous chapter, "Our Territory and Nature of Our Christian Authority." Some in the body of Christ recently began to assume it implied binding and loosing evil spirits in geographical territories, in the heavenly realms or the spirit world).

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven," Matthew 16:19. This means that there're certain places and matters that unbelievers and Satan's hosts cannot have access to in heaven. It's our Father's house that only his children have access to.

What a priestly privilege we have to have access to God's heavenly kingdom and stand for unbelievers by going to heaven (through prayer). We're

3. Heavenly Access: Prohibited and Permitted Areas

able to petition their case of salvation for them with our spiritual keys of access to his kingdom (that they don't have yet).

The entire kingdom of God is on our side in bringing to pass in heaven matters that we've appropriately agreed upon (bound) on earth. As we biblically pursue such matters we'll be able to see Satan's works destroyed in our lives and the lives of others we represent before God.

We also have access to God's throne of grace for wisdom and every provision for fulfilling our purposed callings. "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need," Hebrews 4:16.

Though we have the keys to God's kingdom we were not given the keys to hell or Hades, the residence of Satan and his hosts. We therefore have no access to the territory where these celestial beings live and exercise their influence of evil.

Only our Lord has access to the territory where fallen angels live: "I hold the keys of death and Hades," Rev. 1:18.

The enemy doesn't have any keys even to his own house!!

However he has been cunning enough to have us think we can enter his celestial (heavenly) territory and fight him there. The consequences have brought much terror.

Only our Lord has access there after he disarmed the principalities and took all their authority away. "And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross," Colossians 2:15.

Our obligation is to present to God matters that only his heavenly government has the power and access to deal with.

Jesus who has access to hell can go there at will and overcome forces behind certain people and matters. Since he took their authority away he is able to overcome even their legal claim over the people and matters. He has a mighty army with his angels from God's heavenly government.

Scriptures say Jesus can open and close any door he pleases. "These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut," Rev 3:7-8.

He is able to open doors for us to fulfill his work regardless of the enemy's legal claim over the people and matters we're assigned to. We have an awesome responsibility of being God's handiwork in the lives of people. He could have chosen angels to accomplish such work. But he chose us.

He chose us because of one major reason: spirits do not have bodies. Affairs in the physical realm need to be implemented by someone with a physical body.

"The *highest heavens belong to the Lord*, but the *earth he has given to man*," Psalm 115:16.

“Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and **let them rule over** the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and **over all the creatures** that move along the ground,” Genesis 1:26 (emphasis added).

Humanity is God's legal representative over the earth. It is through us that God fulfills matters on earth. This is the same with evil spirits. They cannot fulfill their evil work without people to work through.

Thus in the spirit realm there is a struggle for control over humanity. Whoever wins the struggle over the influence of humanity controls the affairs on earth, the nature of humanity, and the destiny of humanity.

In his book, *Understanding the Purpose and Power of Prayer: Earthly License for Heavenly Interference*, Myles Munroe has written superbly on this topic. He says by making humanity to be his legal representative over the earth God created seven primary laws:

- 1) “The legal authority to dominate earth was given to mankind only
- 2) God did not include Himself in the legal authority structure over the earth
- 3) Mankind became the legal steward of the earth domain
- 4) Man is a spirit with a physical body; therefore, only spirits with physical bodies can legally function in the earth realm
- 5) Any spirit without a body is illegal on earth
- 6) Any influence or interference from the supernatural realm on earth is only legal through mankind
- 7) God Himself, who is a Spirit without a physical body, made Himself subject to this law.”

Munroe identifies five consequences or outcomes as a result of God establishing the above seven laws:

- 1) The legal authority on earth is in the hands of mankind,
- 2) The Creator, because of His integrity, will not violate the law of His Word,
- 3) Nothing will happen in the earth realm without the active or passive permission of man, who is the legal authority,
- 4) The Creator and the heavenly beings cannot interfere in the earth realm without the cooperation or permission of mankind,
- 5) God must obtain the agreement and cooperation of a person for whatever He desires to do in the earth.”

For those of us already born again it is our responsibility to cooperate with God in claiming the lost to be under God's influence. God does nothing on the earth over humanity without seeking the cooperation of willing human vessels. The main avenue we cooperate with God is through prayer and our obedient lives.

Our obedient lives enable God's Holy Spirit to effectively work in and through us. Our prayers become acceptable requests before God for him to get

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involved in affairs on earth. Prayer is our access to heaven, God's throne, partly seeking God to intervene on earth. It is seeking his intervention on earth his way, not our way. That's why we're admonished to pray, "Your will be done..."

Prayer is more than seeking God's intervention. It includes submitting ourselves to his will, aligning ourselves to his purposes, worshiping him, and so on. Munroe does cover on these other areas. For now let's focus on seeking God's intervention on earth. Here is what takes place as a result of seeking God's intervention on earth through prayer. It is also adapted from Munroe's book on prayer:

- ❖ Prayer is man giving God the legal right and permission to interfere in earth's affairs.
- ❖ Prayer is man giving heaven earthly license to influence earth.
- ❖ Prayer is terrestrial (earthly) license for celestial (spiritual) interference.
- ❖ Prayer is a man exercising his legal authority on earth to invoke heaven's influence on the planet."

This just demonstrates that our access to God is not a mere religious duty. It is a powerful avenue God set for us to be able to work with him in fulfilling his will on earth. His will concerns us individually, our families, the body of Christ and the harvest field. Through prayer we're able to be used to make a difference in all areas burdened by God.

Let us honor and value the responsibility God has given us on earth. Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955), a Jesuit priest said, "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience, but spiritual beings having a human experience."

He is also quoted to have said, "You are not a human being in search of a spiritual experience. You are a spiritual being immersed in a human experience."

This human experience enables us to accomplish assignments on earth that God has for us. God is so interested in our human experience that even God's angels are surprised why God makes it such a big deal. We cannot afford to minimize our worth to God through our existence in these physical suites called bodies. Through these bodies we can accomplish so much for God's glory on earth. That's why the angels marvel at us.

"What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. **Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands**; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas," Psalm 8:4-8 (KJV).

God made us rulers or to have dominion over the works of his hands - on earth. Even over the salvation of fellow humanity he is counting on us. He works through us, in the body of Christ, to reach the lost – not independently of us.

“How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?...As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’” Romans 10:14.

Our existence here on earth is important not primarily for our own sake as believers but primarily for the sake of others –the lost and fellow believers in the body of Christ. It is an awesome divine responsibility. Through prayer, evangelism and among other Christian obligations we’re able to work with God in reaching humanity.

Christian disciplines such as prayer, fasting and evangelism are only for this life. There will be no need for them when we’re in heaven. Let’s use them to their maximum possible level. Here are lyrics of a song titled, “What A Friend We Have In Jesus.” It covers on the role of prayer.

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

(Lyrics of “What A Friend We Have In Jesus,” by Joseph M. Scriven, 1820-1886).

4. True Biblical Spiritual Warfare = Indirect Confrontation

CHAPTER 4 SUB-TOPICS:

- Comparing old and new teachings on spiritual warfare
- God's role = direct confrontation, verses our role = indirect confrontation
- Examples of Our Indirect Confrontation in the Bible
- More Scriptural Objection for Direct Confrontation
- Weapons of Spiritual Warfare –Part 1
 - 1) The belt of truth
 - 2) The breastplate of righteousness
 - 3) The shoes of the gospel of peace
 - 4) The shield of faith
 - 5) The helmet of salvation
 - 6) The sword of the Spirit
 - 7) All kinds of prayers
- Weapons of Spiritual Warfare –Part 2
- Spiritual warfare Vs spiritual slander; Deliverance ministry Vs demonic ministry

Comparing old and new teachings on spiritual warfare

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but ...against the spiritual forces of evil... Therefore put on the full armor of God,” Ephesians 6:12-13.

By this time, based on the previous chapters, you likely have a solid foundation on understanding the biblical nature of spiritual warfare. With the foundation now in place you'll be able to build a sound biblical interpretation of spiritual warfare principles that are not diluted with erroneous and harmful teachings.

As said earlier, the biblical interpretation of spiritual warfare principles endorsed by this book are supported by the entire 2000 year church history - from Christ's time up to now. They constitute the old teachings on spiritual warfare and have stood the test of time on doctrinal scrutiny. Nearly all our various evangelical branches (denominations) in the body of Christ endorse the old teachings on spiritual warfare. Read on to find out. So much is at stake.

On the other hand, the spiritual warfare teachings that advocate for direct confrontation with Satan have been around only since the 1980s. They constitute the new teachings on spiritual warfare. The doctrinal foundation they're based on has had controversies ever since the teachings started. This

ought to ring a doctrinal analysis bell to any Christian serious enough to study the two teachings.

Some of us never had the opportunity to biblically compare and contrast the two distinct teachings. After being born again we found ourselves in congregations that taught and applied the new teachings on spiritual warfare. We warmly embraced whatever was spiritually fed us. Besides ministers are men and women of God. So they can never be in err or wrong on any matter. Wrong. We wouldn't have this many denominations if we couldn't err.

In addition to receiving the wrong teachings on spiritual warfare in church it got worse out of church. Out of church were spiritual warfare books, audio sermons, and content by other ministers in the body of Christ. Some were from prominent ministers.

Even today (2008) the largest number of books on spiritual warfare you'll find online, at local bookstores, and libraries are those with new teachings of direct confrontation. This ought not to be a surprise. It's because the term spiritual warfare became prominent through those who brought the new teachings. The old teachings referred to our struggle with evil spirits as Christian warfare. They used the term Christian warfare far more prominently than spiritual warfare.

Thus you'll find old-time classics on spiritual warfare calling it Christian warfare. Old-time Christian books, bible dictionaries, bible commentaries, biblical encyclopedias, refer to what we've recently been accustomed to call spiritual warfare as Christian warfare. These classical reference works that are still used today by bible schools, ministries and studious Christians, include Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology, Easton's Bible Dictionary, Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible, and so on.

This difference in terminology between the old and the new teachings brings out interesting findings. One of them is that the largest number of material that prominently use the word spiritual warfare have new teachings on direct confrontation with evil spirits. Conversely the largest number of material that prominently use the word Christian warfare have old teachings on *indirect* confrontation with evil spirits.

Thus most of what you'll find online, at local bookstores, and libraries using the term spiritual warfare are those with new teachings of direct confrontation. Vice versa in regard to Christian warfare.

What's important however is not the terminology being used. What matters is the interpretation of the scripture between the old and the new teachings on what is spiritual warfare or Christian warfare. One says spiritual warfare or Christian warfare is *indirect* confrontation (old teachings) and the other says it's direct confrontation (new teachings) with evil spirits.

Many scriptures have literally been taken out of context to establish the new teachings. The new teachings on spiritual warfare are only endorsed by two or three groups (denominations) among our various evangelical branches.

4. True Biblical Spiritual Warfare = Indirect Confrontation

Needless to say that the groups that endorse the teachings have somewhat dissimilar versions of direct confrontation with Satan and his fellow demons.

Due to their false empowerment these teachings advocating for direct confrontation with Satan have spread with a lot of excitement. Believers learn that scripture admonishes us to directly confront Satan and his fellow fallen angels. It feels great since instead of praying to God we can do it ourselves. We have the divine authority over Satan and demons, so it's assumed. The false empowerment makes us in charge over evil spirits to the extent that we directly control them ourselves. We all want to have more direct control over our lives. Anything that gives us direct control over our lives empowers us.

So now the new spiritual warfare teachings claim we have direct control over evil spirits. We by-pass God and we rule over them ourselves. The only time God comes in is as we use the name of Jesus to bombard the demons.

Every matter in life that seems like a spiritual attack is an assumed call for us to directly confront the evil spirits. Instead of praying to God we go after the evil spirits and directly confront them. We confront them over material and financial matters. We confront them over physical health matters. We confront them over relationship matters. We even confront them in geographic territories by waging territorial warfare against territorial spirits.

The list is endless of how we engage evil spirits directly. Some churches following this belief even encourage preemptive warfare. This is where Christians are to directly attack evil spirits before the spirits strike.

Notice that this belief system preoccupies us with evil spirits. Instead of being preoccupied with God we're constantly looking at what evil spirits are up to. And whatever evil spirits are up to is not God's responsibility to deal with them but ours, so it's assumed. It even makes it hard to think of what God is up to in spite of the evil spirits. Thus much time that could have been given to prayer (being preoccupied with God) is given to "discerning" and directly attacking evil spirits (being preoccupied with evil spirits).

If you're like some of us who've read the bible from cover to cover you'll notice that this God we serve prefers us to be preoccupied with him more than anything else. An even worse scenario for this God we serve is where we're being preoccupied with evil spirits. Such preoccupation is not Christianity but a foreign teaching that takes some scriptures out of context to make it Christian.

Many pagan religions are obsessed with spirits, how to repel the evil ones, how to appease the angry ones, how to attract the good spirits, you name it. In order to succeed in life you have to be an expert at managing the various spirits out there. It's a complicated cat and mouse game.

Somehow the same cat and mouse game found its way into Christianity. Instead of being preoccupied with God we're constantly looking at what evil spirits are up to. Some may be saying wait a minute, what about this or that scripture? Didn't God give us a mandate to directly deal with evil spirits? Please

read on, preferably the whole book, if you have many questions and doubts. This book wasn't written by an armchair umpire comparing two distinct doctrines. I was for years caught up in the false teachings on spiritual warfare.

Being a person who goes to extremes on any matter that's important I aggressively applied the new spiritual warfare teachings. I was a total radical follower of the false teachings on spiritual warfare. Since I was led by the spiritually blind (on true spiritual warfare) I also ended up being spiritually blind on what true biblical spiritual warfare really is.

All the scriptures concerning spiritual warfare you may raise I therefore know them. They're extensively covered in this book with contextual biblical analysis. The book is thus coming from an insider who's intimately familiar with the false teachings on spiritual warfare. God graciously got me out of it and he's doing the same for you through this book –or through any other way – hopefully not through a severe wake-up call.

The false teachings on spiritual warfare sound so empowering. Are they biblical? You'll see in this chapter that any biblical basis they use is merely misinterpretation of scripture. The bible can be used to back up nearly anything. All that's needed is taking some scriptures out of context and one has a new teaching or doctrine.

Fellow Christians be on alert. Fellow ministers guard your calling in ensuring you're not blind on an important matter that could make you mislead many. Some new teachings using scriptures out of context can have disturbing consequences on your life and others – spiritually, socially, materially, or physically. Needless to say that there's always plenty of hope for anyone who may have been harmed by any kind of false teaching.

New Age self-empowerment teachings are all around us. Let's not entertain them when they try to infiltrate Christianity. In fact all occult teachings in both white witchcraft and black witchcraft are centered around self-empowerment. They promise people power over "the" spirits, both good and bad spirits.

Through learning some occult teachings they promise self-empowerment that enables a person to use "the" spirits in his/her personal advancement in career, marriage, material gain, and so on. The spirits are claimed to become submissive to one's requests as a person gains and applies knowledge of certain occult rituals.

For example, just look at the degrees or hierarchical levels of Freemasonry and you will see how the occult is centered on self-empowerment. Here are a few and you'll notice how self-empowering the titles are: Master Mason, Excellent Master, Secret Master, Perfect Master, Master Elect of Nine (ninth degree), Grand Master Architect, Prince of Jerusalem. These are just some of the first 16 Masonic degrees (out of 33). Can you see how they entitle a person to be a master or lord over his/her own life as he/she graduates in the Freemasonry occult disciplines?

4. True Biblical Spiritual Warfare = Indirect Confrontation

If this sounds so unfamiliar to you please read my other book, *Breaking Occult Spells: Protection from Witchcraft and Occult Influences*. It has more detailed info on this topic.

The new teachings on spiritual warfare border on making evil spirits to become submissive to one's requests. Can you see how this brings a false sense of self-empowerment – like the occult world promises? Direct confrontation on spiritual warfare is being used as a means for having power over evil spirits. It may sound innocent for any unsuspecting Christian but if you connect the dots you'll see that it has occult relations.

This is not to say fellow Christians caught up in the new teachings on spiritual warfare are in the occult. It's just to say that the new teachings have occult relations on self-empowerment, giving a person power over the spirits. In Christendom select scriptures get taken out of context and the self-empowerment doctrine gets a Christian face. Direct confrontation against Satan and his fellow demons is claimed to empower us to counter their schemes.

The main biblical basis being used for direct confrontation on spiritual warfare is that Christ gave us authority over unclean spirits (i.e. evil spirits, demons or fallen angels). This is very true. Yet it's only true to the extent that our given authority is exercised within its contextual limits that it was granted. All given authority, whether earthly or spiritual, is limited. The only being with unlimited authority is God. His kind of authority is called power because it's not granted and cannot be sanctioned by anyone. He's sovereign.

God's angels have limited authority, demons (fallen angels), including Satan, have limited authority. Who are we to think our given spiritual authority is unlimited? Exercising our given spiritual authority beyond its given limits is mere presumption and venturing into unauthorized territory. Once you enter into an unauthorized territory you're at the mercy of its residents. Satan and his fellow demons have no mercy over believers entering unauthorized spiritual zones. It'll be free lunch for them –unless God in his sovereignty stops them.

Thus our given authority over evil spirits did not mean it was a blank check to go after evil spirits wherever we wish to confront them –in people, in thin air, in geographical territories, in water, in the spirit world, or wherever. This makes understanding the boundaries of our given authority a very important matter.

This is particularly important on matters that deal with the spirit world. Otherwise we may risk going outside our boundaries and face regretful counter-attacks that could have been avoided. The previous chapters (chapters 2 and 3) cover in depth on our given authority and on its limited boundaries. Please read them in case you came straight to this chapter. You'll see from God's word how he has created a God-centered approach to dealing with evil spirits.

The rest of this chapter expands on this God-centered approach by elaborating on our role as indirect warriors in God's army. In other ways, we do not fight evil spirits directly but fight them indirectly by focusing on God who

has the power to directly confront them. God, through his angels has the power to directly confront evil spirits in all their set-up places: occult world, spirit world, and territories.

Thus victory comes by fulfilling our expected indirect responsibilities, and not by our direct confrontation with evil spirits. Indirect confrontation is our responsibility. Direct confrontation is God's, except where demons are to be cast out of people.

God's role = direct confrontation, verses our role = indirect confrontation

This chapter is an answer to: what is spiritual warfare according to the bible? Or what is Christian spiritual warfare?

True biblical spiritual warfare is simply indirect confrontation with Satan our principle enemy. Indirect confrontation implies that we do not fight with Satan and his evil forces by approaching them directly. We confront them by applying indirect means and ways that God has established for us. These will be covered shortly.

Applying and fulfilling our required indirect roles secures our standing before God and allows him to directly act on our behalf. Attacks from Satan against us become God's battles as we obey and fulfill the roles required of us. In this spiritual battle God's role is direct in nature as he is able to directly confront the spiritual forces unseen to our human eyes.

God himself does not necessarily fight Satan. He is too big to go out and fight a creature he himself created and allowed to exist after his rebellion. The Lord uses his angels, Satan's equals since Satan is also an angel, only a fallen one. My book *Breaking Curses, Including Generational Curses* has more info on the work of angels (see the book's Chapter 6 "The Nature of Angels: God's Angels and Fallen Angels").

God through his heavenly government of angels has the power, authority and direct access to the kingdom of Satan and his fallen angels. We do not and we only deceive ourselves to assume we do. However, we have a very special role to play in setting the stage for God to send out his angels to minister (carry out) his will.

This special role comprises of fulfilling our expected part in our walk with God. The combination of our walk with God and committing life's battles into his hands constitutes our indirect role. God becomes our defender and acts on our behalf in dealing with matters confronting us and the people we commit to him.

True Christian spiritual warfare is living a life of consecration, obedience and fellowship with God in such a way that we enable God to effectively deal with the evil working against us and against other people. It is a form of

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abiding in Christ that overcomes Satan's legal and illegal grounds against us and others. This is seen in the outline of our spiritual armor given in Ephesians 6:11-18 (outlined below in this chapter).

Biblical spiritual warfare is therefore indirect confrontation against Satan. We approach God to intervene for us against Satan on matters in our lives and the lives of others.

It's true that Satan and his demonic spirits (fallen angels) are our primary enemies we wrestle against. It's also true that God has given us certain ways in the Bible of confronting these evil beings whose full time ministry is scheming to ruin our lives. Working outside these biblical ways only increases their effect in our lives. One of these non-biblical ways is the assumption that direct confrontation against Satan is our role.

Examples of Our Indirect Confrontation in the Bible

a) Examples of indirect Confrontation During Jesus' Time on Earth

Nowhere in the scripture do we see Jesus or the apostles bombarding demons in thin air and calling it spiritual warfare prayers or deliverance prayers. When Satan sought to sift Peter and finish him off Jesus prayed to God. Jesus prayed that Peter's faith would not fail and when he'd turned back from the attack he'd strengthen his fellow disciples.

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers," Luke 22:31-32.

Jesus Christ, God made flesh, prayed to God, the Father, for Peter's deliverance. His spiritual warfare prayer or deliverance prayer was addressed to God not to Satan. How much more should we follow his example of indirect confrontation.

The events that followed showed the results of Jesus' prayers of deliverance addressed to God, not Satan. Peter rose to be the foundation of the early church. His faith in his teacher and master, Jesus Christ, was preserved. God did his spiritual warfare part in fulfilling Jesus' deliverance prayer by directly confronting Satan in the spirit realm.

In a major prayer by Jesus for himself, his disciples and for all Christians there is not a hint of him being preoccupied with demons and their activities (John 17). The entire prayer of Jesus in John 17 is given below. Yet this is a classic spiritual warfare prayer and deliverance prayer. His focus was on God as the deliverer. He desired that his disciples and all believers would walk in unity and be protected from evil spiritual influence. "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one," John 17:15.

