

GOD AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE



Written by Pastor Dave Brown

www.growinggodlygenerations.com

God is the creator of all things. He created all things good and to bring him glory. He created Satan with the same intention, as one of His angels. Yet, Satan chose pride and rejection of God and therefore was condemned to judgment (1 Timothy 3:6; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 20:7, 10). Satan continues to be at war with God and His creation as an enemy (Matthew 13:39), liar (John 8:44), deceiver (Genesis 3), tempter (Matthew 4:3), accuser (Revelation 12:10), murderer (John 10:10), and an utterly evil one (Matthew 13:19). However, God is stronger than Satan and Jesus came to free those under his domain. Jesus redeemed us from Satan's curse and carries ultimate authority over any of His power (Galatians 3:13; Colossians 2:14-15).

The Bible provides our understanding of Satan and his evil rule in this present world. It also helps us in our fight against him as we look forward to the ultimate victory that the gospel gives in Jesus Christ. Below will follow a process for spiritual warfare and claiming God's power in our life.

2 Corinthians 2:11, 10:3-4 "...in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes... For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds."

Ephesians 6:12-13 "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

Process 1: The Authority and Power of the Gospel

The only hope in this world we have stands in the gospel of Jesus Christ. In your fight against Satan and his power it must be assured that you have understood and received the gospel.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 The gospel by which we are saved is "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to... [many others and more than 500 brothers]"

Colossians 1:13, 2:13-15 "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

Hebrews 2:14-15 "Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."

1 John 1:5 – 2:2 "This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and

will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."

This last passage shows that the power over Satan and his effects is confession of sin. Therefore, you must undertake a spiritual inventory of your life by asking several questions. If this process is to be effective it requires complete honesty to join God in His truth and trusting Him for grace and help. You may be tempted to partially confess or withhold a few things that you feel are too embarrassing or painful to admit, but it is for your good to be specific and direct with God.

- Are you a believer in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?
- Have you repented of sin and continuing in ongoing confession of sin?
- Are you walking in the light and truth of the Holy Spirit according to the Scriptures?
- Is there any invitation to Satan and/or evil influences in your life or home?

- To help in this evaluation process, read the following Scriptures and confess any sin (of commission or omission) in which you have participated.

Galatians 5:16-25 "So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

- From the categories listed below, identify and describe the spiritual warfare activity you, others in your home or even other family members are/have experienced.

Ordinary Demonic

- Lies (John 8:44)
- Idolatry, False religion and False Jesus (1 Corinthians 10:14–22; 2 Corinthians 11:1–4)
- Sexual temptation & sin (2 Corinthians 7:5)
- Marriage or strong partnership between Christians and non-Christians (2 Corinthians 6:15)
- Selfish Attitudes or Emotions, like bitterness or anger (Ephesians 4:17– 5:2)
- Foolishness and drunkenness (Ephesians 5:8–21)
- Idle gossip and busy-bodying (1 Tim. 5:11–15)

Extraordinary Demonic

- Torment (Mark 1:26; Acts 5:16)
- Physical injury (Mark 5:1-13)
- Murder/Suicide thoughts (John 8:44)
- False miracles (Acts 8:9-23; 16:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10)
- Gratuitous feelings of condemnation, fear, weakness, loneliness or abandonment (Romans 8)
 - o Accusatory (Revelation 12:10): "You are..." rather than godly conviction: "I am..."
- False spirits or supernatural evil (1 John 4:1-6)

Process 2: The Possession and Power from Satan and Evil

Satan and his influence is powerful. You must understand that there is a difference between Satan's possession (ownership) and power (dominate/influence) in one's life. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, then Satan cannot possess you because you belong to Him. However, Satan can and may gain a foothold in life as referred in many of the previous verses imply. Therefore, be warned and extremely cautious in avoiding of any hint or participation in sinful or evil practices, addictions of any form, and with false religious activity such as the occult, witchcraft, sorcery, psychic readings, horoscopes, astrology and the likes.

1 Peter 5:8 "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

1 John 3:8 "He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."

Process 3: The Affirmation of Jesus' Identity and Power

There is an unseen world that we must be discerning in the identity of the supernatural. We must only trust and obey the Spirit of truth from Jesus Christ.

1 John 4:1-6 "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood."

Ephesians 6:10-18 "Finally, be strong in the LORD and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish

all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."

Process 4: The Receiving of Power: confession, prayer and blessing

Confession to Truth & Trust

Based on the authority and power of the Lord Jesus Christ, we claim our identity and position to be in Him. We confess our sin (be specific) and shortcomings, believing that Jesus fully paid for our sin on the cross. We belong to Him and He to us; therefore, we are under His protection. His power and protection guarantees final victory over all His enemies.

Command to Surrender & Leave

Based on the authority and power of the Lord Jesus Christ, delegated to us, we command all evil spirits and powers to submit to the power of the Holy Spirit. We command you, with all your works and effects, to surrender and leave this place/person. We command you to never return to bother anyone else at anytime. We commit you to the Lord Jesus Christ to stand condemned before His eternal judgment.

Blessing of the Home¹

Read these Scriptures and prayers throughout the home.

@ Outside

Circle this place, Lord.

Keep protection near

And danger afar.

Circle this place, Lord

Keep hope within.

Keep doubt without.

Circle this place, Lord.

Keep light near

And darkness afar.

Circle this place, Lord.

Keep peace within.

Keep evil out.

- adapted Irish prayer

Psalm 127

Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat-- for he grants sleep to those he loves. Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate.

¹ Outline inspiration and adaptations from <http://hopeanglican.us/houseblessing.pdf>

Psalm 128

Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table. Thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD. May the LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem, and may you live to see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel.

Numbers 6:24-26 "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

@ Entranceway

Psalm 91 "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. If you make the Most High your dwelling-- even the LORD, who is my refuge-- then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

@ Living/Family Room

Psalm 23

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

@ Kitchen/Dining Room

John 6:27-35 "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread." Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."

@ Bedrooms

Christ be with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me
Christ on my right, Christ on my left
Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit, Christ where I arise
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me
Christ in every eye that sees me
Christ in every ear that hears me
Salvation is of the Lord.
Salvation is of Christ.
May your salvation, Lord, be ever with us.

-Irish prayer from St. Patrick

Psalm 139

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in--behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you. If only you would slay the wicked, O God! Away from me, you bloodthirsty men! They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD, and abhor those who rise up against you? I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 16

"Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge. I said to the LORD, "You are my LORD; apart from you I have no good thing." As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight. The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods. I will not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips. LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."

Psalm 1

"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish."

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

A final house blessing

Bless this house, O' Lord we pray, make it safe by night and day; Bless these walls, so firm and stout keep want and trouble out: Bless the roof and chimney tall, let thy peace lie over all. Bless the door that it may prove ever open to joy and love. Bless these windows, shining bright, letting in God's heavenly light; Bless the folk who dwell within, keep them pure and free from sin. Bless us that one day we may dwell, O Lord with Thee. - Irish prayer adapted

Process 5: The Plan for Follow-Through

- Keep short accounts of confession with Jesus (1 John 1:7-9)
- Read & Pray Scripture (Colossians 3:1-17)
- Pray without ceasing (Romans 8:26-27; Philippians 4:4-9; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)
- Stay in fellowship with other believers (Colossians 3:1-17)
- Avoid pride and rejoice in your salvation (Luke 10:17-20)
- Review and Repeat prayer for God's blessing on your life and home.