

Spiritual Warfare

(a study from Steve Gregg's lectures)

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1) Introduction (lecture #1)

a) *Concept of spiritual warfare*

- i) Term not found in bible, but concept is easily found
 - (1) We see adversary from very beginning of bible (Genesis 3)
 - (a) He won that battle and has been seeking to do further damage ever since.
 - (b) There have been milestones and turning points along the way.
 - (i) Most notably the cross.
 - 1. Jesus accomplished a tremendous victory there.
 - 2. The battle is not yet completely over.
- ii) Motif of warfare is found throughout scripture
 - (1) OT had actual physical wars fought between God's people and pagan nations
 - (a) These represent something spiritual.
 - (i) All these pagan nations worshipped idols and false Gods
 - 1. Considered a worship of demons

1 Cor 10:19-20

19 What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? 20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God NKJV

- 2. Therefore, they served Satan by default.
- 3. Not all pagans did this
 - a. Job, Rahab, Ruth, etc.

- (b) Jews didn't have the victory of Christ in their past so they could not fight demonic powers directly as Christians can do today.
 - (i) Best they could do is to eliminate the human representatives of Satan's power.
 - 1. This is not what God ultimately desires. He wants all men to repent.

- (2) Christians have a very different type of warfare

Eph 6:12

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. NKJV

- (a) "Heavenly places" is frequently used in Ephesians.
 - (i) It's the spiritual realm.

b) *What is the nature of Spiritual warfare?*

- i) Possibly the best picture we get of this warfare is given in Revelation:

Rev 12

12:1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. 2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. 3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. 5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. 6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. 12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. 14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. 15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

NKJV

- (1) Symbolic language for the warfare we fight with Satan and his minions
 - (a) Initially there's warfare between Michael and Satan (and their angels)
 - (b) Satan is cast out of heaven, and the battle is continued on earth against the saints of God.

- (2) What's the time frame of this passage?
 - (a) Most people associate the casting out of Satan as the origin of Satan as a bad guy.
 - (i) Archangel that revolted against God prior to human history.
 - (ii) Overwhelmed with pride.
 - (iii) 1/3 of the angels joined him (now called demons)
 1. Vs. 4 is only verse in bible used to support this notion.
 2. Other passages speak of angels sinning.
 - (b) Others would say this happened in the "gap" (gap theory)
 - (i) Earth became formless and void because of judgment of pre-Adamic race.
 - (ii) However, this is entirely made up and unscriptural.
 - (c) Both of these ideas have problems with the timeframe.
 - (i) We see a woman before the dragon is cast out.
 1. The birth of her child brought forth salvation, strength, etc. (vs 10)
 2. This couldn't have happened before man was created.
 - (ii) When the dragon is cast out, he persecutes those with the testimony of Jesus (vs. 17)
 - (d) Some apply this passage to the future.
 - (i) Some time in the middle of the tribulation Satan is cast to the earth.
 1. This begins the "Great Tribulation".
 - (ii) Under this view, he's still in heaven right now accusing saints before God.
 - (iii) Satan will concentrate his efforts on earth at this time.
 - a. Only thing in favor of this view is the **assumption** that Revelation is talking about the future.
 2. Ironically, many Christians take it both ways (ancient past and future)
 - (e) The most likely view is that this is talking about the defeat of Satan at the cross and the ongoing warfare by him against Christians for the rest of the church age.
 - (i) Woman can be easily identified as Israel
 1. Sun, moon, and 12 stars hearkens back to:

Gen 37:9

9 Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."
NKJV

2. Jacob (Israel) understood this to be talking about him and his family.
3. The woman in this passage is probably the believing remnant of Israel.

(ii) Woman in labor and bears a child

1. He rules all nations with a rod of iron (vs.5)
 - a. This expression applied elsewhere to Jesus.

Ps 2:7-9

7 "I will declare the decree:

The LORD has said to Me,

'You are My Son,

Today I have begotten You.

8 Ask of Me, and I will give You

The nations for Your inheritance,

And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

*9 You shall break them with **a rod of iron**:*

You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "

NKJV

- b. Echoed in Rev 19:15 referring to Christ
2. Therefore, child is easily identified with Jesus.
3. Israel's history just before Christ can be seen as labor pains
 - a. Constantly overrun, persecuted, suffering, etc.
 - b. Prophets suffered at hands of their own people.

(iii) Dragon is obviously Satan

1. He's waiting for child to be born to devour it.
 - a. Reminiscent of trials faced before and just after Christ is born.
 - i. Traveling to Bethlehem at late stage of pregnancy
 - ii. Herod killed all babies in Bethlehem to try to get Jesus

(iv) Child caught up to throne of God

1. That's exactly what happened to Jesus (Acts 1, Matt 28, etc.).

(v) Woman flees into wilderness and is sustained (vs 6 and 14).

1. Vs. 7-13 could be a parenthesis overlapping the time frame of vs. 5.
 - a. Insight into the spiritual realm during the life and death of Christ.
 - b. It was after the child was caught up that the woman fled into the wilderness.

(vi) Dragon is cast down just before woman flees into wilderness.

1. Which is just after the child is caught up to God.
 - a. Casting down of Satan is associated with the death and resurrection of Christ.
 - b. What did Jesus say just before his arrest? (John same author)

John 12:31

*31 Now is the judgment of this world; **now the ruler of this world will be cast out.***

NKJV

- i. Ruler of this world is widely agreed to be Satan.
- ii. Very likely that these passages are talking about same thing.
- c. Also, vs. 10 bolsters this argument.

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- i. Salvation, strength, kingdom etc. have come.
 - ii. This happened at the resurrection of Christ.
 - 2. This casting down was the end of the war between Michael and the dragon.
- (f) War is over (for all intents and purposes), but battles are still going on.
 - (i) Satan, defeated, is now concentrating his attacks on the people of God (vs. 11, 17)
 - 1. Satan is overcome by the blood of Christ and the testimony of His saints.
 - 2. He can't be heard in heaven any longer, but he can be heard on earth.
 - a. We read in OT (Job and Zechariah) Satan standing before God accusing people, but we don't see that in NT.
 - i. Jesus kicked him out.
 - b. Attacks now confined on the earthly level.
 - i. However, his time is limited (v12).
 - (ii) God's people are fighting back...and winning!
 - 1. Salvation, kingdom, and power has come (v10)
 - 2. Satan cast down (v10)
- (g) Battle between Michael and Satan was happening during life of Jesus and before the resurrection.
 - (i) Jesus saw battle going on in spiritual realm.

Luke 10:17-20

17 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven." NKJV

- 1. Some see His reference to Satan's original fall (pre-human times)
 - a. One upping the disciples story to keep them from getting arrogant.
- 2. Others believe that Jesus is describing what's going on in the bigger picture as they are driving out demons.
 - a. He sees something greater happening. Elsewhere he said:

Matt 12:28

28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. NKJV

- b. Declaring that if they see the signs of demons going out, it can only mean the kingdom of God is upon them.
 - c. Disciples only saw individual cases of demons being cast out, Jesus saw something more universal and cosmic happening.
 - i. Satan's impending total and rapid collapse of his power in the heavens.
- (ii) Jesus fought his spiritual battle with earthly meekness and gentleness.
 - 1. So why did demons scream in terror and convulse?

Rev 5:4-6

*5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the **Lion** of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." 6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a **Lamb** as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.*

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NKJV

- a. In an earthly sense, He's a lamb. But in a spiritual sense, He's a Lion.
 - i. Violently devouring His prey.
 - b. Very terrifying to the devil and demons.
- (iii) Warfare is over the souls of men
- 1. Would they be accepted by God?
 - 2. As long as there's an accuser before God, telling Him about true sins, man is condemned
 - a. But that accuser lost and is now cast out.
- c) *Living in dual realm*
- i) Physical realm is very apparent and we are very aware of it.
 - (1) 5 senses constantly feed us information about this realm and is easily detected.
 - ii) Spiritual realm is much harder to be aware of.
 - (1) Difference between Christian and non-Christian
 - (a) Non-Christian is spiritually "dead" (so to speak)
 - (i) Ability to function is inadequate.
 - (ii) Subject to deception.
 - (iii) Subject to being controlled and used by the enemy without even knowing it.
 - (b) Christians have been born of the Spirit and are spiritually alive.

1 Cor 2:12-14

*12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, **that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.** 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 **But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.***

NKJV

- (i) We become aware of a spiritual realm
 - 1. Still not as much as the physical, however.
- (2) Effects of spiritual realm
- (a) Thought life
 - (b) Choices
 - (c) Morality
 - (d) Worldview
 - (e) Etc.
- (3) We occasionally become aware of this realm through different experiences.
- (a) Dreams, visions, etc.
 - (b) Overwhelming sense of the presence of God.
 - (c) Sense the presence of evil or demons.
 - (d) Depression, irrationality, etc.
 - (e) Unexplainable circumstances
 - (i) Sometimes gives an eerie feeling when encountered:

Mark 4:39-41

*39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. 40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" 41 **And they feared exceedingly,** and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"*

NKJV

- (4) We need to become more aware of the spiritual realm.
 - (a) Revelation gives some glimpses.
 - (b) Elisha prayed for his servant to see...

2 Kings 6:13-17

13 So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him." And it was told him, saying, "Surely he is in Dothan." 14 Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. 15 And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.
NKJV

- (c) In the Psalms...

Ps 34:7

7 The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.
NKJV

- (d) We don't see our spiritual enemies or our resources with our eyes, but we know they're there.
 - (i) This doesn't really change reality whether we see them or not.
 - (ii) Nothing to really fear if in Christ.
 - (iii) It's not to the enemies' advantage to make his presence known.
 - 1. Doesn't have authority to win.
 - 2. loses his element of surprise and deception.
- (e) Need to ask God to open our eyes from time to time to see what's going on.
 - (i) Don't always need to know
 - (ii) Can be advantageous to know what we're up against.
 - (iii) God did this for Daniel (see Daniel 10)
 - 1. Daniel praying for insight
 - 2. God sent answer through messenger (apparently when Daniel began praying).
 - a. However, it took 3 weeks of praying and fasting for messenger to get through.
 - b. "Prince of Persia" delayed the angel.
 - i. Most scholars say this is a spiritual principality.
 - (iv) God sometimes pulls the curtain away so we can see what's going on.
 - 1. Can be unnerving, but advantageous.
 - (v) A call to be a Christian is a call to war!!!
 - 1. Not with carnal weapons, but spiritual ones.

2) Origin of Satan (lecture #2)

- a) *Traditional view (almost universally held)*
- i) The devil (Satan) was one of archangels in the beginning.
 - (1) Created when God created the angels.
 - (2) Archangels: Michael, Gabriel, Lucifer
 - (3) Lucifer turn out to be bad.
 - (a) But He was very good before that.
 - (b) Also the wisest, most beautiful creature God created.
 - (c) Became proud and thought himself to be as good as God.
 - ii) Devil started a revolt
 - (1) Took 1/3 of the angels with him.
 - (2) Prior to the creation of man (already bad in Genesis 3).
 - (3) They were all kicked out of heaven.
 - (4) Became vile and twisted beings
 - (a) Satan
 - (b) Demons
 - iii) A cursory look at the scriptural support:
 - (1) Pride and arrogance of Lucifer

Isa 14:12-15

*12 "How you are fallen from heaven,
O **Lucifer**, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!*

*13 **For you have said in your heart:***

*'I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
On the farthest sides of the north;
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.'*

*15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,
To the lowest depths of the Pit.
NKJV*

- (a) Cause of his fall was his desire to be like God and usurp His position.
 - (b) **However**, it never says Lucifer is an angel.
 - (i) Also, Satan is never referred to as Lucifer anywhere in the Bible.
 - (ii) In fact, Lucifer is never mentioned anywhere else in all of Scripture.
- (2) Satan was a perfect, beautiful angel

Ezek 28:12-15

12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD:

*"You were the seal of perfection,
Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;
Every precious stone was your covering:
The sardius, topaz, and diamond,
Beryl, onyx, and jasper,
Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.
The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes
Was prepared for you on the day you were created.*

14 **"You were the anointed cherub who covers;**
I established you;
You were on the holy mountain of God;
You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.
15 **You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,**
Till iniquity was found in you.
NKJV

- (a) Believed that the king of Tyre is speaking about the power behind the throne.
 - (i) Supported by the fact that the character was in Eden
 - 1. not many were there. (God, Adam, Eve, serpent..or Satan)
 - 2. process of elimination brings one to the conclusion that it is Satan being talked about here.
- (b) This character was described as a cherub
 - (i) Non-human, angelic like creature
- (c) Perfect in beauty from the day he was created.
- (d) Timbrels and pipes suggest he was the worship leader of heaven.
 - (i) Some suggest that he was angel of worship with musical instruments as part of his body.
 - (ii) **However**, "Timbrels and pipes" in Ezek 28 passage is better translated more like "settings and sockets" (like jewel settings)
- (e) Also, some other scriptures that are not as direct:

2 Cor 11:13-14
14 **And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.**
NKJV

- (i) Thought to be suggesting that Satan was an angel of light
- (ii) **However**, Paul is not saying that Satan is (or ever was) an angel of light, but that he transforms himself as that.
 - 1. Next verse confirms this:

2 Cor 11:15
15 **Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness.**
NKJV

- a. They impersonate these things, doesn't mean they ever were them.

(3) Satan's fall

Luke 10:17-19
17 **Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."**
18 **And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.**
NKJV

- (a) Thought to be Jesus telling disciples He was there in the beginning when Satan fell.

Rev 12:7-10
7 **And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**
NKJV

- (b) Thought to be another description of Satan's fall.

(c) **However**, passage doesn't seem to fit the traditional view because of the time frame mentioned (see [What's the time frame of this passage?](#) In Chapter 1, [section b](#))

(d) Another text used to support Satan as fallen angel is...

1 Tim 3:6

6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.
NKJV

- (i) Suggests that Satan fell into his condemnation because he was puffed up with pride.
 - 1. Most feel that this passage is saying "the condemnation that the devil experienced".
 - a. That's reading into the text something that's not there.
- (ii) **However**, the word "same" in this passage was added by the NKJV translators.
 - 1. In the greek, it should read more like: "being puffed up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil"
 - a. Sounds a lot different when put that way.
 - 2. It could mean "the condemnation perpetrated by the devil".
 - a. He's an accuser, he can bring the feeling of condemnation.
 - b. Furthermore, the next verse seems to support this notion rather than the traditional one:

1 Tim 3:7

7 Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.
NKJV

- i. Similar phrase ending in this verse as vs. 6.
- ii. Not snare devil fell into, but the one he lays for the believer.

b) *Closer look: Isaiah 14*

i) Only time the name Lucifer appears in Bible

Isa 14:12

*12 "How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!*
NKJV

- (1) In many translations, it isn't even translated Lucifer at all
- (2) NAS, NIV, RSV, etc translate it "morning star" because that's what the word means.
 - (a) OT:1966 *heylel* (hay-lale'); from OT:1984 (in the sense of brightness); the morning-star:
 - (b) Jesus is even called this:

Rev 22:16

16 I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."
NKJV

- (i) We don't try to identify Jesus with Lucifer
- (ii) Simply a title of royalty, illustrious glory.

ii) Who is Lucifer?

- (1) If Satan, we can only derive that from this passage.
- (2) At the beginning of this passage (vs 4) is the answer:

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Isa 14:3-6

3 It shall come to pass in the day the LORD gives you rest from your sorrow, and from your fear and the hard bondage in which you were made to serve, 4 that you will take up this proverb against **the king of Babylon**, and say:

"How the oppressor has ceased,
The golden city ceased!
5 The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked,
The scepter of the rulers;
6 He who struck the people in wrath with a continual stroke,
He who ruled the nations in anger,
Is persecuted and no one hinders.
NKJV

- (a) Chapters 13 and 14 are one protracted "burden" against Bablyon.
 - (i) Chapter 13 starts with the words....

Isa 13:1

13:1 The burden **against Babylon** which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw.
NKJV

- (ii) And continues to describe who God will use to judge them...

Isa 13:17

17 "Behold, I will stir up the **Medes** against them,
Who will not regard silver;
And as for gold, they will not delight in it.
NKJV

- (b) Chapter 14 just continues with that focusing on the king of Babylon.
 - (i) Calls him oppressor, scepter of the rulers, etc.
 - (ii) Now telling him he is fallen too.

- (3) Can this really be talking about an earthly king?

Isa 14:13-15

13 For you have said in your heart:
'I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
On the farthest sides of the north;
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
'I will be like the Most High.'
15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,
To the lowest depths of the Pit.
NKJV

- (a) What man would say that?
- (b) Look at what Jesus said in a similar statement:

Matt 11:23

23 And you, Capernaum, who are **exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades:**
NKJV

- (i) Hades is greek equivalent of Sheol
- (ii) Capernaum is a city, not an angel.
- (iii) This is a direct allusion to Isa 14 (see margin of your bible)

(iv) If Jesus can use this language to speak of a city, why can't Isaiah?

(c) Look also at Obadiah:

Obad 4
4 *Though you ascend as high as the eagle,*
And though you set your nest among the stars,
From there I will bring you down," says the LORD.
NKJV

- (i) The Edomites did not have their "nest among the stars"
- (ii) Sounds a lot like what Babylon said.

Isa 14:13
13 *For you have said in your heart:*
'I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:
NKJV

(d) Recall the origin of Babylon:

- (i) Tower of Babel

Gen 11:2-4
2 *And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.* 3 *Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.* 4 *And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."*
NKJV

- 1. Shinar is the plain that the city of Babylon sat.
- 2. Greek OT (Septuagint) even calls it Tower of Babylon.
- (ii) Wanted to build a tower whose top was in the heavens.
 - 1. Exactly the ambition that caused Babylon to come into existence.
- (iii) Allowing for poetic imagery helps us see the similarities here.

(e) Person is spoken of as a man.

Isa 14:16-17
16 *"Those who see you will gaze at you,*
And consider you, saying:
'Is this the man who made the earth tremble,
Who shook kingdoms,
17 *Who made the world as a wilderness*
And destroyed its cities,
Who did not open the house of his prisoners?'
NKJV

- (i) Some people think Isaiah is talking to king of Babylon up to vs 12 and then begins talking to the devil. But it doesn't say that.
- (ii) Lucifer is just another word for a lofty person (like a king).
- (iii) If an angel is in view, why does it say it's a "man"?

(f) Angels don't have graves....

Isa 14:19
19 *But you are cast out of your grave*
Like an abominable branch,
Like the garment of those who are slain,

Thrust through with a sword.

*Who go down to the stones of the pit,
Like a corpse trodden underfoot.
NKJV*

(i) How does a sword hurt an angel?

(g) He slayed his people...

*Isa 14:20
20 You will not be joined with them in **burial**.
Because you have destroyed your land
And **slain your people**.
The brood of evildoers shall never be named.
NKJV*

(i) He will not be buried with his people with a noble burial.

iii) So there is really nothing in this chapter that points to anyone except the literal king of Babylon....a man, not the devil.

- (1) No exegetical reason to see Satan in this passage
 - (a) Not a good idea to search for esoteric meanings where they're not obvious.
- (2) Said earlier that even Jesus was also called "morning star" (Rev 22).
 - (a) Jesus is called by the same name as many of the kings of the bible.
 - (i) Example: Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar...

*Dan 2:37
37 You, O king, are a **king of kings**.
NKJV*

1. Just a common term for a powerful ruler.

- (3) People as early as Tertullian have seen Satan in this passage
 - (a) Seems more like a hunch than sound exegesis.

c) Closer look: Ezekiel 28

- i) Again addressed to an earthly king. King of Tyre.
 - (1) Some would suggest that it addresses the spiritual power behind the throne...Satan.
 - (a) Seems to describe super human attributes

*Ezek 28:12
"You were the seal of **perfection**.
Full of wisdom and **perfect in beauty**.
NKJV*

- (i) But there's no reason the terms can't be applied to a human or society.
 1. Ch. 27 and 28 are an extend lamentation against tyre.

*Ezek 27:3-4
"O Tyre, you have said,
'I am **perfect in beauty**.'
4 Your borders are in the midst of the seas.
Your builders have **perfected your beauty**.
NKJV*

a. Tyre said this of itself, and the Ch. 28 simply repeats it.

(ii) Some preachers teach that Satan is the most beautiful creature ever made.
That's from this passage.

(b) What about being "full of wisdom"?

(i) A human can be said to be wise.

Ezek 28:1-5

28:1 The word of the LORD came to me again, saying, 2 "Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, Thus says the Lord GOD:

*"Because your heart is lifted up,
And you say, 'I am a god,
I sit in the seat of gods,
In the midst of the seas,'
Yet **you are a man**, and not a god,
Though you set your heart as the heart of a god
3(Behold, **you are wiser than Daniel!**
There is no secret that can be hidden from you!
4 With **your wisdom and your understanding**
You have gained riches for yourself,
And gathered gold and silver into your treasuries;
5 **By your great wisdom** in trade you have increased your riches,
And your heart is lifted up because of your riches),"*
NKJV

(ii) God is sarcastically calling the king of Tyre wise.

1. It's addressing their self-opinion.

2. They were proud.

(c) Said to be in "Eden"

Ezek 28:13

*13 You were in **Eden, the garden of God:**
Every precious stone was your covering:
The sardius, topaz, and diamond,
Beryl, onyx, and jasper,
Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.
NKJV*

(i) Some actually suggest by this passage that the garden of Eden was made of precious stones.

(ii) However, this is merely describing a king covered in jewels.

(iii) Garden of Eden had 4 characters: Adam, Eve, God, serpent.