We don't see Jesus binding and loosing demonic spirits, familiar spirits, generational spirits, Jezebel spirits, territorial spirits, spirits of division, spirits of

unforgiveness, spirits of this and that. Yet his version of spiritual warfare prayer and deliverance prayer has kept the church united to this day, for over 2000 years.

Some may say the church is totally divided. However we agree on more issues than we disagree. We agree particularly on the major matters –who God is, Jesus is, the Holy Spirit, who Satan is, demons, angels, hell, heaven, the Bible and so on. There are wolves around us but the sheep outnumber the wolves. Together as God's sheep we comprise the Body of Christ, the global church that transcends geographical and denominational boundaries.

John 17 in full from New International Version (NIV) bible (headings are as marked in NIV):

Jesus Prays for Himself

JN 17:1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. 2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. 3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

JN 17:6 "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. 9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. 11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

JN 17:13 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are

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not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Jesus Prays For All Believers

JN 17:20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

JN 17:24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

JN 17:25 "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

b) Examples of Indirect Confrontation after Jesus' Ascension and During the Early Church

Some may say direct confrontation with demonic spirits, binding and loosing them became necessary after Jesus ascended to heaven. How come the apostles did not practice it? When confronted with threats that could have closed the emerging church they turned to God.

At one point they prayed so much that, "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken," Acts 4:31. They turned to God. There is no single preoccupation with Satan, yet they knew too well that Satan was the one causing all this.

In our time some fellow believers assume earth shaking breakthroughs will come after binding and loosing demonic spirits, familiar spirits, generational spirits, Jezebel spirits, territorial spirits, spirits of division, spirits of unforgiveness, and so on. This only ends up taking us outside our biblical limits.

It also ends up summoning demons to interfere with our lives because we confront them in their spiritual territory where only God and his hosts have access to. We have direct access to God when confronted with evil. However we do not have direct access to the spirits of darkness. The previous chapter covers this in depth from God's word.

Paul, the apostle whose inspired words on spiritual warfare have confused some, never directly confronted demonic powers. He received a thorn in the flesh from Satan that brought much pain and discomfort in his life. "There

was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me,” 2 Corinthians 12:7.

None of us would like to have a demonic attack that is illegally operating against us. More so for a person of his spiritual stature with one of the greatest anointing on him. He is probably the greatest spiritual warfare prayer warrior in Christian history. His spiritual warfare prayers were addressed to God. He indirectly confronted the enemy.

In dealing with the demonic thorn in the flesh Paul turned to God instead of confronting Satan and the ranks of principalities he identifies in Ephesians 6. He knew his problem was a demonic influence or demonic interference matter, and not a case of demon possession. He turned to God, not once but, “Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me,” Corinthians 12:8.

If direct confrontation was scriptural we would have seen at least one direct encounter between Paul and demonic spirits. But he kept turning to God, his only source of salvation, who had the authority to directly confront these evil beings in the spirit realm.

Ultimately God, not demon spirits, had the final say over Paul's torment. “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,” (verse 9). God delivered him in a non-traditional way, by giving him the grace to endure his affliction.

On another major occasion requiring deliverance Paul and his team were so badly hindered in their ministry that they preferred to die (2 Cor. 1:8). They knew the spiritual forces that were working against them in the spirit realm. Yet they did not address these forces.

If there was any suitable place to address so called territorial spirits and demonic forces it was at this time. They were in parts of Asia that had not yet been evangelized. All kinds of spirits could be addressed in this area, binding and loosing them, including familiar spirits, spirits of idols, generational spirits, territorial spirits, and so on.

Paul's account shows that their only source of deliverance was in praying to God:

“This happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many,” 2 Corinthians 1: 9-11.

Prayer was their 911 call or relief call to God. It was their only form of spiritual warfare prayer or deliverance prayer in time of need.

Remember Paul is the person God used to write the scriptures talking about our weapons of spiritual warfare. We can at least learn from him on how he used these weapons instead of running to make our own interpretation. We

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can see that he never used these weapons in the direct nature that some in the body of Christ recently took the scriptures out of context.

Maybe it's worth documenting the other unpleasant experiences Paul encountered throughout his ministry. None of us in this era, including those who jump to strike at the devil on any little problem, can equal what Paul went through.

Below is his list of unpleasant experiences. Remember that most is not described in detail in the bible. If Paul described in detail every single unpleasant experience we'd have tones of pages more to read. A lot would be shocking on what God allowed to happen to his elect (Paul) who did so much for the cause of Christ.

Most of what we get are therefore summaries of what he went through. And the best summary he gave is in 2 Corinthians 11:21-33. In this passage Paul actually boasts about his sufferings, not mourning over them. He literally challenges some believers that he's been through more hardships than any of them for the cause of Christ. And it's true that he outmatched them all.

Such statements show a typical type A competitive personality in Paul. Thankfully his zeal and ambition was applied in the right area (God's work) and with selfless motives. God accomplished enormous work through him. He was a willing vessel. Are we willing to press on and endure any kind of unpleasant stuff God allows to come our way?

In the same passage Paul is speaking to us today. He is saying "if you think you've had it rough in your Christian life I've gone through more." He also knew that Satan was behind all his unpleasant experiences. And more importantly, he knew the God who was more powerful than Satan. Through God Paul prevailed against all that Satan threw at him to crush him. He was unstoppable, unless by God himself. When his time was over God allowed his execution. Prior to that no attempts against his life and his ministry could prevail.

Here is the passage (2 Corinthians 11:23-30) which the NIV bible has appropriately sub-headed "Paul Boasts About His Sufferings." Each type of experience is listed separately instead of in its prose format:

- 1) "I have worked much harder,
- 2) been in prison more frequently,
- 3) been flogged more severely,
- 4) been exposed to death again and again.
- 5) Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one.
- 6) Three times I was beaten with rods,
- 7) once I was stoned,
- 8) three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea,
- 9) I have been constantly on the move.
- 10) I have been in danger from rivers,

- 11) in danger from bandits,
- 12) in danger from my own countrymen (see Acts 9:23,29; 13:45; 14:2,19; 15:26; 17:5ff.; 18:1,12),
- 13) in danger from Gentiles (see Acts 14:19-20; 16:16-40; 19:23-41),
- 14) in danger in the city,
- 15) in danger in the country,
- 16) in danger at sea;
- 17) and in danger from false brothers.
- 18) I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep;
- 19) I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food;
- 20) I have been cold and naked.
- 21) Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.
- 22) Who is weak, and I do not feel weak?
- 23) Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?
- 24) If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness,”
2 Corinthians 11:23-30.

What a passage! And in the next chapter (chapter 12) he talks about his thorn in the flesh, assigned to him by Satan – that was allowed by God (obviously). Here Paul says his prayers (to God) for deliverance were not granted the way he desired (covered earlier in this chapter).

How did this person chosen by God prevail against all these unpleasant experiences against him? Through God! In spite of it he accomplished so much! So Satan completely failed to stop him, a matter that all of us believers ought to understand. Satan does not determine how far we'll go in our Christian lives. God does. This is for as long as we walk blamelessly with God. Sometimes He shows Satan how powerless he is compared to Him (God) by giving him some access to believers and failing to stop us on every attempt.

In all these things, Paul wrote, we're more than conquerors though Christ. And his Christian life is a mighty testimony to us.

“What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?

“It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor

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demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 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,” Romans 8:31-39.

Paul’s focus was on God, not Satan. He was God-centered not demon-centered. The weapons and armor of our spiritual warfare against Satan he outlined in Ephesians 6:11-18 were God-centered not demon-centered: Truth, Righteousness, Gospel of Peace, Faith, Salvation, and the Word of God (outlined below in this chapter). All these are matters of consecration, obedience and fellowship with God.

The Lord uses our consecration and obedience to overturn Satan’s legal hold over matters in our lives and the lives of those we’ve been assigned to minister to –spiritually, socially, materially and physically.

Unfortunately some in the body of Christ have taken such scriptures out of context and began to assume God wants us to directly go after demons. How come we see none of the apostles, including Paul himself, bombarding evil spirits in thin air? Did they know less scriptures than we do, including Paul himself who wrote the spiritual warfare passages, who also received revelations God forbade him to tell us?

Far from it. Some today may actually know more than apostles like Peter. But to claim to surpass the scriptural depths and revelations of apostles like Paul would be empty talk.

The same apostles have given us clear teachings and clear testimonies from their own lives on how to battle spiritual principalities. Their approach (in word and deed) has become canonized scripture. Anything outside their teachings is extra-biblical no matter how many verses are used in trying to support it. Extra-biblical teachings do not have God’s backing and are thus dangerous.

More Scriptural Objection for Direct Confrontation

After covering on all these major biblical cases of indirect confrontation as our avenue of spiritual warfare and deliverance some may still argue about our authority to bind and loose demonic powers. Please read Chapter 2: Our Territory and Nature of Our Spiritual Authority. It explains what binding and loosing is according to the bible.

Others may say, we have the authority to directly confront evil spirits by casting them out of people. True and this is one exceptional area that scripture allows us to directly confront evil spirits. Chapter 5 “Demonic Possession: The Exception for Direct Confrontation,” covers on this topic. A single exception on direct confrontation does not justify other practices as means of directly confronting evil spirits.

Such teachings may sound great and empowering but their consequences (fruits) end up showing their true worth. They are extra-biblical

teachings that have grown through misinterpretation of scripture. Sincere Christians end up being preoccupied with the evil spirit world much to their own peril. Teachings advocating for direct confrontation against demonic spirits invite what we call demonic ministry.

Demonic ministry is not the worship of Satan, at least when applied to fellow believers in the body of Christ. It simply means giving legal access for demons to attack us. Believers who unknowingly summon demons are heaven destined just as any of us, saved by grace.

However, they end up tying their lives down in perpetual problems in one area or another, spiritually, socially, materially, physically or any combination. They give demons access to hinder their lives in such a way that demons have a special ministry in their lives.

Churches that promote the false teachings on deliverance ministry end up being avenues through which demons use to perpetuate their evil ministry against believers. Instead of being free, believers remain bound in one area or another, as if their salvation through Christ was a false biblical promise. “**My people** are destroyed from lack of knowledge,” Hosea 4:6 (emphasis added).

Weapons of Spiritual Warfare –Part 1

The spiritual armour in the Ephesians passage is composed of Truth, Righteousness, Gospel of Peace, Faith, Salvation, and the Word of God. All these are aspects of consecration, obedience to and fellowship with God.

The Lord uses our consecration and obedience to overturn Satan’s legal hold over matters in our lives and the lives of those we’ve been assigned to minister to—spiritually, socially, materially and physically. “We will be ready to punish every act of disobedience **once** (when) your obedience is complete,” 2 Corinthians 10:6 (emphasis added).

God stands as the highest Judge who takes up our cases as we submit them to him to bring justice. Our cases are already in our favor because we use the work of Christ and his blood atonement (sacrifice) for all humanity and matters in life to justify our cases. Our consecration and obedience to God enables the Holy Spirit to effectively work through us in punishing all the disobedience the enemy brings or attempts to, in our lives and the lives we’re commissioned to serve.

The term spiritual warfare itself is not in the Bible. It is still relevant since it distinguishes between spiritual and physical warfare. Its closest association is the passage in Ephesians 6:11-18. Unfortunately the enemy has used it to deceive us that we have the right to **directly** fight his set-up in the heavenly realms. The lie is not new since Satan has throughout history used scripture to justify ungodly acts such as gender abuses, slavery, abusive church authority, colonialism, persecution of non-Christians, and so on.

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The passage in Ephesians says, “Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

“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. Stand firm then, with the belt of **truth** buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of **righteousness** in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the **gospel of peace**.

“In addition to all this, take up the shield of **faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of **salvation** and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word of God**. 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,” Ephesians 6:11-18.

You’ll notice that the entire armor of God is a call to a life of consecration, obedience and fellowship with God - **truth, righteousness, gospel of peace, faith, salvation, word of God, prayers**.

It is not meant for us to go out and start bombarding the spiritual forces of evil in the spiritual or heavenly realms. Paul used the metaphor of an armed Roman soldier, in showing how we can be prepared for spiritual warfare. In his time, a well-armed soldier wore a belt, breastplate, shoes, shield, helmet and carried a sword.

What a difference with our time when a few individuals can destroy the world many times over just by pressing buttons for nuclear and biochemical weapons. God forbid, though the battle of Armageddon is more than likely to feature this. If God placed no limits on Satan we’d all be cooked up by now. Satan would have quickly worked on his schemes to destroy God’s creation. Our God still reigns and has his final say over matters on earth. Wheew!

The same mighty God has placed spiritual weapons in our spiritual hands that he says are mightier than human weapons. We have access to spiritual buttons that can devastate the devil’s work against humanity.

Their indirect nature may look so simple but as we apply them they set the stage for our mighty God to directly overcome the devil’s work against us and against all humanity. The following outlines our primary spiritual armor that has so much power in the realm of the spirit. Chapter 9: Our Weapons for Spiritual Warfare, lists more of our spiritual weapons.

1) The belt of truth

We are to walk in truth in our motives, desires and conduct. Truth has scripture as its foundation. The scripture enables us not to live in error, deception, and sin if we apply it in our lives.

Truth is not relative or circumstantial but unchanging. It is based on the unbreakable scripture. It cannot be used for selfish motives such as to gain material wealth, influence and so on. There is also no room for “white lies,” deception or exaggerations.

Walking in truth works as a weapon against Satan’s deceptions, appeal to selfish desires and the flesh. It enables us to walk according to the will of God. No direct confrontation against Satan required yet his legal access attempts are overcome as we walk in truth. The belt of truth is among our major indirect weapons of spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry.

2) The breastplate of righteousness

Righteousness is a state of living that enables us to be approved before God. He is holy and desires holiness as his standard of approval. Any lukewarmness is unacceptable, like the church in Laodicea. “Because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold -I am about to spit you out of my mouth,” Revelation 3:16.

Although it is the righteousness of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21) that makes us acceptable to God scripture is clear that we are expected to walk in holiness. It is a way of fulfilling our part in the call to righteousness. “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit,” Galatians 5: 22-25.

The sinful nature crucified in our lives is what enables the righteousness of Christ to compensate for all the areas we may unwillfully fall short of. Without doing our part the righteousness of Christ is in vain. It is degrading the grace of God as a license to sin.

On the other hand, when the sinful nature is crucified in our lives it enables the righteousness of Christ to overcome the legal grounds of Satan against us. God becomes our defender in Satan’s accusations against us. He finds us blameless for Satan to have any claim to attack us. No direct confrontation against Satan required yet his legal access attempts are overcome as we live righteousness lives. The breastplate of righteousness is among our major indirect weapons of spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry.

3) The shoes of the gospel of peace

Inner peace is not found among those living outside the will of God. They are very poor in this area regardless of whatever some may have achieved. “The wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. ‘There is no peace,’ says my God, ‘for the wicked.’” Isaiah 57:20-21.

Because their eyes are still blind they look in all the wrong areas trying to find it –worldly pleasures, entertainment, alcohol, pursuit of riches, fame, power and influence. Many of us were once there, constantly running from

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something or towards something all in pursuit of peace. Now we have the Prince of Peace living in us without resorting to alcohol, worldly pleasures and so on, to look for peace.

God has now given us the shoes of the gospel of peace to “walk” to people without peace. We reveal to them the gospel of peace that brings true peace in their lives.

The shoes of the gospel of peace also protect us from the rough ground that we walk on. The ground we walk on is the earth with all its problems that resulted from sin since Adam and Eve fell. There is much poverty, disease, greed, crime, immorality, wars, conflicts and so on. Without wearing our shoes we will have no peace walking in such territory. We will have no peace with ourselves, with God and with others.

With our shoes on we will have peace with ourselves, with God and with others in the midst of all kinds of problems. Satan’s attacks will have no effect on our walk in proclaiming the gospel of peace. The rough ground he has created on earth will have no effect on us. The shoes enable us to trample on snakes and scorpions that come in form of the problems Satan has influenced. We can speak like Jesus, “The prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me,” John 14:30.

In the midst of conflicts in families, between different groups, different ethnic groups, nations, and so on we become peace makers. We secure peace with others. Even those who persecute us do not rob us of the peace we have with God. There is no anger or bitterness against them since we walk on their attacks with our shoes worn.

Anger, bitterness, unforgiveness, hatred, conflict and so on do not only rob us the peace with people at odds with but also with God. Without the peace of God our lives are as poor in peace as unbelievers.

Some believers live fruitless lives because they are not wearing their shoes of peace. They are unable to advance into territory that they could easily walk in if they had shoes on. So they remain on the same spot hoping that people will somehow change and become easier to deal with. We need the shoes of peace to effectively deal with their peculiarities. The shoes alone, not their way of conduct will make all the difference.

The shoes enable us to firmly stand against Satan’s attacks and advance into territory full of snakes and scorpions (Satan’s attacks and demonic influence). No direct confrontation against Satan required yet his legal access attempts are overcome as we walk in peace. The shoes of the gospel of peace are among our major indirect weapons of spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry.

Walking with shoes of the gospel of peace comes through our relationship with Christ. He is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). He is the peace Giver in the midst of life’s storms, persecutions and unpleasant experiences. “Peace I

leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid,” John 14:27.

4) The shield of faith

Faith is critical in five major situations in life:

- a) When we desire or seek something we are unable to have through our own strength and wisdom,
- b) When storms and trials in life strike us,
- c) When obeying God's word is being challenged by certain respected secular beliefs – e.g. where it's popularly said that saving money instead of giving is more important in increasing financial security. Though necessary it's not more important than giving,
- d) When the temptation is strongest to have certain desires through biblically forbidden ways – e.g. the temptation of marrying a respectable non-believer, or seeking financial matters through non-biblical ways,
- e) When believing in matters one may find difficult to understand or difficult to draw much sense out of them – e.g. the God of love in a troubled world, bad things happening to God's people, the trinity, and so on.

Faith is probably the most important area that Satan targets most among believers. He knows that once we stop trusting God in a particular area he can easily offer us his deceptive solutions. He did that to Adam and Eve. The whole creation is still paying the price. The whole earth is still groaning from what it is being subjected to after Adam and Eve surrendered their inheritance to Satan.

In our own lives most of us succumbed to Satan's lies at one point or another. We knew what God's word says. However we still believed the lies were more worthwhile to follow. Satan may not have come in a serpent form yet he still came into our thoughts directly or through the media, through a person or through circumstances.

The moment we stopped trusting scripture our faith in God's word in the area of concern ended. The consequences are always the same – negative. Walking by sight or according to the flesh is costly in the long run.

On the other hand walking by faith enables us to receive rewarding results in the long run. In the short-run it may seem costly, slow and unconventional. However the rewards are worth the wait if we are willing to trust God for as long as it takes.

Walking by faith extinguishes “all the flaming arrows of the evil one,” (verse 16). The flaming arrows include Satan's temptations, doubt, fear, despair and confusion. He will try to bring them through all sorts of ways – directly into our thoughts or through the media, through a person or through circumstances. We refuse to compromise for anything that is contrary to God's word.

We trust his word even when the shortcut appears rewarding or when we cannot see how it will work out. In this way we are lifting up the shield of

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faith against Satan's attacks. There is no direct confrontation yet Satan is overcome as we fulfill our indirect role God has assigned us.

Faith is a conviction, a resolve, to trust God based on what we know in his word. It is not a feeling, an impression or an imagination. Sometimes we may receive convictions or even clear voices in our hearts to endeavor on certain matters. Without examining these convictions or voices through scripture we will merely be acting out of presumption. Faith is not a blind leap in the dark. We would not need the scriptures if it operated this way.

The banner or shield of faith is maintained through what we know and believe in God's word. It is therefore important that we constantly feed on his word to maintain or increase our faith level. "Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ," Romans 10:17.

Faith in what we continue hearing from the word of God overcomes all the contrary words from Satan that he brings against us through different avenues. No direct confrontation against Satan required yet his legal access attempts are overcome as we walk by faith. The shield of faith is among our major indirect weapons of spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry.

Having faith in God and his word does not imply having pleasant feelings. Unpleasant situations we may encounter may bring some level of fear. However we still move on to trust in God's word more than in what the circumstances are saying. We may not have all the good feelings in our hearts yet we obey God's word in spite of the feelings. Using emotions to determine our level of faith in God is misleading and dangerous.

Before his crucifixion Jesus had such dreadful feelings that his body began to react. He began to sweat to the point that "his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground," Luke 22:44. Yet his faith in God was completely intact. He trusted God to even send armies of angels to his rescue.

God just had another plan by allowing his crucifixion. Jesus knew the plan though he began to find its final process unbearable. He chose to obey God's plan regardless of how painful it felt to follow it.

Faith is therefore demonstrated by our act of obedience to God rather than by how we feel. We may not even like what God's word says is required of us. Yet we exercise faith and trust in God if we choose to obey his word rather than our preference.

We choose not to trust in horses and chariots and all the alternative ways that promise a solution. We choose God's way because he requires it and we trust him that his ways are always right and good. Other ways only lead to destruction. No feelings required to walk by faith. Just obedience in God and his ways.

5) The helmet of salvation

Our salvation through Christ is the only treasure we will take with us after we die. Without it we would be heading for hell. It is the only treasure that

the devil cannot take away from us. Like with Job, the Lord may allow him to take everything from us. Yet for as long as we remain trusting and having faith in God our salvation remains intact. Even if all fails we know the place God has prepared for us is better than the brief experiences on earth.

Like with the physical Israelites our salvation denotes deliverance by God from an oppressive ruler. In our case the oppressive ruler is Satan. They had a physical ruler named Pharaoh who enslaved them. We, spiritual Israelites, had Satan who is the ultimate oppressive ruler of all creation. Our acceptance of Jesus as our Lord and Savior freed us from the rule of Satan.

Now we are children of God living under a new government that is founded on love and eternal life rather than sin, destruction and hell. We have been saved from living hopeless lives.

