

Spiritual Warfare 101



What a privilege it is to have citizenship in the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is just what it is – a kingdom! Like earthly kingdoms our kingdom has a king – *Jesus*; who rules his kingdom with love. And like earthly kingdoms his kingdom, which cannot be seen with our natural eyes, has laws – spiritual laws which governs its citizenship in peace. The enemy, however, understands God's laws all too well, and he tries to get us to violate or ignore God's laws so that we may not experience peace.

The following is a brief introduction to God's spiritual laws, and how you can benefit by learning them. Together we will advance forward and identify un-yielded grounds in your life. God knows that we are intelligent creatures, and when knowledge is revealed to us we embrace its wisdom, and use it to benefit our living standards. Hosea wrote "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:*" My prayer is that every Christian understand the "KINGDOM-AUTHORITY" given to them by our HEAVENLY FATHER. And He wants us to realize that, what we have, is not because of our righteousness. But, rather, the righteous of His SON, JESUS; who has delivered us through the operation of the cross. God's desire is that we learn to put into practice the four laws of the spirit, which is the foundation of KINGDOM EXPANSION. Such understanding will place the church in a favorable position in the heavens, and trump our religious attitudes that, unfortunately, works outside of the will of God.

FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS

Spiritual protocol: learn to align your will with God's will – *stop doing things your way!* There are times when your prayer must be in a presentation format; carefully thought out before taking it into His eternal courtroom. Other times we need Fatherly instructions to deal with life's challenges. At which time, our prayers are presented to Him like a child would speak to his/her father, literally. Yet, in other times, we need boldness, and our prayers ought to be bold. Like spiritual warriors, we pursue strategic directions from the Commander and Chief. There is much to learn about prayer, however, learning these form of prayers and others will yield unprecedented results.

Spiritual principle: understand the mythology of presenting your prayer needs. Declaration and acknowledgment of His word will get things done. Simply, know what you want, why you want what you want, and asked for it.

Spiritual dimension: Get to know God's character, and how he rules His kingdom cannot be stressed enough. The apostle Paul often referred God's Spiritual attributes' as a mystery. God's word is often written in levels, which are life's treasures. Get to know the WORD and you'll get to know its AUTHOR.



Understanding Spiritual Warfare

First Things First: Putting a Position on Prayer

Corporate Prayer:

Lift our voice together
Draw strength from each other
We become ONE voice

Declaration Prayer

Formal announcement
A prayer with thought and purpose
Prayer with authority

Affirmation Prayer

Formal announcement
A prayer of agreement / togetherness
Proclaiming our dependency on the Lord

Spiritual Warfare Prayer

Aggressive declaration
An authoritative commanding prayer
Prayer with a strategic agenda

The most important tools we have in our Christian walk that will assist us in our pursuit of holiness are REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS; which are the foundation of deliverance and inner healing. In addition, the bible teaches two powerful doctrines overlooked in most Christian communities: JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION. Justification is one of the many works of the cross of Jesus. It is imparted to seekers at the point of repentance and acknowledging Jesus as Lord and Savior. The record which Jesus holds in heaven is given to us as an atonement for our faith and a ransom for our iniquities. This operation grants us further access to the wealth of God's wisdom. And we are, NOW, justified by the redemptive work of the cross. This Godly-favor is not by our works, but through the works of JESUS THE CHRIST. On the other hand, the doctrine of sanctification is an ongoing, life-long process. While justification grants us rights and privileges to the presence and council of God, sanctification helps us to maintain our position. It reveals WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST. The doctrine of sanctification instructs us to relinquish control of our soul-ish area to God (*explained later*). This is why the bible encourages us to love God with all our soul.

OUR CREATED SOUL is a co-union of our: (1) *mind* – what we think; (2) our *emotions* – what we feel; and (3) our *will* – what we choose to do. Additionally, relationships are developed in our soul-ish area which allows us to relate to the people and the world around us. Choices that we make are also developed in our soul-ish area and are influenced through our personal world-view. One's soul is the command center of human existence. It is that part of us that must be brought under the leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ. What we think, what we feel, and what we choose to do, can either draw us closer to God or move us further from Him. Thus, the soul is the primary battleground in your endeavor to walk in the Spirit.



Spiritual Warfare A Higher Calling

Our faith in Jesus Christ has granted us the possibility of understanding the powers of the spiritual realm, both good and evil. If given a chance, demons will use their ability to sabotage our life. They come with force, distraction, obstruction, or personal assault. With the use of deceit they can wear down the Christian believer mentally and physically. This mental and physical attack could potentially cause exhaustion and confusion. Their strategy is designed to cause the believer to lose hope in God's ability to bring spiritual freedom and deliverance into their life. They want the Christian believer to turn to their own self for a solution, working outside the realm of God. Most Christian that fall under this entrapment consequently suffer loss. Persistent prayer and submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ will bring a greater understanding of the powers of darkness.