1. Does this character have to be one of them?

(iv) Compare other passages:

Ezek 31:3-9

*3 Indeed Assyria was a cedar in Lebanon,
With fine branches that shaded the forest,
And of high stature;
And its top was among the thick boughs.
4 The waters made it grow;
Underground waters gave it height,
With their rivers running around the place where it was planted,
And sent out rivulets to all the trees of the field.*

*5 Therefore its height was exalted above all the trees of the field;
Its boughs were multiplied,
And its branches became long because of the abundance of water,
As it sent them out.*

6 All the birds of the heavens made their nests in its boughs;

*Under its branches all the beasts of the field brought forth their young;
And in its shadow all great nations made their home.*

*7 Thus it was beautiful in greatness and in the length of its branches,
Because its roots reached to abundant waters.*

*8 **The cedars in the garden of God could not hide it;***

The fir trees were not like its boughs,

And the chestnut trees were not like its branches;

No tree in the garden of God was like it in beauty.

9 I made it beautiful with a multitude of branches,

*So that all the **trees of Eden envied it.***

That were in the garden of God.'

NKJV

1. This prophesy about Assyria, not Satan.
2. Using imagery of a tree to describe Assyria.
 - a. Well watered, healthy, prominent
 - b. Planted in the “Garden of God”
 - i. Assyria was not around in the garden of Eden.
3. “Eden” is just being used here the same way we might use the word “paradise”.
 - a. Just an expression Ezekiel uses to describe easy living.
 - i. Therefore, there is no reason to take Eden literally in either passage.

(d) The passage calls the character “anointed cherub”

Ezek 28:14

*14 "You were the **anointed cherub** who covers;*

I established you;

You were on the holy mountain of God;

You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,

Till iniquity was found in you.

NKJV

- (i) Even if we allow this to be talking about Satan, it wouldn't establish him to be an Archangel. Angels are not cherubs and they're definitely not Archangels.
 1. See Ezekiel's description of cherubs (Ezek 10)
- (ii) Cherub doesn't have to be anymore literal as Eden is in this chapter.
- (iii) What is a cherub?
 1. They're usually seen guarding something
 - a. Garden of Eden / Tree of life
 - b. Mercy seat
- (iv) To say to king of Tyre, “you are like a guardian angel to your people” would not be unreasonable and we wouldn't have to take it literally.
 1. We sometimes use that description in our own language.
 - a. We might say “you/he/she are/is and angel”
- (v) Must remember that vs. 2 establishes that he is talking to a **man**.
 1. King of Tyre (vs. 12)

(e) What was the “iniquity” of this character? Rebellion against God in heaven?

Ezek 28:16

*16 "By the **abundance of your trading***

You became filled with violence within.

And you sinned;

Therefore I cast you as a profane thing

Out of the mountain of God;

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*And I destroyed you, O covering cherub,
From the midst of the fiery stones.
NKJV*

- (i) It involved trading, merchandising, etc.
 - 1. Tyre was a wealthy seaport merchant city.
 - 2. The king became corrupted by materialism, pride, and greed.

d) *Problems with the doctrine of Satan being a fallen Angel*

- i) If Satan became fallen before Adam sinned, why was he still in heaven in the book of Job? (and other times).
- ii) How can an angel, being perfect in wisdom, do such a stupid thing as rebel against God?
 - (1) Men do this, but they're stupid and they've never seen God.
 - (2) If Satan knew God so well, what in the world would possess him to think he could take Him on?
 - (3) He certainly couldn't be called wise.

e) *Alternate view of Satan's origins*

- i) Satan was created just as he is.
 - (1) Supported by the fact that the Bible doesn't have any clear language that indicates that the devil was ever an angel
- ii) Look at a quote from Jesus:

John 8:44

*44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. **He was a murderer from the beginning**, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.
NKJV*

- (1) Most explicit explanation the bible has about Satan's nature.
- (2) The words "does not" is not in the Greek. Added by translators.
- (3) Usually "from the beginning" means always that way.
- (4) If we had a clear teaching in the bible that Satan was a fallen angel, we'd have to change the meaning of this verse to harmonize.
 - (a) (i.e. murderer from the beginning of his recorded activities or human history)
 - (b) in absence of such clear teaching, it's more natural to take the words at face value.

iii) Another scripture on this:

1 John 3:8

*8 He who sins is of the devil, for **the devil has sinned from the beginning**. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
NKJV*

- (1) Did the devil have a beginning?
 - (a) He is a created being so there's no doubt he had a beginning. He's not eternal.
- iv) Is it possible that the devil was made bad? Like he is now?
 - (1) Our sentiments, not the bible, generally govern our answer on this.
 - (a) Seems unthinkable that God would create Satan as he is.
 - (b) If God created the devil the way he is, doesn't that make God the author of evil?
 - (i) Wouldn't He be somewhat responsible for the devils' actions?
 - (ii) We stumble over the question of "why is there evil in the world?"

- (c) The typical Christian answer to the problem still doesn't absolve God of responsibility.
 - (i) If God made a good angel knowing that he would turn bad, why bother making him good in the first place.
 - 1. Doesn't make God any less responsible for the devil's existence.
 - (ii) Even if God didn't know of the devil's fall in advance (as some Christians believe), He still could have made creatures that weren't capable of sinning.
 - 1. Therefore, God would still be somewhat responsible.
 - (d) Even if God didn't make him as he is, we still have the problem of God tolerating him and keeping him around after he fell.
 - (i) God could have taken him out a long time ago.
 - 1. No theology can get around that.
 - (ii) We must come to the realization that God doesn't want him gone yet.
- (2) What if God simply had a use for a devil and therefore just created him as he is?
- (a) Scriptural support:

Prov 16:4
4 The LORD has made all for Himself,
*Yes, **even the wicked** for the day of doom.*
NKJV

- (i) God is not shy about claiming He made wicked creatures.
 - 1. They are for His purposes.
 - 2. God never feels the need to defend Himself against this charge.

(b) God has a use for temptation in the life of the believer.

Deut 13:1-3
*13:1 "If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'--which you have not known--'and let us serve them,' 3 "you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your **God is testing you** to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*
NKJV

- (i) Not a passage about the devil, but the character of God.
 - 1. God tests His people to see whether they love Him.
 - a. Tests loyalty of moral creatures.
 - i. Wouldn't make sense to have moral creatures that didn't have the option of disobeying God. It would have no meaning.
 - b. Apparently, some of the angels failed the test (2 Pet 2:4, Jude 6)
 - 2. If God wants to test His people, why not make a *tester* rather than wait for one to fall?

- (3) Doesn't this make God the author of evil?
- (a) Depends on what we understand evil to be.
- (i) The devil is definitely evil, but is he doing it himself? Or does he induce people to do evil?
 - 1. Evil in the world comes when people listen and submit to the devil.
 - (ii) Adam and Eve were not made to fall, they were deceived into falling
 - 1. Choice was still theirs.
 - 2. Satan just offered a convincing alternative to obedience.
 - 3. God is not responsible for it, they are.
 - a. But He did make the devil.
 - b. Cannot be denied that God wants there to be a devil for the time being.

(b) God uses evil creatures to execute his judgments

1 Kings 22:19-23

*19 Then Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left. 20 And the LORD said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. 21 Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will persuade him.' 22 "The LORD said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the LORD said, '**You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.**' 23 "Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the LORD has declared disaster against you." NKJV*

- (i) God used a lying spirit to judge Ahab and persuade him to battle.
 - 1. Even the demons do His bidding whether they like it or not.
 - (ii) God also used the devil's malice toward Job to serve His purposes.
 - 1. He wanted to test Job.
 - 2. The devil thought he could make Job curse God
- (c) Satan is not God's equal
- (i) God tells Satan how far he can go.
- (4) God didn't just want a mechanical creation, He wanted a moral creation.
- (a) Moral creatures must have choices
 - (i) He wants people to obey Him, but by their own choice.
 - 1. Else it's meaningless.
 - (ii) God wants His people tested.
 - (b) God sent an evil spirit against Saul (1 Sam 16)
 - (c) God sent a messenger of Satan to buffet Paul to keep him from becoming proud.

2 Cor 12:1-10

12:1 It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago--whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows--such a one was caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I know such a man--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows-- 4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. 5 Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. 6 For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.

*7 And **lest I should be exalted above measure** by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh **was given to me**, a **messenger of Satan** to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing **I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.** 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. NKJV*

- (i) God could have removed this messenger of Satan, but didn't
 - 1. Just gave him more strength, more grace.
 - 2. This was for a positive spiritual reason.
- (ii) Just like Job's trials were from the devil but what did Job say?

Job 1:21

*"Naked I came from my mother's womb,
And naked shall I return there.
The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away;*

Blessed be the name of the LORD."
NKJV

1. Notice he didn't say the devil takes away.
- v) This is the battle we're in.
- (1) Contest to be loyal and faithful and obedient.
 - (a) Also to bring others into that subjection.
 - (2) Satan is a major part of this test.
 - (a) He will eventually not be needed anymore and God will do away with him once and for all.
 - (i) No more tests after that.
 - (ii) Some even have a problem with Satan being cast into lake of fire.
 1. If he's just doing what God made him to do, how is this fair?
 2. However, the bible doesn't say the devil will be tormented forever and ever.
 - a. The lake of fire may just consume him and annihilate him.
 - b. We don't know if Satan is an eternal being or not.
 3. This could be God just getting rid of a tool He doesn't need anymore.
 4. In any case, the clay doesn't have the right to say to the potter "why have you made me this way?"
 5. God is infinitely just. Maybe we're not to be overly concerned.

3) Satan's allies and activities (lecture #3)

Demons share same obscurity in scripture as the origin of Satan.

a) *Traditional view: demons were once angels of God.*

(1) They sided with Satan in his rebellion (1/3 of them)

(a) There are angels associated with Satan in scripture:

Matt 25:41

41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:'

NKJV

(i) Not the same thing as saying they are fallen angels of God.

1. There were angels of God who sinned, and these may or may not be them.
2. Must remember that the word "angel" in scripture simply means "messenger".
 - a. We know that Satan has many messengers, including human ones.
 - b. However, it's probable that these angels are spiritual beings of some sort.

(b) Elsewhere:

Rev 12:7

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,

NKJV

- (i) Said in last lecture that it's likely this passage dealing with a timeframe during Christ's lifetime and shortly after.
- (ii) Since venue is in heaven, it's likely these "angels" are also spiritual beings rather than human.

(c) Also:

2 Peter 2:4-5

4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

NKJV

- (i) The word "hell" here is *tartaros* in the greek.
- (ii) NT:5020 *tartaroo* (tar-tar-o'-o); from **Tartaros** (the deepest abyss of Hades); to incarcerate in eternal torment: KJV - cast down to hell.
 1. Only place in bible this word is found.
 2. could be associated with the "abyss", but we're not certain.
 - a. NT:12 *abussos* (ab'-us-sos); from NT:1 (as a negative particle) and a variation of NT:1037; depthless, i.e. (specially) (infernal) "abyss": KJV – deep, (bottomless) pit.
 - i. apparently a place of incarceration for demons.
 - ii. Revelation 9 describes what appear to be demons coming out of the abyss (or bottomless pit).

Jude 6-7

6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

NKJV

- (iii) Says essentially the same thing as 2 Peter passage
 1. didn't keep their proper domain.
 2. they're angels, but not God's angels because they sinned.
 - a. They're sin is not mentioned in scripture.
 - b. It's traditionally presumed that they were a part of some rebellion.
 3. Jews, before time of Christ, believe that these angels are what is described in Genesis 6.

Gen 6:1-2

6:1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.
NKJV

- a. However, there is no consensus by scholars whether or not the "sons of God" are angels or men.

- (iv) Both the 2 Peter and the Jude passage describe these angels as "chained"
 1. Can we then associate them with demons?
 2. Suggests that they wouldn't be active in the world as demons are.
 3. However, if binding is figurative (as in the case of Satan, the strong man), then they could be active today, but incapable of resisting Christ.
 - a. Not bound in an absolute sense, but as if they are powerless.

- (d) Demons are thought to be 1/3 of the angels that fell with Satan (see previous lecture)
 - (i) Derived from this verse:

Rev 12:4

*4 His tail drew a **third of the stars** of heaven and threw them to the earth.*
NKJV

1. Stars thought to represent angels
2. Most people think this is some ancient event before the creation of man.
3. As pointed out in Lecture #2, the timeframe for this event doesn't fit this theory.
4. What are stars in Revelation?
 - a. Jesus holds 7 stars in right hand (1:16)
 - b. 7 angels of 7 churches (1:20)
 - i. Some are satisfied to stop there
 - ii. However, what does "angels" means here?
 - iii. Most commentators believe it should be understood as "messengers" generally. (human messengers: pastors, bishops, etc.)
 - c. So the stars in Ch. 12 could simply represent human beings rather than angelic beings.
 - i. Further confirmation of this theory in Daniel:

Dan 8:9-11

*9 And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land. 10 And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it **cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them.***
NKJV

- ii. These stars in Daniel are clearly not in allegiance with the little horn.

- iii. These are devout Jews that were heavily persecuted by Greco-Syrian Antiochus Epiphanes. (all scholars agree with this).
- iv. The Revelation passage simply alludes to the Daniel passage, so we can deduce it's speaking of the same type of thing.
- v. Also:

Dan 12:3
3 Those who are wise shall shine
Like the brightness of the firmament,
And those who turn many to righteousness
Like the stars forever and ever.
 NKJV

- vi. Those who are righteous (people) are likened to "stars"
- 5. Therefore, the only verse in the bible that is used to support the idea that 1/3 of the angels have become demons turns out not to be about angels at all.

(e) From the scriptural support, and lack of a better alternative, we can proceed with the idea that demons are likely fallen angels (yet not necessarily 1/3 of them).

b) Other theories of the demon origin

- i) Souls from a pre-Adamic race.
 - (1) Goes with the "gap theory".
 - (2) Ruled by Lucifer
 - (3) They still haunt the world today.
 - (4) The theory is 100% speculative.
 - (a) Not one verse of scripture to support it.
- ii) Souls of wicked men of this race.
 - (1) Certain people sell their soul to the devil in this life
 - (a) Devil claims that upon death and press them into service.
 - (2) Again, purely speculative.

c) Are there ranks in demonic realm?

Eph 6:12-13
12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
 NKJV

- (1) Some say this represents 4 different ranks of demons
- ii) Beelzebub: the prince of demons.

Matt 12:24
24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."
 NKJV

- (1) Who is this?
- (2) Jesus compares the name to Satan.

Matt 12:26
26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?
 NKJV

- (3) However, He's also comparing demons to Satan in saying this.

- (4) Satan is a personal being, but those who do his bidding represent Satan and Jesus refers to them in that way.
 - (a) Jesus associating all demonic activity with Satanic activity.
 - (5) Jesus pointing out their flaw in logic by what they're saying.
 - (a) Not necessarily affirming the reality of such a being.
- iii) This is a name that the Pharisees introduced.
- (1) This is the greek form of a pagan god name Baal-zebul
 - (a) Literally means "lord of the flies"
 - (b) Hebrew corruption of the pagan deity "Baal-zebul"
 - (i) Renamed by Jews out of contempt for this deity.
 - (2) By rabbinic tradition, the name was elevated to mean the "prince of demons"
 - (3) The bible doesn't confirm or deny this tradition, so we don't know of the validity of this name.
- iv) We say "Satan" is attacking us, but what that can really mean is that his organization (demons) is attacking us. Means the same thing.
- (1) Their activity is the devil's activity
 - (2) Anyone who does the devil's bidding can be said to be an extension of Satan.
 - (a) Take Peter for example:

Matt 16:21-23

*21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "**Get behind Me, Satan!** You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."*
NKJV

- (i) Satan was not likely in Peter, but since he opposed God's plan, he was doing the work of Satan.
 - 1. As good as Satan or an agent of Satan.
 - 2. If Jesus can say this about a human agent, then a demonic agent can be called Satan also.
- (ii) Judas was said to be entered by Satan, but that may have just been a demon also.

(b) Paul also spoke of this:

Eph 2:1-3

*2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the **prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience**, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh,*
NKJV

- (i) Satan works through disobedient people and spirits.
 - 1. prince of the power of the air.
 - 2. sons of disobedience are not necessarily demon possessed people, but anyone who resists the will of God.
 - 3. Satan is not omni-present, but in a sense he's everywhere one of his agents is. (virtual omni-presence).

v) Look back at Ephesians passage.

Eph 6:12-13

*12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against **principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness** in the heavenly places.*
NKJV

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- vi) Many see 4 ranks of demons here
 - (1) Principalities being the lowest rank.
- vii) Others see all these terms as simply synonymous.
 - (1) Paul saying the same thing in 4 different ways.
- viii) Still others see two categories:
 - (1) Principalities and powers as one category.
 - (a) Earthly governments and rulers.
 - (2) Rulers of darkness and spiritual host is another.
 - (a) Spiritual forces.
 - (3) Reasons for seeing Principalities and Powers as earthly:
 - (a) Expression “*principalities and powers*” used elsewhere in Ephesians:
 - (i) Not always clear what he means by that terms:

Eph 3:10

10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

NKJV

- 1. Certainly it sometimes means heavenly powers, but it can also mean earthly powers and rulers. Such as in:

Titus 3:1-2

3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,

NKJV

- a. “rulers and authorities” are the same words as “principalities and powers” in the greek.
 - i. NKJV translates differently to avoid confusion apparently.
- (b) Although Paul told Christians to be subject to the laws of the land, he saw himself as an advocate of another King...Jesus.
 - (i) Jesus not establishing political government.
 - (ii) But earthly rulers have set themselves against King Jesus.
 - 1. Substitution of the state for God.
 - a. This is what we see in Rev 13 with the beast (political entity)
 - i. Satanically animated
 - ii. Makes war against saints
 - iii. This is part of the Christian’s spiritual warfare
- (c) Paul could be saying that we’re not struggling against individual people, but rulers and government authorities that seek to usurp the place of God.
 - (i) Requiring us to bow down to the emperor.
 - (ii) Forbidding us to worship Jesus.
 - (iii) Jesus’ kingdom can sometimes put us at odds with earthly principalities and powers.
 - 1. Has happened many times throughout history.
 - 2. Was happening in Paul’s day.
 - a. He was in prison by Roman authorities while writing this very letter.
 - 3. Theme repeated throughout NT and OT.
 - (iv) Ultimately, Jesus’ kingdom will prevail.

Rev 11:15

15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

NKJV

Rev 19:11-16

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself **will rule them with a rod of iron**. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
NKJV

1. We are quietly going about taking captives for Jesus Christ through the gospel message, **not through a political overthrow**.
 - a. Eventually, that puts Christians at odds with the earthly rulers.
- (4) “rulers of darkness” and “spiritual hosts” can be seen as spiritual forces:
 - (a) It might be that Paul is seeing this category as animating the former.
 - (i) Exactly what Revelation speaks of about the beast.
 1. political embodiment of Satan to make war against the saints.
 - (ii) This is who our warfare is ultimately against.
 - (iii) Jesus claims total authority over the loyalty of a believer.
 1. This is the very thing that puts us at odds with all principalities and powers.
 2. While we are domiciled in US (as Christ’s ambassadors), we are to keep the laws.
 3. Provided they don’t go against His (our King) laws.
- ix) Ultimately, we are uncertain if there are truly demons of different ranks.
 - (1) Although we know that there are those of less potency or power.
 - (a) Biblical encounters with demons support this.
 - (i) Most cases Jesus drove out demons with a word.
 - (ii) In the case of the man of the tombs, Legion was persistent and tried to negotiate after He told them to leave.
 - (b) Experiences with demons throughout history and today also support this.
 - (i) People have reported demons mocking the name of Jesus.
 - (ii) Other cases demons left by simply uttering the name of Jesus.
 - (iii) This could represent rank, but doesn’t need to.
- d) *Are there territorial spirits?*
 - i) Many believe that certain demons have charge over areas of towns, cities, states, etc.
 - (1) Daniel’s encounter is the main basis of this:

Dan 10:12-14

12 Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13 But the **prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me** twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.
NKJV

And later in same chapter...

Dan 10:20-21

And now I must return to fight with the **prince of Persia**; and when I have gone forth, indeed the **prince of Greece** will come. 21 But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince).
NKJV

- (a) "prince" depicts a demon here.
 - (i) Said to be over Persia, and then one over Greece.
 - (ii) Sounds like there are demonic kingdoms over certain kingdoms of the earth.
- (2) However, we cannot extrapolate from this that every nation has it's own demonic spirit assigned to it.
 - (a) Some take it down to the neighborhood level, or even the household level.
- (3) Some suggest that we must identify these demons before we can deal with them.
 - (a) Naming them
 - (b) Binding them
 - (c) Speaking to them
 - (d) However, there is not scriptural precedent or example of this.
 - (i) If it were necessary, it would be revealed to us in scripture.

2 Peter 1:2-4

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, NKJV

- (ii) Christians often look for new fangled methodologies for warfare when the bible already gives us all we need to know about it.

e) *What is the devil's organization up to?*

- i) Deception is the principle (possibly the only) thing that the kingdom of Satan is involved in.
 - (1) Not simply wreaking havoc on your life as some would seem to think.
 - (a) Making you poor, sick, etc.
 - (2) Bible supports the idea that **deception** is the primary interest of the devil.
 - (a) He wants to destroy your soul, place your soul in to bondage of death.
 - (b) Contrast this with what Jesus says:

John 8:32-33

*32 And you shall know the truth, and the **truth shall make you free.**" NKJV*

- (i) When challenged by the Pharisees on this, Jesus replied:

John 8:33-36

*33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.** 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. NKJV*

- (c) Sin is what alienates someone from God and destroys the soul.
 - (i) Satan is much more interested in getting you to sin than getting you sick.
 - 1. He would only use suffering (if he's allowed) in order to persuade us to sin.
 - a. Perhaps to convince us that either God is not there, or He doesn't love us.
 - b. This is what he tried to do with Job.