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 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,” Romans 8:35,37-39.

We have confidence that eternity, our most important future, is secure. It is our “hope of salvation” (1 Thessalonians 5:8). This hope of salvation is able to protect us from losing our faith during severe moments of persecution, negative circumstances, discouragement or problems that Satan may use to strike at us.

No direct confrontation against Satan required yet his legal access attempts are overcome by our hope of salvation. Our hope of salvation is among our major indirect weapons of spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry.

6) The sword of the Spirit

When Jesus “was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil,” (Matthew 4:1) he used scripture to overcome Satan’s temptations. Scripture is our best offensive weapon against the devil, over our lives and the lives of others. Notice in the temptation passage (Matthew 4:1-11) that Satan also used scripture in trying to deceive Jesus.

The passage where Jesus quoted scripture to overcome Satan’s temptations has sometimes been used to justify verbal confrontation. It is often used as an example of verbal confrontation where Jesus exercised the word, the Sword of the spirit realm, against Satan.

A closer look shows that scripture does not support this. Satan appeared physically to Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). It is fitting that he would talk to a being that appeared physically. The devil even took Jesus on a “tour,” first to the temple, then to a high mountain.

4. True Biblical Spiritual Warfare = Indirect Confrontation

After this experience there is no other account of Jesus quoting scripture to Satan as a way of fighting him. Yet throughout his ministry he was busy confronting and overcoming the enemy in the lives of people. Thus unless the enemy appears to any one of us physically (God forbid) we have no business talking to him verbally.

Even if he were to physically appear to any one of us God may require us to do something else –like just saying, “Away from me, Satan,” (Matthew 4:10). No long verbal confrontations. Quoting any scripture may not be necessary. Our Lord was not setting a formula of using scripture in having conversations with the enemy. What we learn from his experience is that the enemy can use scripture that God gave us to live by. It’s only that he twists it in order to deceive us.

The way this deception works is by him planting thoughts in our minds rather than appearing physically. We have more than enough experiences throughout history where God’s people have fallen to lies through misinterpreted scripture. Satan worked to deceive Christians in using scripture to justify ungodly acts such as gender abuses, slavery, abusive church authority, colonialism, persecution of non-Christians, and so on.

Our recent accounts include the erroneous spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings. None of the people that fell to the lies throughout history had any outward conversation or physical encounter with Satan quoting scripture.

Most historical lies have lasted longer and have had more consequences on more lives than the spiritual warfare deception. Entire nations and peoples are still experiencing the bondage to the deception even after many generations have passed since it was exposed. The bondage includes material poverty and psycho-social humiliation of inferiority complexes.

Thankfully the Lord has been revealing the enemy’s devices in his own time and still turning the evil to work for the good for all “who love him, who have been called according to his purpose,” Romans 8:28. The evil may not work to everyone’s good, but, as the Bible says, it certainly does for God’s children. How it does is another lengthy topic.

If the scripture is rightly placed in our hearts the Holy Spirit enables us to discern these lies and counters them with the right scripture. The Holy Spirit living in us will “lift up” or wield the right scripture to fight the lies. The enemy’s schemes are immediately resisted and the enemy flees for a season.

Only to return with another lie. We keep confronting his schemes against us without any outward conversations or proclamations. The battle is lost or won from within. It’s a tragedy when it’s lost, particularly when it’s a big lie that affects the lives of others.

We therefore always need the Holy Spirit to guide us “into all truth,” (John 16:13). Quoting scripture does not imply wielding the sword. Memorizing the scripture as a defense against the devil’s temptations is not enough. He has

memorized it more than any one us can in our lifetime. The enemy has been around the earth ever since Adam and Eve fell, over six thousand years ago.

However the Holy Spirit, who is part of God himself, has been around for eternity. He knows how to deal with Satan's attempts against us. All we need to do is effectively submit to God in order to enable him to work in and through us.

As we walk right with God the Holy Spirit will lift up the right scripture in moments of battle in the mind and the battle in preaching the gospel. "Do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you," Matthew 10:19-20.

Thus even the word of God, which is the sword of the Spirit, is intended to overcome the deception of Satan in the lives of people in an indirect way. As the word is preached it penetrates these spiritual strongholds of deception in the lives of people and sets them free from his bondage.

In our lives, as believers, the word overcomes Satan's temptations and the appeal of the flesh by enabling us to walk in truth. Scripture does not direct us to be quoting scripture against Satan in verbal confrontations and assuming that we're wielding the sword of the spirit.

The battle is within not outside. God's word hidden in our hearts and minds surfaces whenever we're confronted with opposing beliefs and matters. God's word in our hearts and minds is among our major indirect weapons of spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry.

7) All kinds of prayers

After he described the various elements of the spiritual armor, Paul said that we are to be in constant prayer. Prayer is part of our spiritual warfare. "Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests."

Praying implies talking to God, not to Satan. All kinds of prayers and requests include the following:

- 1) Prayers of deliverance and protection (spiritually, socially, physically or materially),
- 2) Prayers of agreement,
- 3) Prayers of intercession,
- 4) Prayers of inquiry,
- 5) Prayers of importunity, supplication, appeal or petition,
- 6) Prayers of consecration/dedication/commitment,
- 7) Prayers of repentance,
- 8) Prayers in the word (praying with the scriptures),
- 9) Prayers of worship/adoration and thanksgiving,

4. True Biblical Spiritual Warfare = Indirect Confrontation

All kinds of prayers and requests also include prayers for different groups of people. These include:

1. FAMILY NETWORK

- a) Immediate Family
- b) Relatives
- c) Friends
- d) Other beloved (e.g. local church pastor)

2. THE BODY OF CHRIST

- a) Spiritual Leaders
- b) Other Believers
- c) Ministries

3. THE WORLD – THE HARVEST FIELD

- a) Specific individuals
- b) Political Leaders
- c) Organizations
- d) Geographic Communities (neighborhood, suburbs, villages, towns, cities, countries and continents)

4. PERSONAL MATTERS

- a) Spiritual
- b) Social
- c) Physical health
- d) Material

5. GENERAL MATTERS

Everything else. E.g. Global warming, wildlife, natural resources, and so on.

Making proclamations to Satan and his forces cannot therefore be referred to as prayer. There is no scriptural reference where such an activity would be categorized as prayer. The admonition to make “all kinds of prayers and requests” does not therefore include making proclamations to Satan and his forces. Herein lies the deception that we fell for on this scripture. Prayer to God is among our major indirect weapons of spiritual warfare and deliverance.

Weapons of Spiritual Warfare –Part 2

Other passages that cover on the armor for spiritual battle include 1 Thessalonians 5:8 and Isaiah 59:17. In 1 Thessalonians 5:8 faith and love comprise the breastplate. Associating the weapons of spiritual warfare to specific areas of the Roman armor is therefore less important than knowing the weapons and using them.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 shows that love is among the major weapons of spiritual warfare. Like the rest of the spiritual weapons, it is an indirect weapon. Chapter 9: Our Weapons for Spiritual Warfare also shows how the matters we exercise in our fellowship with God act as indirect weapons against Satan.

As the scriptures say, these weapons of spiritual warfare look simple but are powerful in overcoming the enemy. Please note the focus of the 20 “weapons” listed in Chapter 9. All, except one, focus on God and us doing our part. There is only one exceptional “weapon” that directly targets the devil - weapon #4 -Exercising authority over unclean spirits. This involves casting out evil spirits dwelling in people (please read the next chapter: Exception for Direct Confrontation).

The rest of the weapons 19 covered in Chapter 9, Our Weapons for Spiritual Warfare, focus on God and us doing our part. They are by no means exhaustive. Other “weapons” can be found in the scriptures and can be added to them. However they all focus on God or us doing our part.

This is not to say we fight God. It implies that God takes care of any obstacles in our lives as we abide in him. Our spiritual weapons are therefore “weapons of righteousness” (2 Corinthians 6:7) that represent to God that we’ve done our part for him to confront the enemy on our behalf in the spirit realm.

This may come as a surprise since we expect weapons of war to be used directly against enemy forces and territory. The case is a bit complex in the realm of the spirit because there is one group of forces in the natural realm and another in the spiritual.

In the natural realm there is us, God’s servants on one side and on the other there are people knowingly or unknowingly being used by the devil, our main enemy. In the spiritual realm there is God almighty and his entire government of angels in their various roles and ranks. On the other spiritual realm side is the devil and his entire alliance of fallen angels in their various roles and ranks.

Explaining how and why the war rages may be another lengthy topic with its own limitations. The only important matter to note is that we have the entire heavenly government on our side including our Lord Jesus who stands as our intercessor (Romans 8:34) and our advocate in heaven’s highest court (1 John 2:1, Job 16: 19-20). Our main concern here is the part we, as God’s servants, play in this war. The scripture has laid this out quite clearly.

4. True Biblical Spiritual Warfare = Indirect Confrontation

What we see from the scripture is that the battle is his and our concern is to focus on him rather than on Satan. In fact, Satan's influence over the outcome of any battle is so insignificant that he's the one to be pitied for having started any attack – if only we do our part. That's why the scripture says we're more than conquerors in any battle we may encounter.

“In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 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,” Rom 8:37-39.

Christian spiritual warfare is therefore not making proclamations against Satan and his forces. Such “warfare” is merely presumption and portrays that there are two powerful forces to talk to in the spirit realm – God and Satan. We have no business socializing or having some form of fellowship with Satan, even when we know he's the source of all troubles. God, the only heavenly being we fellowship with deals with Satan as we bring the issues Satan is causing.

Spiritual warfare Vs spiritual slander Deliverance ministry Vs demonic ministry

Direct confrontation with Satan takes us into forbidden territory in the realm of the spirit. It is not spiritual warfare. It is what scripture calls spiritual slander of “celestial (heavenly) beings,” and which it says brings trouble on the slanderers (Jude 1:8-10, 2 Peter 2:10-12). ***Neither is direct confrontation a form of deliverance ministry. It is demonic ministry.***

We fight demons in a way that scripture forbids us by getting into unauthorized territory of the spirit realm. In this area Satan and his agents gain legal access to attack us for as long as we keep penetrating this territory of principalities.

It is like going to fight an enemy at his house while he has all the power and authority to retaliate. He has bodyguards and all the needed defense. I go with the assumption that Jesus is backing me. However Jesus, who is more powerful than the enemy, is nowhere to be seen. The enemy not only knows this, he is the one who influenced me to believe that scripture supports direct confrontation. With all my zeal and conviction I charge towards the enemy in the name of Jesus Christ, issuing all kinds of commands, which only amount to slander.

What follows is unfortunate for me over what was assumed to be spiritual warfare. Instead of being spiritual warfare it was actually spiritual slander. The demons take their position to begin their ministry. The enemy's bodyguards

(the demons) end up beating me up in every way they can. I may not die but they cause quite a mess in my life.

The extent of the mess may depend on how long and how deep I got involved in the direct confrontation that gave them legal access into my life. The mess may be spiritual, social, material, physical or any combination. It is also possible that merely being in a congregation that practices the erroneous spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings can constitute being in agreement to also face the consequences of spiritual slander.

Some of the demonic attacks in believers' lives are so sadly severe that they seem like cases of demonic possession. Other demonic attacks resemble demonic experiences of people in the occult. These include sensing, seeing, smelling, and hearing evil spirit beings.

The extreme experiences of demonic attacks may seem like aspects of demonic possession to the victim. However as long as it's a Christian, who is now a child of God, they are merely aspects of demonic influence. The chapters that follow cover on such matters.

Direct confrontation therefore gives demons access to hinder believers' lives in such ways that demons have a special ministry in their lives. Churches that promote the false teachings on spiritual warfare and deliverance end up being avenues through which demons use to perpetuate their ministry against believers.

Churches embracing false teachings help bring more bondage instead of deliverance on believers' lives. Instead of being free believers remain bound in one area or another, as if their salvation through Christ was a false biblical promise.

Once they know the source of their strange experiences and apply what is required they close the door that kept bringing in the experiences. This book shows these doors of access and how easily to close them.

5. Demonic Possession: The Exception for Direct Confrontation

CHAPTER 5 SUB-TOPICS:

- The One Exception for Direct Confrontation: Demonic Possession**
- Authority for Dealing with Demonic Possession**
- Demonic Possession Vs Demonic Influence**
- Nature of Demonic Influence and Possession**
- Deliverance from Demonic Influence**
- False Doctrine and Demonic Influence**
- Deliverance from Demonic Possession**
- Destiny of Evil Spirits**
- Deliverance Methods in the New Testament**
- Jesus Christ, our Example**
- The Scope of Deliverance from Demonic Possession**

The One Exception for Direct Confrontation: Demonic Possession

The only exception where we have been given the authority to directly confront evil spirits is when they are to be cast out of people. This is part of true deliverance ministry that is biblical. It is however, only one of other areas of deliverance ministry. It's also a deliverance ministry area that evangelicals differ on its present day relevance.

Casting out demons out of people is part of what Jesus did in his earthly ministry. Outside the realm of people possessed by demons Jesus had no business confronting demons in thin air, in territories, nor in the spirit world. Neither did the apostles. That did not imply there were no territorial spirits and principalities in their time. It only meant directly confronting the demons in their various ranks was not Jesus' assignment while in his earthly physical body.

Christ in his spiritual form, after ascending to heaven, is now able to directly confront them. He does it on our behalf as we fulfill our indirect roles over the conflicts raging in the heavenly (spiritual) realm. Christ being a Spirit, is able to engage the enemy spirits. He has hosts of angels under him that battle the evil spirits. The direct confrontation is therefore between spirits. It is a spirit to spirit confrontation.

“Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will,” Psalms 103:21.

Angels do not just sing songs. They are God's mighty army or hosts against Satan's kingdom. In Revelations they're fierce spiritual warriors in almost the entire book. My book *Breaking Curses, Including Generational Curses* has more info on the work of angels (see the book's Chapter 6 "The Nature of Angels: God's Angels and Fallen Angels").

Our only role, as important as it may be, is indirect in nature (prayer to God (i.e. seeking for his intervention), submission to God, walking in love, forgiveness, charity, and so on).

It's challenging enough in fulfilling our clearly spelled out indirect roles, what more having to go after vague and unseen spirits! This is Christ's business, the Lord of hosts, who clearly sees and has power over them. Making it our assignment of directly confronting demons in the unseen spiritual realm is only fooling ourselves that principalities living outside people will bow to our demands.

It is also disobedience to God's spiritual laws by taking on responsibilities that God's spiritual army is assigned for. Many are unknowingly walking in disobedience to God's spiritual laws and calling it deliverance and spiritual warfare. The consequences on their lives are not pleasant as they enter spiritual realms that are forbidden territory.

The exception comes only when evil spirits occupy or possess human beings. When they enter a person(s) they leave their assigned spirit realm and enter a realm that Jesus died for - human beings. This is also a realm that God's angels do not have access to.

In very rare cases, as we see in scripture, God allows angelic beings to come on earth in physical bodies. Angels do not have physical bodies like us to physically operate on earth. Their jurisdiction is in the unseen spiritual realm where in normal circumstances we cannot hear, see, nor touch them.

Demons that possess people are occupying bodies that are in the physical realm. In such territory Jesus said we, not the angels, are to confront them. We're authorized to liberate or deliver fellow human beings from being owned or possessed by demons. Just like Christ did while on earth we have his authority to directly confront demons that take up residence in people.

In such situations Jesus gave us the authority to cast them out or evict them from human bodies. We command the spirit(s), in the name of Jesus, to come out of an individual. This is very different from making proclamations and commands in thin air, all in the name of exercising authority over spiritual beings. Like prayer, such acts take us into spiritual realms, though in this case, the forbidden areas.

Needless to say that deliverance ministry of casting out demons dwelling in people is an area of controversy in the body of Christ. Some believe its scriptural relevance no longer applies to our time. Others believe such forms of deliverance ministry still apply today until Jesus returns.

My assertion is that there is no harm as long as it's done the way scripture prescribes. Praise the Lord if through such deliverance ministry people are truly delivered from demonic attacks that cause them unnecessary heartache mentally, emotionally, physically and so on.

Praise the Lord too if people are truly delivered from demonic attacks through modern medicine, alternative medicine, psychology, psychotherapy, and so on – as long as any prescription does not break or undermine the scriptures.

Authority for Dealing with Demonic Possession

Regarding deliverance ministry in dealing with demonic possession major passages that show where our authority over evil spirits lies are in Matthew and Luke.

“He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness,” Matthew 10:1.

It says in Luke, “When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick,” Luke 9:1-2.

In both references the term “drive out” is used. Other bible versions may have “cast out.” This is self explanatory. Driving out refers to moving something from one place to another. The same with “cast out,” which implies expelling or evicting something.

Examples in scripture show us how and where the driving out or casting out of demons is to be exercised. “How” is through the name of Jesus. “Where” is casting them out of people. Confronting the evil spirits anywhere outside people is an act that is not in line with scripture. It comes with its negative consequences since we confront evil spirits in territorial spheres that we are powerless. We were never empowered to deal directly with them outside their presence in people.

The authority of directly confronting evil spirits was therefore in the area of demonic possession. On the passage in Luke *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* says, “In Lk 9:1 the terms ‘authority’ and ‘power’ are used in such a way as to show the belief of the evangelists that to cure demon-possession an actual power from God, together with the right to use it, was necessary. This group of passages gives the New Testament philosophy of this dread mystery and its cure.

“The demons are personal evil powers afflicting human life in their opposition to God. It is beyond man unaided to obtain deliverance from them. It is the function of Christ as the redeemer of mankind to deliver men from this as well as other ills due to sin. Miraculous cures of the same kind as those performed by Christ Himself were accomplished by His disciples in His name (Mk

16:17). The power attributed to “His name” supplies us with the opportunity for a most enlightening comparison and contrast.”

As covered in the chapter on “Our Territory and Nature of Our Christian Authority,” Jesus returned to us the authority we previously lost on the earthly realm. In addition to this he gave us authority over evil spirits living in people, not in geographical areas nor in the heavens where they are positioned in their ranks. We ought to be aware of its nature and limits. Outside the limits is illegal territory that we are not authorized to trespass.

Satan knows that and that could be why he has enticed us into confronting him in heavenly territory where he legally has power over us. One of the most misinterpreted scriptures that has been used to justify going after evil spirits in their heavily ranks is Ephesians 6:11-12:

“Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms,” Ephesians 6:11-12.

Chapter 7 “Misinterpreted Scripture: The Source of False Teachings,” dissects this scripture, among others, with emphasis on its biblical context. Ignoring contextual biblical analysis is one major cause of scriptural misinterpretation in the body of Christ.

Demonic Possession Vs Demonic Influence

Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary says, “Believers are not immune from demonic attack. Demons seek to influence Christians through false doctrines and teachings (1 Tim 4:1; 1 John 4:1-4) as well as false miracles and wonders (2 Thess 2:7-11; Rev 16:14). Paul was buffeted (2 Col 12:7; see Matt 26:67; 1 Col 4:11; 1 Peter 2:20; for the physical aspect). Though there can be no certainty as to how this buffeting was manifested, we do know that an “angel of Satan” caused it and that Paul could not remove it through prayer.”

Paul therefore faced some form of demonic influence in his ministry, one of which God allowed over his life. His situation was demonic influence and not demonic possession. These two are completely different spiritual realms of demonic activity.

Demonic *influence* is interference from an external point. It is not internal. It is from an external position in the spirit realm where evil spirits can freely operate among believers and non-believers. In this spiritual realm they have no ownership over anyone yet constantly operate to influence people through temptation.

Demonic *possession*, on the other hand, is interference from within an individual. It is from an internal position where the evil spirits occupy and exercise some level of control over an individual. A single demon or more

occupy an individual. He/she is said to be owned by demons. The individual is also said to be bound, demon possessed or demonized.

In such a case he/she has less free will in the area the demon(s) control. Demonic possession is more severe than demonic influence because the person is hindered from leading a normal life.

Nature of Demonic Influence and Possession

Demonic influence in people may be among areas such as physical health (some illnesses), social behavior (some behavioral problems like stealing, drugs and alcohol, violence, promiscuity and other sexual sins), emotional behavior (like recurring depression, suicidal tendencies, uncontrollable anger), mental behavior (like insanity), material matters (compulsive gambling, greed, extreme materialism, poverty (though poverty also comes through greed and exploitation)), spiritual behavior (like unbelief, atheism, witchcraft, the occult, hallucinations), and so on.

All the above are primarily signs of demonic influence. Some can easily be confused with demonic possession, which is a higher form of demonic activity. Signs of demonic possession can be seen through extremes of involuntary behavior and makeup. Demonic possession is a higher form of demonic activity in which demons occupy or possess an individual.

It is true that not just behavior but some extreme physical illnesses are a result of demonic possession. For instance the woman who Jesus healed of an illness was said to be “bound for eighteen long years” by Satan (Luke 13:15). She was bound from within, that is, possessed.

However, cases of demonic possession are not as extensive as demonic influence. It is demonic influence that’s the biggest cause of problems in our society. Demonic possession only accounts for a small proportion. This is due to the restricted nature demons have in possessing people. They cannot just at will go out and possess every unbeliever and enslave him/her to their wishes. God has restricted them to dwell in their own realm of the spirit and not to be inhabitants of people.

Cases of demonic possession are a result of two things: the **first** is that there is a background that gave demons access. This includes involvement in the occult, severe sins like murder, abuse of others, incest, rape, bestiality (sex with animals), etc. The person may even merely inherit the problem through generational curses.

Someone may be asking if generational curses are only a thing of the Old Testament. No they are not for the Old Testament only. They are still operative in the New Testament. The only difference is that there is an escape door for generational curses in the New Testament. This door is Jesus. Every person that receives salvation is redeemed or rescued from the curse or punish-

ment of the Old Testament law. This includes generational curses, being punished for sins of parents and ancestors.