To understand how this enemy could possibly sabotage our lives, we must first understand what demons are. Demons are fallen angels with various powers and ranks who are under their allegiance of Satan's plan to destroy the human race. They contaminate anything that brings Glory to the Living God by substituting it with a counterfeit. Keep in mind that the Bible says that they, demons, come to still, kill, and destroy. They never sleep; they are intelligent creatures; they plan; they have assignments; and have been deceiving mankind since the fall of the garden. Demons have years of experience in deception, whose power is in their lie. They know how to invade our life undetected, and can hide in human personalities. However, the good news is – GOD GAVE US A SPIRIT OF DISCERNMENT. Under the right ministry, or Christian attitude deliverance from demonic influences can be conquered and destroyed; resulting in spiritual freedom. Remember the words of Jesus *"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."* (Jn 8:26).

Let me speak boldly. God has revealed to me ministerial techniques, that I use, to frame a person's life (*one's life history*). Your life history creates a world-view. EVERYONE HAS A WORLDVIEW! Whether or not we realize it, we all have certain presuppositions and biases that affect the way we view all of life and reality. A worldview is like a set of lenses which taint our vision or alter the way we perceive the world around us. Our worldview is formed by our education, our upbringing, the culture we live in, the books we read, the media and movies we absorb, etc. For many people their worldview is simply something they have absorbed from their surrounding cultural influences. They have never thought strategically about what they believe and wouldn't be able to give a rational defense of their beliefs to others. Most Christians never considered how their "WORLD-VIEW" effect their walk with God. Walking with God is walking in the Spirit; and learning to walk in the Spirit is a work from the inside-out. One's walk is strengthened by the healing of one's soul. The power of shame, spirits of rejection, abandonment, betrayal, and the like will quickly surrender to the shed-blood of Jesus Christ. Our life story reveals how the enemy has gained a foothold; and have set up negative thinking patterns that works against our faith. Such negative thinking creates patterns of fear and unbelief, which gives demons legal access to torment and oppress the Child of God. The fruits of this negative thinking are usually displayed in the individual's personality. You've seen it: emotional highs



Spiritual Warfare A Higher Calling

and lows, seasonal depression, usual behavior, habitual sin pattern, etc. Many times these patterns are misread or ignored; so then, the person is left without proper attention in dealing with demonic strongholds.

There are several ways to administer spiritual healing to one that is oppressed. I have found by taking time to remove layers of oppressed and repressed emotions works best. After all it took a series of life events to get into a particular mindset; it will take levels of spiritual encounters to uproot them, as well. Friend, we all have variations of oppressed and repressed emotions which develops a personality trait that simply get in our way of becoming like Christ. I have found that using a questionnaire helps to frame a person's life, and expose demonic personalities at work. The questionnaire that I use is designed to categorize demonic activity that are active in a person's life. In brief, the questionnaire helps to identify: (1) Demonic entry points, (2) root of the pain (soul wound), (3) areas of strong rejection that developed in to bitterness, and (4) areas of bondage, trauma, strongholds, inner-hurts, generation curse/sin, or occult repercussion.

I have also found that in some cases Christians were not aware that the enemy had such a stronghold on their life; although they knew something was wrong, inwardly. Unfortunately, some where led to believe that it was a part of their personality, and they spend years struggling in their Christian experience.

God is calling all Christians to a place of understanding. We need to know the reality of WALKING IN THE SPIRIT; and we must also recognize that our faith, in Jesus Christ, is more than just a mental belief. Our faith has granted us God's favor; which, in turn, grants us access to the powers in the heavenly bodies. These evil forces try to sabotage our faith to the point of exhaustion, which could cause the believer to lose hope in God's ability to set him free. If there is no personal freedom, then world evangelism and Kingdom expansion is under a strain.

Allowing God's Holy Spirit to operate in your life, without hesitation, will open your understanding as to how these spirits can enter into your life – *sometimes undetected*. Additionally, you must understand the Bible definition of "possessed with devils".

Understanding demon possession: The bible makes several references to a person who is possessed, or have a demon, or a person who has been demonized. For example: *Matthew 8:16 when the evening was come, they brought out to him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that was sick:* "A person who is demonized (*possessed with a devil*) is not per se a demonic person, but rather a victim of a powerful demonic influence, or personality. This means that satanic forces are at work to keep that individual bound by sinful behaviors; negative thoughts; emotional bondage; and



Spiritual Warfare A Higher Calling

spiritual inadequacy, all of which is designed to interfere with God's will for their life. If these demonic personalities continue to operate freely, unchallenged, they will ultimately bring confusion and discontent, with reference to the God's church on this earth. In most cases, the individual is left in a state of blindness and can no longer see God's goodness.