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- i. Thought he could get Job to **curse** God if God would allow him to destroy his life.

Job 2:4-6

*4 So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. 5 But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely **curse You to Your face!**" 6 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life."*

NKJV

- ii. Job did start to question God, but Satan didn't quite get his way here.

(3) There is no truth in Satan

John 8:44

*44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is **no truth in him**. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

NKJV

- (a) Liar and father of lies.

2 Thess 2:9-11

*9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and **lying wonders**, 10 and with all **unrighteous deception** among those who perish, because they **did not receive the love of the truth**, that they might be saved.*

NKJV

- (b) Man of sin comes with the working of Satan...lying wonders and deception.

- (i) Those who are perishing are those who did not love the truth.

- 1. Remember Jesus said "truth will make you free"

(4) Battle is for the mind.

- (a) To degree that your mind and spirit embrace deception, you are captive.

- (i) Although, not every untruth is going to do equal harm.

- (ii) It does limit you, and the truth makes you freer than you are without it.

- (b) Conversely, to the degree you embrace God's truth, you are free.

- (i) Believing the Truth is just the acknowledgement of reality.

- 1. The more you understand reality, the better prepared you are to deal with it.

- (ii) Spiritual truth is most important.

- 1. But even that has degrees of harmfulness.

- 2. There are salvation truths, and non-salvation truths.

- a. The non-salvation truths are still important because they still make you freer than you are if you embrace a lie.

(5) Devil can tell a lie by telling the truth

- (a) We all can.

- (i) saying a true statement while simultaneously giving the impression (wink, nod, etc.) that it's not true.

- (b) Satan did this in the Garden of Eden:

Gen 3:2-5

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

NKJV

- (i) Eve didn't die that day, she lived a long time and had many children.
- (ii) Eve did have her eyes opened and knew the difference between good and evil.
 - 1. Even God acknowledged this.

Gen 3:22

22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to **know good and evil.**

NKJV

- (iii) Satan didn't tell her the whole truth, only part of it.
 - 1. Not physical death, but spiritual death.
 - a. Ultimately physically as well.
 - 2. Although you will be more like God in knowing good and evil, you'll be less like Him in knowing personal holiness.
 - a. Less in character.
 - 3. Most important truths were omitted.
 - a. This constitutes a deception.
 - 4. Satan will not always lie to you, but he will always try to prevent you from knowing all the truth.
 - 5. Those who are satisfied only knowing part of the truth are vulnerable to falling prey to Satan's deception.
 - 6. Those who are hungry for truth will always want more...all of it.

Rev 12:8-9

9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who **deceives the whole world;**

NKJV

f) What forms does deception take?

- i) False religions
 - (1) Many non-Christians are extremely religious.
 - (a) Mormons, Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, etc. can be very devout.
 - (b) Part of the devil's plan apparently.
 - (2) Paul says:

1 Tim 4:1

4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and **doctrines of demons,**

NKJV

- (a) Doctrines are religious views, and these are from demons.
- (3) Man is inherently spiritual and religious.
 - (a) Always seeking to satisfy the soul
 - (b) Other worldly things never satisfy this hunger for being a part of something bigger than he.
- (4) Satan is happy to use these false religions to temporarily satisfy the soul and divert attention from seeking the truth.
 - (a) Even Christian-like religions.

2 Cor 11:3-4

3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he who comes preaches **another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted--**you may well put up with it!

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NKJV

- (b) Devil doesn't fear the name of Jesus, he has a whole bunch of cults that revere that name.
 - (i) Even Muslims do (as a prophet).
 - (ii) Some Jews, Hindus, Krishnas, Bah' ai, JW's, Mormons, New agers, Christian Scientists, etc. all respect and use the name of Jesus.
 - 1. All of their ideas of Jesus are different than the biblical Jesus, therefore it's a different Jesus.
 - 2. These make Jesus a great person, but less than who He really is.
 - (5) Devil isn't all that interested in making people behave badly.
 - (a) Doesn't mind making a good Mormon or Muslim out of somebody.
 - (b) Very moral acting, giving, religious, but denies the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - (c) While seeking righteousness, they end up rejecting Christ's righteousness.
- ii) Temptation
- (1) All temptation and sin is accomplished by deception.
 - (a) Getting focus off eternal issues.
 - (b) Immediate gratification at expense of things far more important.
 - (c) Devil is called the tempter:

1 Thess 3:5

*5 For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means **the tempter had tempted you**, and our labor might be in vain.*

NKJV

- (i) Trying to convince you that sin is to be preferred over righteousness.
- (ii) Trying to deceive you into thinking you will not suffer for sin.

iii) False accusation and condemnation.

- (1) Satan tries to deceive you that there are barriers between you and God.
 - (a) Even if you're all prayed up and repentant.
- (2) He has a lot to gain by this.
 - (a) Separation or alienation through guilt.
 - (b) Keeps you from praying.
 - (i) Prayer is very damaging to the enemy.
 - (c) He's called the "*accuser of the brethren*"

Rev 12:10

*10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the **accuser of our brethren**, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.*

NKJV

4) The Continuing Campaign (lecture #4)

a) The devils' campaign

- i) Satan has waged war against the saints.

Rev 12:15-17

15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

NKJV

- (1) Woman is easily identified as the faithful remnant of Israel
- (2) Who are the rest of her offspring?
 - (a) Seems to be believers (the church)
 - (i) have the testimony of Jesus Christ
 - (ii) keep commandments of God
- (3) What is the flood?
 - (a) Not easy to identify.
 - (b) Some suggest the armies of Rome coming against Jerusalem in 70AD.
 - (i) Scriptural precedence for this. Isaiah 10?? (need to find this reference, didn't give the exact verse in the lecture)
 - (c) Also possible that it's a flood of deception or lies.
 - (i) comes out of his mouth.
 - (ii) church has suffered from false doctrine and deception from the beginning.

b) The Christians' campaign

- i) We wrestle against Satan and his minions

Eph 6:10-12

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

NKJV

- (1) Christians are his main focus
 - (a) Non-Christians are already his captive. Not too concerned about them.
- ii) Two-fold struggle. Offensive and defensive
 - (1) Defensive is secondary
 - (a) War is a dangerous place to be.
 - (b) Soldier wouldn't go to war if only objective was to stay alive.
 - (c) Christian is concerned with spiritual survival or self-defense.
 - (i) Devil comes against us to corrupt us and destroy us.
 - (ii) Primary purpose of devil is not to kill us, but to immobilize us spiritually, corrupt us.
 - 1. If we die we go to the Lord.
 - 2. Sometimes killing causes devil more problems because of the attention and revival martyrdom brings.
 - a. Missionaries that die
 - b. Christians fed to lions converted people in stadium. Tertullian stated that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church"
 - 3. Can't kill without God's permission.
 - 4. Gains a lot more from a corrupted Christian
 - a. destroys testimony

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- b. renders you a liability to the kingdom rather than an asset.
- (iii) Physical survival is not important to the Christian

Rev 12:11

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

NKJV

1. Overcame the dragon by not loving their lives to the death
 - a. Some died, but still won
2. If you remain physically alive, yet compromise spiritually, you've lost
3. If you die, but remain faithful, you win.
 - a. Jesus said:

Rev 2:10

Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

NKJV

- b. You get the victors' crown
 4. If physical survival is the main objective, you can't win.
 - a. Holiness is non-negotiable
 - b. Our lives are expendable.
- (2) Offensive is main objective in warfare
- (a) Soldier wants to kill enemy before enemy kills him.
 - (b) Secure and take territory from the enemy
 - (c) Main objective it to take territory where Satan's rule has not been challenged.
 - (i) Geographical
 1. Places where gospel has not reached.
 - (ii) Spiritual
 1. In our own life, things that you have not challenged Satan's authority or stronghold
 - a. As truth reveals these areas, we fight for them.
 - i. Can be very expensive.
 - ii. Must really love truth. (essential)
 - iii. We've accommodated a level of acceptance of certain sin.
 - iv. To some degree we interpret the word based on what our peer group approves (denomination, family, church friends, etc.)
 - v. Taking stand among peers is unpopular and costly. All people have their sacred cows...even Christians
 - vi. What does the bible teach? What does God really say?
 - b. False beliefs and doctrine is territory that Satan still owns in our thinking
 - i. Must be exposed and defeated by truth
 - c. Essential that you never compromise truth, even if you stand alone

2 Thess 2:9-12

*9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason **God will send them strong delusion**, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

NKJV

- d. God judges those who don't love the truth
 - i. If you don't love it, you're not worthy of it and you don't get it

- e. Obtain the truth at any cost and don't sell it at any price

Prov 23:23

23 Buy the truth, and do not sell it,

Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.

NKJV

- f. Battle is also for purity and integrity of the church itself
 - i. Luther had to stand alone "neither open to us or safe to violate the convictions we have"
 - ii. Standing for truth means also striving to maintain truth in the church
 - iii. Best thing we can do for this is to be faithful ourselves to truth

- 2. In other's lives, battle is for their souls

Eph 1:9-11

9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him.

NKJV

- a. Not one area of human activity to remain outside dominion of Christ
- b. Desires that all are saved
- c. Must bring every thought into captivity to Him
 - i. Not just our own thoughts, but the thoughts of all

c) *State of the battle*

1 Sam 17:3-9

3 The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. 4 And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. 5 He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. 6 And he had bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders. 7 Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him. 8 Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. 9 If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us."

NKJV

Skip to...

1 Sam 17:51-54

51 Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. 52 Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron. 53 Then the children of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their tents.

NKJV

- i) Devil trivializes this story.
 - (1) Cute Sunday school story
- ii) Type of spiritual warfare we are in
 - (1) Christ's victory over Satan.

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- (2) David is type of Christ.
- (3) Goliath is type of Satan
- iii) Devil and demons on the run just as Philistines were.
 - (1) They lost, war was over.
 - (2) Christ won over Satan at the cross.
- iv) We are the Israelites pursuing and enforcing Christ's victory
- v) Christ disarmed the enemy at the cross

Col 2:15

15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

NKJV

- (1) Made public display of
 - (a) Imagery of common practice of Romans to have triumphal procession of conquered generals, humiliating them. At the end of that parade was their execution. The incense burned was the smell of victory for the Romans and the smell of death for the conquered.

2 Cor 2:14-16

14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. 15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life.

NKJV

- (b) Christ leading us. Conquered from the power of darkness to the power of light
- (2) We are armed, they are disarmed
 - (a) Devil relies on intimidation and deceit. (wizard of oz scenario)
 - (b) Reality shows that we have nothing to be afraid of. We are the armed ones, he is disarmed, he is "bound".
- vi) Satan's only hope is to keep Christians deceived. How does he still deceive?
 - (1) Gives people impression that he is powerful and scary
 - (a) He loves hollywood with it's depiction of Satan and demons. (Exorcist, etc)
 - (b) Hopes you think this because he doesn't want to have encounters with informed Christians because he's powerless against the truth
 - (2) Wants us to believe we are like grasshoppers (like Israelite spies)
 - (a) We are grasshoppers empowered by God
 - (b) Grasshopper with God is bigger than a giant

Num 14:6-10

6 But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; 7 and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. 8 If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' 9 "Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them."

NKJV

- (c) Satan defenseless against body of Christ taking his territory

Luke 11:21-22

21 When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. 22 But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.

NKJV

- (d) Jesus disarmed Satan at cross
- (3) He wants us to love our lives more than capturing territory for God
- (4) Wants us to believe that he is still king of this world
 - (a) When we discover that Christ is king, we're free from Satan
 - (b) The truth sets free
 - (c) God commands us not to be afraid

Josh 1:5-9

5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

NKJV

- vii) Our job is to not only make sure we are not damaged by the enemy, but that the enemy is damaged by us

Matt 11:12

12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

NKJV

- (1) 2 meanings:
 - (a) enemies of kingdom, violently oppose it.
 - (b) Violent men take it by force is reference to Christians. We're to be aggressive in taking Satan's strongholds. Not physical but spiritual violence. Parallel in Luke:

Luke 16:16-17

16 The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.

NKJV

- viii) Devil will do all he can to keep us from taking territory, it requires a pressing in

- (1) We must free the captives

2 Tim 2:24-26

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

NKJV

- (a) Set free by acknowledging the truth.
- (b) We come outwardly, gentle, teaching, correcting, kindly, meekly.
- (c) This is a violent act to Satan.
- (d) Satan loves these militant army types that think that they're doing spiritual warfare with physical aggressiveness.

2 Cor 10:4-6

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

NKJV

- ix) Pulling down strongholds and casting down are violent actions
 - (1) Not only our thoughts into captivity (that's just beginning), but all thoughts. Other men's thoughts, that's what discipleship is
 - (2) Conducted with outward gentleness, but amounts to strongholds being pulled down
- x) Weapons are:
 - (1) Preaching word of God
 - (2) Prayer
 - (3) Things that little kid, old lady, quadrapelegic could do
 - (4) Adequate to do the job
 - (a) Mighty in God.
- xi) Strongholds of Satan are areas of deception in the world
 - (1) Ideologies
 - (a) Communism
 - (b) Secular-humanist
 - (c) Islam
 - (d) Cults
 - (e) New Age
 - (2) Many Christians don't believe that these ideological strongholds can be brought down
 - (a) Seen in happen in USSR in our lifetime. (how many Christians prayed for this? Yet everyone couldn't believe it when it happened.) Just like...

Acts 12:11-17

11 And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people." 12 So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying. 13 And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer. 14 When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate. 15 But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel." 16 Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.

NKJV

- (b) God can answer our prayers even when we don't expect it.
- (c) Doubts of Christians have been rebuked by God in answering this prayer. Now we're expected to start expecting it
- (d) If we did believe, we'd see more zeal and probably more of these strongholds come down

d) Binding and loosing

- i) Not as modern day militant spiritual warfare nuts might suggest
 - (1) "I bind you Satan" etc
- ii) Indirect scriptural support to suggest that we are here to bind the enemy on earth.

Matt 16:18-19

*18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and **whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**"*

NKJV

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- (1) Roman Catholics believe this makes Peter the lead apostle with the most authority
- (2) However, Jesus makes a similar statement to all the apostles:

Matt 18:15-18

*15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. 18 **Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.***

NKJV

- (3) Only two places that mention binding and loosing
 - (a) Also, Only two places in NT that Jesus uses the word “church”
 - (i) Both in context of binding and loosing
 - (b) Seems to have something to do with church
 - (c) Apostles were given this authority
 - (i) 1 case it was about building church
 - (ii) Other case about maintaining purity in church and church discipline.
- (4) What does binding and loosing mean?
 - (a) Rabbi’s used this term about what was permitted and forbidden by the law
 - (i) Binding was forbidding an action, Loosing was permitting an action
 - (ii) Finer points of Divorce and Sabbath work are good examples of this
 - (b) Could mean that the disciples had this authority in church as Rabbi’s had in Judaism
 - (i) Jerusalem council is good example
 - (ii) Authority of Jesus himself
 - (c) Other thing to consider is language tense.
 - (i) Actually means “will have been” bound in heaven. This means that heaven has already determined what things are bound and loosed and apostles are just enforcing on earth what is already bound and loosed in heaven. Heaven doesn’t obey disciples, it’s the other way around
 - (ii) NAS already renders it this way, other translations have margin notes.
 - (d) Although Jesus talks about building church and church discipline in these contexts, He also said that Satan has been bound, in Heaven, not on earth.
 - (i) We need to enforce that binding
 - (ii) Just like Israelites enforcing defeat of Goliath against the Philistines

5) The Christian advantage (lecture #5)

a) *Victory accomplished, enemy defeated*

- i) Enemy is in retreat

James 4:7-8

*7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and **he will flee from you.***

NKJV

- ii) Kingdom of God is advancing all of the world (like mustard seed)
- iii) Christ disarmed the enemy

Col 2:15

*15 Having **disarmed principalities and powers,** He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.*

NKJV

Luke 11:21-23

*21 When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. 22 But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, **he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.***

NKJV

- iv) Destroyed Satan's power

Heb 2:14-16

*14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death **He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,** 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

NKJV

- (1) Fear of death is very powerful for those afraid to die
 - (a) Most can be manipulated by the threat
 - (b) Christians have no reason to fear death
- (2) Destroy - katargeo (kat-arg-eh'-o); from NT:2596 and NT:691; to be (render) entirely idle (useless), literally or figuratively:
 - (a) Reduced to inactivity
 - (i) Not every activity
 - (ii) Can't keep in bondage through fear of death anymore

Rom 8:15-16

*15 For you **did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear,** but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." NKJV*

2 Tim 1:6-7

*7 For God **has not given us a spirit of fear,** but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

NKJV

- (iii) If believer knows the truth, he/she is free (the truth sets free.)
 - 1. Cannot be undone

- (3) Another "Destroy" luo (loo'-o); a primary verb; to "loosen" (literally or figuratively):

1 John 3:8-9

*8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might **destroy the works of the devil.** NKJV*

- (a) Undo or untangle is another meaning
- (b) Human beings need to be undone or loosened

(4) Led captivity captive

Ps 68:18
18 You have ascended on high,
You have led captivity captive;
You have received gifts among men,
 NKJV

- (a) Paul quotes in Eph. 4 as relating to Christ
- (b) Who are captives?
 - (i) Those who died before Christ? Or
 - (ii) Could be talking about Demons

Ps 68:1-2

Let God arise,
Let His enemies be scattered;
Let those also who hate Him flee before Him.
2 As smoke is driven away,
So drive them away;
As wax melts before the fire,
So let the wicked perish at the presence of God.
 NKJV

1. He was victorious on the cross and therefore His enemies scattered

Ps 68:17-18
17 The chariots of God are twenty thousand,
Even thousands of thousands;
The Lord is among them as in Sinai, in the Holy Place.
18 You have ascended on high,
You have led captivity captive;
You have received gifts among men,
Even from the rebellious,
That the LORD God might dwell there.
 NKJV

Ps 68:21
21 But God will wound the head of His enemies,
The hairy scalp of the one who still goes on in His trespasses.
 NKJV

2. God has arisen (resurrection)
3. God has ascended (in the ascension)
4. Result is the wounding, scattering, melting away, the captivity of His enemies
5. Already happened at the cross
 - a. We just enjoy the “spoils” of that fact
 - b. Casting out demons today, not so much spiritual warfare as it is collecting spoils of war already won

b) *Christ is at right hand of god interceding for us.*

Luke 22:31-32

31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."
NKJV

- i) He knew Peter would defect (says so in next couple of verses)
 - (1) Christ prayed for Peter that he would return to Him
 - (a) Questionable if Peter would have returned if Jesus hadn't
- ii) True Christians all have the advantage of Christ interceding for us

Rom 8:31-34

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, **who also makes intercession for us.**
NKJV

Heb 7:25-26

25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
NKJV

Heb 9:24-25

24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;
NKJV

1 John 2:1

2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.
NKJV

- (1) John Ch17 (Jesus is seen praying for us). That we don't sin
- (2) If we do sin, we have an advocate

c) *Christ has been exalted high above all other authorities*

Eph 1:20-22

20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.
NKJV

Eph 2:5-7

even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
NKJV

- i) Not only so, but we who are in Him sit together with Him in high places
 - (1) Means that we share in the exalted authority above all principalities and powers
 - (a) Not as we will, but under His authority
 - (b) We are entrusted with His authority
 - (c) This is what it means to act in the "name of Jesus"

Col 2:11-12

11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which **you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God.** who raised Him from the dead.
NKJV

- (i) This speaks of our position in Christ.

Col 3:1

3:1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

NKJV

- (2) Being seated with Christ gives believers an advantage over the enemy.

1 John 5:18-19

*18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God **keeps himself**, and the wicked one **does not touch him**.*

NKJV

- (a) Compare Alexandrian text:

1 John 5:18

*18 We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God **keeps him**, and the evil one does not touch him.*

NASU

- (b) So who keeps whom?
 - (i) Christ (who was born of God) keeps “him” the believer from evil.
 - (ii) Important to note that even though Christ intercedes, there is still free will to thwart His purposes and fall to temptation.
 - (iii) Best way to see the balance is described in 1Peter:

1 Peter 1:5

*...5 who are **kept by the power of God** through faith for salvation...*

NKJV

- 1. The greek word for kept is more like placing a guard:
 - a. NT:5432 **phroureo** (froo-reh'-o); from a compound of NT:4253 and NT:3708; to be a watcher in advance, i.e. to mount guard as a sentinel (post spies at gates); figuratively, to hem in, protect:
- 2. We are safely kept by God’s power, through our faith in Him
 - a. However, not everyone keeps faith.

Heb 4:2-3

*2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, **not being mixed with faith** in those who heard it.*

NKJV

d) *The mighty name of Jesus*

- i) The mighty name of Jesus is another advantage for the believer.

Prov 18:10

10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.

NKJV

- (1) Not in own power, authority, or skills, but in the name of the Lord.
- (2) What is meant by the “name” of the Lord?

Mark 16:17-18

17 And these signs will follow those who believe: **In My name** they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."
NKJV

- (a) Iranaeus quotes these verses in his writings, confirming probable authenticity.
- (b) In Jesus' name is more than a formula for ending a prayer.
 - (i) we use it that way, but the bible never shows anyone ending a prayer like that, it's always just..Amen.