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit,” Galatians 3:13-14.

My book *Breaking Curses, Including Generational Curses* has more info on generational curses (see the book's Chapter 10 “Breaking Generational Curses: God's Traditional & Non-T Ways”).

The **second** cause of demonic possession is not related to demons gaining legal access. It is God allowing it without the person's fault nor the fault of any of his ancestors (except Adam and Eve). This is a rare occurrence. For God to allow it on an innocent person it's for a good purpose. There is a good example of this in the bible:

“As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life,” John 9:1-3.

This does not mean the man born blind was demon possessed. It could have been an aspect of demonic oppression which is an extreme form of demonic influence. It could also be God allowing it that the man be born blind. The whole point of the incident in the bible is to remind us that we cannot trace all bad things from a person's life. Neither can we trace all bad matters from person's parents and ancestors.

Some things God allows on people out of no fault of their own. This includes some aspects of demon possession. Just to reiterate, cases of demonic possession are not as extensive as demonic influence. So our focus on many matters ought to start with expecting them to be as a result of demonic influence before we can consider them to be from demon possession.

Demonic possession cases are distinguishable from their extreme levels. Needless to say there are some extreme matters that are due to extreme demonic influence. Demons can influence even diseases in people from an external point without entering the victims. For example Job was smitten with painful sores from head to toe by Satan (Job 2:7). But it did not happen by Satan or Satan's fellow demons entering him. It was external, an aspect of demonic influence.

Most of what some fellow evangelicals rush to categorize as demonic possession is merely demonic influence. For example some have said an alcoholic or drug addict is possessed by a demon of alcohol or drug addiction. They operate deliverance ministries that do more harm than good in the so called possessed people.

5. Demonic Possession: The Exception for Direct Confrontation

Some may be possessed but certainly not among Christians. For more info on whether or not Christians can be possessed please see chapter 6. “Can a Christian be Demon Possessed?”

Jesus said, “The whole world is under the control of the evil one,” (1 John 5:19). He does not control the world by entering the lives of people. It’s all done from an external point by influencing people to follow his ways.

The influence has been from an external point starting from the Garden of Eden. He did not have to possess Adam and Eve to influence them in rebelling. We can tell who is ruling by the way things are worldwide –spiritually, socially, politically, materially and physically. It’s primarily as a result of demonic influence, not demonic possession.

However, it is important to maintain that God is sovereign. He reigns over his entire creation, including over principalities and powers of darkness. He allows Satan only to operate within his limited boundaries. The boundaries go all the way back to the temptation and fall of Adam and Eve. Deliverance and healing primarily lies in walking outside those legal boundaries (discussed in the book). Christ came to rescue us from Satan’s boundaries and to equip us from not falling back.

Believers are not immune from demonic influence. He keeps trying to win us back into his traps. Even our Lord Jesus endured temptation throughout his life. Scripture says he was, “tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.” Hebrews 4:15. He overcame every form of influence from the devil, the Tempter.

Demonic *influence* is therefore possible over believers. It goes on a regular basis as demons try to entice us to fall to sinful ways. How about demonic *possession*? Can sincere believers be demonized, that is, possessed or owned by evil spirits? The next chapter - Chapter 6: “Can a Christian Be Demon Possessed?” answers this question.

Deliverance from Demonic Influence

Both demonic influence and demonic possession require God’s deliverance because we deal with evil spirits that are more powerful and wiser than us. “Lead us not into temptation, but *deliver us from the evil one*,” Matthew 6:12-13 (NIV, ASV, NKJV, BBE).

We’re commissioned to pray for ourselves, fellow believers and unbelievers to be delivered from the evil one on a regular basis. Deliverance from demonic influence is a lifetime activity that God carries out in our lives. For as long as we’re in this life the enemy will continue seeking to influence our lives spiritually, socially, materially, physically and so on.

Deliverance from demonic influence does not require casting out demons. The demons are already operating from an external point. Unfortunately

some believers among fellow evangelicals rush to cast out demons from people that do not have a demonic possession problem. They operate deliverance ministries that do more harm than good in the so called possessed people.

Some may be possessed but certainly not among Christians. For more info on whether or not Christians can be possessed please see chapter 6. “Can a Christian be Demon Possessed?”

The people end up having perpetual problems that need deliverance. They live to be unfruitful Christians because of being deceived that they have a demonic possession problem. Much to the devil's advantage because they are of no threat to his evil kingdom.

If they knew they had a demonic influence problem they would know how to effectively deal with matters that come through demonic influence. They would overcome such problems without hands being laid on them, being anointed with oil, demons being cast out, making deliverance prayers, spiritual warfare prayers and so on, all to no effect. They would move on from attending perpetual deliverance seminars to helping others in being delivered. No super spiritual event would be required for their deliverance.

Deliverance from demonic influence comes through fighting the true spiritual warfare. It comes through putting on the full armor of God. The armor of God protects us and equips us in rescuing others from demonic influence.

As we do our indirect part over the battle that rages in the spirit realm God directly overcomes our spiritual adversaries. He sends his angels to our defense since he is too big to be having fights with Satan, a spirit being he created himself. Examples abound in the bible.

We therefore do not overcome demonic influence by being preoccupied with demons and evil spirits, familiar spirits, generational spirits, territorial spirits, spirits of this and that... We overcome demonic influence by being preoccupied with God and his Spirit, the Spirit of love, power, and a sound mind. Fulfilling our indirect part makes us more than conquerors against demonic influence over our lives and the lives of others. For an in-depth study on our indirect role please see the chapter on True Biblical Spiritual Warfare = Indirect Confrontation.

If we're liable to be influenced how much more are unbelievers? We even have to pray for ourselves regularly for protection. This means, unbelievers are in a worse off situation since they do not have the Holy Spirit living inside them.

“The whole world is under the control of the evil one,” (1 John 5:19). This is because he can easily influence unbelievers to fulfill his schemes. His rule and control is indirect since he uses unbelievers to rule as his “open vessels,” that is, being without the protection of the Holy Spirit. He doesn't have to be seen physically. We can tell who is ruling by the way things are worldwide—spiritually, socially, politically, materially and physically.

5. *Demonic Possession: The Exception for Direct Confrontation*

There is therefore a good reason why scripture warns us not to be “yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God,” 2 Corinthians 6:14-16. Unbelievers are temples of idols (v.16). They can easily be used to bring us down spiritually, socially, materially and so on.

In our modern era of technology unbelievers do not just include people we meet physically but also those we “meet” through the multimedia. These include books, magazines, radio, television and the Internet. In his book, *Configuration with Christ*, James Alberione says, “Beware of false prophets who rise up on all sides - literature, friends, radio, and television programs, movies, shows of all kinds,... Whatever does not serve our last end is useless.”

When we separate ourselves from such influences God says he will receive us as his children. “Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty,” 2 Corinthians 6:17-18.

This does not imply we associate only with fellow believers and avoid any contact with non-believers. It also does not mean we are to look down on them. We are their intercessors in seeking their salvation.

It means we’re to choose to live not outside their physical world but outside their cultural world. Their cultural world is what shapes their values and understanding of life. Most of these beliefs are contrary to God’s word. That is why we are to disassociate ourselves from such values.

Scripture calls it adulterous behavior when we associate ourselves with values that are contrary to God’s word. It is like being in courtship with someone outside our marital union. “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. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?” James 4:4-5.

False Doctrine and Demonic Influence

The problem believers have in various areas of their lives through false doctrine is due to demonic influence. It is not due to demonic possession. False doctrine also does not result in demonic possession. It only perpetuates demonic influence for as long as the believer continues to follow the wrong teachings.

False doctrine among believers has been around since the early church. “Command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote

themselves to myths and endless genealogies,” 1 Timothy 1:3-4. Since then every church body has had to be confronted over false doctrine it erroneously adopted. Some have accepted correction and changed. Others have remained stubborn to their false teachings up to this day. It's a never-ending job because no church is perfect or free from being liable to err.

All false doctrine results in some form of demonic influence among believers who follow it. Involvement in the false doctrine on spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry opens doors to severe demonic influence. Some of it may seem like demonic possession.

The extent may depend on how long and how deep one got involved in the direct confrontation that gave demons legal access into his/her life. The demonic influence may be spiritual, social, material, physical or any combination. Many times merely being in a congregation that practices this kind of warfare is being in agreement to also face the consequences of spiritual slander.

The solution in receiving deliverance from all false doctrine consequences is the same in all cases. It is basically repentance (to God) and ceasing the practice. It also usually requires disassociating with groups that follow the false teachings.

Healing from the deception may not be overnight but it certainly comes as the Lord enables. Deliverance is instant after repentance ending the legal access Satan gained into a believer's life through the false teaching. My book on deliverance, related to this one, titled *Major Christian Deliverance Principles: Keys for Self-deliverance and Ministry*, has major principles for deliverance and healing in various area – spiritual, social, material, physical

Deliverance from Demonic Possession

Evil spirits could not live in people before Adam and Eve fell. When Satan rebelled against God he also came to tempt and deceive mankind into rebellion. When he succeeded he got the right (legality) to rule over mankind even to the point of possessing him with his fallen evil spirits. Fortunately the work of Christ on the cross liberated us from Satan's ownership and control.

Anyone who accepts Jesus as his/her Lord and Savior is free from legal demonic possession. Satan has no claim to possess anyone that accepts Jesus as his/her Lord and Savior. By casting the evil spirits out of a person we are simply announcing the illegal hold of the evil spirit(s) and proclaiming the liberty of the person. In and through the name of Jesus their authority over the person is removed. Christ is now the legal owner of the individual.

The delivered individual still has to do his part in walking out of sin in order to ensure the absence of Satan's legal grounds. Certain sins may open legal doors for the evil spirit(s) to return.

5. Demonic Possession: The Exception for Direct Confrontation

Jesus said, “When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it returns it finds the house *unoccupied* (i.e. empty, without the Holy Spirit in it), swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this *wicked* (sinful) generation,” Matthew 12: 43-45.

The above scripture applies to those who once delivered continue in their wickedness.

Destiny of Evil Spirits

Once the spirit(s) leave the person we have no other business to deal with them. We do not have scriptural authority over them once they are outside the person. They are free to roam around the earth trying to influence people while God’s angels fight them wherever they have no legal access. They are free to even attempt to influence believers into sin and deception but they cannot live inside us.

Our defense against their evil whispers and enticing offers to sin is putting on the full armor of God. This battle goes on in the mind not in the physical with verbal confrontations. With the armor the bible says we are able to demolish their “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,” 2 Corinthians 10:4.

An area of misunderstanding involves the rebuking, binding, and “destruction” of the spirits. This is God’s agenda not ours. Only God can bind these beings in their ranks and works. We can only ask him to do so rather than we. Our realm of authority of direct confrontation only involves casting them out of people. Number 4 in the chapter titled “Misinterpreted Scripture: The Source of False Teachings” elaborates on this.

Deliverance Methods in the New Testament

Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary says, “The term most commonly used of the expulsion of demons in the New Testament is cast out (ekballo [ejk-bavllw]). In classical and Old Testament usage it had the sense of forcibly driving out an enemy. In the New Testament, it is typically used of a physical removal (John 9:34-35; see also Mark 1:12). Demons were cast out by the spirit of God (Matt 12:28; cf. Luke 11:20, ; "by the finger of God"), and this was done by verbal command rather than the elaborate rituals of the exorcists.”

Apart from the word “*casting out*” there are other words used in the Gospels to describe Jesus’ healing ministry among the demonized. *Baker’s*

Evangelical Dictionary says, “He **released** (luo [luvw]) the woman bound by demons for eighteen years (Luke 13:16). He **saved** (sozo [swvzw]) the Gerasene demoniac (Luke 8:36). He **healed** (therapeuo [qerapeuvw]) many (Matt 4:24; 10:22; 17:16; Luke 6:18; 7:21; 8:2; 13:14), a word used of healing the sick (lame, blind, mute, maimed, deaf) as well as the demonized and even of satanic healing.

“Its use implied that the restoration of demoniacs was on the same level of ministry as other types of healing, all of which showed Christ's mastery over Satan and sin. Jesus also healed (iaomai [ijavomai]) many who had spirits (Luke 6:19; under the power of Satan), including the Canaanite woman's daughter (Matt 15:28) and the young boy (Luke 9:42).”

There is no occasion in the ministry of Jesus where he goes to “bind” evil spirits, even in people. He simply cast them out of people. Binding and loosing have a totally different meaning that has nothing to do with evil spirits. Chapter 2 “Our Territory and Nature of Our Christian Authority,” explains what binding and loosing mean in their purposed contextual meaning. “Casting out” is what has everything to do with evicting demons that occupy or possess in people.

Once cast out where the evil spirits went to was not Jesus' concern. Neither was he concerned about what would happen to them after they were cast out. Our Lord was never concerned about whether they were bound or were free to roam around. He once warned that demons can return to a person if the individual falls into sin. But he never said that they must be bound so that they do not return. It's up to the individual himself/herself to insure that they do not return by not indulging in sin or falling from grace.

In one instance, after being cast out, demons asked him if they could go into a herd of pigs. Some have taken this to imply that we need to send them to a particular place like a desert, an ocean, in space, or in a lake of fire. Where they go to is God's business, not ours.

If we have an experience where the spirits ask us God may transfer this responsibility to us on that particular case. Even then we're to be discerning enough to receive his instructions on what to do and say. Other than that they're at liberty to roam the earth where they were cast down. They're even at liberty to try to influence believers, though believers have the final say over any of their deceptive attempts.

Jesus Christ, our Example

In one passage our Lord said “I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you,” Luke 10:19.

Our area of authority in trampling on snakes and scorpions is seen in the way he dealt with evil forces. He did not literary trample on these unseen beings. Rather he exercised such authority over them by casting them out of people that they obeyed him.

Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary says, “Jesus came to set Satan’s captives free (Matt 12:22-29; Luke 4:18-21), and in all of his dealing with the demonized he demonstrated compassion for the people and authority over the spirits. He commanded the spirit in the Gerasene demoniac to come out (Luke 8:29) and ordered the demon out of the man in the synagogue (Mark 1:27) and the young boy (Mark 9:25).

Notice the context that Jesus granted this kind of authority to the disciples. It was soon after the “seventy-two returned with joy and said, ‘Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name,’” (Luke 10:17). It was after they returned from casting out demons possessing people, not demons in territories, in geographic zones, in the spirit world, nor anywhere else. Jesus then replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven,” (v.18). Satan is overcome as evil spirits are cast out of people.

Jesus gave the disciples such authority when they returned from casting out evil spirits living in people. The context of authority constituted their work of casting out evil spirits living in people. Outside this context we are merely giving ourselves authority over the enemy that we were never granted. There is no scriptural reference were Jesus makes proclamations against the enemy in thin air as a way of exercising his authority. It was always when dealing directly with people oppressed by the enemy.

Our authority in directly confronting evil spirits therefore involves casting out demons living in people, not geographical locations, nor in the heavenly realm. Beyond this takes us outside our assigned realm of authority.

We simply cast them out. This is different from the binding that in our false assumption has meant arresting the evil spirit(s). The Greek word for “cast out” (Mark 16:18) means to throw out violently or to vomit. The evil spirit(s) are to be cast out of the person and once that is achieved the assignment ends. The person is free and wherever the spirits go we’re not required to pursue them.

On a larger scale the preaching of the gospel did the most harm against Satan. As it was preached it penetrated Satan’s spiritual strongholds of deception in the lives of people and set them free from his bondage. Evangelism is the most important form of deliverance ministry we’ve been commissioned to

fulfill. Many that need deliverance can be set free by preaching the truth concerning their particular area of bondage.

For example, those that may want deliverance from financial or material “bondage” may have to follow the laws of giving and receiving. Their financial deliverance may take time yet it is scriptural. Casting out a demon of poverty is only at best an illusion, at worst putting an individual into a mental prison that deliverance will only come when a demon of poverty is cast out.

Another example may involve deliverance for someone in emotional or psychological trauma. Preaching the gospel truth about striving to help others in other kinds of problems such as poverty, sin and so on brings so much peace and fulfillment.

Some may even require to walk in forgiveness if they are hurting and being bitter with what others did. Must say such letting go is only possible with the help of God. Some people can hurt others so bad resulting in serious psycho-social ailments in the victim. Unfortunately unforgiveness only worsens it.

Our deliverance ministry ought to focus on seeking the Lord to bring healing through his word and directly through his Spirit. Casting out a demon of unforgiveness or a tormenting spirit can result in an individual assuming deliverance will only come when demons are cast out.

Many examples can be given were God's word brings the truth that sets us free. No demonic deliverance is required. An individual who regularly commits herself to God's word whether personally or in attending church services or bible study groups will at some point know the truth in particular areas of bondage. These may be in such areas as spiritual, social, material, physical or any combination. God said those who diligently seek him will eventually find him.

He wants us to seek him and his ways with all our hearts (Deuteronomy 4:29, 6:5, 11:12-13, 26:16, Joshua 22:5, Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30, Luke 10:37). “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity,” Jeremiah 29:13.

This may require among other Christian disciplines a prayerful lifestyle, occasional fasting, helping those in need, walking by faith (shield), striving for righteousness (breastplate), learning God's word (sword), walking in peace and mercy (shoes), and so on.

Eventually these disciplines bring freedom to an individual which may never be achieved by casting out demons out of him/her. The demons, whatever level of influence over the individual, eventually loose their power over him/her. The Holy Spirit does his inner work and cleans his house from filth. No demons cast out. Simply a truth encounter in God's word and abiding in Christ which allows the Holy Spirit to cleanse his temple from evil spirits. It is deliverance ministry under the inner working power of the Holy Spirit.

The Scope of Deliverance from Demonic Possession

Deliverance from demonic possession is normally a one-time procedure. The procedure differs with different individuals. This is because God may have a different prescription for different people. For most people the mere preaching of the truth sets them free from demonic possession. They may even come across a Christian book or an audio message dealing with an area of their problem and find freedom.

Proclaiming the gospel has been minimized in its power of bringing deliverance from demonic possession. Yet it does the most extensive work in setting captives free. Evangelism is the most important form of deliverance ministry we've been commissioned to fulfill. Limiting deliverance ministry to verbal expulsion of demons in people reduces its scope and meaning.

The second most important level that brings deliverance in most people is through prayer and fasting. Being in deliverance ministry is therefore every believer's commission. We're all ordained by God to be used to deliver others in one way or another, spiritually, socially, materially or physically. Some may never verbally expel a single demon in their lifetime but they can pray and fast for people.

Some may never preach to multitudes but they can pray and fast for God to "deliver us from the evil one," Matthew 6:13. We can also pray for others to be delivered from the evil one. Scriptures that show the power of prayer and fasting are many. Chapter 9 "Our Weapons for Spiritual Warfare," lists a few in the section on prayer and others on fasting. My other book on deliverance, titled *Major Christian Deliverance Principles: Keys for Self-deliverance and Ministry*, has a detailed chapter on prayer and fasting as a major weapon for deliverance and healing.

For some bound by the enemy verbal expulsion of demons may be required. As said earlier, this requires sound discernment as to how the Lord wants the evil spirits to be expelled. If verbal expulsion of demons fails on the first attempt, it is not necessary to engage the evil spirits in a lengthy dialogue. It's more appropriate to withdraw and seek the Lord in prayer.

The Lord may require praying and fasting for the individual. "His disciples asked him privately, 'Why could we not cast it (the demon) out?' And he said to them, 'This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting,'" Mark 9:28-29, Matthew 17:21 (KJV, ISV).

He may require a simple word of health being proclaimed on the individual or laying on of hands. "A woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, 'Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.' Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God," Luke 13:11-13.

Or he may require the use of anointing oil combined with prayer. “Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord,” (James 5:14). And so on.

If it is Jesus who is working through us by the Holy Spirit to be burdened for certain people and matters that are in the enemy's hands then rest assured that no force has any power to defeat his mission. He will give us the necessary strategy and weapons of war to use on each unique matter. “Praise be to the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle,” Psalm 144:1. All the enemy's tactics of resistance will be temporary.

In a way we are God's weapons of war on the earthly realm against the enemy. “You (Israel) are my war club, my weapon for battle with you I shatter nations, with you I destroy kingdoms,” Jeremiah 51:20.

However, our roles in the cosmic (heavenly) battles are indirect in nature as continually emphasized in this book. God's role is direct as he uses his angles to directly confront Satan and his forces.

His angels do their part in the heavenly realm as we fulfill our indirect roles down here. “Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will,” Psalm 103:20-21. “Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?” Hebrews 1:14.

Deliverance from demonic possession is therefore an assignment that focuses on the demon possessed unbelievers turning to Christ for salvation and deliverance. It is also normally a one-time procedure in a particular area of oppression.

6. Can a Christian be Demon Possessed?

CHAPTER 6. SUB-TOPICS:

- Can a Christian Be Demon Possessed?
- Deception in the House
- Summoning Spirits -Occult Vs Church Practices
- Our Belief Systems Influence Our Outcomes
- If the Son Sets You free... (John 8:36)

“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed,” John 8:36.

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is IN you, whom you have received from God?” 1 Corinthians 6:19.

“What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God,” 2 Corinthians 6:15-16.

“Do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously?” James 4:5 (New King James Version).

“Let God be true, and every man a liar,” Romans 3:4.

Can a Christian Be Demon Possessed?

Can Christians be demon possessed? This is a question many ask over certain matters among some Christians. The most prominent area some label as demon possession among Christians concerns demonic manifestations. However such demonic manifestations are an aspect of demonic **influence** (or demonic **interference**), not demonic **possession**.

These demonic manifestations may be through visio perceptions, body sensations, auditory sensing, olfactory sensing, sensing a presence, or frequent dreams of demonic manifestations. A chapter that deals with this in detail is in my other book, *Breaking Spiritual Strongholds and Healing the Wounded Spirit: Dealing with Root Causes*. In the book see chapter 13, “Deliverance from Demonic Experiences and Demonic Manifestations.”

What some believers and ministries easily classify as demonic possession is actually demonic influence. Demonic **possession** and demonic **influence** are two completely different realms of demonic activity. Please read the previous chapter which clarifies the distinction between demonic possession and demonic influence.

Possession is ownership of demons from within. The unclean spirits possess, occupy or own an individual that is categorized as possessed. He/she is a prisoner to the demons that live inside him/her.

Demonic *influence* on the other hand, is interference of demons from an external position. It is not internal. It is from an external position in the spirit realm where evil spirits can freely operate among believers and non-believers. In this spiritual realm they have no ownership over anyone yet constantly operate to influence people through temptation, deception, and manifestation for some.

Can a Christian be demon *possessed*? A few fellow evangelicals recently began to believe it is possible. A deeper scrutiny of scripture shows believers cannot be possessed or owned by evil spirits. As long as one is born again there cannot be any evil spirit living inside of him/her.

How could the Holy Spirit, from the Jealous God, be sharing a bed with demons? We are temples of the Holy Spirit. Can we be at the same time temples of demons? So the doctrine of Christians having demons is false. It is also dangerous doctrine.

“Don’t you know that you yourself are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple,” (1 Corinthians 3: 16-17).

There is nowhere in scripture where evil spirits are cast out of believers. Secondly demon possessed people never went round looking for Jesus hoping to be delivered from evils spirits. The demon possessed were so out of their mind or so bound that they had no control of themselves. The demons owned or possessed them. So either people who knew them sought Jesus or Jesus and his disciples came across such people as they went about preaching the gospel.

Recently (from the late 1970s and early 80s) some believers began to categorize certain problems they found among other believers as aspects of demonic possession. Church history of over 2,000 has had its share of false teachings resulting from scriptural misinterpretation. Many of our recent waves of false teachings among fellow evangelicals have come from the spiritual warfare and deliverance movement.

For example if a believer had a serious temper problem he/she was said to have a spirit of anger. If he had a problem with lust he was said to have a spirit of lust or spirit of fornication. If it was woman disputing with her husband she was said to have a Jezebel spirit. And so on.

The categorization of evil spirits went out of hand and so did casting out these spirits. And many strategies were developed to get rid of the evil spirits out of Christians. Some included coughing them out, cursing them, rebuking them, stomping on them, and son on. Whether or not scripture had any backing to such practices did not matter. No wonder they continue to fail in bringing any lasting deliverance on those seeking deliverance.

6. Can a Christian be Demon Possessed?

There are many problems sincere Christians may go through that we may never fully understand why nor have the grace to solve all of them. We've got to be humble before our sovereign Lord and seek his perfect will while acknowledging that our understanding is limited. We prescribe biblical prescriptions to problems but beyond that would be going outside what the bible says.

In the bible, demon spirits, also known as evil spirits or fallen angels, are characterized as having extreme control over people who are categorized as demon possessed. We have an account where Jesus' disciples failed to cast out an evil spirit from a demon possessed child.

The evil spirit controlled him to the extent that it often threw him in the fire or tried to drown him whenever the opportunity came. When the boy was brought to Jesus he said, "You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again," Mark 9:25.

This is one of the biblical examples of those owned or possessed by demons: they had no control of themselves. The spirits living inside them were their masters, manifesting their will whenever it pleased them. Such are the people that need believers to go to them and cast demons out of them or preach the gospel which miraculously overcomes demonic bondage and strongholds.

We meet such people in our towns and cities that we categorize as extremely insane. This is not the insanity that psychiatrists measure on normal people with one psychological problem or another (e.g. depression, anger, obsessive compulsive disorders, and so on). This kind of extreme insanity we're talking about makes people to be helpless due to being under heavy demonic bondage. The people under such demonic bondage are temples of demons or temples of idols, with demons referring to each of them as their house (Luke 11:24-26).

Contrast this with believers who are temples of the Holy Spirit. We're under God's ownership with God living in us. Each believer is a house of God where God lives through his Holy Spirit. We are therefore not vulnerable to demons living inside us. We cannot be temples of God and temples of idols at the same time. It is one spirit or the other, not both at the same time. One spirit is from God, the other from Satan thus personifying their respective sources.

While it is possible not to be possessed by either spirit (as is the case for many unbelievers) it is impossible for both spirits to live in (or possess) the same person. It is impossible for God and Satan to live in the same house. It is actually an insult to our holy God to assume that he is willing to possess and dwell in the same house as unclean spirits.

"What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God," 2 Corinthians 6:15-16. A believer has nothing in common in his/her spiritual makeup with an unbeliever.

Secondly there is no agreement between the temple of God and idols. A person cannot be both. He/she is either a temple of God or is a temple of idols. The two are mutually exclusive, meaning that they are night and day apart.

Other cases of demonic possession are people who get involved in the extremes of Satanism and the occult. These are not insane and deranged people in our society. People in extremes of Satanism and the occult are among the most talented in our society. Through desire for more power, wealth, and other influences they find themselves caught up in occult practices.

Many of the individuals who find themselves in extreme occult practices willfully invite Satan to come in and possess them during their rituals. It is similar to us believers who willfully invite Jesus to be our Lord and Savior. We ask him to abide in us and we occasionally take communion to symbolize his indwelling or possession of our lives.

People in the extremes of Satanism and the occult do just the same, except to a different master -Satan. They drink each other's blood, blood of animals and at worst levels, blood of people in sacrifice to Satan, their god. A different spirit enters them as they willfully summon Satan to take over their lives. They become possessed from within. Evil spirits enter their lives and begin to exercise control over their lives. Needless to say that there is plenty of hope for such people to find salvation.

If we fully understood the implications of inviting Jesus into our lives to possess us and be Lord few believers would entertain the idea that a Christian can be demon possessed or evil spirit possessed. We become spiritually reborn (born again) into a new spiritual identity where we become God's owned and possessed vessels. A person who has received Christ as his/her Savior cannot have a demonic possession problem. She has willfully embraced Christ as her Savior and invited him to live inside her through the Holy Spirit. She is now the temple of the Holy Spirit, with God living INSIDE her.

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is IN you, whom you have received from God?” 1 Corinthians 6:19. Can the Holy Spirit, who is holy, holy, holy, tolerate sharing his temple with evil spirits? He does not tolerate our sinful tendencies, how much more will he tolerate living together with an evil spirit?

The bible says, “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”?” James 4:4-5.

The Holy Spirit yearns jealously when we live worldly lives. He considers such indulgence with worldliness as adultery. Adultery is a big sin in the bible. Worldliness is spiritual adultery to God because it serves the fallen nature and lusts of the flesh. The Holy Spirit wants all our attention to him. He is grieved if we live worldly lives. How much more would he be grieved to see evil spirits living inside us? This would devastate him.

Thus God ensures the temple that the Holy Spirit will live in is first cleaned before the Holy Spirit can live in it. He cleans it of evil spirits, if they are any living in that temple. This happens at salvation. At the moment we're getting saved something amazing takes place in the spirit world. God cleans us up, reconnects the human spirit of each of us to his Spirit, seals us as own, and allows the Holy Spirit to come and live inside of us. What kind of cleansing would end up leaving evil spirits to continue living in a person?

Thus every angle about this topic on Christians being liable to demonic possession keeps pointing to the fact that it's not true. Christians are liable to demonic influence but not to demon possession. Some observable matters in certain Christians may look like demon possession yet they're merely aspects of demonic influence. Otherwise God's word, the bible, would be lying.

About the truthfulness of the bible it says, "Let God be true, and every man a liar," Romans 3:4.

Deception in the House

A believer who assumes he/she is demon possessed because of certain problems being experienced is therefore only deceived. Seeking demons to be cast out of him/her only opens the door to consequences of following false teachings. Those who jump to cast out demons from born again Christians only end up making the lives of these innocent unpossessed souls worse.

Cases of Christians ending up with more mental and other problems after being subjected to casting out of demons are legion. Most of them were victims that fell into deliverance false teachings that treat demonic activity outside biblical teachings. Matters of demonic influence end up being mixed up with matters of demonic possession with unfortunate consequences. Demonic influence is very different from demonic possession as explained in this book.

The demons in many cases put up a show to deceive "deliverance ministers" and the victim that they are really occupying a born again believer. The whole truth is that the demons are summoned through the proclamations of the "deliverance minister," being commanded to come out and sometimes summoned to a lengthy conversation.

This is not to mock ministers and believers caught up in false teachings in some deliverance ministries. Many are sincere in their motives. Bob DeWaaay who was once a pastor that practiced deliverance ministry false teachings for more years than some of us says, "I do not doubt the motives of the spiritual technicians (deliverance ministers). When I was one I sincerely wanted to help people. I was working day and night, without salary or benefits. I wanted to serve God fully and advance His kingdom. I sincerely believed I was doing so. However, my deception caused me to put people in more bondage rather than to

deliver them. I was unwittingly a bondage maker," (Bob DeWaay in his article "How Deliverance Ministries Lead People to Bondage").

Summoning Spirits -Occult Vs Church Practices

Some may still think the strange voices that come of a person are actually demons living inside of a person. You may need to ask some who were once in the occult at whatever level. When an evil spirit is summoned to manifest in a realm where our spiritual faculties can relate with spirits it shows up through whoever is made to act as its medium or vessel.

In some Asian and African countries like India, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, it is common among some subcultures to practice necromancy, the practice of communicating with the spirits of the dead.

The necromancers summon the spirits of the dead and sure enough they shows up. The spirits speak through a person who acts as its medium. In actual fact it is not the dead person but a demon that has been summoned. Demons can mimic voices of the dead or the living.

When evil spirits are summoned they show up through practices that invite them. The people that summon them or their companions working in agreement end up being vessels or mediums through which the spirits can express themselves.

Necromancy, transcendental meditation, horoscopes and other occult practices are fast returning to the Western world where Christianity had banished them for centuries. Harry Potter, Star Wars and much of the media make occult beliefs as harmless practices and invite people to try. Unfortunately many do with terrible consequences. My other book, *Breaking Occult Spells: Protection from Witchcraft and Occult Influences*, has more detailed info on this topic.

Children seem to have become the special target market in promoting occult beliefs. Jeff Harshbarger, a former Satanist now in Christ, says, "Parents, the occult is being marketed to your children at an unprecedented level through movies, television programs, books, games, toys, and trading cards. It's portrayed as innocent, fun, and entertaining. To see the newest or latest in occult items for kids, turn on the television, browse the children's department at the local bookstore, or walk the aisles of the toy store nearest to you," (*From Darkness to Light*, p.131-132).

However, as Harshbarger points out, the association of occult related content among children does not invite demonic activity. It nonetheless can pose as an invitation for children to experiment with occult practices that tap into the spirit world and summon demonic activity.

In the Christian camp, the calling forth of demons in the name of deliverance on born again Christians is one area believers summon demons to manifest. Demons receive a lot of attention in environments where such prac-

tices are common. They freely manifest themselves through people who seek demons to be cast out assuming they have a demonic possession problem.

The strange thing is that the same people keep coming back for deliverance. The demons keep playing games on them that they have a demonic possession problem. For as long as their focus is on demons living inside them the hide and seek game continues.

It is only when matters distinguishing between demonic possession and demonic influence are seen and addressed that deliverance and healing starts. Church ministers ought to stop blaming the innocent souls that they keep trying to cast demons out of and start focusing on revising their non-biblical teachings that keep people going in circles.

Our Belief Systems Influence Our Outcomes

In addition to directly summoning demons through non-biblical practices our belief systems also govern our outcomes. Our belief systems end up inviting what we strongly believe in.

That is why the positive thinking movement has gained a lot of adoration in the secular world. They have taken what the bible confirms and twisted it to seem like a newly discovered spiritual law. Many secular positive thinking “preachers” believe in spiritual laws but few give credit to the bible. It is the bible where God shows us about these spiritual laws that he, himself set up.

Our belief systems govern our outcomes. A Christian with a worldview of Satan living inside him/her (in spite of being born again) ends up creating an opportunity for Satan to act as if he possesses him/her.

Ask Perry Stone, a prominent evangelist, in his early Christian stages who got so preoccupied with the demonic world and its assumed power. And sure enough demonic experiences showed up in his life. He began to see, hear, and experience these ugly beings from the dark world. “According to your faith will it be done to you,” Matthew 9:29.

After the Lord rescued him from being preoccupied with the demonic world he says, “Focus on the devil and he shows up, focus on Christ and he shows up,” (3:00 in the Morning: Tapping into the Spirit World). Summoning demons to manifest in a realm where our spiritual faculties can relate with them is easier than most people assume. Ask some who were once in the occult at whatever level.

We are therefore admonished to align our beliefs systems along the bible in order to receive the right outcomes in life. Applying the biblical truths or biblical laws of spirit is what brings freedom into our lives. “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the ***truth will set you free***,” John 8:31-32 (emphasis added).

If the Son Sets You free... (John 8:36)

Once delivered from Satan by accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior we have no business with demons. The exception is given only when casting demons out of people who are not saved and are in such bondage that demons need to be cast out.

Against us believers they can longer possess nor own us. They are powerless against us in terms of entering our human faculties. Christ set us free indeed, not halfway or some spiritual chains left. It's total freedom from any aspect of demonic possession or demonic enslavement. "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed," John 8:36.

Assuming that demons still have power over us is a dangerous doctrine that only invites them to play games on us that they really are inside. "According to your faith will it be done to you," Matthew 9:29.

So a born again Christian who may have some form of strange problem (spiritual, social, material or physical) cannot be said to be demon possessed. It can be from severe demonic influence but not from any level of demonic possession. Paul, the apostle was tormented by Satan throughout much of his ministry life. He received a thorn in the flesh from Satan that brought much pain and discomfort in his life. "There was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me," 2 Corinthians 12:7.

What was Paul's solution? He kept pleading with God to deliver him. He did not address some demons to come out of him or cough them out. We do not hear any names of evil spirits being mentioned. He turned to God to remove the demonic influence that was illegally operating over his life. "Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me," (verse 8).

And God, not demon spirits, had the final say over Paul's torment. "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," (verse 9). God delivered him in a non-traditional way, by giving him the grace to endure his affliction.

Each of us already born again are to seek God's deliverance from various obstacles we may have -spiritual, social, material, physical and so on. God will have his final say. The final say for breakthrough is not with some demonic beings who have only received God's permission to hinder us.

Without God's permission they'd have no door of access into our lives - unless we legally open one. They illegally operate over our lives once all their legal doorways are closed: doors of deception, ignorance, sin and storms of life (when responded to in a wrong way).

The only one to answer for their illegal influence over our lives is God. He is the one we're to approach, not the demons. In his sovereign will he may

6. Can a Christian be Demon Possessed?

allow strange demonic influence for a season, for a situation or for an entire lifetime like with Paul.

Why God may allow such a high level of demonic influence (not demonic possession) on his children, the born again spiritual saints, can be another lengthy subject with its own limitations. The good news is that God always works all unpleasant matters we may experience to our good. Whatever he allows us to encounter (good or bad) eventually works to our good.

Our focus throughout whatever experiences should be on the Deliverer not the oppressor. We end up creating an atmosphere of faith in God and not fear of the devil. Faith as we know is God's spiritual license that he uses to work matters in our favor.

In terms of spiritual laws faith is our indirect spiritual weapon or spiritual positive energy that ends up pleasing God to create suitable circumstances for our victory. "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him," Hebrews 11:6.

Having a mindset or belief system that is focused on God is faith in motion. It is one of our indirect spiritual weapons for ultimate victory. "Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one," Ephesians 6:16.

7. Misinterpreted Scripture: The Source of False Teachings

CHAPTER 7. MISINTERPRETED SCRIPTURE SUB-TOPICS:

- Background to Misinterpreted Scripture
- Misinterpreted Scripture on Spiritual Warfare

Background to Misinterpreted Scripture

Understanding the nature and origins of misinterpreted scripture is such an important foundation for our Christian lives. It helps us to put into perspective matters we deal with in life. It also helps us to be more cautious in our biblical analysis without making easy conclusions.

It is one of the pillars for our Christian faith that enables us to not be easily manipulated by all kinds of rosy teachings in some Christian circles. It gives us a framework for looking at different doctrines and teachings that differ in their interpretation of the bible on certain matters.

Our differences in the Christian faith are largely caused by interpretation differences of the bible. We've a lot in common as one Christian body. We don't have problems in areas we've common ground.

It is the areas we've different biblical interpretation perspectives that separate or divide us into different denominations. The different denominations we have are a testimony or evidence that our understanding is limited. There is only one truth. We cannot all be right on one issue with different interpretations (or different misinterpretations).

Thus on each matter with different interpretations there is only one group that is right. Needless to say each group is busy claiming their interpretation is right and some even go as far as unsympathetically smearing other differing Christian groups. This is a sign of immaturity, no matter who does it. Let's put our criticisms in context, even where criticism is merited. Even where we're dead right it doesn't mean we don't have areas we may have wrong biblical interpretations (misinterpretations).

No single denomination or non-denomination can claim to be free from error on all its doctrines and beliefs. Such a claim would be at best naïve and at worst an expression of pride. It is a false assumption even when we may not know what the major error(s) may be.

The Lord has exposed some level of error in every church and denomination throughout history. Thus even today no single denomination can be the exception, not in this fallible life. *The International Standard Bible Encyclope-*

dia says “The history of the church shows that it has been as liable to error, and as readily influenced by natural conditions, as any other human institutions,” (ISB Encyclopedia, “Authority in Religion: V. Classification of Theories”).

Exposing the errors has been our Lord’s way of building, growing and maturing his church. Those that made changes have steered the church to higher levels of obedience, truth, and usefulness.

The Bible says we do not yet have perfect knowledge of everything, until this present world passes away. “For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.” 1 Corinthians 13:9-10. The imperfect knowledge we have will be replaced by the perfect.

We therefore only know in part, according to the level the Lord chooses to reveal. More revelation brings more freedom and more power in the body of Christ against Satan’s works on earth. “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free,” John 8:31-32.

Misinterpreted scriptures are therefore the source of false teachings and doctrines. When scripture is taken out of its context its original meaning changes. Its meaning and purpose ends up being inaccurate or being in err. Once this takes place those who are taught the inaccurate or erroneous interpretation are said to be receiving false teachings and doctrines.

Misinterpreted scriptures which result in false teachings do not arise because God’s servants deliberately want to twist the scriptures or feel like deceiving people. They arise because we are human and limited in our understanding. We are liable to err as Chapter 1: Fallibility of the Church explains.

At the root of most scriptural misinterpretation is Satan trying to take advantage of our fallibility (being liable to err). While we have the Holy Spirit in us who guides us “into all truth,” (John 16:13) God does sometimes allow us to fall under certain errors for a season before revealing the truth to us. How else can we explain the extreme blunders throughout church history done in God’s name by sincere Christians?

The way this deception works is by Satan planting thoughts in our minds rather than appearing physically. We have more than enough experiences throughout history where God’s people have fallen to lies through misinterpreted scripture. Satan used scripture to justify ungodly acts such as gender abuses, slavery, colonialism, persecution of non-Christians and so on. Not only is Satan with his fellow fallen angels a cause of it, our fallen nature is also part of the problem.

For more detailed info on the nature of deception please read my other book, *Breaking Spiritual Strongholds and Healing the Wounded Spirit: Dealing with Root Causes*. A whole chapter is dedicated to addressing the nature of deception.

Our recent accounts of deception in the body of Christ include the erroneous spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings. None of the people that fell to

the lies in our time and throughout history had any outward conversation or physical encounter with Satan quoting scripture.

In regard to gender abuses, some even in the body of Christ, are still holding on to historical role modeling that have no real scriptural backing. Most of what is advocated that women are supposed to be this or that and men are supposed to be the other are merely molding of roles born from traditions of men.

Jesus was such an opponent of traditions that had nothing to do with the scripture. “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions,” Mark 7:9.

Scripture can be used to justify almost any matter but it does not necessarily imply it is being applied or interpreted correctly. Didn’t Satan also use the bible in trying to tempt and deceive Jesus? Wasn’t the bible used for centuries to justify subjugation of certain ethnic groups and non-Christians?

Misinterpreted Scripture on Spiritual Warfare Principles

The following are among misinterpreted scripture that have been used to justify direct confrontation with evil spirits in territories and the spirit world. Some have already been covered in the book and thus did not merit being repeated.

1. “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death,” Revelation 12:11

The above scripture has been presumed, among those advocating for the erroneous spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings, to refer to believers going to Satan and confronting him with or invoking the blood of Jesus. However, the preceding verse (v.10) talks about “the Accuser,” who is Satan, going before God and making accusations against us. The scripture says he does this “day and night” (v.10) trying to gain legal ground to attack us spiritually, physically, socially, materially and so on.

It doesn’t say he goes to believers. He approaches God to make these accusations against each of us. Since God is the ultimate Judge over the accusations it is God himself who looks into the accusations being made against us. And he, being the ultimate Judge, God considers our side of the case that we have presented before him.

There are two primary pieces of evidence that God uses to determine whether or not Satan’s accusations are valid. Revelation 12:11 says these two are 1) “the blood of the Lamb,” and 2) “the word of their testimony.” If these two pieces of evidence are present in our lives they act as our defense.

The blood of the Lamb is the blood of Jesus. He is our Passover Lamb. Our salvation paid for by the blood of Jesus overcomes Satan's works.

The second piece of evidence is our testimony. Our testimony is God's word and our conduct of living upright lives. However, it is primarily our conduct of living upright lives. If it was primarily God's word then bible scholars and we ministers would be the only ones being able to win cases against Satan's accusations. Christians in places where the bible is suppressed and they literally live by the Holy Spirit's inspiration and leadings would be the worst victims of Satan. They'd easily lose their case since they don't have a testimony of intellectually knowing the scriptures.