John 16:23-28

23 And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father **in My name** He will give you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing **in My name**. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

25 "These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. 26 In that day you will ask **in My name**, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; 27 for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God.
NKJV

- (ii) Not just what we say, but what we **do** is in Jesus' name.

Col 3:17

17 And whatever you do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
NKJV

- (c) To act in someones name, is to act in the **place**.
 - (i) Authorized and commissioned to represent someone.
 - (ii) Like an ambassador to another country.
 - 1. Acting in the name of his country.
 - (iii) Extension of that person.
- (d) To pray in Jesus' name is praying as Jesus would be praying at that moment.
 - (i) Not a magic formula
 - (ii) Pray as if you were Him
 - (iii) Expect answers as He would.
 - 1. Praying with His authority.
 - (iv) Can pray without that ending just as effectively as with it.
 - 1. Not magic words.
 - (v) Asking in Jesus' name something He would not ask, or by someone who is not a true disciple of His, is a lie.
 - 1. Example:

Acts 19:12-17

13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists **took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus** over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you **by the Jesus whom Paul preaches**." 14 Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" 16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.
NKJV

- a. These guys had no authority to act in Jesus name because they didn't even know Him.
- b. By contrast, even handkerchiefs that Paul touched would drive out demons.

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- (e) Only Christians can act in the name of Jesus
 - (i) Nobody, not even the devil, can resist the authority of that name.
 - (ii) Peter shows his understanding of this:

Acts 3:1-7

*3:1 Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; 3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. 4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." 5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, **but what I do have I give you**: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."*

NKJV

- 1. Peter said he had something to give him. Authority to **heal in the name of Jesus Christ**.
- (iii) Also, look at a different occasion:

Acts 9:32-35

*32 Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. 33 There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. 34 And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, **Jesus the Christ heals you**. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. 35 So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.*

NKJV

- 1. Notice he didn't use the magic phrase "in Jesus name"
 - a. Peter was demonstrating here that it was really Jesus healing the man, not Peter using some magic formula.
 - b. He has the authority to act for Christ.

- (iv) On yet another occasion:

Acts 9:36-40

*36 At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. 37 But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. 38 And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. 39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. 40 But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "**Tabitha, arise.**" And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.*

NKJV

- 1. Peter still acting "in the name of Jesus", but again didn't use the words.
 - a. Interesting that this time he didn't mention the name of Jesus. The only time he was alone with nobody to hear.
 - b. Possibly he wanted everyone to hear Jesus name when he did this in public. Nobody could say it's by Peter's own power.

- (v) How did Jesus raise the dead?
 - 1. Addressed the person directly
 - a. Lazarus
 - b. Little girl
 - c. Young man
 - 2. Commanded them to get up
 - a. Get up

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b. Arise

(f) This also applies to forgiveness

2 Cor 2:10

*10 Now whom you forgive anything, **I also forgive**. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes **in the presence of Christ**.
NKJV*

- (i) Paul is saying he is standing in the place of Christ vicariously forgiving this man in Jesus' name.
- (ii) Apostles had that authority given directly by Jesus:

John 20:23

*23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."
NKJV*

(g) Acting in Jesus' name applies to imploring as well

2 Cor 5:20-21

*20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: **we implore** you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.
NKJV*

(3) When believers stand against demons, they stand with the authority of Christ.

- (a) Good idea to use the name of Jesus
 - (i) However, they must obey regardless.
 - (ii) They have no right not to.
 - 1. There are times that they do not come out though
 - a. This is covered in another session.

e) *Promises from God*

i) Knowing and leaning on the promises of God is another advantage for the Christian

2 Peter 1:3-4

*3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious **promises**, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
NKJV*

(1) Freedom is obtained through belief in these promises.

ii) What are the promises?

(1) Power and authority over the enemy.

Luke 10:19

*19 Behold, I give you **the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy**, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.
NKJV*

- (a) Serpents and scorpions refer to spiritual adversaries here.
 - (i) Compare with Revelation 9
 - (ii) The creatures had ability to torment everyone but those with the seal of God.
 - 1.

- (b) If you are walking in the faith and obedience to the Lord, you are immune to demonic harm.

(2) God will crush Satan under the feet of the church.

Rom 16:20

20 And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

NKJV

- (a) This is the promise of victory over Satan.

(3) God in us is greater than Satan

1 John 4:1-4

*2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, **because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.***

NKJV

(4) The devil will flee if he is resisted by a believer

James 4:7

*7 Therefore submit to God. **Resist the devil and he will flee from you.***

NKJV

- (a) Notice it doesn't say "rebuke the devil". The bible doesn't say a believer is to rebuke the devil.
- (b) Resistance causes the devil to flee
 - (i) Nothing implied as to the duration of this
 - (ii) Must be sustained as long as the attack is sustained.
 - 1. As long as you're resisting, you will win.
- (c) Without this promise, it's easy to be overcome and think it was because there wasn't the power in us to win.
 - (i) It helps in long periods of temptation
 - 1. Jesus was tempted for 40 days, but it didn't say He knew it would be that long.
 - a. He knew that His body was dying and it was at that time that Satan tempted Him to turn the rocks into bread.
 - b. The devil finally had to flee.
 - (ii) As long as we're resisting, we're not succumbing.

1 Cor 10:13

*13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation **will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.***

NKJV

- 1. God gives us the way out and the way to bear it.

(5) The enemies weapons cannot succeed against us

Isa 54:17

*17 **No weapon formed against you shall prosper.***

And every tongue which rises against you in judgment

You shall condemn.

*This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD,
And their righteousness is from Me."*
Says the LORD.
NKJV

(a) Our righteousness is from the Lord and therefore the devils accusations cannot stick.

(6) God will contend with him who contends with us.

*Isa 49:25
25 But thus says the LORD:*

*"Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away,
And the prey of the terrible be delivered;
For **I will contend with him who contends with you,**
And I will save your children.*
NKJV

(a) We don't have to be powerful, because God is with us.
(b) God told Joshua this:

*Josh 1:9
9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for **the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.**"*
NKJV

(c)

6) The Armor of God (lecture #6)

Eph 6:10-19

*10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore **take up the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--*
NKJV

- a) *What is the armor of God?*
- i) Many Christians suggest that it's something you need to put on daily, each piece.
 - (1) Some even suggest you go through the physical motions.
 - (a) Like a pantomime.
 - ii) Paul actually describing the features and benefits of the Christian life
 - (1) Using a metaphor of a soldier to describe it.
 - (a) Example: Waist girded with truth.
 - (i) We are lost in deception without the truth.
 - (b) Truth, righteousness, faith, gospel of peace, salvation, etc, all serve us just as real armor serves a soldier.
 - (2) Other metaphors have been used in scripture.
 - (a) Sheep and shepherd
 - (b) Runner running a race.
 - (c) This is simply another one.
 - iii) "Taking up" armor of God is simply taking stock to ensure that you have all the things that protect you.
 - (1) Not a pantomime, but a spiritual self-examination.

- b) *Where else do we find the "armor" concept in scripture?*

1 Thess 5:5-9

*5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the **breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation**.*
NKJV

- i) Paul using same type of metaphor.
 - (1) This breastplate is *faith and love* whereas the Ephesians passage lists it as *righteousness*.
 - (2) This helmet is the "*hope of salvation*" whereas the Ephesians passage is simply "*salvation*".
 - (3) Paul does not seem to feel bound by the metaphor.
 - (a) Not some mystical armor out there, just a comparison with physical armor.
- ii) Elsewhere:

2 Cor 6:7-8

*7 by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the **armor of righteousness** on the right hand and on the left,*
NKJV

- (1) This is speaking of Paul's own ministry and how he demonstrates himself as a minister of God.

iii) Elsewhere:

Rom 13:12-14

*12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the **armor of light**. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*

NKJV

- (1) Paul equating putting on armor with putting on Lord Jesus Christ.
(a) Not two different things, but synonymous.

c) *What does it mean to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ?"*

Isa 59:15-17

*Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him
That there was no justice.*

*16 He saw that there was no man,
And wondered that there was no intercessor;
Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him;
And His own righteousness, it sustained Him.*

*17 **For He put on righteousness as a breastplate,
And a helmet of salvation on His head;***

*He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing,
And was clad with zeal as a cloak.*

NKJV

- i) This is where Paul gets his language from.
ii) This is figuratively speaking of Christ in this passage.
(1) The "arm" is Jesus (see also Isa 53:2).
iii) When Paul uses it, he's telling us to be clad in the same armor Jesus is wearing...
iv) Paul uses the phrase "put on" often in his writings.
(1) New man. What is it?
(a) Christ (His body)

Eph 2:15

*15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself **one new man from the two**, thus making peace,*
NKJV

- (i) "The two" is referring to Jews and Gentiles.
(b) Also:

Eph 4:20-24

*20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the **old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you **put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

NKJV

- (i) Paul earlier says that man will be perfect or mature:

Eph 4:11-14

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a **perfect man**, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; NKJV

1. The church is seen as a corporate individual, a new man, that will one day come to maturity.
2. We know that the church is Christ's body:

Eph 1:22-23

22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 **which is His body, the fullness of Him** who fills all in all. NKJV

3. The head (Jesus) and the body (the church) are all one organism.
4. Therefore, Paul equates the body of Christ as Christ Himself.

1 Cor 12:12-13

12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, **so also is Christ**. NKJV

5. Elsewhere, Paul compares a Christian being with a prostitute as uniting her with Christ himself...

1 Cor 6:15-18

15 Do you not know that your bodies **are members of Christ**? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." 17 **But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him**. NKJV

- (2) Old man. What is it?

Rom 6:6

6 knowing this, that our **old man** was crucified with Him, NKJV

- (a) Many think this means "old self".
 - (i) Some modern translations actually print it this way.
 - (ii) But the greek word is "man", not self.
 - (iii) NT:444 **anthropos** (anth'-ro-pos); from NT:435 and ops (the countenance; from NT:3700); **man-faced**, i.e. a **human being**; KJV - certain, man.
 - (iv) Translating the word as "self" is merely a theological presupposition. (old nature, and new nature).
- (b) Old man and New man are not something that is in us, but something we are in.
 - (i) Corporate entities. Everyone is in one or the other.
- (c) Paul talked extensively about one man verses another in the last chapter:

Rom 5:14-19

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. 15 But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the **one man's** offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the **one Man**, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. 16 And the gift is not like that which came through the **one** who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. 17 For if by the **one man's** offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the **One**, Jesus

Christ.) 18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.
NKJV

- (i) In one man (Adam), everyone is a sinner.
- (ii) In the other man (Christ) everyone is made righteous.
- (d) Old man is Adam, New man is Christ. (not “natures” of each person)
 - (i) Put off Adam. (Old, he appeared in history first)
 - (ii) Put on Christ. (New, he came after Adam to make all things new)
 - (iii) All people are in one of these two men.
- (3) “Putting on” is described like putting on a garment
 - (a) Garment not something that is in you, but something you are in.
 - (b) Back to the Eph 4:30-34 passage:
 - (i) Paul is instructing them to put off the old man (Adam) and put on the new (Christ).
 - (c) Compare with another passage in Colossians:

Col 3:9-11

9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

NKJV

- (i) There's no Jew or Gentile, slave nor free, etc. in the “new Man” (compare Gal 3:28)
- (ii) Since we have put off the old and put on the new, behave accordingly.
 - 1. In one sense we've already done it, in another we do it continually.
 - a. We've shed our association with Adam and associated ourselves with Christ.
 - i. Like taking off an old garment and putting on a new one.
 - b. But we're also to continue putting off the deeds that come with the association of the old man.
 - i. We still have the tendency to do the deeds of Adam. These have to be put off daily.
 - ii. Our deeds must reflect who we associate ourselves with.
- v) Jesus is the one with the armor
 - (1) He is the righteous one.
 - (2) He smites the nations with the sword of His mouth.
 - (3) When we put on Christ, we are also taking with that His armor.
 - (a) Because we are in Him:
 - (i) We are righteous
 - (ii) We have salvation...etc.
 - (b) This is why we cannot lose in the battle. Christ is the one with all authority and power to defeat the wiles of the devil.

d) A closer look at the pieces of armor in Eph 6

Eph 6:10-19

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all,

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*to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--
NKJV*

i) **Stand:** When the battles over and the dust settles someone is going to be standing.

- (1) In this armor of God, we have great security.
- (2) We have confidence that we will not succumb to the wicked one.
- (3) Spiritual protection, not physical.
 - (a) Battle is not physical (v12)
 - (b) A Christian wearing all this armor may still be a martyr.
 - (c) Paul was physically afflicted by the enemy (2 Cor 12:7-9)
 - (i) God wouldn't take it away, but gave him His grace instead.
 - (ii) Paul was not able to battle it away with spiritual warfare.
 - (iii) Likewise, he was hindered from going where he wished to go:

1 Thess 2:17-18

*17 But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. 18 Therefore we wanted to come to you--even I, Paul, time and again--**but Satan hindered us.**
NKJV*

1. Satanically inspired authorities are the ones who are hindering him.
Spiritual warfare doesn't guarantee physical advantage.
- (d) Job was afflicted physically by Satan:
 - (i) Children were killed
 - (ii) Livestock captured.
 - (iii) His body was infected with boils.
 - (iv) The test Job was under was whether or not he would curse God.
 1. His only part was to remain faithful.
 2. Job didn't have the authority to tell the devil to go away.
- (e) Spiritual armor is for spiritual advantage.
 - (i) We're victorious even we are physically afflicted and even killed if our armor is in place and we stand faithful.

2 Cor 4:16-18

*16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. **For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**
NKJV*

1. our concern is not with the outward things (physical), but the inward (spiritual).
 - a. Inward man
 - b. Afflictions can work for us.
 - i. This is not what our armor protects us from.
 - ii. Rather, it protects us from spiritual harm and moral loss.
- (f) So is there no physical protection promised in the bible?
 - (i) There is, but it's not a part of spiritual warfare.
 - (ii) Spiritual forces do the protecting without our battling for it.

Ps 34:7

7 The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him,

And delivers them.
NKJV

1. Our physical well-being is God's concern, not ours.
2. Elisha prayed for his servant's eyes to be opened to this:

2 Kings 6:17

*Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was **full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.***

3. No way we can be harmed unless God wants us to be.
4. Angels are God's servants, sent by God's will to minister to us.
 - a. Not by our beckoning, but His.
 - b. Doesn't mean we shouldn't pray for God's protection of ourselves or others. But it's a request on our part, not a battle.
5. Elsewhere:

Ps 91:11-13

11 For He shall give His angels charge over you,

To keep you in all your ways.

12 In their hands they shall bear you up,

Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,

The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

NKJV

- a. This sounds like a physical protection here
- b. We can't come to any physical harm unless God permits it.
 - i. Satan wanted to afflict Job physically, long before he was ever permitted to.
 - ii. When it suits God's purposes, He allows physical harm, even death.

ii) **Girding the waist with truth**

- (1) In Roman armor, the belt was used to attach other things to and hold them in place (breastplate, sword, etc.)
- (2) Our belt is truth. What is Paul referring to?
 - (a) Abstract truths? (doctrine)
 - (i) Awareness of realities
 - (b) Character trait?
 - (i) honesty
 - (ii) integrity

Ps 51:6

6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,

And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

NKJV

(iii) The greek word is: NT:225 **aletheia** (al-ay'-thi-a); from NT:227; truth:

1. NT:227 **alethes** (al-ay-thace'); from NT:1 (as a negative particle) and NT:2990; true (as not concealing): KJV - true, truly, truth.

- (c) Not clear, but it is first on the list
 - (i) Truth and deception are the main issues in the battle.
 1. Commitment to truth, is what holds our spiritual lives together (like a belt).
 2. Likely to begin believing things that are not true if we begin to accept things other than what is revealed in scripture as truth.

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- a. To the degree we do this we are vulnerable.
- b. The truth makes us free.
- (ii) As a character trait, it means we always deal truthfully
 - 1. Our testimony is never called into question if we're honest.
 - a. Yes is yes, no is no.
- (iii) Love the truth
 - 1. We don't defend a favorite doctrine if it's not true.
 - 2. Compromise on truth begins to make things very unstable in every other aspect of the battle.

2 Thess 2:9-12

9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, **because they did not receive the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

NKJV

- a. It's those that did not receive the love of the truth that the strong delusion is sent to.
- b. Also:

Rom 1:18-19

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who suppress the truth** in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

NKJV

- c. Those that suppress the truth incur the wrath of God.
 - i. God gives them over to the lies.
- d. We're to obtain the truth and keep it.

Prov 23:23

23 **Buy the truth, and do not sell it.**

Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.

NKJV

iii) **Breastplate of righteousness**

- (1) Righteousness is a part of being in Christ.
 - (a) We have put on Christ, and therefore wear the breastplate of His righteousness.

- (2) What is righteousness?

1 John 3:7

7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

NKJV

- (a) We're not righteous before God for practicing righteousness, rather one who practices righteousness demonstrates that he/she was made righteous by God.
 - (i) 1 John is all about how to know whether or not you are saved.
 - (ii) Righteousness is an evidence of being in Christ.
- (b) Doing a righteous act is simply doing what is **right**.
 - (i) Seeking not to sin.

- (3) Problem is that we don't do it all the time

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(a) Moments of weakness and being caught off guard.

(4) Repairing righteousness

(a) Breastplates that have holes in them from sin.

(b) Confession:

1 John 1:9

*9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

NKJV

(i) Repairs our righteousness before God.

(ii) Should be done as quickly as possible, if not immediately.

(5) Avoiding sin

(a) Many Christians are caught in a pattern of habitual sin and don't think it's a big deal

(i) Sin now, repent later.

1. Problem is that we can't always repent. Repentance is granted by God.

2. That attitude itself is a hardening against repentance.

(ii) This affects a Christians effectiveness in conflicts with the enemy.

(6) Righteousness before God is through faith in God.

Rom 4:2-4

*3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and **it was accounted to him for righteousness.**"*

NKJV

(a) Also Gal 3:6, James 2:23, Gen 15:6.

(b) Even if we're struggling in sin, if we're counting on the forgiveness of Christ we're considered righteous before God.

(c) This doesn't apply if we take it for granted and use it as license to sin.

(i) We deceive ourselves if we say that to our selves.

(ii) A person like that can't be saved.

(iii) This is a non-commitment to Christ.

1. If they had saving faith, they would not be ok with living in sin.

(7) Called breastplate of "faith and love" elsewhere in Paul's writings:

1 Thess 5:8

*8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the **breastplate of faith and love,** and as a helmet the hope of salvation.*

NKJV

(a) In one sense, faith and love are the parts that make up righteousness.

(i) If we walk in love, we'll always be doing the righteous thing.

(ii) Trusting God (faith)

(8) Why breastplate image?

(a) See what John says:

1 John 3:20-22

*20 For if our **heart condemns us,** God is greater than our **heart,** and knows all things. 21 Beloved, if our **heart does not condemn us,** we have confidence toward God. 22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.*

NKJV

- (i) Notice the reference to the heart
- (ii) A breastplate protects the vital organs surrounding and including the heart.
- (b) Devil wants us to experience condemnation in our hearts
 - (i) Notice John doesn't say "if God condemns us", but rather "our heart"
 - (ii) If we are not condemned in our hearts, we have confidence towards God.
 - (iii) If we feel guilty, our heart is condemning us even if God is not.
 - 1. Devil gets as much advantage from you feeling condemned as he does from you actually being condemned.
 - 2. Condemnation is what alienates us from God.
 - a. We won't pray confidently.
 - b. We have a hard time believing that "there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus".
 - (iv) Therefore, righteousness protects from that condemnation.
- (c) Difference between conviction and condemnation (although they feel the same).
 - (i) Guiltiness, a sense of having done wrong.
 - (ii) Condemnation is oftentimes rather vague
 - 1. you're rotten, worthless, unacceptable, etc.
 - 2. Holy Spirit doesn't want us to feel that way.
 - a. If there's something He wants you to repent of, He'll convict you of that particular thing.
 - b. He has nothing to gain by vagueness
 - i. He wants you to repent.
 - (iii) Conviction is a strong feeling you have done wrong, but it's not a hopeless feeling.
 - 1. Not rejection, but correction.
 - 2. Conviction shows you what stands in the way of getting right with God and it's always doable.
 - 3. If God didn't want you to repent, He wouldn't bother to convict you.
 - 4. Conviction always goes away after you've repented.
 - a. God doesn't bring it up anymore.
 - b. Devil wants you to feel like it's still not alright.
 - (iv) Doesn't matter to Satan whether you've sinned or not.
 - 1. Gets same results if you feel guilty as if you are guilty.
 - a. Isolation from God.
 - 2. May try to get you to feel guilty about things you never did.
 - 3. May try to get you to feel guilty about things that aren't sin.
 - 4. Get's a lot of pleasure from legalism.
 - a. Manufacturers sins from things that are not sin.
- (d) We need a new resurgence of "clean conscience" Christianity
 - (i) Conscience is a gift of God to make us aware of right and wrong.
 - (ii) Not taking God's forgiveness for granted
 - 1. slippery slope to condemnation
 - (iii) Walking day by day with an awareness of whether we're pleasing God or not.

iv) Feet shod (shoe-ed) with preparation of the gospel of peace.

- (1) Readiness, or preparedness to preach gospel
- (2) Protection from the harsh conditions during the march.
- (3) Preaching the gospel to all nations involves hardships
- (4) Phrase "gospel of peace" is borrowed from Isaiah.