This is certainly not to minimize the value of God's word in our lives. It's to point out that the bible is God's voice spoken to us. What follows after God has spoken to us through the scriptures is to obey and apply his word. It is the obedience and application of his word that forms the basis of our testimony. Reading it and understanding it won't be any good if we don't apply what it says.

The bible is God's will revealed to us. As we endeavor to learn more about God's revealed will to us our ultimate goal is to obey and apply his will in our lives. As we obey and apply God's word into our lives our obedience to his will becomes our testimony or evidence that we're living upright lives. The blood of Jesus that covers our sins and our testimony of living upright lives disqualify the accusations Satan makes against us.

We have access to heaven, God's kingdom, so we can always plead our side of the case against Satan, our Accuser. Our access to heaven is through prayer. Prayer takes us into spiritual realms where we've the privilege to approach God, our heavenly Father.

We do not know exactly what Satan is accusing us on before God. However what's important is that we have enough evidence to ensure God finds us innocent from Satan's accusations. This evidence is the blood of the Lamb and our testimony that overcomes Satan in the court of heaven.

The blood of the Lamb is a free gift we already have which God gave us after we received salvation. Our testimony is a set of endeavors for righteousness that show our own input in obeying God's will. Thus if ever Satan is found to win any case against any of us it means the case was lost on the grounds of having an insufficient testimony. It can never be lost on the grounds of not being under the blood of the Lamb - unless a person is not yet saved.

The reference to us overcoming Satan: an area of misinterpretation

“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death,” Revelation 12:11.

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When both matters are available as spiritual evidences the bible says Satan is overcome. We win the case against us. The bible says WE overcome Satan, through 1) the blood of the Lamb, and 2) by the word of our testimony.

However this is also where a lot of misinterpretation has occurred. Some have assumed that because the bible says WE overcome Satan it means WE are to directly confront Satan. So they proceed to directly confront Satan in the spirit realm making all kinds of proclamations.

The most common statements made to Satan are, “Satan the blood of Jesus is against you,” “I overcome you by the blood of Jesus,” “I overcome you by my testimony and that testimony is the word of God. The scripture is against you,” and so on.

I was once a long-time member of congregations where such matters take place so I’m not just making things up. Though I sometimes wish I’d never stepped foot in such congregations it was for a reason that I was able to step in and out of them. There are many sincere believers still caught up in false teachings that originate from misinterpretation of scripture. It’s unfortunate when the false teachings being followed have severe consequences.

These avoidable consequences trap believers’ lives in one area or another –spiritually, socially, materially, or physically. This is where I wish I’d never stepped foot in such congregations. They wasted my time, energy, sanity, and much more. It was like a wilderness experience where a person is going in circles yet he thinks he’s making progress. He’s making progress going nowhere.

The good and awesome part of the story is that God’s rescue arrived. After the rescue arrived there came two related callings: 1) overcoming the false teachings on spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry areas by revealing true centuries-tested biblical principles, 2) to equip believers in overcoming matters in their lives through applying principles “hidden” in God’s word:

- ✠ “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables,” Luke 8:10.
- ✠ “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free,” John 8:31-32.
- ✠ “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work,” 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Back to the subject matter. The reason the bible says it is WE who overcome Satan is because it is WE who determine the outcome when it comes to areas of our own input. After receiving salvation the most important area of our input is obedience to God’s will for our lives (and the lives of others).

When we got saved God knocked on our spiritual doors and we accepted his saving grace through Christ. He didn’t impose himself on us. Each of us had a choice to accept or reject him. Some do reject him when he shows up

on such rare opportunities. Some postpone it for later years when then can give God the leftovers. And so on. In all cases we do our part of choosing to accept or reject the gift of salvation.

The second part of our choosing and act of free will is obedience to God's will. God does not impose his will on us – except for his sovereign will. Outside his sovereign will it's up to us to play a part. When we do our part it is credited to us that we have obeyed. On matters that it is our role to play we determine the outcome. In other ways the ball is in our court. We determine how God will respond.

When we walk in obedience we secure God's protection on matters where doing our part is key. It means we have secured our victory. God credits us this victory by ensuring we obtain what he promises in relation to the obedience. Since it's us (WE) who determine how God will respond WE are said to be the one's responsible for the victory once we walk in obedience.

This is why the bible says it's us who overcome Satan. It doesn't mean we go up to Satan and fight him. It means we're responsible for securing the victory against Satan. Once we fulfill our obedience God works in the spirit realm by ensuring Satan is overcome. But it all starts with us. God can wait for eternity until we fulfill our obedience role before he responds to overcome Satan. It's unfortunate when our disobedience continues to make us victims of Satan.

May we continue overcoming Satan's works in our lives, and in the lives of others, through our obedience to God. Our obedience to God is a testimony in the spirit realm. It determines how God will respond in the spirit realm on matters he expects us to voluntarily do our part. It is our indirect weapon against Satan that God uses to close Satan's doorways of entry.

“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death,” Revelation 12:11.

The scripture therefore does not imply direct confrontation with our Accuser. We cannot afford putting it out of context to justify direct confrontation. After all, in every court of law, each side presents its case before a judge. They do not directly argue against each other to win a case.

Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary says, “The conquered enemy hates the presence of God, yet he is willing to appear there, to accuse the people of God. Let us take heed that we give him no cause to accuse us; and that, when we have sinned, we go before the Lord, condemn ourselves, and commit our cause to Christ as our Advocate.”

In their book, *Unbroken Curses*, Rebecca Brown and her husband, Daniel Yoder, discuss how after all the “spiritual warfare” of direct confrontation failed they decided to approach God as the Supreme Judge. All their attempts to directly confront and bombard the evil spirit world failed until the

strategy was changed to indirect confrontation. They decided to approach God to act on her behalf.

In the last chapter of *Unbroken Curses* titled “The Final Court of Appeal,” Rebecca Brown says, “There just isn’t enough time or space for me to tell you all the wonderful things the Lord has performed in our lives since the night I visited the courtroom of the Judge of the Universe. Daniel 7:21-22 has truly been fulfilled in our lives. (In this chapter, Daniel was given a vision of the nations and rulers to come. The rulers were represented by horns. The last ruler was represented by a horn, which is Satan.)”

Daniel 7:21-22: “As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom,”

Dr. Brown says, “Dear reader, are you struggling just as we were? Do you know that God has called you to do a specific task for him, but Satan has been blocking you from doing it? If you have no legal grounds (i.e. legal doorways) in your life for Satan to attack you, then I would suggest that you consider going before the Judge of the Universe.” (p. 171).

Rebecca Brown says, “In the time since we have learned this very powerful tool of spiritual warfare, we have met a number of people who have been in the same position of discouragement we were. God does not want His people to live a life of defeat and discouragement! He placed us here on planet earth to possess and control it. We are to be owners, not renters!...

“When you, the reader have done everything you know to do...perhaps you need to go before the Judge of the Universe...He has made provision for us so that we can walk in victory and bring the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost and dying world,” (p173-174).

In her book, Rebecca Brown narrates her appeal to God in a chapter titled, “The Final Court of Appeal.” It is a petition to God for his intervention against the works of the enemy. The victories that followed resolved matters that all her “spiritual warfare” of direct confrontation failed to bring.

What Brown did not realize is that approaching God to judge every case in our favor is how we’re intended to deal with the enemy. It is indirect spiritual warfare, yet powerful and fully backed by scripture. That is why it worked in her case and continues to work in all of us who go before God’s throne of grace through Christ.

Rebecca Brown thus tried all the direct confrontation attempts and they brought no victory – attempts of bombarding evil spirits, rebuking them, binding them, pulling down strongholds, etc. Then finally she turned to indirect confrontation which is approaching God to fight on her behalf. And she found her victory. That says on its own what works and what doesn’t, what’s biblical and what’s not.

Brown's narration of a prayer of appeal is not anything unusual. Prayer is our access to God, our heavenly Father. It's as simple as that. Our prayers to God present to him our need for him to fight our battles. He never told us to go after evil spirits over matters we face. He told us to seek him, to ask him, to appeal to him, to entrust ourselves to him, to do our part of walking in love, righteousness, etc.

Thus God's intervention through prayers says a lot about what the Lord requires of us in moments of crisis. Throughout the bible prayers of appeal have proved to be the true spiritual warfare and deliverance prayers. Earnestly appealing to God, sometimes with fasting, during times of need has time and again proved to be the only solution.

The entire book by Brown's advocates for the erroneous spiritual warfare teachings that call for direct confrontation with Satan. Then at the book's end its focus shifts to God. After majoring on bombarding evil spirits and being obsessed by them it shifts to seeking God's intervention. Seeking God's intervention through prayer is our true spiritual warfare. That's why it works. It's indirect spiritual warfare and it's what God prescribed for us. His prescription is unstoppable when applied.

The other forms of direct warfare that bombard evil spirits are our invention. They came through the enemy misquoting scripture to some of us in the body of Christ. That's why they do not work and if they ever do, they have no lasting results. They open doors for worse problems in other areas of our lives. I and countless others in evangelical circles followed them to our peril. It's such a blessing to be rescued from such scriptural misinterpretation on spiritual warfare principles.

No need to buy her book just to read her prayer of appeal. In case you'd like to read a prayer of appeal an example of one is available in this book. Please see Appendix 1: Deliverance, Healing and Restoration Prayer.

Besides, reading a prayer made by someone else is not the key to victory. What brings victory is applying the required biblical principles in one's area of concern. It is walking with God in such a way that having done our part of applying his will enables him to fight our battles. More content on this area is in my other book *Major Christian Deliverance Principles: Keys for Self-deliverance and Ministry*. It covers in detail on foundational deliverance and healing principles in various areas of our lives. There is a major chapter on prayer and fasting that you'll find to be blessing in your Christian life.

We would have had more victories in the body of Christ if we knew true spiritual warfare to be from the indirect perspective. *Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary* says, "If Christians had continued to fight with these weapons (the blood of Jesus and the word of their testimony), and such as these, their victories would have been more numerous and glorious, and the effects more lasting."

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This is not directly going after the enemy but by ensuring that, “we give him no cause to accuse us; and that, when we have sinned, we go before the Lord, condemn ourselves (through repentance to God), and commit our cause to Christ as our Advocate (his blood covering our sins).”

Is it unscriptural to plead the blood of Jesus over ourselves?

Yes it’s unscriptural to plead the blood of Jesus over ourselves. However, however (to make emphasis) there is nothing wrong with doing it. It is unscriptural in the sense that it’s not in the bible. There is no passage in the bible where believers in the early church were pleading the blood of Jesus over themselves.

The bible commissions Christians to take communion (breaking the bread and the wine/water) symbolizing Christ's redemptive work, our partaking of his nature, etc. Taking communion is biblical and thus has spiritual value in the spirit realm.

Pleading the blood of Jesus over ourselves is not in the bible and likely has no spiritual value in the spirit realm. It’s just a mere ritual. However, however (to make emphasis again) there is nothing wrong with doing it.

The doctrine of pleading the blood of Jesus over ourselves likely came as a result of some believers in the body of Christ taking principles on rituals of blood sacrifices in the Old Testament and assuming they apply to the New Testament. In the Old Testament they sacrificed animals as ultimate sacrifices in order receive God’s mercy, intervention and fellowship. Sometimes the blood was sprinkled on priests and other consecrated items. Because Jesus became our blood sacrifice some in the body of Christ assume we’re to invoke his blood to ensure his blood is covering our lives.

Please read more on this topic, even from bible encyclopedias, because it’ll help you understand the place of the blood of Jesus in our lives. There are some people out there speaking out of emotions showing they’ve not read the bible on matters they’re using emotions. Emotions have their own appropriate place in our walk with God – and it’s not in the area of framing sound biblical doctrine.

Having said that you’re not in any danger pleading the blood of Jesus over yourself. It is when you begin to use the blood of Jesus to go after evil spirits that you basically set yourself up for needless harm. While evil spirits were defeated by Christ’s shedding of his blood they know the boundaries that Jesus’ blood applies in the spirit realm. They also know the boundaries that we have legal grounds to directly confront them.

When we cross our boundaries and assume we’re divinely empowered to directly confront demons outside our boundaries is when trouble starts. The spirit realm is a realm that is governed by more laws than the laws we have as humans on earth. Breaking spiritual laws is not a wise thing especially when evil spirits can easily take advantage for a violation.

Please arm yourself with appropriate information on such matters. It is knowing the truth that sets us free. “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free,” John 8:32.

Evil spirits love to take advantage in areas we're ignorant. Ignorance is an open door for them to attack. “My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge,” Hosea 4:6. This is how false teachings enter the body of Christ. Evil spirits use the door of ignorance to sneak in false teachings into our doctrines or Christian beliefs.

Such false teachings rightly qualify to be called “doctrines of devils” as the bible calls them (1 Timothy 4:1 (KJV)). Most originators of such teachings did not deliberately fall for the false doctrine. Their ignorance on the area they fell on and the lack of carefulness to countercheck their assumptions gave room for the teachings to be adopted.

2. “Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms,” Ephesians 6:11-12.

This scripture has been presumed, among those advocating for the erroneous spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings, to imply that since we do not fight against our fellow flesh and blood we're to directly confront our real enemies who are the rulers, the authorities, the powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

The scripture is talking about persecution from people. Instead of trying to overcome their persecution of us with worldly methods (weapons) like arguments, manipulation, temper tantrums, screaming, threats, bullying, lawsuits, physical confrontation, war, and so on, we're to primarily ignore their attacks. We focus on overcoming the one using them. It's Satan and his fellow evil spirits fighting us through them. With our spiritual weapons we overcome his works against us and against them.

Notice the scripture above (Ephesians 6:11-12) does not say anything about directly confronting Satan and his fellow evil spirits in their heavenly realms. All it says is that the ultimate source of problems and attacks from people is not the people themselves. The people are under influence from the evil spirit realm.

Since Satan and his team of evil spirits are the ones influencing them we focus on the ultimate source or culprit. We ignore the people and focus on the one causing the people to behave contrary to the will of God.

How do we focus on the ultimate source or culprit that is causing the problems?

As the scripture of discussion says, “Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes...”

We therefore focus on the ultimate source or culprit causing the problems by putting on the full spiritual armor of God. The spiritual armor constitutes our primary weapon for fighting against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. It constitutes our primary weapons of spiritual warfare. Our spiritual weapons, as covered in this book, have nothing to do with directly confronting Satan—except for one single exception (see Chapter 5 for this single exception).

Please read Chapter 4 “True Biblical Spiritual Warfare = Indirect Confrontation.” The full spiritual armor of God is covered in the chapter. The chapter also gives detailed examples of how Jesus and the early church overcame Satan through indirect weapons of spiritual warfare that God has given us. Our spiritual weapons are “weapons of righteousness” (2 Corinthians 6:7) that represent to God that we’ve done our part for him to confront the enemy on our behalf in the spirit realm.

This may come as a surprise since we expect weapons of war to be used directly against enemy forces and territory. There is no scriptural example of Jesus or any members of the early church directly confronting evil spirits by making proclamations against them in thin air or in territories in order to overcome their influence.

What has made us assume we can do otherwise is quite a puzzle. And the consequences among many applying the erroneous spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings are unfortunate.

3. *“(Verse 4) The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. (v.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. (v.6) And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete,” 2 Corinthians 10:4-6.*

This passage is part of the title for my other book: *Breaking Spiritual Strongholds and Healing the Wounded Spirit: Dealing with Root Causes: Dealing with Root Causes*. Thus the book on breaking spiritual strongholds and healing the wounded spirit has more detailed info on this passage.

4. *“When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils,” Luke 11:21-22.*

“How can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house,” Matthew 12:29 (NIV)

This passage is used, among those advocating for the erroneous spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings, to justify that we have the authority to bind

or tie up evil spirits in people, geographic territories or even spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Unless we bind him we would not be able to overcome him, as it is advocated among those advocating for direct confrontation against Satan, the strong man.

However, the one with the binding or arresting assignment is Jesus, not us, his disciples. He is the one that is stronger than the strong man. Unless we begin to assume that we're stronger than him. That's not what the bible says. "Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand," 2 Peter 2:10-12.

About the "strong man" passage *Matthew Henry Complete Commentary on the Whole Bible* says, "The world, that sat in darkness, and lay in wickedness, was in Satan's possession, and under his power, as a house in the possession and under the power of a strong man; so is every unregenerate soul; there Satan resides, there he rules.

"Now, the design of Christ's gospel was to spoil the devil's house, which, as a strong man, he kept in the world; to turn the people from darkness to light, from sin to holiness, from this world to a better, from the power of Satan unto God (Acts 26:18); to alter the property of souls....When nations were turned from the service of idols to serve the living God, when some of the worst of sinners were sanctified and justified, and became the best of saints, then Christ spoiled the devil's house, and will spoil it more and more."

John Wesley's Explanatory Notes on the Whole Bible also say, "How can one enter into the strong one's house, unless he first bind the strong one - So Christ coming into the world, which was then eminently the strong one's, Satan's house, first bound him, and then took his spoils."

The one who does the binding is therefore Jesus. His work on the cross took away Satan's authority over the earth, which became his house after Adam fell. He destroyed the legal grounds that Satan gained authority over us who had become his goods in his house. The legal claim came through sin.

About the work of Jesus scripture says, "He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross," Colossians 2:13-15.

The strong man can only be bound only by "someone stronger" who "attacks and overpowers him" (v.22). That stronger person is Jesus. We have no strength of our own to bind him. If we did Jesus was not necessary to come to our aid. Christ continues to spoil Satan's house in people as we preach the word and the Holy Spirit convicts sinners. He spoils his goods as evil spirits are cast out of people.

This is an ongoing work as Christ labors to overcome the works of Satan on earth. “I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it,” Matthew 16:18. In the spirit realm he overcomes Satan and his forces as we preach the gospel, heal the sick and cast out demons. We focus on our work on earth while he does his in the spirit realm.

5. *“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus,” Ephesians 2:6-7.*

The above scripture is obvious to many. Only a few have assumed it refers to our authority over principalities in the heavenly realms. Being seated with Christ in the heavenly realms has made some to assume that we can now rule over evil spirits that were cast down to the lower heavens and to earth.

Although the passage shows us our present standing with Christ in the heavenly realms it says nothing about our authority over principalities. However it does show what we will have “in the coming ages,” that is, in eternity. Christ will “show the incomparable riches of his grace.” Scripture says in the coming ages, “we will judge angels,” 1 Corinthians 6:3.

Not only will we have authority over principalities, but we “will judge the world,” (v.2). In this present age we remain in our realm of authority -over the earth. Assuming the passage is giving us a license to judge fallen angels is merely taking it out of its context.

It is a great privilege to be “raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.” We can be at peace that we have the entire heavenly government on our side on matters that God has ordained to fulfill in and through us.

As we approach God in prayer we are entering these heavenly realms of God’s kingdom. We are appealing for his grace, anointing, protection, provision and all that will enable us to overcome the works of the devil in our lives and those we’re commissioned to serve.

8. Scripture Against Direct Confrontation

CHAPTER 8. SCRIPTURE AGAINST

1. "Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm: 'Can you pull in the leviathan with a fishhook or tie down his tongue with a rope? Can you put a cord through his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook? Will he keep begging you for mercy? Will he speak to you with gentle words? Will he make an agreement with you for you to take him as your slave for life? Can you make a pet of him like a bird or put him on a leash for your girls? Will traders barter for him? Will they divide him up among the merchants? Can you fill his hide with harpoons or his head with fishing spears? **If you lay a hand on him, you will remember the struggle and never do it again! Any hope of subduing him is false; the mere sight of him is overpowering. No one is fierce enough to rouse him. Who then is able to stand against me? Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me,**'" Job 40:6, Job 41:1-11.

Easton's Bible Dictionary says Leviathan means in Hebrew, "twisted,' 'coiled.' In Job 3:8, Revised Version, and marg. of Authorized Version, it denotes the dragon which, according to Eastern tradition, is an enemy of light; in (Job) 41:1 the crocodile is meant; in Psalms 104:26 it 'denotes any large animal that moves by writhing or wriggling the body, the whale, the monsters of the deep.'"

It denotes a serpent like animal. No other spiritual being apart from Satan represents the serpent. Beginning from Genesis to Revelation the serpent and dragon represent Satan or his agents. In the passage above the Lord says, "If you lay a hand on him, you will remember the struggle and never do it again! Any hope of subduing him is false; the mere sight of him is overpowering. No one is fierce enough to rouse him."

The Lord concludes this long imagery of Satan saying, "Nothing on earth is his equal- a creature without fear. He looks down on all that are haughty; he is king over all that are proud," Job 41:33-34.

Satan is therefore not our equal even though "God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus," (Ephesians 2:6-7). God gave us authority over demons yet this authority has its context. It's not a blank check to go out and bombard evil spirits in thin air and anywhere we like. In case you haven't read the chapter the nature of our authority is covered in chapter 2, "Our Territory and Nature of Our Christian Authority."

Satan is God's enemy yet God did not assign us to rule over him. Otherwise we would be contradicting scriptures like the one being discussed from the book of Job. In this life we remain "a little lower than the angels," Hebrews 2:7. This includes fallen angels. My book *Breaking Curses, Including Genera-*

tional Curses has more info on the work of angels (see the book's Chapter 6 "The Nature of Angels: God's Angels and Fallen Angels").

Only God deals directly with Leviathan. In the scripture above God asked Job two questions, "Who then is able to stand against me? Who has a claim against me that I must pay?"

He then answered the questions by saying, "Everything under heaven belongs to me."

God is in control of everything, including over Satan. He's the one who created Satan as his angel. When Satan chose to rebel it did not reduce God's power over him. Satan does not have any claim over any matter even over areas he would appropriately claim legal grounds. If God denies him there's nothing Satan can do about it.