Isa 52:7

*7 How beautiful upon the mountains
Are the feet of him who brings good news.*

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Who proclaims peace,
Who brings glad tidings of good things,
Who proclaims salvation,
Who says to Zion,
"Your God reigns!"
NKJV

- (a) In ancient times, traveling over mountains was very treacherous and full of obstacles.
- (5) It's about being prepared for whatever hardships are involved in taking the gospel into the world.
- (a) Peter spoke of this:

1 Peter 4:1
4:1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind.
NKJV

v) **"Shield of faith" to "quench" the fiery darts of Satan.**

- (1) What are the darts?
 - (a) Since faith challenges the darts, the darts are probably something that challenges faith.
 - (i) Doubt
 - 1. Part of devil's deception is to get you to doubt what is true
 - a. His word
 - b. His faithfulness, etc.
 - (ii) Faith neutralizes doubt.
- (2) The Roman shield was very tall, so that it could hide an entire man's body and catch arrows.
- (3) Faith is simply believing God.
 - (a) Commitment to trusting God.
 - (i) God has been faithful this far.

vi) **Helmet of salvation**

- (1) Devil would like very much for us to lose our salvation
 - (a) Not up to him, but up to us.
 - (b) Paul tells us to wear it, put it on.
- (2) Not a membership card you sign up for once
 - (a) A walk or a life of trusting God to save and deliver us.
 - (b) We wear that helmet as long as we are maintaining our relationship with God.
- (3) Protects most vital part...the head.
 - (a) The loss of it is the end of life.
- (4) Salvation is our security in the battle.
 - (a) If we are saved, we are invincible and we will not perish.

vii)

7) Recognizing the devil's devices (lecture #7)

a) Introduction

- i) In warfare, it helps to know what the enemy's strategy or mode of operation is...

2 Cor 2:11

11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

NKJV

- (1) If we are not ignorant of his devices, he can't take advantage of us.
 - (a) They are disclosed in scripture.
 - (b) When people don't recognize the trap, they get caught in it.

Prov 1:17

17 Surely, in vain the net is spread

In the sight of any bird;

NKJV

- (i) If you want to catch something, you don't let it see you setting the trap.
- (ii) Likewise, it's to Satan's advantage to not let you know about the trap he's setting for you.
 - 1. If you recognize his devices, you're less likely to succumb.

- (2) Back in Ephesians:

Eph 6:10-11

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

NKJV

- (a) The word "wiles" means **scheming** or **plots**.
- (b) It's important that we recognize those schemes so that the devil spreads his net in vain.

- (3) Peter describes the devil like this...

1 Peter 5:8

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

NKJV

- (a) Lions hunt crouching in tall grass to sneak up on their prey.
 - (i) They will almost never catch their prey if their prey sees it coming. It has to sneak up very close. They can't run very fast very far.
- (b) Peter says to be vigilant (watchful).
- (c) Devil is very much like this. He depends upon sneak attacks.
 - (i) If the devil appears to you, you're not likely to take him up on his offer.
 - (ii) When we read about Jesus being tempted in the desert, we tend to imagine Satan coming right to Him and talking directly to Him (face to face).
 - 1. However, it's just as likely that the devil was playing on His mind.
 - 2. It's much more impressive if He resisted the devil this way than face to face. Most of us would even resist Satan face to face most likely.

- (4) We gain an incredible advantage when we detect early on that the devil is tempting us.
 - (a) Our defenses will be up

b) *Satan's allies*

- i) He almost always uses allies.

James 3:14-18

*14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is **earthly, sensual, demonic**. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and **every evil thing are there**. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. NKJV*

- (1) 2 kind of wisdom (thoughts) that come to our mind
 - (a) Those from above are gentle, peaceable, loving, willing to yield.
 - (b) Envy and self-seeking, bitterness are from 3 sources or origin.
 - (i) Earthly – of the world
 - (ii) Sensual – of the flesh
 - (iii) Demonic – of the devil
- (2) Devil is not working alone.
 - (a) Has the world and the flesh as allies.
- (3) Part of our spiritual warfare is against our flesh.

Gal 5:17

*17 For the **flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh**; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. NKJV*

- (a) Paul doesn't mention principalities and powers, just the flesh
- (b) Flesh is wrestling against the Spirit and vice versa.
- (c) This is why the flesh and the devil are allies against our sanctity, because they both oppose the Spirit.
- (d) James also affirms this:

James 1:13-15

*13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by **his own desires** and enticed. NKJV*

- (i) Not a denial of the devil's temptations, but an affirmation that our own fleshly desires agree with the devil's temptations.
 1. We sin when we succumb to those desires.
 2. The flesh is the part of us that the devil makes his appeal to.
 - a. It has desires.
- ii) The flesh: What is it?
 - (1) Greek word is: NT:4561 **sarx** (sarx); probably from the base of NT:4563; flesh (as stripped of the skin), i.e. (strictly) the meat of an animal (as food), or (by extension) the body (as opposed to the soul [or spirit], or as the symbol of what is external, or as the means of kindred), or (by implication) human nature (with its frailties [physically or morally] and passions), or (specifically) a human being (as such): KJV - carnal (-ly, + -ly minded), flesh ([-ly]).
 - (a) Can mean humanity in general (like in Matt 24:22). The human race.
 - (b) Can also mean the physical body (1 Pet 4:1)
 - (c) Can also just mean meat.
 - (d) Some feel it can also mean the "sinful nature" (especially in Paul's writings).
 - (i) Some translations even translate "sarx" as sinful nature.

Gal 5:13

13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

NIV

Gal 5:13-14

13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

NKJV

1. This is not a translation (in NIV), but an interpretation of what the translators believed Paul *meant* by the word “sarx”
- (ii) Many would emphatically say that this can’t mean lust of the body, but has to mean sinful nature.
- (iii) However, the lusts of the body can be problems in and of themselves.

James 1:13-15

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

NKJV

1. Our bodies have glands and cravings
 - a. Food, water, sex, etc.
 - b. Not necessarily sinful in themselves, but neutral.
 - i. All made by God.
 2. With or without the sin nature, the body can pose problems for us.
 - a. The things craved may not be legitimate to have.
 - i. A person may legitimately crave food but is craving something that isn’t theirs.
 - ii. A man may legitimately crave sex, but craves it from someone other than his wife.
 3. The flesh has to be governed by something other than the flesh.
 - a. Spiritual side must determine when and if the craving can be satisfied.
 - i. Mine to eat?
 - ii. Am I supposed to be fasting?
 - iii. Is this person my spouse?
 4. So there’s often a conflict between the craving and morality.
 - a. In times where these conflicts exist, the flesh doesn’t just go away. There’s a struggle.
 - b. Therefore, the flesh can be an ally of the devil and the thing that he appeals to.
- (iv) God made the flesh good, but since the fall there is a tendency to crave that which God has forbidden.
1. The devil uses this disadvantage to try and get us to satisfy the lusts of the flesh through deception.

iii) The world: What is it?

John 15:18-19

18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

NKJV

- (1) The world hates Christians because it hates Jesus.
- (2) “God so loved the world” (John 3:16), but we told “love not the world” (1 John 2:15).
- (3) Just like flesh, the “world” has more than one possible meaning.
 - (a) In one sense, the world is neutral. In another, it’s hostile towards God

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- (4) Satan is referred to as the “prince” of this world.
 - (a) Jesus used that term 3 times
 - (b) Doesn’t mean he rules the planet, that is owned by God. (Matt 28:18)
 - (c) Satan has rule over the minds of men that give that authority to him.
 - (i) Those that buy into his program of rejecting God.
 - (ii) Collectively, they are considered the “world”.
 - 1. System that is under the dominion of Satan.

1 John 2:15-17

*15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world--**the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**--is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

NKJV

- 2. The world included almost everyone in the world until the gospel began going out.
 - a. Now it’s getting fewer and fewer with evangelistic efforts.
- 3. lust of flesh, lust of eyes, and pride of life are what we call “worldly” in the negative sense.
 - a. Those dominated by such things are worldly (carnal) people.
 - b. Lust of the flesh appeals to fleshly cravings (food, sex, pleasure, etc).
 - c. Lust of the eyes appeals to covetousness and greed.
 - i. Hebraism
 - d. Pride of life appeals to status among others.
 - i. Ambition, desire to elevate oneself.
 - e. There is hardly any temptation that isn’t in one of these 3 categories.
- 4. We are not supposed to love this kind of “world”, because it’s the devil’s world.
- (5) Simply put, the world provides the bait, the flesh is attracted to the bait, and the devil is the one who lays the snare to attract us to the bait.
 - (a) The world is full of these traps.
 - (i) Entertainment, pleasure, etc.
 - (ii) Financial security
 - (iii) Status among peers
 - (b) We are to have our minds on the things above, not of the things below.

c) *Satan’s devices*

- i) Look at the original temptation:

Gen 3:1-7

3:1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

NKJV

- (1) Virtually everything Satan does, he did there.
 - (a) Eve saw the fruit was good for eating (lust of flesh)
 - (b) It was also pleasing to the eye (lust of the eyes)
 - (c) To be desired to make one wise (pride of life)
- ii) The devil followed a certain plan in this passage to get Eve to succumb.

- (1) Deception: Made Eve think it would be an improvement for her.
 - (a) This was done by telling **only part** of the truth (not lying).
 - (i) Lies are easier to detect than partial truths.
 - 1. partial truth gives credibility to the lie.
 - 2. Satan tried this with Jesus.

Matt 4:4-6

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:

'He shall give His angels charge over you,'

and,

'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' "

NKJV

- a. But he left out the part of that scripture

Ps 91:11

11 For He shall give His angels charge over you,

To keep you in all your ways.

NKJV

- i. This applies to doing what you ought to do, not wrecklessly testing God in this.
 - ii. The angels are not obliged to protect you if you're not keeping the ways of God.
- (ii) Satan will always give part of the truth to conceal the whole truth.
 - 1. He'll show the positive side, but leave out the down side.
 - a. Like an advertiser.
- (b) He also spoke through a trusted individual
 - (i) Appeared in the form of the serpent.
 - 1. did not come as his ugly self, but in disguise.
 - (ii) Eve was very new and all animals were good as far as she knew.
 - 1. she had no reason to be suspicious of the serpent.
 - 2. her guard was down.
 - (iii) Devil will often speak through other people.
 - 1. The more trusted the better (like Peter).
 - 2. Also, when Job was grieving all his losses, his own wife came to him and told him:

Job 2:9-10

*"Do you still hold fast to your integrity? **Curse God and die!**"*

NKJV

- a. That's exactly the thing Satan told God he would make Job do.
 - b. She was speaking for Satan unwittingly.
- 3. Satan doesn't just speak through bad people, but good people to.
 - a. Friend
 - b. Pastor
 - c. Parents
- 4. We must test all things said to us in light of the truth.

1 Thess 5:20-21

21 Test all things; *hold fast what is good.*

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NKJV

1 John 4:1

4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, **but test the spirits**, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

NKJV

- a. False prophets do not generally announce themselves as such.
 - b. Wolves in sheeps clothing look like real Christians or else they wouldn't be as dangerous.
5. This is one of the way he remains incognito.

(c) He used ambiguous questions to trick Eve

Gen 3:1

"Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"

NKJV

- (i) Not really even clear what Satan meant by the question.
 1. But it is clear what he meant to do by asking it.
 - a. He intended to question and call attention to God's boundaries.
 - i. "How far can I go.....?"
 - ii. "How long can I look at.....?"
 - iii. "How much can I spend on.....?"
 - b. If your goal is to walk the outer most boundaries of God, the motive is not right.
 - i. Focusing on wrong thing.
 - c. He wanted to get Eve thinking about what God is withholding from her instead of all He had given her.
 - i. Focusing on the boundary and what's beyond it.
 - (ii) Obedience to God is a whole-hearted thing.
 1. Doesn't look at and question God's boundaries.
 - a. Doing so is to have a wrong attitude.
 2. The right question is rather "How can I be even more obedient and faithful to God?"
 - a. How can I be at the center of God's will and not on the edge?
 - b. We wouldn't spend too much time thinking about boundaries if we never intend to live there.
 - c. Focus on what God positively wants us to do, not what He negatively wants us not to do.
 - (iii) Eve wasn't hungry or lacking, she had every tree in the garden to eat from.
 1. Had a wide variety also.
 2. It just didn't seem right that there was something withheld from her.
 3. The more we have been given, the more we think we deserve even more.
 - a. Begin to feel that having things is our rightful due.
 - b. Conversely, the less we have the more content we are with having little.
 - c. This is what spoiled brats are made of.
 4. Similar to current controversy about women pastors.
 - a. There's not much God said women shouldn't do.
 - i. Only having authority over men.
 - ii. Can still have authority over women and children (3/4 of the world's population).
 - b. Yet, there are those that are not satisfied with that.

(d) He suggested that God's motives and reasons for forbidding the tree were not good.

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Gen 3:5

5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

NKJV

- (i) Suggesting that you're life will be fuller, more satisfying. You'll be more like God.
 - 1. As if God is holding out on you.
- (ii) But God gives us commands for both His glory and our good.

Deut 6:24-25

24 And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day.

NKJV

- 1. We don't always know what is good about it, but we need to trust His wisdom and motives
 - a. The devil tries to get us to question these things.
 - 2. But even if it weren't for our benefit, we should keep God's commandments anyways.
 - a. We have no right to violate God's will even if it hurts us doing so.
 - i. He made us, He owns us rightfully.
 - 3. The devil will always try to convince us that obeying God is not to our advantage.
 - a. This is probably why divorce/re-marriage is so rampant in the church.
 - i. Devil convinces them that getting out of an unhappy marriage will enhance their life.
 - b. There are short-term pleasures associated with sin, but what is better in the long term?
- (e) He challenged the outcome that God warned them of.

Gen 3:5

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

- (i) They didn't die that day, but they did eventually physically die.
- (ii) However, they did die spiritually which is worse.
- (iii) Death is a judgment for sin

Rom 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death,

NKJV

- (iv) Satan tries to get us to believe we will not experience the consequences of sin.
- (v) But the bible is clear:

Gal 6:7

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

NKJV

- 1. There are consequences for sin, but they're not always instant.

Ecc 8:11-12

11 Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

NKJV

- (vi) You will not succumb to sin unless you're convinced that you will escape the consequences.
 - 1. Many Christians deceive themselves by saying "I can just repent and it will be alright. I'll escape judgment"
 - a. This is missing the fact that sin hardens the heart.
 - b. Resisting sin makes one stronger and holy and stable.
 - c. Succumbing makes one weaker and unstable and susceptible.
 - d. Even if God forgives and there's always something lost to the believer.
 - i. Esau didn't think he lost much by selling his birthright until much later.
 - e. Also, there's no way that you can calculate that you will be able to repent.
 - i. If pre-meditated, you're already hardening your heart against God.
 - ii. People assume that they can spend their whole life rebelling against God and then repent on their deathbed and go to heaven. Doesn't work that way.

Heb 3:12-13

*12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," **lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.** NKJV*

- f. Rebellion begins a pattern that is harder to break the more you do it.
- 2. He'll also try to minimize the consequences to the point that we think the pleasure of the sin outweighs the consequences.
- 3. For these reasons, all temptation is a form of deception.

iii) Lies of accusation

- (1) Getting you to feel condemned is just as effective as getting you to sin.
 - (a) He'll accuse you just for being tempted.
 - (i) Just like a burglar accusing you for robbing your own house.
 - (ii) Jesus was tempted in all points like we are, but didn't sin.
 - (iii) If the thoughts are temptation, they're not yours.
 - 1. only when you agree with them does it become sin.

James 1:15

*15 Then, when desire has conceived, **it gives birth to sin;** NKJV*

- 2. as long as you're resisting the thoughts, they're not yours.
- (2) The other thing sin does is get you to accuse other people.
 - (a) Adam accused both Eve and God for his sin.
 - (i) There was some truth to it, but he's responsible for his own guilt.
 - (b) He'll make you suspicious and angry at people.
 - (i) Get you to take offense
 - (ii) Get you bitter
 - (iii) Get you to gossip
 - (c) The devil loves to destroy relationships
 - (i) Alienate from each other.

8) Resisting the devil's devices (lecture #8)

a) *Believers response to the Devils wiles: Weapons of Warfare*

- i) Review: Not ignorant of his devices.
 - (1) Deception is the method of enemy is used for:
 - (a) Making us sin
 - (b) Making us feel condemned
 - (c) Dampen our zeal for evangelism
 - (d) Bring fear into our lives
 - (e) Neutralizing us
- ii) Our response to these devices of the enemy

Eph 6:10-18

*10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**; 18 **praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--**
NKJV*

- (a) 5 pieces of armor listed in Ephesians 6
 - (i) Defensive in nature
 - (ii) In addition, Paul lists offensive equipment, Prayer and the Word of God

b) *1st weapon – Prayer*

2 Cor 10:4

*4 For the **weapons** of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God*
NKJV

- i) Primary response to devils' deceptive devices (offensive and defensive)
 - (1) Pray that our eyes are open to the attacks

Matt 6:13

*13 And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.*
NKJV

- ii) Temptation cannot be avoided
 - (1) If entirely negative, it would be God's will that we don't experience it
 - (2) Are we asking that we are never tempted?
 - (a) We're to pray for those things that are God's will
 - (b) But God's will is not that we are never tempted

Luke 4:1-2

*4:1 Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 **being tempted** for forty days by the devil.*
NKJV

- (i) Jesus was led by Spirit **to be tempted**
- (ii) Part of our training and spiritual growth
- (iii) A testing

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(iv) Measured out by God's sovereignty

1 Cor 10:13

13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

NKJV

1. God provides way out with the temptation.
2. Won't allow you to be tempted more than you can endure
3. He makes decision on where and when you can be tempted, puts the limitations on it

(v) But God is not the tempter

James 1:13

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

NKJV

1. Job chapters 1 and 2 show that God allowed temptation, but did not do the tempting, with restriction
2. Devil is active tempter, God decides how much, when, and how long

- (3) 1st clause to be interpreted in light of 2nd clause.. "But deliver us from evil one".
- (a) Paraphrase: "Lead us not into temptation without delivering us out of it also".
 - (b) Seems to be more in-line with the rest of scripture
 - (c) 1st clause is limited/negative. Hebraic expression for saying: "not this but that" really means "not only this, but also that".
 - (i) Another of example of this type of expression:

Matt 10:34

34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.

NKJV

- (ii) Of course Jesus came to bring peace
 1. Told disciples "I give you my peace"
 2. He's the prince of peace
 3. Fruit of the Spirit is peace, etc.
- (iii) Means: "not only peace, but also a sword" (implied in statement)
- (iv) Numerous other examples in scripture

(4) Cannot be a prayer that we are never tempted, but that God provides a means of escape for us also.

(a) Jesus prayed this for us.

John 17:15

15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

NKJV

- (b) If we were never led into temptation, we'd never be in the battle and therefore we could never win a battle.
- (c) Jesus warned disciples in Garden of Gethsemane:

Matt 26:41

41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation.

NKJV

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- (i) Jesus was about to be betrayed and He didn't ask for prayer for Himself but warned them to pray for themselves not to enter temptation...
 - 1. That they shouldn't fall
 - a. You either stand or fall against temptation
 - 2. Later we know that they didn't take this seriously

Matt 26:43-45

*43 And He came and **found them asleep again**, for their eyes were heavy. 44 So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. 45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. NKJV*

- a. Couldn't pray for even an hour, left them unprepared.
- b. Peter fell into temptation and denied him three times

- (d) Many or most Christians have besetting patterns of sin that they want to get rid of, but can't seem to

- (i) They denounce it, resolve not to do it, repent of it, and somehow fall into it again (very frustrating and discouraging)
- (ii) 1st thing to ask is: "Have you prayed about it?"
- (iii) 2nd thing: "How hard do you pray about it?"
- (iv) 3rd thing: "How often? How intense"
 - 1. Wrestling with God? (like Jacob)
 - a. Prayer not quick religious exercise, but a wrestling with God
 - 2. Anguished prayer?
 - 3. Losing sleep over it? Skipping meals?
 - a. The word "watch" that Jesus used means to stay awake (abstinence from sleep)
 - i. NT:69 **agrupneo** (ag-roop-neh'-o); ultimately from NT:1 (as negative particle) and NT:5258; to be sleepless, i.e. **keep awake**
 - b. Used frequently in association with prayer:

Eph 6:18

*18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, **being watchful** to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints NKJV*

- c. Fasting is a proof before God that the matter is an urgent and important one to the believer.
 - i. Continual prayer without words
 - ii. Reinforces the strength and intensity of prayer to a high degree
 - iii. Precedent in scripture about prayer and fasting in driving out demons:

Matt 17:19-21

*19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast him out?" 20 So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. 21 However, this kind does not go out **except by prayer and fasting.**" NKJV*

- 4. Easy to toss up 30 second prayers, but how serious are we about them?
 - a. Jesus taught in parables that prayer is like a woman begging a judge persistently or a man banging on the door for bread.

- b. Daniel fasted and prayed for 3 weeks (Dan 10) for something that was prophesied that would happen
 - c. How much revival and spiritual success would happen if all Christians did this?
5. Some of those who don't do these things are the ones not triumphing over sin
- a. Some sins require little effort to conquer, others take more. There's no predicting
 - b. Must be determined to do whatever it takes to gain victory
6. Accepting sin is never acceptable
- a. Unglorifying to God
 - b. Does harm to you
 - c. Gives the devil victory
 - d. Not negotiable
 - e. Can't give up the struggle until it's conquered

"You can do more than pray after you've prayed, but you can't do more than pray before you've prayed" –John Bunyon-

(v) Jesus taught that prayer is part of resistance to the enemy

- c) 2nd weapon - Word of God (sword)
- i) Could be used for defense, but mostly for offense

John 17:17-19

*17 Sanctify them by Your truth. **Your word is truth.** 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.*

NKJV

- (1) Jesus prayed to "Sanctify them" means make them holy
- ii) One of devil's main objectives is to defile the believer.
- (1) Hurts the conscience.
 - (2) Hurts testimony.
 - (3) Hurts God's glory.
 - (4) Therefore, attacking holiness is one of main objectives. He wants us to sin
- iii) Devil must use deception to defeat us. (100%)
- (1) Sin
 - (2) Fear
 - (3) Depressed
 - (4) Condemnation
 - (5) Keep unsaved.
- iv) Only cure is truth (word of God)
- (1) Not mystical, magical, power
 - (2) Damage to devil is that it exposes his lies and renders him impotent.
 - (3) The believer that meditates on scripture and knows it, is not nearly as vulnerable to deception of enemy.
 - (4) Of course, it must be accompanied by conviction of Holy Spirit.
 - (5) Jesus used scripture to combat the temptations of the enemy (Matt 4, Luke 4)
 - (a) All 3 temptations met with "It is written"
 - (b) Satan had to leave because he was defeated by truth.
 - (6) Satan misquotes scripture, we must properly use it to combat him.

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d) *The Lies of Satan*

- i) Scriptural precedent to speak back to Satan and combat lies.
 - (1) Not magical power, but reaffirming to yourself by truth that it is a lie.
 - (2) He cannot counter the truth

- ii) Satan lies about the identification of sin
 - (1) Denies that certain things are sin
 - (a) Little white lies, etc.
 - (b) Many Christians believe they're justified in:
 - (i) Divorce
 - (ii) Cheating
 - (iii) Stealing
 - (iv) Lying
 - (v) Envy
 - (vi) Anger
 - (vii) Anxiety and other alleged mental disorders (considered illness these days)
 - 1. Depression too (give em a pill).
 - 2. ADD
 - 3. Bipolar
 - 4. Schizophrenia
 - a. No proof of genetic link
 - b. What came first? Imbalanced brain chemistry, or the emotions that causes that chemistry imbalance?
 - i. Never been demonstrated.
 - 5. Alcoholism
 - a. Devil uses this to say it's sickness, not sin. Christians are buying into it.
 - (c) Claim of extenuating circumstances (lie of the enemy).
 - (d) Things that are not clearly spelled out in scripture, yet conscious dictates that is sin.
 - (i) Many sexual sins fall in this category.
 - 1. Look at uncleanness references (usually grouped with other sexual sin.)
 - 2. Paul refers to possessing own vessel to cover all bases:

1 Thess 4:3-5

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;
NKJV

- 3. We are to maintain a general standard of holiness.

iii) Satan adds to the word of God

- (1) Making us feel like we have sinned when we haven't gives enemy same benefit as if we had...
 - (a) self-condemnation
 - (b) isolation from God.

Gen 3:2-4

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "
NKJV

- (2) Eve was wrong about touching tree.
 - (a) Either she added to the command or
 - (b) Adam told her falsely about touching tree.

(3) Not supposed to add to word.

Prov 30:6

6 Do not add to His words,

Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

NKJV

(4) Why do people add to the Word?

(a) Sometimes motive good.

(i) If you don't want to eat the fruit, it's not a bad idea to avoid it altogether.

(ii) Eve may have been told by Adam not to touch it.

(iii) Eating and touching not same thing

(iv) Difference between good advice and the command of God.

(v) Can leave people feeling condemned for something that is not sin.

1. drinking alcohol

2. dressing modestly

3. etc. all things that add to word by human opinions

(vi) We get into trouble

(5) Why not add to Word?

(a) When God gives a command, He also gives you the ability to keep it.

(b) When man gives a command, you're not always able to keep it.

(c) The Bible doesn't guarantee any help in keeping man's commandments.

(d) Creates same condemnation in your heart even though you haven't sinned before God.

(i) Example: If you think drinking alcohol is a sin, you may feel guilty for drinking cough syrup.

(e) This is where Pharisees were. Didn't know the difference between the law of God and the traditions of men.

(i) Thought disciples sinned when they didn't wash their hands.

Matt 15:1-3

15:1 Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, 2 "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread." 3 He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?

NKJV

(f) Where's the boundary between what God says and man says?

(i) Devil uses this to lose sight of what God says.

(g) Paul said not to judge another's servant on doubtful things:

Rom 14:1-6

14:1 Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. 2 For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. 3 Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. 4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. 5 One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks.

NKJV

(i) Let each be convinced in his own mind.

(ii) Don't put extra burdens on people that God does not.

(iii) This is what happened to the church from very early on, it just kept adding on.

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- iv) Satan causes us to believe temptation is sin.
 - (1) Devil can make you feel condemned even when you've only been tempted
 - (a) Gets the same mileage as actual succumbing to temptation.
 - (2) Many people can't tell the difference.
 - (a) Feels like sin
 - (b) Blame ourselves for wicked thoughts.
 - (i) If you hate those thoughts, resist them, they're not yours.
- v) Satan tries to convince us that the consequences of sin are less than they are.
 - (1) We'll get away with it
 - (2) Diminish the actual consequences.
 - (a) There's always more than the devil advertises.
 - (i) He only advertises good parts of sin.

Gal 6:7-9

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. NKJV

- (b) If we are contemplating sin, we are in the process of being deceived.

- vi) Satan gives impression that yielding is the only option
 - (1) Many fall into sin because they feel there is no way out. Might as well just yield and then repent
 - (a) Convinced that we will be endlessly bombarded by the temptation.
 - (b) This ends the fight right away.
 - (2) But Bible commands us to resist, and we will win the fight.

James 4:7-8

*7 Therefore submit to God. **Resist the devil and he will flee from you.** 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. NKJV*

- (a) He will flee from you, not you will flee from him.
- (3) God promised that we will not be tempted more than we can endure.

1 Cor 10:13

*13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will **not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able**, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, **that you may be able to bear it.** NKJV*

- (a) God knows, (not us or the devil) when He's going to make Satan flee from us.
 - (b) We might fall at the exact moment before God was going to remove the temptation for all we know.
 - (c) Devil probably intensifies his tempting when he knows his time is getting short.
 - (i) Often this makes us think it's going to get stronger and stronger until we give in.
- vii) Satan tries to convince us our standard is too high and unrealistic
 - (1) Many Christians, even in ministry, don't try to be that holy
 - (2) Look nobody's perfect, don't be so hard on yourself
 - (3) Sometimes comes from very Godly people.

Matt 16:22-23

22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."
NKJV

- (4) We still need to try, even though we're not perfect and never will be.

Phil 3:12-15

2 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; **but I press on**, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 **I press toward the goal** for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

NKJV

- (5) Many Christians would probably otherwise be very convicted if they weren't measuring against the standard of others.
- (a) Standard set by God
 - (b) Don't have to go to hell with everyone else.

viii) Satan tries to convince us our temptation is unique.

- (1) Your situation is special
- (2) Refer back to 1Cor 10:13
- (3) If devil can make you feel like you're the only one, he can make you feel alone in the battle.

ix) Give impression that this is the last chance to enjoy something.

- (1) Bad day for fasting because we're having steak tonight.
 - (a) Eating is a sin when we're called to fast.
- (2) If I don't look at this woman, I'll miss an opportunity that I'll regret.
 - (a) I've never regretted resisting temptation.
 - (b) Always regretted giving in.
- (3) There will be plenty of opportunities to sin, but the point is we're supposed to resist those all the time.

9) Bondage and deliverance Part 1 (lecture #9)

a) *Introduction to demon possession*

- i) Story of a young girl in Manilla (refer to audio lectures for details).
 - (1) Sexually molest her
 - (2) Scratch and bite her
 - (a) Bites on back of her neck where she couldn't possibly bite.
 - (3) Beat her up
 - (a) She'd be found with fist full of non-human hair, like that of a wild boar.
 - (4) Attacks would happen in or out of protective custody (jail)
 - (5) Missionary in Manilla (Lester Somerall) who heard report on radio visited and delivered her from the demons.
 - (6) Made Int'l news (Life Magazine)
 - (7) Mission field is also full of stories that are similar to this.

- ii) We don't have as much information as we'd like about demons.
 - (1) Christians often fill in the gaps of knowledge with imagination.
 - (a) Most demonology is guess work.
 - (2) Most of our biblical information is anecdotal.
 - (a) Doesn't say how a person comes to be demonized.
 - (b) Doesn't give a complete list of symptoms of demon possession.
 - (c) Doesn't give a complete list of how to deal with demons.
 - (d) Doesn't tell us the exact nature of possession (inside, outside a person, etc.)
 - (i) Continuous possession or visitations? (both can be supported from scripture)
 - (e) Doesn't specifically say Christians are exempt for possession.
 - (3) Bible does give us principles however.
 - (a) Jesus told His disciples they'd cast out demons in His name.

- iii) Story of Blumhardt (German Lutheran Pastor in the 1840's. *Blumhardt's battle: a conflict with Satan*)
 - (1) .pdf can be found for free at <http://www.plough.com/ebooks/awakening.html>
 - (a) Written from Blumhardt's reports to his home church.
 - (b) Documented dates and times and other details of his experiences.
 - (2) Lady in her 30's that had very strange demonic attacks.
 - (a) Spoke in other voices
 - (i) Sometimes in German as spoken by a foreigner
 - (ii) Sometimes in other languages they didn't understand.
 - (b) Threw her into convulsions
 - (c) Sexually abused, beat up, etc.
 - (d) Vomited whole buckets of water.
 - (e) Live bats and frogs would come out of her mouth.
 - (f) Sewing and knitting needles came out of her body (30+ over time)
 - (i) Leaving no marks on the skin.
 - (g) She would bleed gallons of blood from her eyes, ears, nose, and mouth.
 - (i) Covered the whole floor
 - (ii) Bled many times more than a human body even contains.
 - (h) She would see strange visions
 - (i) Whole thing began by her seeing a woman holding a baby in her house that she just moved into.
 1. Turned out to be woman who had killed two of her babies.
 2. Woman had died a couple of years earlier
 3. Found evidence of witchcraft under the floor (bones, ashes, written enchantations, etc.)
 - (3) Much of these attacks were witnessed by the town doctor and mayor as witnesses.

- (a) Also, the whole town would sometimes be there
 - (b) Others abroad who heard of it came specifically to see these things.
 - (4) Blumhardt knew very little about demon possession when he first started.
 - (a) Had to learn it as he went.
 - (b) Was a very Godly man and very much into prayer.
 - (5) After the woman was delivered, she became a maid in his home with his family.
 - (a) Was trusted to keep the house and help his wife raise the children.
 - (6) Blumhardt went on to have a tremendous and famous healing ministry.
 - (a) Karl Barth (famous theologian) came to one of his meetings.
 - (b) Son took over when he died.
 - (7) Had 3 great experiences of his life according to him
 - (a) The battle (demon possession)
 - (b) Awakening of repentance in his church
 - (c) Continuing miracle of answered prayer in healing the sick.
- iv) Missionary biographies contain many examples of extraordinary cases of demonic activity from the mission field.
- (1) 1 missionary to China even catalogued some of the activity based on a questionnaire he sent out to other missionaries.
- v) Demon possession is the extraordinary part of spiritual warfare.
- (1) Most warfare takes place in the everyday realm of the believer
 - (a) Temptation, deception, etc.
 - (2) Not every sinner is demon possessed
 - (3) Not every Christian encounters demon possessed people.
 - (a) Some do and don't recognize it as possession.
 - (b) Jesus encountered them on a regular basis.

Matt 4:23-24

*23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. 24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were **demon-possessed**, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.*

NKJV

- (4) In OT, we read very little about demons
 - (a) Suddenly there is a significant manifestation of it in Jesus' day.
 - (5) Demons shouldn't be our focus (obsession), but we do need to know about them in order to be vigilant.
 - (a) Not to depend on experience, but to take it into account in examining reality.
 - (b) If scripture is silent (or vague) about something, we can refer to the experiences of Christians to get an idea of the reality of it.
 - (i) Exception would be where it contradicts scripture.
 - (ii) Biographies of Godly men show us many things that are not in the bible.
- b) *Can Christians experience demon-possession?*
- i) Bible doesn't say explicitly one way or the other
 - ii) Very passionate and controversial issue
 - (1) Christians want to know.
 - iii) Arguments **against** the possibility of Christians being demon-possessed
 - (1) Cannot base any doctrine on experience alone.
 - (2) We have resources stronger than the devils':

Luke 10:19

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19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and **nothing shall by any means hurt you.**
NKJV

1 John 4:4-5

4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**
NKJV

James 4:7-8

7 Therefore submit to God. **Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**
NKJV

- (a) Christians have an advantage over Satan (namely the Holy Spirit).
- (3) However, none of these scriptures (and others usually used) specifically address the notion of whether or not a Christian can have a demon or not.
- (4) Body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and therefore a demon cannot share the same space.
 - (a) One of the most common arguments used.
 - (b) Thought that the Holy Spirit wouldn't allow a demon in there with Him.

2 Cor 6:14-16

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? **For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:**
NKJV

- (i) Since there can be no communion between light and darkness, a demon can occupy a believer because the Holy Spirit is there.
- (c) Another scripture used for this point is:

1 John 5:18-19

18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.
NKJV

- (i) If the wicked one doesn't "touch" the believer, how can he be demon possessed?
1.

- iv) Arguments ***in favor*** of the possibility of Christians being demon-possessed.
 - (1) If scripture is misinterpreted, experience can fill in the gaps a little.
 - (a) There is much anecdotal evidence to suggest that true Christians have had demons.
 - (2) None of the scriptures used to prove the opposite are even about demons.
 - (a) Assumed by extrapolation.
 - (b) None of them say there is an impossibility of demon possession for believers
 - (3) Although Christians have advantages over the power of Satan, they don't always use that advantage.
 - (a) Not always walking in the Spirit.
 - (i) Many Christians have a very sub-normal Christian walk.
 - (ii) We don't always "wrestle" very well, and sometimes we even stop wrestling altogether.
 - (b) Not always resisting the devil

1 Peter 5:7-9

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8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 **Resist him**, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.
NKJV

- (i) If the devil couldn't touch us, why should we take this warning seriously?
 - 1. Does devouring mean backsliding, sin, or something else entirely?
 - 2. It doesn't specifically say.
 - (ii) What happens if we don't resist him?
 - (iii) What if you're weak in faith?
- (c) A Christian that remains diligent and faithful has the advantage over Satan and has nothing to fear. But not all Christians do that.
- (i) Therefore, the scriptures that promise us advantage over the enemy cannot necessarily be universally applied to all Christians.
- (4) In the 2 Cor 6 passage, it must be pointed out that this passage is not talking about demon possession, but being unequally yoked with unbelievers.
- (a) Is the argument supposed to be saying that this cannot happen? Or is it saying it should not happen?
 - (i) We know that many Christians are unequally yoked with non-Christians.
 - (ii) Paul must assumed it was possible because he forbade it.
 - (b) Was it physically impossible for an idol to have been brought into the Jewish temple at that time?
 - (i) It happened by Antiochus Epiphanes in the intertestamental period.
 - 1. Set up altar to Zeus and sacrificed a pig on the altar.
 - 2. Although inappropriate, it wasn't impossible.
 - (c) Even if we can extrapolate from this passage a parallel to demon-possession, we'd have to conclude that it is possible.
 - (i) If body is temple and demons are idols, we know that it's possible to bring an idol into a temple because it has happened.
 - 1. It shouldn't happen, but it can.
 - (ii) Paul not arguing against possibility of being in same place, only against possibility of light and darkness having communion with one another.
 - (d) Opposing forces within the believer are a reality
 - (i) Spirit of God co-exists with the flesh.

Gal 5:16-18

17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.
NKJV

- 1. Flesh is contrary to Spirit of God.
 - 2. Not a passage about demons, but it shows that contrary things can co-exist.
 - a. such as flesh and Spirit or likewise demons and the Spirit.
- (5) There is nothing in the bible that specifically says that a Christian cannot have demons.
- (6) In the 1 John 5:18 passage:
- (a) The KJV and NKJV render "keeps himself" where the Alexandrian texts say "keeps him".
 - (i) if the KJV and NKJV is right, then it's suggesting that as long as the believer is keeping himself (from sin?), the devil can't touch him.
 - (b) Also, the passage doesn't say what part of a believer the devil can't touch.
 - (i) His body?
 - 1. Actually Paul said:

2 Cor 12:7-8

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

NKJV

(ii) His mind?

1. Peter was a believer, but:

Matt 16:22-23

22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

NKJV

- a. Satan spoke through Peter in the sense that he was not mindful of God.

2. Also, Paul says:

Eph 4:26-27

26 Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil.

NKJV

- a. There is some way that our anger gives place to the devil
 - i. Emotions, thoughts, etc.

(iii) John didn't specify what can't be touched.

1. In light of what other scripture says, your spirit is safe in God and can't be taken by Satan because it is kept by the power of God.
 - a. But it doesn't necessarily mean you can't be demon-possessed.

John 10:28-30

28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

NKJV

- b. But people can be killed, or hurt, etc. by Satan.
- c. What can't be snatched by the devil is our salvation.

(7) Relevant scriptures that may hint at the possibility

2 Cor 11:3-4

3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted--you may well put up with it!

NKJV

(a) What is meant by a different spirit?

- (i) Not clear, but we can't rule out a demonic spirit.
- (ii) The word "receive" is the same word that is used in passages talking about receiving the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:9-12

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9 But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. 10 And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

11 Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them. NKJV

- (b) Doesn't say whether or not these people were Christians
 - (i) But, Luke had already mentioned that Paul had departed from those who weren't in vs. 9.
 - 1. Paul was concentrating his ministry among the Christians.

Matt 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' 27 "Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. 28 But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' 29 "So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' 30 "And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. 32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' 34 "And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. 35 So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses." NKJV

- (c) Who are these torturers?
 - (i) If not demons, than what?
 - (ii) Many people (and commentators) think this is talking about hell.
 - 1. However, the bible doesn't describe hell as a place where there are torturers.
 - 2. Demons are never depicted as being in hell torturing people.
 - (iii) However, we do read many times demons torturing people through possession.
- (d) Jesus told disciples (Christians) that the Father would do the same to them.
 - (i) Like that was the one point in the parable that does correspond to the point Jesus was making.
 - 1. The only application given in the parable.
- (e) God was the one giving them over to these torturers.
 - (i) In OT, it's always God that sends the evil spirits to judge people.

Judg 9:22-23

22 After Abimelech had reigned over Israel three years, 23 God sent a spirit of ill will between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; NKJV

- 1. "spirit of ill" will means "evil spirit" in the Hebrew.
 - a. OT:7307 ruwach (roo'-akh); from OT:7306; wind; by resemblance breath, i.e. a sensible (or even violent) exhalation; figuratively, life, anger, unsubstantiality; by extension, a region of the sky; by resemblance spirit, but only of a rational being (including its expression and functions): KJV - air, anger, blast, breath, X cool,

courage, mind, X quarter, X side, spirit ([-ual]), tempest, X vain, ([whirl-]) wind (-y).

- b. OT:7451 *ra`* (rah); from OT:7489; bad or (as noun) **evil** (natural or moral): KJV - adversity, affliction, bad, calamity, + displeasure (-ure), distress, evil ([-favouredness], man, thing), + exceedingly, X great, grief (-vous), harm, heavy, hurt (-ful), ill (favoured), + mark, mischief (-vous), misery, naught (-ty), noisome, + not please, sad (-ly), sore, sorrow, trouble, vex, wicked (-ly, -ness, one), worse (-st), wretchedness, wrong. [Incl. feminine *ra` ah*; as adjective or noun.].

1 Sam 18:8-11

8 Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" 9 So Saul eyed David from that day forward.