Thus God is in control over Leviathan (Satan) in the spirit realm. It's not our business to attempt to control and issue commands against Satan. It's a recipe for disaster as the scripture above says, "If you lay a hand on him, you will remember the struggle and never do it again!"

God will completely slay Leviathan on Judgment day. "In that day, the Lord will punish with his sword, his fierce, great and powerful sword, Leviathan the gliding serpent, Leviathan the coiling serpent; he will slay the monster of the sea," Isaiah 27:1.

Our realm of authority assigns us to deal indirectly with Leviathan. We see this in the way Christ exercised his authority and dealt against the works of Leviathan in people. He preached the gospel that made the deception and false beliefs in people to be cast out by the truth.

The only exception is when casting out or expelling evil spirits living in people. Here we have the authority to speak directly to them and command them to come out of people.

This is the realm of authority where our Lord said, "I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you," Luke 10:19. Notice that Jesus said these words soon after the seventy-two disciples "returned with joy and said, 'Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name,'" (v.17). He then replied to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven," (v.18).

He said the famous words when they returned from casting out evil spirits living in people. The context of authority constituted their work of casting out evil spirits living in people.

Outside this context we are merely giving ourselves authority over the enemy that we were never granted. The consequences are severe as the book of Job says: "If you lay a hand on him, you will remember the struggle and never do it again! Any hope of subduing him is false; the mere sight of him is overpowering. No one is fierce enough to rouse him," Job 41:8-10.

Even our Lord Jesus used indirect principles assigned to us during his time on the earthly realm (when he came in human form). He was made a little

8. Scripture against Direct Confrontation

lower than the angels and thus had to follow the authority structure. The story changed after his resurrection.

He now has full authority over Satan in both the heavenly and earthly realms. “We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor ...” Hebrews 2:9.

2. *“These dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings. 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!” 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,” Jude 1:8-10.*

This passage has been explained in chapter 2, “Our Territory and Nature of Our Christian Authority.”

3. *“Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. 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,” 2 Peter 2:10-12*

This passage has been explained in the chapter on “Our Territory and Nature of Our Christian Authority.”

9: Our Weapons for Spiritual Warfare

CHAPTER 9: Weapons for our Spiritual Warfare

The following are among the major weapons of spiritual warfare. As the scriptures say these weapons of spiritual warfare look simple but are powerful in overcoming the enemy.

Please note the focus of the 20 “weapons” listed. All, except one, focus on God and us doing our part. There is only one exceptional “weapon” that directly targets the devil - weapon #4 -Exercising authority over unclean spirits. This involves casting out evil spirits dwelling in people (see chapter on Exception for Direct Confrontation).

The rest of the 19 weapons of spiritual warfare focus on God and us doing our part. They are by no means exhaustive. Other “weapons for spiritual warfare” can be found in the scriptures and can be added to them. However they all focus on God or us doing our part.

This is not to say we fight God. It implies that God takes care of any obstacles in our lives as we abide in him. Our weapons for spiritual warfare are therefore “weapons of righteousness” (2 Corinthians 6:7) that represent to God that we’ve done our part for him to confront the enemy on our behalf in the spirit realm.

This may come as a surprise since we expect weapons of warfare to be used directly against enemy forces and territory. The case is a bit complex in the realm of the spirit because there is one group of forces in the natural realm and another in the spiritual.

In the natural realm there is us, God’s servants on one side and on the other there are people knowingly or unknowingly being used by the devil, our main enemy. In the spiritual realm there is God almighty and his entire government of angels in their various roles and ranks. On the other spiritual realm side is the devil and his entire alliance of fallen angels in their various roles and ranks.

Explaining how and why the war rages may be another lengthy topic with its own limitations. The only important matter to note is that we have the entire heavenly government on our side including our Lord Jesus who stands as our intercessor (Romans 8:34) and our advocate in heaven’s highest court (1 John 2:1, Job 16: 19-20). Our main concern here is the part we, as God’s servants, play in this war. The scripture has laid this out quite clearly.

Most of what we see from the scripture is that the battle is his and our concern is to focus on him rather than on Satan. In fact, Satan’s influence over

the outcome of any battle is so insignificant that he's the one to be pitied for having started any battle – if only we do our part.

That is why the scripture says we're more than conquerors in any battle we may encounter. "In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 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," Rom 8:37-39.

Thus the distortion that Satan is the focus in any battle ought to be totally demolished. This has been explained extensively in this book.

Our Weapons of Spiritual Warfare

1. Prayer – (among weapons of spiritual warfare against all forms of evil, including sin, real failure, walking outside God's will)

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But *I have prayed for you*, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers," Luke 22:31-32.

"I (Paul) urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who *desires all* men be *saved* and come to the knowledge and truth," 1 Timothy 2:1-4.

"I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth." Isaiah 62:6-7.

"The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects," James 5:16 (our righteousness is in Christ Jesus: "Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption," 1 Corinthians 1:30.

"When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and *pray* and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place," 2 Chronicles 7:13-15.

*"Submit to God and be at peace with him... *You will pray to him, and he will hear you*... He will deliver even the one who is not innocent, who will be *delivered through the cleanness of your hands*," Job 22: 21,27,30.

"A time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the

9. Our Weapons of Spiritual Warfare

Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth,” John 4:23-24.

“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. 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*,” Romans 8:26-27.

*“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples,” John 15:7-8.

*“The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous,” Proverbs 15:29.

*“When men are brought low and you say, ‘Lift them up!’ then he will save the downcast. He will deliver *even one who is not innocent*, who will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands,” Job 22:29-30.

2. The Word of God -the sword of the Spirit and the belt of truth– (among weapons of spiritual warfare for evangelism and self defense weapon against ignorance, deception, false doctrines, spiritual poverty, sin, and against walking outside God’s will)

3. Fasting -(among weapons of spiritual warfare against heavy oppression that prayer alone may not overcome)

“*When* (not, if or in case) you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you,” Matthew 6:17-18.

“His disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it (the demon) out” And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting,” Mark 9:28-29, Matthew 17: 21, (KJV, ISV).

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter-- when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I,” Isaiah 58:6-9.

4. Casting out unclean spirits living in people (not in thin air) (Matthew 10:1, Mark 6:7,13, 16:17-18, Luke 9:1-2). Notice that this is the only area we have any direct confrontation with evil spirits. It's the only area we have believers' authority over evil spiritual forces. Any other role that works as spiritual warfare involves our focus on God and doing our part of walking in obedience.

*"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work," 1 John 3:8.

*"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you," John 20:21.

*"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him," Acts 10:38.

*"Anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father," John 14:12

*"From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it," Matthew 11:12

*"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you," Luke 10:19.

*"Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's," 2 Chronicles 20:15.

"The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name," Luke 10:17.

5. Walking in obedience and consecration -the breastplate of righteousness- (among our weapons of spiritual warfare against sin)

*"Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams," 1 Samuel 15:22.

*"Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well," Matthew 6:33-34

*"This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word," Isaiah 66:2.

*"You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise," Psalm 51:16-17.

"When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place," 2 Chronicles 7:13-15.

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*“If my people would but *listen to me*, if Israel would follow my ways, *how quickly would I subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes*,” Psalm 81:13-14.

*“Submit to God and be at peace with him... You will pray to him, and he will hear you... He will deliver even the one who is not innocent, who will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands,” Job 22: 21,27,30.

6. Walking in love, repentance and forgiveness -the shoes of the gospel of peace- (among our weapons of warfare against curses, sickness and hatred)

In Love: “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another,” John 13:35.

*“If I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:2-3

*“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers,” 1 John 3:16

“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law,” Romans 13:8

*“Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven” Matthew, 5:20.

*In Repentance and Mercy (to God and to one another):

*“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness ...” Lament. 3: 22-23.

*“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need,” Hebrews 4:16

*“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy,” Matt. 5:7

*“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,” Mat 6:12

*“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you...For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you,” Luke 6:36-38.

Healing through Repentance

*“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed,” James 5:16.

*“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,” Psalms 103:1-3.

7. Walking in fellowship- (among our weapons of spiritual warfare against spiritual unfruitfulness, spiritual weakness, , spiritual poverty, sin, deception)

8. Walking in agreement- (among our weapons of spiritual warfare against division, conflict, unanswered prayers, and so on.)

*In Word: "He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity," Proverbs 21:23.

*"The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit," Proverbs 18:21.

*"To man belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the reply of the tongue," Proverbs 16:1.

*"As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very things I heard you say," Numbers 14:28.

*In Deed: "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them," Matthew 18:19-20.

*"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work. If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!" Ecclesiastes 4:9-10.

*Agreement with the Lord makes three cords: "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken," Ecclesiastes 4:11.

*"Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses," Deut 19:15, Mat 18:16, 2 Corinthians 13:1.

9. Walking in humility- (among our weapons of spiritual warfare against pride, egoism, arrogance, disrespect)

*"The meek (humble) will inherit the land and enjoy great peace," Psalm 37:11.

*"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth," Mat 5:5

*"Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession," Psalm 2:8.

*"And you will be called priests of the Lord... You will feed on the wealth of nations," Isaiah 61:6 (Nations' wealth is our inheritance for our priestly duties).

*"A sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous," Proverbs 13:22 (the righteous use it for the gospel).

*"Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life," Pr 22:4.

*"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he shall exalt you," James 4:10

*"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble," Jas 4:6, 1 Pet 5:5

*"A man's life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his steps," Jer 10:23.

*"This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word," Isaiah 66:2

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*“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise,” Ps 51:17.

*“Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand,” 1 Chron 29:14.

10. Walking in submission- (among our weapons of spiritual warfare against self-ambition, self-glory, pride, disrespect, competition)

Submission to God (By submitting to his Word and the His Spirit)

*“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you,” James 4:7.

*“Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God,” Rom. 8:14

*“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control,” Gal 5:18, 22-23.

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; without me you can do nothing,” John 15:5 = “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” Zec 4:6.

*“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God,” Ephesians 5:18-21.

“Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!” Hebrews 12:7-9.

Submission to One Another and to those in Authority (Especially to Spiritual Leaders)

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ,” Ephesians 5:21

“It is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience,” Romans 13:5.

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you,” Hebrews 13:17

“Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men,” 1 Peter 2:13.

11. Holy Communion-body and blood of Jesus– (among our weapons of spiritual warfare against all forms of evil, blood covering refuge, abiding in Christ and cleansing oneself)-

Holy Communion

“For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him,” John 6:55-56.

“The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes,” 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding,” Ephesians 1:7-8.

“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death,” Rev 12:11

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding,” Ephesians 1:7-8.

“Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith,” 1 John 5:4.

“The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!” Hebrews 9:13-14.

12. Anointing with oil– (among our weapons of spiritual warfare against sickness, evil spirits, weakness and other burdens). The oil has no divine magical power. It is our faith and obedience to use it when and were necessary that enables God to do the miraculous work.

“When (not, if or in case) you fast, *put oil on your head* and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you,” Matthew 6:17-18.

“They drove out many demons and *anointed many sick people with oil and healed them*,” Mark 6:13.

“Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord,” James 5:14

9. Our Weapons of Spiritual Warfare

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has *anointed* me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,” Luke 4:18, Isaiah 61:1

“How God *anointed* Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him,” Acts 10:38

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of *the anointing*,” Isaiah 10:27 (KJV)

“He (Moses) poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed him to consecrate him,” Leviticus 8:12

“Take the anointing oil and anoint him by pouring it on his head. Bring his sons and dress them in tunics and put headbands on them. Then tie sashes on Aaron and his sons. The priesthood is theirs by a lasting ordinance. In this way you shall ordain Aaron and his sons,” Exodus 29:7-9

“And take some of the blood on the altar (now done by taking Holy communion) and some of the anointing oil and sprinkle it on Aaron and his garments and on his sons and their garments. Then he and his sons and their garments will be consecrated,” Exodus 29:21

“Anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them so they may serve me as priests. 31 Say to the Israelites, ‘This is to be my sacred anointing oil for the generations to come. Do not pour it on men's bodies and do not make any oil with the same formula. It is sacred, and you are to consider it sacred. Whoever makes perfume like it and whoever puts it on anyone other than a priest must be cut off from his people.’” Exodus 30:30-33

“You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever,” Psalm 23:5-6

“He allowed no one to oppress them; for their sake he rebuked kings: *Do not touch my anointed ones*; do my prophets no harm,” Psalm 105:14-15.

13. Praise and thanksgiving– (among our weapons of spiritual warfare against ingratitude, murmuring, complaining, a comparison attitude, doubt, doubt, fear, the “spirit of despair” (Isaiah 61:4)). This includes listening to praise and worship music, prayers of thanksgiving for answered prayers, prayers of praise and worship, and maintaining a thanksgiving lifestyle.

*“May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron, to carry out the sentence written against them. This is the glory of all his saints,” Ps 149:6-9

*“Since my youth or God you have taught me and this day I will declare your marvelous deeds” Ps 71:17 (As spiritual children we can reflect on the time since we got saved and how God has kept us since our spiritual youth. Our physical age has little and no relevance to our spiritual lives)

*“O come let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation: **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving,**” Ps 95:1-2

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance (patience). The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4: 4-7

“I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all men” 1 Tim 2:1

“Do not be grieved for, the joy of the Lord is your strength,” Nehemiah 8:10.

14. Positive confession and guarding the tongue –(among our weapons of spiritual warfare against pessimism, self-proclaimed calamities (spiritual, social, physical, material, and so on.) and weapon for creating desired matters)

(Luke 6: 45), mountains (obstacles in life which may be physical, circumstances, emotional, spiritual, social, financial -Matthew 17:20, 21:21), calamity (Proverbs 21: 23, 13: 3), loosing problems (Matthew 16:19) death (spiritual, physical, social, material, financial-Proverbs 18:20-21), withholding God's blessings, ruining destiny (James 3: 3-6), Proverbs 13:2, Proverbs 18:7

15. Generous giving to the work in the body of Christ – (among our weapons of spiritual warfare against greed, selfishness, insufficiency, poverty)

*“If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame;” Isaiah 58:10-11.

*“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine,” Proverbs 3:9-10

*“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops...says the Lord Almighty,” Malachi 3:10-11 (NB. Tithing not required in New T but the biblical principles of giving to God's kingdom interests still apply today. My book on deliverance, related to this one, titled *Major Christian Deliverance*

9. Our Weapons of Spiritual Warfare

Principles: Keys for Self-deliverance and Ministry, has a detailed chapter on financial deliverance and healing that is helping many.

*“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up (in heaven) treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life,” 1 Timothy 6:18-19

*“The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it,” Proverbs 10:22.

16. The name of Jesus and our position in Christ—the helmet of salvation—(among our weapons of spiritual warfare against every curse and work of the enemy)

The name of Jesus

“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and ***gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth***, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father,” Philipians 2:9-11

*“The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in ***your name***,” Luke 10:17

*“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” Revelation 5:12

Our position in Christ

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,” 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death,” Romans 8:1-2

*“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit,” Galatians 3:13-14

*“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God,” 2 Corinthians 5:21

“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. . . There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise,” Galatians 3:26,28-29

*“This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus,” Ephesians 3:6

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ... In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.,” Ephesians 1:3,7-8.

17. Faith-the spiritual shield– (among our weapons of spiritual warfare against doubt, fear, the “spirit of despair” (Isaiah 61:4), giving up, walking by sight, displeasing God)-

“Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint,” Isaiah 40:30-31.

18. Hardwork –(among our weapons of spiritual warfare against laziness, stagnation, neglecting utilizing or sharpening of given talents, weapon against lack of promotion (from God))

“The man with the two talents also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.’ His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’” Matthew 25:22-23.

19. Persistence –(among our weapons of spiritual warfare against impatience, despair, lack of commitment, lack of obligation)

“God “will give to each person according to what he has done.” To those who by *perseverance* in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger,” Romans 2:6-8.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up,” Galatians 6:9.

Luke 11:5-8

20. Planning –(among our weapons of spiritual warfare against purposelessness, lack of direction, fruitless plans God plants in our hearts, real failure, wasted resources (time, talents, strength, finances, and so on.), trial and error lifestyle).

“Commit your plans to God and they will succeed,” (Proverbs 16:6).

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed,” Proverbs 16:3.

“Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails,” Proverbs 19:21.

Appendix 1: Deliverance, Healing & Restoration Prayer

Appendix 1: “Deliver us from the evil one,” Matthew 6:12-13

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but **deliver us from the evil one**,” Mat 6:12-13 (NIV, ASV, NKJV, BBE).

INTRODUCTION

Please note that the following prayer is only a guide to seeking deliverance and healing from the erroneous spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings that advocate for direct confrontation against Satan. It’s not intended to replace your own devotional prayers. It was compiled to make it easier for believers who may not understand how they may seek deliverance, healing and restoration.

You’ll notice that it’s heavy on scripture, and deliberately so. This brings more understanding on the extensive backing we have from scripture on deliverance and restoration. It increases our level of faith and understanding on the parts God expects us to fulfill before he can intervene.

For example, he wants us to forgive others before we can receive his mercies. He wants us to walk in obedience before we can see the disobedience of others to God’s will overcome.

A prayer of appeal like this one is what we would categorize as our true spiritual warfare prayer and deliverance prayer. It is prayer directed at God, seeking his intervention in our battles in life. It is an indirect weapon of spiritual warfare and deliverance that seeks God to directly deal with forces that only he has the power and authority to confront.

When God intervenes Satan has no option but to follow God’s decree. That’s why our focus on God is the only solution and the only true spiritual warfare.

Like Daniel, we fervently confront God to intervene and deal with principalities wrestling against us. Once God acts the affliction in the area of petition is removed. As God’s will is fulfilled we indirectly overcome the evil forces that were the source of the problems. No direct confrontation involved on our part. The Lord is the one that delivers “us from the evil one,” Matthew 6:12-13. We cannot deliver ourselves without his intervention.

The prayer can also be applied to other areas requiring deliverance, healing and restoration –personally or corporately. It’s however framed to be personal more than corporate. No need of feeling guilty about personal prayers –unless that’s all you pray about.

Please bear with any repetitions or lack of flow in some areas. It’s a prayer, like any prayer, written or unwritten, where English grammar is expected to take a secondary role. Though he wants us to ask the Lord knows what we mean and need even before asking (Matt 6:8). The Lord bless you.

It is okay to repeat this prayer as many times as you wish. It can also be helpful just by reading through it over and over again, week after week, just to grasp the scriptures relating to deliverance, healing and restoration.

Repentance to God and Forgiving of Others

Our Father and God, I come before you in the name of Jesus Christ. Lord, I now realize that I was not following your word in regard to spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings that advocate for direct confrontation against Satan. I realize I was merely slandering spiritual beings by attempting to confront them directly.

Your word says, “Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand,” (2 Peter 2:10-12).

I confess all my sins, including the ones involving the slander of celestial (heavenly) beings through practicing what I assumed were biblical spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings. Please forgive me for behaving so arrogantly and slandering celestial beings.

May the work of your son Jesus cover for all my sins. Thank you that the work of Christ, who as your word says, “has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father,” (Revelation 1:5-6).

Forgive my debts as I have completely forgiven the debts of all those who wronged me in thoughts, words or actions. These include some family members, relatives, friends, workmates, other acquaintances, strangers, those who persecuted or currently persecute me and even people that seem not to deserve forgiveness like thieves, criminals and so on. I humbly and obediently say this in line with the word of my master, Jesus Christ: “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing,” (Luke 23:34).

Having forgiven them, I therefore declare like Stephen that, “Lord, do not hold this against them,” (Acts 4:60). Let none of them pay for their sins but make yourself known to them so that they partake of your salvation. May you grant them salvation like you did to Paul who supervised the stoning of Steven.

Deliverance, Healing and Restoration

Lord you alone can quantify the extent Satan has been frustrating my life as a result of practicing the erroneous spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings. The following are some of the recent losses and hindrances that have been and some still are being experienced:

Whatever doors that as a result of my sins gave access to the enemy to attack me spiritually, socially, physically, materially and in any other way, I ask that you shut them from now onwards. May you bring healing and restoration in all the areas that were damaged or destroyed by the enemy as I humbly come praying before you and turning from all my wicked ways.

Thank you that you're bringing healing and restoration as your word says, "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place," (2 Chronicles 7:13-15).

Lord I believe from your word that certain destructive matters have no basis to be in and around my life any more. There door of legal access is now closed after stopping the erroneous practices, seeking your mercy and applying the true biblical spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings. Whatever Satan attempts against my life is now an attempt to steal what does not rightly belong to him. Your word says, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly," John 10:10.

In the name of Jesus I'm asking you to restrain Satan from prolonging his season of oppression and destruction over my life. Being your child, through Christ, his time of dominion and influence in my life has past forever. Lord, please let the finished work of your Son Jesus bring the intended liberty in every area of my life. Only you have the power to ensure that the weapons of the evil fallen angels in the spirit realm do not prosper against me and those I'm interceding for.

Lord I pray like Jehoshaphat, "O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. O our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it

forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?... But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir... O our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you," 2 Chronicles 20:6-7,10,12.

May you take judgment in my favor and enable me to live a victorious life. Your word says "I was watching and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom," Daniel 7:21-22.

May such a judgment in my favor apply to all the areas the enemy was and is making war against me. Father, please ensure that Satan is overcome for all his criminal activities against every area of my life that in one way or another, has been or is still victim of manipulations from Satan and his agents through suffering from certain oppressions, hindrances and bondages.

Your word says he is "the accuser of our brothers (all believers on earth), who accuses them before our God day and night," Revelation 12:10 (*emphasis added*). Thank you that your son Jesus is representing every case over my life against Satan's accusations. Your word says, "We have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One," 1 John 2:1.

It also says, "Because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens," (Hebrews 7:24-26).