*10 And it happened on the next day that **the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul**, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's hand. 11 And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice.*

NKJV

2. Again, "distressing spirit" means "evil spirit" in the Hebrew.

1 Kings 22:19-23

*19 Then Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left. 20 And the LORD said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. 21 Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will persuade him.' 22 "The LORD said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, '**I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.**' And the LORD said, 'You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.' 23 "**Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours,** and the LORD has declared disaster against you."*

NKJV

3. Ahab was ripe for judgment and God sent a willing evil spirit to be a lying spirit in the mouth of his prophets.
4. In OT, demons are never associated with Satan, they're always seen being dispatched by God.
- a. Sent to those who are worthy of judgment.
- b. Not that they willingly love and serve God, but God allows them to do what they already want to do....destroy.
- (ii) God protects people from demonic harm, but every once and awhile, He seems to let some through when He deems it appropriate to do so.
1. Very possible (if not probable) that that applies to Christians as well.
2. Could also be dependent upon how much they allow themselves to come under the influence of demons.
- v) To conclude, the bible doesn't confirm or deny whether or not Christians can be demon possessed or not.
- (1) Where the bible is silent, we must not wax eloquent.

c) *A Look at the use of terms:*

- i) Demon possession vs. Demon oppression

- (1) No biblical difference between how demons harass believers opposed to non-believers.
- (a) Many say that Christians can be "oppressed" but not "possessed".
- (i) Bible never uses the term "oppressed by demons" (or anything like it)

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1. One possible exception:

Acts 10:36-39

*36 The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ--He is Lord of all-- 37 that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were **oppressed by the devil**, for God was with Him.
NKJV*

- a. But it's not clear whether he means the sick that Jesus healed, or those that were healed of demon possession.
 - b. He's certainly not establishing a 3rd category of demon "oppression".
- (2) Demon *possession* is a poor translation of the word used to describe the phenomenon.
- (a) NT:1139 ***daimonizomai*** (dahee-mon-id'-zom-ah-ee); middle voice from NT:1142; to be exercised by a daemon: KJV - have a (be vexed with, be possessed with) devil (-s).
 - (i) Used in Matt 4:24, 8:16, 8:28, 8:33, 9:32, 12:22, 15:22, Mark 1:32, 5:15, 5:16, 5:18, Luke 8:36, John 10:21 according to Englishmans concordance.
 - (b) Better translated "**demonized**"
 - (i) Not clear what the word is actually conveying.
 1. Obvious that a person is being affected somehow by a demon.
 2. some measure of control is implied.
 3. possess is not a good word
 - a. possession suggests ownership.
 - (ii) The word itself is better translated "demonized" which doesn't give an obvious definition to what it really means.
 1. Could mean influenced, controlled, or any number of things.
 2. Only way to determine what it means is to look at all the cases in the bible.
 - a. You find that there are degrees of impact on people.
 - i. Some are mildly demonized (seem normal until they see Jesus).
 - ii. Others are more severe (radical, noticeable influence on them).
 - iii. Others just physically afflicted (bent over, blind, deaf, dumb, etc)

10) Bondage and deliverance Part 2 (lecture #10)

a) *Kingdom of darkness has been supplanted by kingdom of God.*

Matt 12:28-29

28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

NKJV

- i) Jesus came in and bound the 'strong man' (Satan) in a sense that renders him incapable of resisting this take over.
 - (1) As evidenced by Jesus plundering his house (casting out demons)
 - (2) Took Satan's authority from him.
- ii) Until then, nobody was there to deliver the people from bondage.

Isa 42:22

22 But this is a people robbed and plundered;

All of them are snared in holes,

And they are hidden in prison houses;

They are for prey, and no one delivers;

For plunder, and no one says, "Restore!"

NKJV

- (1) Talking about Judah's captivity by Babylon
 - (a) However, it can be seen as a type of a spiritual reality as well (many of these OT war scenarios are types and shadows of the spiritual.)
 - (b) They are in bondage to the enemy.
- (2) This was the case with the human race as a whole
 - (a) Plundered, imprisoned, and robbed by Satan.
- (3) Jesus came to the prison house and captured him, bound him, and released the captives.
 - (a) Began this process in His day
 - (b) Continues through the church in our day.

Mark 16:16-17

17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons;

NKJV

- (i) Like a mustard seed growing into a great tree.
- (ii) Or a stone growing into a great mountain.
- (c) As it does, it vanquishes the enemies strongholds.
- (d) Although the prison doors are now open, not everyone knows it or believes it so they are in a sense still in bondage if only in their own mind.
 - (i) If they don't walk out of the prison, they're still prisoners.
 - (ii) It's the devils' task to keep them deceived about this.
- (4) Book entitled *Eternity in their Hearts* by Don Richardson.
 - (a) Missionary experiences of people that had not been evangelized.
 - (b) People worshipped idols and demons.
 - (i) Yet typically these people knew that there was a true God.
 - (ii) Went on worshipping what they knew were demons for fear of punishment by them. (pacification rather than worship)
 - 1. Mindset of people that don't realize that demons can't significantly punish you if you're a servant of God.
- (5) Jesus started a Liberation movement

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Luke 10:17-20

17 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."
NKJV

- (a) Authority over demons is a great marvelous thing, but the real benefit is that we are liberated from the bondage of Satan and are permanent residents of heaven.
- (i) Since this was uttered to the Seventy and not just the Twelve, we can deduce that this was something that was given to Christians in general and not just the apostles.

b) Things to know regarding casting out demons

- i) Not all unbelievers are demon-possessed.
 - (1) May be under control of the devil by their rebellion against God, but not experiencing the phenomenon we know as demon possession.
 - (2) Hard to know when it's very difficult to define what is meant by 'demon-possession'.
 - (a) No one obvious recognizable condition to identify it.
 - (b) Varying degrees of severity.
 - (c) Word better translated 'demonized'
 - (i) Also, we could say in bondage or enslaved.

2 Tim 2:24-26

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.
NKJV

Heb 2:14-15

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.
NKJV

- 1. Everyone who opposes the gospel is in some measure under bondage to Satan.
 - 2. Bondage can take many forms.
 - a. Slight deception all the way to complete possession
 - b. Everyone probably has some degree of this insofar as we all hold some wrong ideas about spiritual things.
 - 3. If enough spiritual territory is given to the influence of the enemy, it may be that that person is brought under complete control by the enemy.
 - a. Bible doesn't indicate when that threshold is crossed.
- ii) Does bible indicate that a demon actually lives inside a person?
 - (1) Jesus and apostle Paul addressed demons and told them to come out of someone.
 - (2) Also Jesus shared it in form of an analogy:

Matt 12:43-45

43 "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

NKJV

- (a) Person is described as demons' house.
- (3) This seems to be a condition where a demon has to be told to come out.
 - (a) Exorcism is a practice that Jews did even before time of Christ.
 - (b) Many pagan religions have their own forms of exorcism.
 - (c) Catholic church has long history of exorcism.
 - (d) Some Protestant denomination have an exorcist order in the church.
 - (e) Some Charismatics speak in terms of 'deliverance ministries'.
 - (f) The bible doesn't indicate a special office of exorcist in the church.
 - (i) Although there is the gift of *discerning of spirits*. But this may simply be talking of discerning prophetic utterance rather than the presence of demons.
 - (ii) Jesus indicated to the 70 sent out that they **all** had authority over demons:

Luke 10:19-20

19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

NKJV

iii) Demons or flesh?

- (1) Most Christians polarize to one extreme or the other.
 - (a) Some say every malady and habitual sin is due to demonic influence
 - (b) Others would say it's just the flesh warring against the Spirit.
 - (c) Probably overreaction on both sides.
 - (i) Bible doesn't confirm or deny that there are demons of certain maladies.
- (2) Bible seems to indicate that the world, the flesh, and the devil work together against the will of the believer.
 - (a) The more a person sins, the more he/she slips into bondage of sin.

2 Peter 2:19

*19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is **brought into bondage**.*

NKJV

- (3) The deliverance ministry movement of the 70's served the enemy well
 - (a) Made those that favored it look ridiculous.
 - (b) Made those that opposed it deny the reality of demons altogether.

c) *How do we know if a person is demonized?*

- i) Bible doesn't catalog symptoms but gives anecdotal information. There's also accounts from missionaries that help us to identify some of these indicators.

(1) **Suicidal tendencies (possible indicator).**

- (a) Judas Iscariot was said to be possessed by Satan himself
 - (i) He hung himself.
- (b) In Blumhardt's battle, the book indicates that the girl that Pastor Blumhardt was trying to cast demons out tried to throw herself out of the attic window and also tried to hang herself.
 - (i) when she came to, she realized she tied a noose much more skillfully than she knew how to.
- (c) The devil seeks to destroy.

(2) **Violent behavior**

- (a) Men of the tombs are good example:

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Matt 8:28

28 When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way.

NKJV

(3) **Supernatural powers**

(a) If not power of God, it can be considered the power of Satan.

(b) Example in Acts:

Acts 16:16-20

16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." 18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. 19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

NKJV

(i) When the demon was cast out, the slave girls powers were gone which upset her masters.

(c) Also, the man of the tombs had supernatural strength:

Mark 5:2-4

2 And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, 3 who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, 4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him

NKJV

(i) Not always demonstrated, but a good indicator of demon possession if it's obviously not of God.

(4) **Blasphemy**

(a) Abusive and hostile language towards God and Jesus

(b) Again, it doesn't necessarily mean a person is demon-possessed, but it's common among them.

(c) Jews accused Jesus of this very thing.

(i) They were wrong, but they were accustomed to the phenomenon so that's how they identified Jesus.

John 8:52-53

52 Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.' 53 "Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Whom do You make Yourself out to be?

NKJV

(d) Man of sin is said to have this trait:

2 Thess 2:2-4

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

NKJV

(i) The very thing the Jews were going to stone Jesus over.

(e) The beast in Revelation also:

Rev 13:5

*5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies,
NKJV*

(i) The beast is clearly an embodiment of Satan.

(5) Insanity

(a) Sometimes spontaneously insane:

Mark 1:21-26

*21 Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. 22 And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. 23 **Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, 24 saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God!"** 25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" 26 And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him.
NKJV*

(b) Also, man of the tombs is another classic example.

(c) The man's epileptic son:

Matt 17:14-15

*14 And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, 15 "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water."
NKJV*

(i) The word for epileptic is: NT:4583 *seleniazomai* (sel-ay-nee-ad'-zom-ahee); middle voice or passive from a presumed derivative of NT:4582; to be moon-struck, i.e. **crazy**: KJV - be a **lunatic**.

1. It was thought in ancient times that a crazy person was moon struck, that the moon affected their behavior.

(d) Not everyone who is insane has a demon however.

(i) Irrationality can come to people who quite sane for many reasons

1. Sleep loss

2. Drugs

(e) Safe to say that at least some of those diagnosed with Schizophrenia, MPD, or paranoia today, etc. are actually demon possessed.

(6) Physical handicaps

Matt 12:22

*22 Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw.
NKJV*

(a) Doesn't say anything about his behavior, only that he's blind and mute.

Mark 9:23-25

*24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" 25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"
NKJV*

- (b) Not only was the boy affected by fits of epilepsy, but with deafness and muteness as well.

Luke 13:11-17

*11 And behold, there was a woman who had a **spirit of infirmity** eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. 12 But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." 13 And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. 14 But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." 15 The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? 16 So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom **Satan has bound**--think of it--for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"*
NKJV

- (c) Satan had bound her with a "spirit of infirmity."
- (d) So.....symptoms are not always behavioral, but sometimes physical.
- (e) Dilemma is discerning this.
 - (i) Most people have physical maladies without a demonic influence.

(7) Speaking in different voices or languages

- (a) Sometimes a voice that the person could not make on his/her own
- (b) Sometimes languages that the person does not know, etc.

ii) Manifestation of demons

- (1) When there is a change in a person indicating that a demon is acting in some manner.
 - (a) Could be some sort of fit or other such odd condition. For example:

Luke 9:38-42

*38 Suddenly a man from the multitude cried out, saying, "Teacher, I implore You, look on my son, for he is my only child. 39 And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him. 40 So I implored Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." 41 Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." 42 **And as he was still coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed him.***
NKJV

- (2) Most cases in the bible show people that are affected by the demon on occasion but not all the time.
- (3) 2 theories:
 - (a) Demons come and go
 - (b) Demon there all the time, but only comes to the surface to be visibly manifest.
 - (i) afterwards it submerges again into the personality somewhere.
 - (c) Hard to know for sure without more biblical data.
 - (i) Must rely on direct discernment from God to some degree.
 - (ii) Paul took 3 days before he drove out the demon from the slave girl in Acts.
 - 1. Perhaps he wasn't quite sure until then.
 - 2. She was saying things that were actually true.

d) *How does a person become demon-possessed?*

- i) Bible not explicit on this point. Must base it on biblical principles.
 - (1) Interesting that not all non-believers are possessed.
 - (a) They don't have Christian armor etc.
 - (b) May be that some personalities are more compliant and gullible than others.
 - (i) Stubborn, strong-willed personalities may not be as prone to possession as weaker and wishy-washy ones.
 - (ii) Demons may have same challenge in conquering personalities as people do.

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- ii) There are some specific things that make it easier for demons to get control over someone.
 - (1) Most demonic harassment in the OT is that which is sent or directly allowed by God. Nothing in NT that would repeal that idea.
 - (a) Usually as a judgment on people
 - (2) Idolatry and **occult** practices.
 - (a) Most would say this a clear open door to demons.
 - (b) Pastor Blumhardt mentioned his concern of this very thing in the evangelical church in his accounts (*long quote on tape at around 1:13:00*)
 - (i) Apparently there was occultic practices in the church in his day.
 - (c) Paul said:

1 Cor 10:19-20

*19 What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, **or what is offered to idols is anything? 20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.***
NKJV

- (i) Indicating that having idols is occultism and is actually worshipping demons.
- (d) Also:

Lev 19:26-31

*26 You shall not eat anything with the blood, nor shall you practice **divination or soothsaying.***
.....

*.....31 Give no regard to **mediums and familiar spirits**; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.*
NKJV

- (i) God forbade it.
- (e) Again:

Deut 18:10-14

*10 There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or **one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, 11 or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.** 12 For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. 13 You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. 14 **For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners;** but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.*
NKJV

- (i) Typical evangelical position that a ‘familiar spirit’ is actually a demon that impersonates a dead person with the aid of a medium. The demon would be familiar with the dead person and fool the person into thinking they are talking to the dead persons spirit.
 - 1. Bible doesn’t say that, but it may or may not be accurate.
 - 2. Could also be that the demon and the medium are mutually familiar with each other and cooperate together. Mediums in the bible are said to have “a” familiar spirit, not many.
 - 3. Carl Jung was not shy about saying that he received insights by his “ghostly guru”. No doubt a demon he was familiar with.
- (f) Again:

Acts 8:9-11

*9 But there was a certain man called Simon, who **previously practiced sorcery** in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, 10 to whom they all gave*

heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the great power of God." 11 And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time.
NKJV

(i) Later Peter says to him:

Acts 8:22-23

22 Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity."
NKJV

(ii) Almost certainly Simon Magus was demonized and had these powers.

1. He wanted more still.

(3) It's possible that someone is born with a demon

(a) Possibly very closely linked with idolatry

Ex 20:4-5

4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,
NKJV

(i) Demon possession is sometimes a punishment for idolatry

(ii) Possible that this punishment can affect children as well.

1. Physical handicaps caused by the sin of parents are frequent.

a. Crack babies, fetal alcohol syndrome, etc.

2. Quite possible that there are spiritual handicaps passed down from the sins of parents also.

(iii) Jesus drove out a demon of a boy who had it since "childhood"

Mark 9:20-22

20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. 21 So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood."
NKJV

1. If a child is demon-possessed, it seems equally unfair as if a baby is.

2. He might have been saying "he's always been this way, as long as I can remember".

(b) It's hard to tell, but it's at least a possibility.

11) Bondage and deliverance Part 3 (lecture #11)

- a) *Continuing with how people become possessed.*
- i) Spells and curses
- (1) No biblical evidence to support this, but some anecdotal evidence.
 - (a) Blumhardt indicated that the girl he drove demons out of was under this kind of a spell.
 - (i) House she lived in had much evidence of witchcraft like rituals.
 1. not by her, but others who may have been there before her.
 - (2) No biblical evidence to the contrary either.
 - (a) We know that occult activity invokes demonic activity in some way.
 - (i) Possible that someone could cast spell on someone else and cause a demon to go after them in some way or another. We can't rule that out.
 - (ii) Christians need not be afraid of this if they are walking uncompromised.
 1. We have a greater power available to us...Christ.
 - (b) We also know that casting spells is forbidden in scripture.

Deut 18:10-12

10 There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, 11 or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.
NKJV

- (i) Doesn't address whether or not the spells are indeed effective, but does forbid the activity which suggests that worthy of God's attention.

- ii) Bitterness and unforgiveness
- (1) scriptural support for anger and bitterness being a possible cause.

Eph 4:26-28

26 Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil.
NKJV

- (a) Something about being angry gives "place" to the devil
 - (i) Not necessarily talking about demon possession, but holding onto anger seems to be associated with giving in to Satan somehow.
 - (b) We see an illustration of this in the OT:

1 Sam 18:7-10

7 So the women sang as they danced, and said:

*"Saul has slain his thousands,
And David his ten thousands."*

8 Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" 9 So Saul eyed David from that day forward.

10 And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul.
NKJV

- (i) Saul is angry and bitter one day, and the next a demon comes upon him.
 1. The sun went down on his wrath here and it may be that he gave place to the devil by doing so.
 - (ii) God sent this spirit (or allowed the spirit), but it suggests that God sometimes uses demon possession as way to correct or judge people.

(c) Bitterness and anger creates an environment in our spirit that is more conducive to the devil than to God.

(2) Scriptural support for unforgiveness being a possible cause.

(a) The unforgiving servant parable is lengthy, but the last part of it is very telling:

Matt 18:32-35

*32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' 34 'And his master was angry, and **delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.** 35 So My heavenly Father **also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.**'*

NKJV

- (i) Jesus was telling the disciples what would happen if they didn't forgive.
 - 1. The parable was initiated from a question regarding how often one is required to forgive.
 - 2. Said the Father would do likewise to them (turn them over to torturers) if they didn't forgive.
 - a. Who are the 'torturers' if not demons?
- (b) Many places in the gospels Jesus emphasizes the requirement for believers to forgive if they are to be forgiven by God.
 - (i) Many accounts of demon possession given by those that have experienced it list unforgiveness as a common trait.
 - 1. didn't forgive parents, friends, etc.

iii) Trauma

- (1) Traumatic experience, crisis in life that hasn't been coped with.
- (2) Again, many accounts of demon possession are reported to have begun at a time of trauma in the victims life.
- (3) MPD (multiple personality disorder) studies have indicated that the majority of people with this disorder have suffered some kind of ritual abuse (like Satanic rituals).
 - (a) MPD is likely nothing more than demon possession.
 - (b) May even explain why God had the Israelites wipe out all of the infants in Canaan with the rest of the population.
 - (i) The Canaanites had all kind of evil rituals and religious practices.
 - 1. sacrificing babies in the fire while having orgies in front of the altar.
 - (ii) May have been a favor to those babies to have them die and go to heaven rather than live a life of demonic torture.

(4) Bible doesn't necessarily list this as a reason, but it does say:

2 Tim 1:7

*7 For God has not given us a **spirit of fear**, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

NKJV

- (a) Spirit of fear is not necessarily a demon, but fear is an element of trauma.
 - (i) Cannot rule out the possibility that this is talking about a personal spirit.

iv) Conscious altering drugs

Prov 25:28-26:1

28 Whoever has no rule over his own spirit

Is like a city broken down, without walls.

NKJV

- (1) Demons may have a much easier time influencing someone and controlling someone who's conscious is inhibited by drugs or alcohol.
- (2) Relationship between the mind and the brain is still largely unknown (not the same thing).
 - (a) Mind is thoughts, moods, emotions, values, opinions, etc.
 - (b) Brain is just a bunch of cells (and organ) firing off electrical impulses.
 - (c) Chemical imbalances in the brain can affect the mind (moods, emotions, etc)
 - (i) Doesn't justify bad thoughts and behavior, but affects it.
 - (d) John Eckels (nobel prize winner on brain research) said:

“The brain is a machine that a ghost can run”

- (i) The brain is explainable like a computer is explainable, but the mind is not.
 - (ii) The brain is one thing, but the spirit that runs it is quite another.
 - (iii) The brain doesn't control thoughts, thoughts control the brain.
 1. can have the will to control thoughts.
 2. Something besides the brain that rules the brain.
- (3) Some things loosen the connection between the mind and the brain.
 - (a) Eastern practice of transcendental meditation.
 - (i) Empty the mind, just let things flow in there.
 - (b) Conscious altering drugs can have the same effect.

Hos 4:11

11 "Harlotry, wine, and new wine enslave the heart.

NKJV

- (i) People who give themselves over to these drugs risk having their hearts “enslaved”.
- (ii) People who take LSD commonly report getting certain “revelations” while on their trip.
 1. same kind reported by those who practice Eastern occult meditation.
 - a. Being part of the “one”.
 - i. Monism – God is everything and everything is God.
 - b. Like there is another spirit putting the thoughts there.
 - i. Easy since the person is a city with broken down walls, not ruling his own spirit.
 - ii. In ancient times, walls were used to keep out invading enemies.
 - iii. Solomon is saying in the proverb that if we don't rule our own spirit, someone else will.
- (iii) People today are quite comfortable allowing someone to diagnose their children with ADD and put them on drugs like Ritalin.
 1. Almost chemically indistinguishable from methamphetamines.
 - a. very addictive form of speed.
 2. Some kids are actually slowed down by it which is why it seems to work so well.
 - a. Just like some people are affected differently by caffeine.
 - i. Speeds some up, and slows some down.
 - b. What's the cost of this benefit? Addiction to speed?
- (iv) Psychiatric drugs are very common, even among Christians.
 1. Admittedly, some do have chemical imbalances in their bodies that do pose mental and behavioral challenges.
 - a. However, it doesn't necessarily require these drugs to bring that under control.

- b. Everyone has challenges of some sort or another, mental challenges are just one of them.
- c. Identifying the challenge is part of controlling it.
 - i. Why can't it be done through spiritual means and obedience to God?
 - ii. Spiritual warfare (prayer, etc.)
- 2. Altering the consciousness by medications gives less control over the mind to some degree.
 - a. Certain neurotransmitters are disabled while on these drugs.
 - b. Mental straight jacket
 - c. Have not improved self-control, but degraded it.
 - i. Control is not from themselves, but through a drug.
- 3. God is sovereign over the struggles we have and He allows them for a reason.
 - a. If we interfere with that, we may be missing out on some crucial training in warfare He has for us.

(4) What does the bible say on this subject?