Your servant Job was able to declare concerning his affliction, "Even now my witness is in heaven; my advocate is on high. My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God," Job 16: 19-20. Father, I too say my Lord Jesus is my witness, for he is the one that died for my sins so that I can be set free from the devil. As my Witness stands beside you please look into every case in my life that the enemy is accusing me for, has brought suffering for or wants me to suffer for.

Heavenly Father, your word says, "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death," Revelation 12:11. May my appeal to you be binding in heaven and may you settle matters in my life in such a way that Satan and his agents are completely overcome in all the areas of my life. I'm presenting to you the following as my testimony and case against Satan and his agents over every area of my life that's experienced losses and hindrances:

(cross out the ones you have no word of testimony --you can only lie to yourself here)

1) *I've repented to you, God, for my involvement in slandering and speaking abusively against celestial beings through what I thought were*

spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings. You've forgiven me for this sin. The penalty or consequence for this sin, like every other sin, was paid for on the cross by your Son Jesus and therefore the enemy has no claim or basis to bring any accusations or attacks any more.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness,” 1 John 1:9,

“To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father,” Revelation 1:6

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree,’” Galatians 3:13-14,

2) _____

3) _____

4) *I used a lot of my time to grow in spiritual matters and being involved in matters that are essential to the body of Christ. I've been trusting you Lord to add the material necessities in your own time and measure so that pursuing them does not distract or interfere with seeking your kingdom interests first and your righteousness,*

“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things (material and basic needs) will be given to you as well,” (Matthew 6:33)

2) *Been faithful in my income to kingdom and ministry matters.*

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops...says the Lord Almighty,” Malachi 3:10-11,

“If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame;” Isaiah 58:10-11,

“He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done,” Proverbs 19:17

5) *Where I've fallen short the blood of Jesus has covered and cleansed me from all sins and their consequences since I've repented from all sins and continue to walk in repentance.*

“To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father,” Revelation 1:6

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree,’” Galatians 3:13-14,

Major Spiritual Warfare Principles: Biblical Do's and Don'ts of Warfare

“If we walk in the light.. the blood of Jesus, his Son purifies us from all sins,”
1 John 1:7,

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness,” 1 John 1:9,

6) *I have completely forgiven the debts of all those who wronged me in thoughts, words or actions. These include some family members, relatives, friends, workmates, other acquaintances, strangers, those who persecuted or currently persecute me and even people that seem not to deserve forgiveness like thieves, criminals and so on.*

“If you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sin,” Matthew 6:14-15,

7) *I'm now in Christ and thus under no condemnation from Satan, the accuser of the brethren. He now has no valid case against me since the blood of Jesus and his work on the cross paid for all my sins and their consequences,*

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death,” Romans 8:1-2,

John 1:9,

“To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father,” Revelation 1:6

8) *I've Jesus Christ as my advocate, representing every case in my life and will ensure every case works to my good and that justice prevails against the enemy,*

“If anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense-- Jesus Christ, the Righteous One,” 1 John 2:1,

“Even now my witness is in heaven; my advocate is on high. My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God,” Job 16: 19-20,

“Will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly,” Luke 18:7-8,

9)

Our Father and God you said, “No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?” (Isaiah 43:13). Thank you that Satan can never reverse whatever you decree over my life including my salvation, fulfilling my callings and restoring all that he stole, killed or destroyed in my family, career and ministry, my time, finances, my body, spirit, soul and all that you entrusted me with.

In the name of Jesus please cause the evil spirits to be powerless over my life from now onwards. Your word says, “The Lord will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven,” Deuteronomy 28:7.

May your angels pursue and overcome them as your word says: “May those who plot my ruin be turned back in dismay. May they be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the Lord driving them away; may their path be dark and slippery with the angel of the Lord pursuing them.” May your angels drive away every evil spirit that has been working against my life.

Please also reveal to me areas opening doors for the enemy to bring attacks. I ask according to your word: “Break the arm of the wicked that would not be found out,” Psalm 10:15. By your grace through Christ Jesus remove and enable me to do my part in overcoming these areas.

Help me do away all inequity. Lord I ask like the Psalmist: “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law... Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared. Take away the disgrace I dread, for your laws are good,” Psalm 119:18, 36-39. Turn my heart towards your statutes and away from selfish gain and worthless things in your eyes.

You said, “If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings,” Isaiah 58:9-12.

Lord as I walk according to your word please repair and restore what has been destroyed in all the areas of my life be it in my family, career and ministry, my time, finances, my body, spirit, soul and all that you entrusted me with.

Your word says in Daniel 7:21-22, “I was watching and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the

Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.” May such a judgment in my favor apply to all the areas the enemy was making war against me. Thank you for taking judgment in my favor and enabling me to possess the kingdom. Father please ensure that Satan is judged for every accusation he continues to bring before you, night and day.

Thank you Father for sending your Holy Spirit to come and live in me. Your Word says, “Don’t you know that you yourself are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple,” (1 Corinthians 3: 16-17). Thank you that you will destroy and overcome anyone including agents of Satan if they try to destroy your temple. May you cleanse me, your spiritual temple from all evil and deliver me from the evil one. May I be a house of prayer and worship that you can use to touch the lives of others in whatever way.

May the penalty and vengeance against Satan also include you anointing me with your Spirit in such a way that you’ll use me to bring massive destruction against Satan’s works and control in the lives of people. May I be one of your elect whom you’ll use to deliver multitudes from Satan’s works and control, be it in their bodies, souls, spirits, families and marriages, callings and vocations, finances, and all that the enemy has had control of. May it be an equipping for effective work in the area of my calling.

Your word encourages us to ask for whatever matters we desire and believe are consistent with your will. Our Lord Jesus said, “Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against any one; so that your father also who is in heaven may forgive your trespasses,” (Mark 11:24-26). He also said, “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples,” (John 15:7-8). The following are among the major areas I’m asking for your provision.

(Please be as specific as possible on matters applying to you –spiritual, material, social or physical matters)

a) Spiritual Matters

1) *For character change that you transform me to not be self driven but to be fully led by your Holy Spirit and thereby fully produce his fruit and character of “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control,” (Galatians 5:22-23),*

“And this is the confidence which we have in him, that if we ask anything according to His Will he hears us,” 1 John 5:14

Appendix 1: Deliverance, Healing & Restoration Prayer

2) For the grace to grow and mature in using given spiritual gifts (e.g. wisdom, discernment, interpretation, healing, and so on, i.e. gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit).

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully,” Romans 12:6-8

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 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,” 1 Corinthians. 12:7-11

“We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us,” 1 Corinthians 2:12

“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy,” 1 Corinthians. 14:1

“Settle it therefore in your minds, not to meditate before hand how to answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict,” Luke 21:14-15.

“Work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure” (Philippians 2:12-13).

3) *Open doors of being used by you Lord in ministry oriented work on a full or part time basis, as purposed per time and matter throughout my life,*

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

“How can they preach unless they are sent?” Romans 10:15

4) *Working with the right organization or team at every stage of my life,*

“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus,” Phillipians 1:6

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed,” Proverbs 16:3

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will advise you and watch over you,” Psalm 32:8.

5) *For the grace and anointing for witnessing and all commissioned obligations, including obligations to fast when necessary and interceding for certain people consistently if required. Also adequate preparation (spiritually, socially, materially and physically) for service, stewardship or leadership*

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth,” Acts 1:8

Appendix 1: Deliverance, Healing & Restoration Prayer

“They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them,” Mark 6:13

“Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord,” James 5:14

“Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint,” Isaiah 40:30-31

“Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the Lord delivers him in times of trouble. The Lord will protect him and preserve his life; he will bless him in the land and not surrender him to the desire of his foes. The Lord will sustain him on his sickbed and restore him from his bed of illness,” Psalms 41:1-3

d) Material Matters

1) Open doors of financing of all obligations (esp. home bills, family needs, tuition where and when needed and funds for helping out in the Body of Christ)

“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things (material and basic needs) will be given to you as well,” Matthew 6:33.

“My God shall supply all my need according to his riches in Glory in Christ Jesus,” Phillipians 4:19.

“Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the Lord delivers him in times of trouble. The Lord will protect him and preserve his life; he will bless him in the land and not surrender him to the desire of his foes. The Lord will sustain him on his sickbed and restore him from his bed of illness,” Psalms 41:1-3

“The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom,” Deuteronomy 28:12-13

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops...says the Lord Almighty,” Malachi 3:10-11,

“He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done,” Proverbs 19:17

2) *Miraculous provision of finances and other needs in all areas of need..... (e.g. for studies, home or car purchase, spiritual projects/assignments, and so on.)*

“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things (material and basic needs) will be given to you as well,” Matthew 6:33.

“My God shall supply all my need according to his riches in Glory in Christ Jesus,” Phillipians 4:19.

“Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves (bundles of crop harvest) with him,” Psalm 126:5-6.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously... And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work,” 2 Corinthians 9:6,8

“If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will **satisfy your needs** in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame;” Isaiah 58:10-11,

e) General Matters

1) *For the grace, anointing and resources in fulfilling according to your will all matters, big or small, known or unknown, in my life, my family's lives, and other people's lives I've been commissioned to serve,*

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen,” Ephesians 3:20

d) Thanksgiving

Thank you heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, that I am now set free from any influence of Satan and all his agents. Thank you that you will fulfill according to your perfect will the matters I've committed to you. By faith I believe it and obtain all your promises for my life and the lives of others. I'll therefore be thanking you that the matters are already fulfilled even though I may not currently see their fulfillment. I'll walk by faith and not by sight, depending on your faithfulness and your word, not on circumstances.

Please overcome anything that stands as a hindrance in the answers to my prayers, including areas of unbelief, compromise and disobedience in any area of my life. Enable me not to wonder in a wilderness because of unbelief, complaining, ingratitude, compromise or disobedience or anything that may bring stagnation in any area of my life and the lives of others. Thank you that it's your desire that I live according to your perfect will and live as your worthy servant, fulfilling all that you purposed to fulfill in and through me.

Thank you that no evil shall by any means befall me because you are now my refuge. Your Word assures me of your protection saying, "Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the most high your habitation, no evil shall befall you, nor shall scourge come near your tent. For He will give his angels charge over you in all your ways; they (the angels) will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent," Psalm 91:10–13. Thank you for giving your angels charge over me in all my ways. Thank you that, through your Son Jesus Christ, Satan who is the great serpent mentioned above and his agents are now powerless over me. They can do me no harm.

Thank you that Satan cannot torment me because I'm now your blessed child. My family and everything around me is blessed from now and forever by you. Thank you for your word that says, "Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in his commands. His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever. Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man. Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice. Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered forever. He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. His heart is secure, he will have no fear; in the end he will look in triumph on his foes. He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor, his righteousness endures forever; his horn will be lifted high in honor," Psalm 112:1-9.

Our Heavenly Father and God, now that I am free from Satan's illegal influence I ask you in the name of Jesus that you sanctify me. Set me apart for your use as your servant and child. Please let your Holy Spirit be my ultimate guide, leading me to all truth. Seal me with your Spirit in Jesus' name so that I'll be able to clearly hear the voice of Jesus my Master, throughout the days of my life. I pray like Jabez, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain," 1 Chronicles 4:10

Thank you Father for sending your Holy Spirit to come and live in me. Your Word says in 1 Corinthians 3: 16-17, "Don't you know that you yourself are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple." Thank you that you will destroy and overcome anyone including agents of Satan if they try to destroy your temple. May you overcome him and destroy his works against me and his attempts of defiling me, your temple, in whatever area of my life spiritually, socially, materially, physically and in all areas you entrusted me with.

Thank you for hearing my prayer Heavenly Father. May you accomplish exceedingly more than all I have asked and said in your hearing. May it be as Ephesians 3:20 says: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." In the name of Jesus Christ I pray and thank you, Amen.

Appendix 2: Other Authors on Spiritual Warfare Principles

Appendix 2: Other Authors and Ministries Sounding the Alarm on Spiritual Warfare and Deliverance Principles

Our website has tones of resources on spiritual warfare and deliverance principles, including free audio sermons and online books. Our website on spiritual warfare and deliverance matters is SpiritualWarfareDeliverance.com. You can access it through JesusWorkMinistry.com the main website for Jesus Work Ministry. JesusWorkMinistry.com is interlinked with SpiritualWarfareDeliverance.com.

Below are other websites and ministries, among many, that focus on distinguishing between true and false spiritual warfare and deliverance teachings. They may be worth visiting for more content and writing on spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry.

Their views are what we have embraced as spiritual warfare throughout history. It was only recently, in the early 1980's, that a few of our fellow evangelicals began to claim a new understanding to scripture.

On the other hand, a few of the listed websites and ministries are too critical of those that follow misinterpreted teachings to the point of labeling them as cults. As you've found in this book we do not agree with this approach of demonizing fellow believers in the body of Christ.

Please see our website SpiritualWarfareDeliverance.com for updates on selected websites and spiritual warfare related matters.

1. Modern Myths about Satan and Spiritual Warfare, by David Servant
In this online book, Modern Myths about Satan and Spiritual Warfare, Servant covers on the major errors that surround the wrong spiritual warfare doctrine. The chapters are arranged along myths on misinterpreted scripture and wrong doctrine.

http://www.shepherdserve.org/spiritual_warfare.htm

2. Strange Spiritual Warfare, by David W. Cloud
About binding and loosing Rev. Cloud says, "The devil can be resisted (James 4:7), but he cannot be bound today (1 Thess. 2:18 -We wanted to come to you--certainly I, Paul, did, again and again--but Satan stopped us)). Far from being bound, the devil is "walking about seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). He will not be bound until he is cast into the Bottomless Pit when Jesus Christ returns to earth (Revelation 20). Ephesians 6 describes the whole armor of God against the devil, and absolutely nothing is said about binding the devil or identifying territorial spirits or any of the other practices in today's spiritual warfare movement..."

<http://wayoflife.org/fbns/strangespiritual.htm>

3. The Spiritual Warfare Movement, by Gary Gilley

Pastor Gilley covers on many areas of the assumed spiritual warfare. One of them is on what has been labeled as “Warfare Prayer.” Gilley says “Since when are we to address Satan in prayer?... This concept is not drawn from the Scriptures. And when did we get the authority to command demons to do anything? Even Michael would only say to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you” (Jude 9)...”

Part 1: http://www.svchapel.org/Resources/Articles/read_articles.asp?id=39

Part 2: http://www.svchapel.org/Resources/Articles/read_articles.asp?id=40

Part 3: http://www.svchapel.org/Resources/Articles/read_articles.asp?id=41

4. The Dishonoring of God in Popular Spiritual Warfare Teaching, by Bob DeWaay

Pastor DeWaay points out that, “The church was never commissioned to control the heavenlies. Consider this: Jesus told Peter that Satan had demanded from God "permission" to sift Peter like wheat (Luke 22:31). God, in His sovereign oversight of the universe, gave it to Satan, but it only led to Peter's conversion and subsequent ministry. Once we are in charge of the heavenlies will Satan have to ask us rather than God for such permission? Does the church have sufficient knowledge, wisdom, and power to rule a realm of being that is only partially described in the Bible and to rule this realm for everyone's good?...”

<http://www.twincityfellowship.com/cic/articles/issue48.htm>

5. Do We Have All Authority? By Mike Oppenheimer

Oppenheimer examines the spiritual authority believers have been given in the light of beliefs that propose unlimited authority for believers.

<http://www.letusreason.org/Latrain16.htm>

6. Spiritual Warfare: Biblical Binding and Loosing, by Mike Oppenheimer

Oppenheimer covers on topics like Binding and Loosing, Believer's Authority, Biblical Strategy in (spiritual) Warfare. <http://www.letusreason.org/pent13.htm>

7. Confusion on Spiritual Warfare, by Link Hudson

Hudson says, “There is no mention of doing the warfare by yelling at spirits up in the air...If this type of 'spiritual warfare' were so wonderful, why didn't Jesus do it, or teach us to do it? Why didn't the apostles practice it? Why don't the scriptures mention anything about it?...”

http://www.housechurch.org/cgi-bin/ubbcbgi_hc/ultimatebb.cgi/ubb/get_topic/f/18/t/000010.html

8. Spiritual Warfare Evangelism: How Did We Get Here? By Dr. Orrel Steinkamp

In the article Steinkamp summarizes the teaching and background of what has been called geographical or territorial spiritual warfare.

<http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/orrel8.html>

9. Spiritual warfare - The true facts or fantasy?

A look at the new warfare techniques being taught in some of our evangelical circles.

<http://www.letusreason.org/Pent13.htm>

Appendix 2: Other Authors on Spiritual Warfare Principles

10. Deliverance and Spiritual Warfare, by Steve Fernandez, Pastor, Community Bible Church

This booklet is published in the Reformation and Revival Journal. Pastor Fernandez covers on the spiritual warfare topic with such chapters as 1. The Distinctives of the Deliverance Model: a) The Believer's Authority, b) Christians and Demon Possession, c) Binding and Commanding Satan. 2. The Dangers of the Deliverance Model: a) A Diminished View of Conversion, b) A Minimizing of Sin and Personal Responsibility, c) A Misdirecting of the Believer's Focus, and d) A Denial of the Sufficiency of Scripture.

http://www.cbcvallejo.org/Deliverance_and_Spiritual_Warfare_NoFrame.htm

11. Brief review of a book titled: Warfare Prayer: How To Seek God's Power and Protection in the Battle

To Build His Kingdom. Author: C. Peter Wagner. Reviewed by John Claeys Pastor

<http://www.faithalone.org/journal/bookreviews/wagner.htm>

12. Spiritual Warfare, by Clifford Denton

Denton writes that, "I am concerned that there may be a movement growing which has a very unreal view of prayer and spiritual gifts but which is, nevertheless, trying to conquer Satan with human effort. Such approaches are dangerous and, I am thinking more and more, unscriptural. There seems to be a wide gulf between the intimacy of prayer for brokenness, humility and need, expressed in the articles of this journal and the headstrong ideas of some who would take the world by forceful spiritual power..." <http://www.familyrestorationmagazine.org/tishrei/tishrei060.htm>

13. The Real Soul War: The Battle for Victorious Life & Relationships, by Sid Galloway

With detailed scriptural references Galloway covers on what real spiritual warfare is. A major focus is on spiritual warfare over relationships. Dr Galloway directs a ministry for families known as Soulcare Family Ministries.

http://www.soulcare.org/Bible%20Studies/Soul_War.htm

14. Just Give Me the Facts. Compiled by Renee Rodriguez

What is The New Apostolic Reformation? What is the Prophetic? What Is Strategic Level Spiritual Warfare? What About the Terms Used in Spiritual Warfare, What Do They Mean? What is Deliverance Ministry?

<http://www.agetwoage.org/ApostolicJustFacts1.htm>

15. True and False Salvation, by W.B. Howard

This is part of a Bible course by Endtime Ministries. Howard begins by distinguishing between true and false salvation. Then he moves on to distinguishing between true and false spiritual warfare. http://www.despatch.cth.com.au/BCU/Unit8_main2.htm

16. The Technology of Spiritual Warfare Evangelism, by Dr Orrel Steinkamp

"Mapping the spirit world and its internal organization is not the assignment of the church. The great commission is not, "Go into all the world and bring down principalities -- but rather "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every

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creature.” Mark 16:15. Our choice is very clear! We must follow the teachings of Jesus, and the practice of the Apostles as recorded in Scripture!...”

<http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/orrel9.html>

17. Territorial Warfare - Fact or Fiction? by Jeannette Haley, Gentle Shepherd Ministries

Haley covers on the teachings and background of what has been called geographical or territorial spiritual warfare.

<http://www.gentleshepherd.com/articles/warfare/territorialwarfare.htm>

18. Territorial Spirits and Spiritual Warfare: A Biblical Perspective, by Eric Villanueva

About Ephesians 6, Villanueva writes, “The weapons he lists for battle are: honesty, righteousness, witnessing, assurance of salvation, belief in God, and proficiency in the Scriptures. But wait, isn’t this simply obedient Christian living? Where’s the mystical mumbo jumbo - the direct encounter with the supernatural?...”

<http://www.equip.org/free/DS542.htm>

19. How Deliverance Ministries Lead People to Bondage, by Bob DeWaay
Pastor DeWaay writes from long experience in certain practices of deliverance ministry and spiritual warfare. <http://www.twincityfellowship.com/cic/articles/issue78.htm>

20. Misguided Focus on the Demonic: Commentary on Spiritual Mapping and Strategic-Level Spiritual Warfare, by Rev. Kent Philpott

<http://www.w3church.org/MisguidedDemonic.html>

21. My Beliefs About Spiritual Warfare, by John Paul Jackson

In this article, Pastor Jackson summarizes and defends what he wrote on spiritual warfare in his book, *Needless Casualties of War*. He says, “From the testimonies that our ministry receives, I am convinced that unnecessary heartache and harm is happening to many, simply because they are practicing spiritual warfare in a dangerous way...” Needless to say we do not agree with some extra-biblical teachings on the spirit realm that Pastor Jackson shares on his website and in other media.

<http://www.streamsministries.com/Warfare.html>

22. Charismatic Chaos - Part 6: The Third Wave by John F. MacArthur, Jr.
MacArthur, Jr. looks at the origins and development of what came to be know as the “Third Wave,” movement and its related teachings.

<http://www.biblebb.com/files/mac/chaos6.htm>

23. C. Peter Wagner - Quotes & Notes compiled by Sandy Simpson & Mike Oppenheimer

Lots of quotes that help trace the origins of the false teachings popularized by C. Peter Wagner and his followers. <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/wagnerquotes.html>

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About the Author



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2. Breaking Spiritual Strongholds and Healing the Wounded Spirit
3. Hearing the Voice of God and Fulfilling God's Purpose for Your Life
4. Major Spiritual Warfare Principles: Biblical Do's and Don'ts of Warfare
5. Breaking Occult Spells: Protection from Witchcraft and Occult Influences
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