Gal 5:19-21

*19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, **sorcery**, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. NKJV*

- (a) Greek word for "sorcery" in this passage is:
 - (i) NT:5331 **pharmakeia** (far-mak-i'-ah); from NT:5332; medication ("pharmacy"), i.e. (by extension) magic (literally or figuratively): KJV - sorcery, witchcraft
 - (ii) Where we get our word for pharmaceuticals (drugs, medicines, etc.)
 - (iii) Paul talking about drugs used for occult type rituals.
 - 1. Nostra Damas did this.
 - (iv) Indians smoked Paote'.
 - (v) Shamaan chiefs and witch doctors have always done this.
 - (vi) Taking drugs has always been a way to invite demons historically.

v) Hypnosis

- (1) Another technique that has been historically practiced by the occult.
- (2) Widely accepted today, even among Christians.
- (3) Whatever hypnosis is (and it's not altogether clear), it has some sort of effect on the spirit.
 - (a) Hypnotist is (in some degree) in control, not the individual being hypnotized.
- (4) A person who is more suggestible is more easily hypnotized than someone who is not.
- (5) Bible seems to agree with the abstaining of such practices.

Deut 18:10-13

10 There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, 11 or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. 12 For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. NKJV

- (6) So then how do we deal with our psychological problems today?
 - (a) Jesus and the apostles dealt with all the same problems in other people, yet their ways were adequate without hypnosis or mind altering drugs.

- (i) Scripture reveals cases where all sorts of mental and psychological problems were dealt with.

b) *How does someone obtain deliverance from demons?*

James 4:7

Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

NKJV

- i) There are steps for both a demonized person and the person who is dealing with them.
 - (1) Scripture simply shows Jesus and the apostles commanding demons out, but there are steps prior to that as well.
- ii) Consideration: What grounds does the devil have for controlling that person?.
 - (1) Not all demon possession cases are exactly the same.
 - (2) Does Satan have a legal right to control him/her?
 - (a) Jesus didn't cast out every demon He met, nor did He heal everyone He met.
 - (3) Is the demon there as a judgment from God?
 - (4) Was the person born with it?
 - (5) Suffered trauma?
 - (6) The grounds for the demon being there may need to be dealt with first.

Prov 26:2

2 Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow,

So a curse without cause shall not alight.

NKJV

- (a) Curses are there for a cause.
- iii) Person needs to settle any unfinished business between him/herself and God.
 - (1) Repentance
 - (a) The devil has the right to keep people in bondage until they repent.

Acts 8:22-23

*22 Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and **bound** by iniquity.*

NKJV

- (i) Peter doesn't say Simon Magus was demon possessed, but he was a sorcerer and bound by something.

2 Tim 2:24-26

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

NKJV

- (ii) There is certain spiritual bondage prior to repentance.

- (2) Unforgiveness.
 - (a) Jesus taught that being turned over to the "torturers" is a result of not forgiving (Matt 18).
 - (b) Whether the person is around or not, you need to forgive them in your heart.

Matt 6:14-15

14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

NKJV

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- (i) Ideally, you should go to the person and make amends if possible.
 - (c) Forgiveness is not a feeling, it's a choice.
 - (i) Feelings are not at our command.
 - (ii) It's an act of the will.
 - (d) The demon possessed person should try to recognize if there is anyone in their life that they need to forgive.
- iv) Renounce any ties with the occult
- (1) Destroy and get rid of any objects of past occult practice.

Acts 19:18-19

18 And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. 19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.

NKJV

- (a) If someone is under bondage of pornography and has a bunch of magazines in the attic, they'll really never get free from it.
 - (b) No matter what the investment into these things, the bible says the right thing to do is destroy them.
 - (i) Don't sell them, that just passes it on to someone else.
- v) Person must want to be delivered
- (1) Nobody has authority over a demon that is invited in by the person.
 - (2) Some people like their demons
 - (a) Give them special powers some times.
 - (i) Mediums, witches, sorcerers, etc.
 - (3) As far as the scripture tells us, Jesus never drove out a demon from someone who hadn't initiated the encounter themselves.
 - (a) He didn't go on a demon hunt.
 - (b) People were motivated to seek help from Him.
- vi) Casting out of the demon
- (1) Person should call upon the name of the Lord

Joel 2:32

32 And it shall come to pass

That whoever calls on the name of the LORD

Shall be saved.

NKJV

- (a) The word 'saved' there can also mean *delivered*.
 - (b) Not magic in the word, but a true calling on the Lord in faith.
 - (i) Jesus Himself has the power to deliver, not just the word 'Jesus'
 - (ii) Demons cannot resist an appeal to Jesus.
- (2) A word of authority from Christ
- (a) When Jesus confronted demons, He **commanded** them out.
 - (b) Paul did likewise, but in the name of Jesus.
 - (i) Speaking with Jesus' authority as His agent.
 - (c) Christians have this authority to speak for Jesus in these circumstances.
- (3) Prayer for the possessed person (possibility).
- (a) Not exactly the biblical pattern, but is reported to have worked in the past.
- (4) Not necessarily as simple as it sounds.

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- (a) In some cases the demons argue back or try to negotiate something different.
 - (i) Even Jesus experienced this with the man of the tombs.
 - (b) This calls for a continuance of the warfare.
- (5) Why demons sometimes do not come out right away.
- (a) Failure on part of person.
 - (i) Person may love darkness and not want to be delivered.
 - (ii) May be that someone else wants them delivered but not they themselves.
 - (b) Failure on part of the person doing the ministering (lack of authority).
 - (i) Not a true Christian, so he doesn't have the authority of Christ.
 - 1. Sons of Sceva in Acts 19 is a good example of that.
 - (ii) Lack of faith
 - 1. Jesus said to the disciples who failed to cast a demon out of a young boy:

Matt 17:19-21

*19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast him out?" 20 So Jesus said to them, "**Because of your unbelief**; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. 21 However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."*

NKJV

- 2. James says:

James 1:6-8

*6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For **let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord**; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways*

NKJV

- 3. Faith is necessary in spiritual warfare.
- 4. Casual approach to the Christian walk won't cut it.

1 John 2:6

*6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to **walk just as He walked**.*

NKJV

- a. Must have a disciplined spiritual life to be walking as Jesus walked.

(iii) Unrepentant sin (not walking in authority of Christ)

- 1. There have been known cases that demons reveal some secret sin of the person who is trying to cast them out.

vii) Re-possession: Can a delivered person be re-possessed?

Matt 12:43-45

43 "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."

NKJV

- (1) The demon moved out, but the heart was left vacant. Jesus didn't move in.
 - (a) If a person doesn't become a committed Christian after they're delivered from possession, they are subject to re-infestation.

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- (b) If they were vulnerable to demonization before, they are still if they don't have Christ.
- (2) If the person doesn't wage warfare (having the armor of God) then they might be vulnerable.
 - (a) The world is a battleground, not a playground.

12) Spiritual aggression (lecture #12)

- a) *Moving forward aggressively*
 - i) Defensive is one component to our warfare.
 - (1) But our security is not an end in itself.
 - (2) Armor is not just so we won't get hurt.
 - (a) The purpose of the protection is to enable us to launch our attack on the enemy.
 - ii) The victory has been accomplished by Christ, but the world is waiting to hear the news.

Isa 42:1-4
"Behold! My Servant whom I uphold,
My Elect One in whom My soul delights!
I have put My Spirit upon Him;
He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.
2 He will not cry out, nor raise His voice,
Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street.
3 A bruised reed He will not break,
And smoking flax He will not quench;
He will bring forth justice for truth.
4 He will not fail nor be discouraged,
Till He has established justice in the earth;
And the coastlands shall wait for His law."
NKJV

- (1) This is speaking of Christ (quoted in Matt 12:15-21)
 - (a) He will bring forth justice in the all the earth.
 - (b) He will not fail nor be discouraged.
 - (c) Nothing will turn back his efforts (though some things may slow it down)
 - (i) Lack of cooperation on the part of His soldiers.

- iii) Violent spiritual aggression is accomplished with outward meekness.

2 Tim 2:24-26
24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility
correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the
truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive
by him to do his will.
NKJV

- (1) Gentleness characterizes the Christian warrior.
 - (a) Jesus is the example, notice in the Isaiah 42 passage just cited:
 - (i) He will not cry out nor raise His voice.
 - (ii) He's doesn't break a bruised reed.
 - (iii) He doesn't snuff out a smoking flax (wick).
 - (b) Bible encourages meekness:

Ps 37:11
11 But the meek shall inherit the earth,
And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.
NKJV

Matt 5:5
5 Blessed are the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.
NKJV

- (2) Yet this is an invasion and attack against Satan.

- (a) When Jesus was born, the devil regarded it as an invasion into his territory.
(i) Remember the Revelation passage:

Rev 12:4

And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.
NKJV

- (ii) Gabriel told Joseph:

Matt 1:21

21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.
NKJV

1. Sin was the bondage God's people were under which gave Satan his claim to them.
2. When people are delivered from their sin, there's nothing left for the devil to lay claim to.

- (b) When John the Baptist was born, there were similar prophecies about the birth of the Messiah:

Luke 1:68-71

*68 "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel,
For He has visited and redeemed His people,
69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us
In the house of His servant David,
70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets,
Who have been since the world began,
71 That we should be saved from our enemies
And from the hand of all who hate us,*
NKJV

Further down.....

Luke 1:74-75

*74 To grant us that we,
Being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
Might serve Him without fear,
75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.*
NKJV

- (i) Zacharias and most other Jews would have no doubt understood this militarily and politically.
1. Bible indicates that prophets often didn't know what they were speaking about. They spoke as the Spirit of God moved them.
- (ii) We know now that Jesus didn't come to save His people from the Romans, but from their sins.
1. Deliver us from our spiritual enemies.
 2. That we might serve Him fearlessly, in holiness and righteousness.
- (iii) The coming of John the Baptist, the coming of Christ, and the coming of the church all represent invasions into the devils' territory.
- iv) Christ began the invasion in His ministry, and we continue it to this day.
(1) Quoting from Isaiah 61, Jesus said:

Luke 4:16-22

17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

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18 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "**Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.**"
NKJV

- (a) That included setting liberty to the oppressed and captive (spiritually).
- (b) Jesus also used the analogy of setting free captives as plundering Satan's kingdom (Matt 12).
- (2) Our part is the mop up work of the victory that Christ has accomplished.
 - (a) The demons are not just giving up, but their domain is shrinking.
 - (i) They're trying to hold the fort, but Jesus said:

Matt 16:18
18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
NKJV

- (b) The church is taking over by pulling down the strongholds:

2 Cor 10:4-5
4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,**
NKJV

- (c) And commanding the obedience to the new King:

Matt 28:20
...20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;
NKJV

- v) Satan is still operating in this world, but he's doing so without any authority
 - (1) Jesus is the only legitimate King and therefore the only one with true authority to rule:

Matt 28:18-19
18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**"
NKJV

- (a) None remains for the devil to have, Jesus has it all.
- (b) It's like someone that drives without a license.
 - (i) It can be physically done, but it's not legal. Not authorized by God.
 - (ii) If nobody challenges him, he can do it all he wants.
 - (iii) Christians are called to be the police and challenge that activity.
 - (iv) The devil has had his license revoked and cannot resist authority.
- (c) Jesus commands all people to submit to His authority. That's the gospel.
 - (i) This should cause Christians to be more aggressive in enforcing this mandate.
 - (ii) Both physical and spiritual territory that has not been challenged is the mission of the church.

1. Spiritual realm of our own hearts and those around us.
- (iii) Jesus purchased the rights of ownership of all people and is being deprived of that right as people refuse to submit to His Lordship.
 1. This is why the Moravian missionaries battle cry was:

“May the lamb that was slain, receive the reward of His sufferings.”

- a. Two of them sold themselves into slavery to be able to preach to other slaves that were the rightful property of Jesus.
 2. If Jesus’ suffering was the price of His Kingdom, than He has the rightful claim to all the subjects in it....everyone.
- vi) General attitude of the Christian needs to be that of aggression.

Matt 11:11-13

12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

NKJV

A type and shadow of this was...

Josh 1:2-6

2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them--the children of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. 5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and of good courage

NKJV

Matt 16:18

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

NKJV

b) *Weapons: Word of God and prayer*

Eph 6:17-18

the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,

NKJV

(1) Word of God

- (a) Defeats deception
 - (i) Word is truth that defends our own minds against deception
 - (ii) But it also is useful for pulling down strongholds in others’ minds.
 1. Probably Paul’s primary meaning in this passage.
- (b) Overcomes Satan

Rev 12:11

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

NKJV

- (i) Overcoming by the blood of the Lamb is accepting the remission of sins, a legal standing before God.
 1. Not some mystical, magical power (like “pleading the blood”) that creates a barrier from Satanic attacks
 - a. Not casting a spell with blood of Jesus.

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2. This is put in immediate context of Satan's accusations. Immediately preceding this phrase is:

Rev 12:10

for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

NKJV

- a. Not a name, but an activity of Satan.
- b. If Satan accuses us, the blood of the Lamb answers the accusation.
 - i. His payment makes believers innocent of Satan's accusations.
 - ii. Pleading the blood (not a biblical term) is simply pleading not guilty before God. Only believers can make that plea.
3. Satan can't accuse you before God anymore, but can accuse you before yourself.
 - a. Overcoming by the blood is remembering that his accusations can't stick to you anymore....their lies. Period.
 - i. Condemnation is no longer an effective weapon of the enemy.
- (ii) Over coming by the word of their testimony?
 1. Today, we use the word "testimony" to describe our own personal story about coming to Jesus.
 2. However, the book uses this term a lot (interchangeably with "witness" also) to describe preaching the gospel.

Rev 1:9-10

9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

NKJV

- a. John was on the Island because of the gospel.
 - i. Got arrested for preaching.
3. The gospel overcomes Satan.
 - a. His accusations.
 - b. Overtook his territory by preaching it.
 - i. This is what the church is called to do (and has been).
4. When Paul says to "take the sword", it's not merely defensively, but offensively charging.
 - a. It's there to harm the enemy (unlike shields, helmets, breastplates, etc.)
5. Paul also says:

Rom 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,

NKJV

- a. It is the power of God
- b. We need to have confidence in it.

(2) Prayer

(a) Modifiers in Eph 6

- (i) Always
 1. continuously
- (ii) With all supplication
 1. Asking God.
 2. Employing all types of prayers.
- (iii) In the Spirit

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1. Energized by the Spirit
2. tongues? (1Cor 14)
 - a. Holy Spirit addressing the very burdens on ones heart.
- (iv) Being watchful
 1. Losing sleep.
- (v) With all perseverance
 1. never giving up
 2. pressing in
- (vi) For all the saints
 1. Every Christian you can.
 2. needs, welfare, success, etc.
 3. Anytime of day or night.

(b) Lord's prayer:

Matt 6:9-13

9 In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

13 And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

NKJV

- (i) Last line is disputed among extant texts.
 1. However, content found in David's prayer:

1 Chron 29:11

11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness,

The power and the glory,

The victory and the majesty;

For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours;

Yours is the kingdom, O LORD,

And You are exalted as head over all.

NKJV

2. Whether Jesus uttered them or not, they are biblical words.
- (ii) Probable that you can pray this exact prayer effectively.
 1. Problem is that repetitiveness tends to bring mindless prayer.
 - a. Hard to focus on what you're saying exactly.
 - b. Catholic church uses it as sort of a penance formula.
 - i. 20 Hail Mary's, 30 Our Fathers.
 - ii. Seems like vain repetitions.
 2. Sometimes you have to concentrate on what you're saying to get the meaning so that you can mean it.
 - a. Difference between praying and saying a prayer
- (iii) Jesus didn't necessarily want us to pray these exact words.
 1. Said "pray in this manner"
 2. It's a pattern of the kind of prayer we're supposed to pray.
 - a. Talking to God

- i. Like a child comes to a father, yet different in a sense of giving infinitely more reverence.
- b. Asking things of God
 - i. As a child who know that God wants to bless.
 - ii. Knowing God has our interest at heart.
 - iii. Getting things done, not just stress management.

James 4:2-3

Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

NKJV

- c. Praising God (see opening and closing of prayer).
 - i. Hallowed be your name
 - ii. Yours is the kingdom
 - iii. Etc.
- d. Seeking the manifestation of God's kingdom here on earth.
 - i. Disciples were told they will bind on earth what has already been bound in heaven.
 - ii. Accomplished facts in heaven have not yet been enforced on earth.
- 3. Interesting to note what's **not** in the prayer.
 - a. In Jesus' name.
 - b. Intercession
 - c. Thanksgiving
 - i. Prayer and thanksgiving may be two different things.
 - d. 2-way conversation
 - i. Very common for people to say these days. But there's no biblical warrant for this notion.
 - ii. God talks to people, but the bible doesn't call it prayer. Seldom in the bible do we see God answering back during a prayer.
- (c) Prayer is the one area that gets least amount of attention
 - (i) Seems like we're not accomplishing anything when we pray.
 - 1. lie of the enemy
 - 2. activities and tasks seem to us more productive than prayer
 - (ii) Many people mistakenly see prayer as personal therapeutic.
 - 1. refocusing heart.
 - (iii) Truth is that we accomplish the most when we pray.
 - 1. Activities are necessary, but there are things that only God can do.
 - a. We're commissioned to see to it that they do get accomplished.
 - b. Bible indicates that prayer moves the hand of God.
 - i. God's hand holds the world.
 - ii. Prayer is God's ordained means of activating His power for changes.
- (d) What to pray for (contents of Lord's prayer)
 - (i) God's kingdom to come
 - 1. Inviting and pleading God to have His will done on earth as it is in heaven.
 - 2. Many people assume this is automatic since God is sovereign.
 - a. If so, why then did Jesus teach us to pray this way then?
 - b. Seems like it would be a waste of breath.
 - c. Jesus was indicating that if we don't ask, it might not be done.
 - 3. Praying God's kingdom to come is praying in faith for the advancement of what has already been planted, but needs to grow.
 - a. Many places where Satan's dominion has not been challenged yet.
 - b. Advancement always comes at expense of the enemy so it will be met with resistance.

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- i. Enemy's kingdom is crowded out with the growth of God's kingdom on earth...spiritual aggression.
 - (ii) Our Daily bread
 - 1. Some people insist on not praying for things that benefit themselves.
 - a. Not a biblical idea. Jesus told us to do it in the Lord's prayer.
 - b. Some say Jesus would never use His miraculous powers for Himself.
 - i. However, He paid His and Peter's temple tax with a miracle.
 - ii. He didn't turn stone into bread because He was supposed to be fasting, not because it would have been selfish.
 - 2. God provides for personal needs.
 - a. If a servant is going to do his master's bidding, he must be sustained in order to do so.
 - i. Like a soldier asking for his rations.
 - b. It's praying the will of God if, in fact, He wants you to live and carry out His purposes.
 - 3. The prayer asks for "daily" bread, not lifelong bread.
 - a. Daily dependence on God.
 - b. We don't know how long we will live, but we do know we need bread today.
 - 4. If everything we do and have is not for the kingdom, then it is the case that it's selfish praying if we ask for ourselves.
 - (iii) Forgiveness
 - 1. Closely linked to our forgiveness of those who have wronged us.
 - a. The enemy accuses the brethren before each other.
 - b. We need to overcome that accusation by forgiving.
 - (iv) Deliver us from the evil one.
 - 1. Praying for our own spiritual well-being so that we can be used for the kingdom of God
 - a. Notice that this comes after praying for the kingdom of God in general.
 - (v) Affirming our faith (Yours is the kingdom....)
 - 1. Laying claim on which we just prayed
 - 2. That what we asked is truly the will of God
 - a. It His to do.
 - b. For His glory.
 - c. In His power.
 - 3. Some pray only when driven to in crisis.
 - a. Many Psalms are like this
 - i. And we should pray in crisis.
 - ii. Almost all of them end up with some kind of statement of affirmation of God's faithfulness.
 - 4. Even atheists pray in crises.
 - 5. This affirmation of praise increases our faith in God's faithfulness.
 - a. God is in control.
 - 6. Thankfulness vs. praise
 - a. We thank God for what He's done, we praise Him for who He is.

Ps 100:4

4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,

*And into His courts with **praise**.*

NKJV

- b. Praise is an outpouring of appreciation for who God is.
- c. Something spiritually significant happens during praise.

Ps 22:3

3 But You are holy,

*Enthroned in the **praises** of Israel.*

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NKJV

- d. Jehosophat was told to send out musicians to praise God while they were surrounded by armies. God delivered them. (2 Chron 20)
- e. In another Psalm:

Ps 8:2

2 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants

You have ordained strength.

Because of Your enemies,

That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

NKJV

- i. Compare to Jesus' reference to this Psalm:

Matt 21:16

And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read,

'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants

'You have perfected praise'?"

NKJV

- ii. He compares perfected praise and ordaining strength.
- iii. Strength against enemies is linked with praising God.

- f. Again, another Psalm says:

Ps 149

Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song,

And His praise in the assembly of saints.

2 Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;

Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

3 Let them praise His name with the dance;

Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp.

4 For the LORD takes pleasure in His people;

He will beautify the humble with salvation.

5 Let the saints be joyful in glory;

Let them sing aloud on their beds.

6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth,

And a two-edged sword in their hand,

7 To execute vengeance on the nations.

And punishments on the peoples;

8 To bind their kings with chains.

And their nobles with fetters of iron;

9 To execute on them the written judgment--

This honor have all His saints.

Praise the LORD!

NKJV

- i. We execute the binding of Satan on earth as it is in heaven, not by saying "I bind you Satan", but by praising God and using the two-edged sword (the Word).
- ii. God has already written the judgment, we the church execute that judgment.

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