Understanding the created man: Man was created from three entities; body, soul, and spirit. Man's spirit is the God-given source of energy that keeps the body alive. *I like to refer to it as the human-engine.* The soul is the eternal being which is made in the image of the eternal God. *I like to refer to it as our human-container. It houses and stores information about everything we have experienced, along with an emotional attachment assigned to each memory.* The body is the house in which we live. It will decay. It is temporal. It is made from natural substance – the earth.

It is important to note; however, that man's spirit is dead apart from God's Holy Spirit. Man's spirit revives at the point of his spiritual conversion – GOD'S SPIRIT IN COHESION WITH MAN'S SPIRIT. This miraculous event takes place when God fills seeking men with His Holy Spirit. Several accounts are recorded in the book of Acts. To summarize, when God's Divine Spirit become ONE with our human spirit we have fellowship with the ONE true God. So, the Spirit of God operates primarily with our spirit, or spirit man. Paul writes "*the Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God*". Jesus said "*God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth*". Notice that the soul was not referred to in the settings of Scripture, although other writers make reference to the soul and similar passages

Isaiah 26:9 With my **soul** have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my **spirit** within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

1 Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living **soul**; the last Adam was made a quickening **spirit**.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of **soul** and **spirit**, and of the **joints and marrow** (*body*), and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Notice how closely twined the soul and spirit are. Yet, the writer makes a distinction between the two. Each has a specific function within our existence. Let's break it down for more clarity. Our spirit is God's area. The soul is our area; that has been reconciled back to God through the redemptive work of the cross of Jesus. Our mind, which resides in our soul-ish area, is the gate of our identity, or



Spiritual Warfare A Higher Calling

existence. The GOSPEL OF JOHN record Jesus teachings on how we are to draw from that inward power, allowing the Holy Spirit to work through and in us. In other words, we are like conduits who houses the power of God; ready to be released to do miracles.

John 7: ³⁷ In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. ³⁸ He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, OUT OF HIS BELLY SHALL FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER. ³⁹ (But this spake he of the **Spirit**, which they that believe on him should receive: for the HOLY GHOST was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

In conclusion, demons can have access to our soul and our body, but not our spirit, nor our will. I believe that this is why the Bible encourages Christians to pray for protection (covering) over the body and soul.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your **whole spirit and soul and body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:15 See then that ye **walk circumspectly**, not as fools, but as wise.

Ephesians 6: ¹¹ Put on the **whole armour** of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the **whole armour** of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Romans 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that **without** ceasing I make mention of you always in my **prayers**;

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray **without** ceasing.

1 Timothy 2:8 I will therefore that men **pray** every where, lifting up holy hands, **without** wrath and doubting.

Ephesians 1: ¹⁷ That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the **spirit of wisdom** and revelation in the knowledge of him: ¹⁸ The eyes of **your understanding being enlightened**; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ And what is the exceeding **greatness of his power** to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,



The Enemy Hides In the Shadows

Five Demonic Entry Points

The first question to ask when dealing with any case of demonization is how did demons gain access to this person's life? Demonization does not occur randomly. No demon attacks without some kind of legal right or legal ground. A legal right is something that gives demons an opportunity to oppress a person due to a voluntary sin action. On the other hand, a legal ground is established when a person makes a conscious choice to continue to allow a sin to operate in their life. It can also be the result of a generational curse, or vow. Demons feel that these violations give them the "RIGHT" to force themselves into a person's life. A person can open doors for demonic invasions without being aware that they are doing so.

Those experienced in the field of demonology agree there are many entry points that may result in demonic activity. Let's look at some common entry points identified by experts in demonology, including Ed Murphy, Frank and Ida Mae Hammond, John and Paula Sandford, Charles Kraft, Noel and Phi I Gibson, John Wimber and Doris Wagner.¹ The list may not be comprehensive, but it does represent the most commonly agreed on tactics that satanic forces use to gain entry in order to set up strongholds and bondage; bringing demonic control into a person's life. One or more of these factors may be involved in any given case of demonic oppression.

1. Personal Sin

One can easily open the door to demonic activity through personal sin-acts of either commission or omission. Acts of commission include the works of the flesh, which are outlined in Galatians 5:19-21; *adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like*. Each of these acts demonstrates disobedience and rebellion against God; which could leave the individual with an "OPEN DOOR" to demonic influence. One of the most entangling and potentially demonizing of all acts of commission is sexual sin. In his *Handbook of Spiritual Warfare*, Ed Murphy states, "Demons of sexual abuse and perversion are floating in the air, so to speak, everywhere. They are among the most active, subtle, and vicious of all demons."

2. Generational Sin

What happens to a demon upon the death of a demonized person? The demon does not die with the person, so where does it go? An axiom in the text of the Ten Commandments helps us understand how God views sin in relation to generations. *Exodus 20:5 and Deuteronomy 5:9 say, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me."*



The Enemy Hides In the Shadows

The shedding of Christ's blood no more changed God's mind on this passage than it changed His mind about the Ten Commandments themselves. Committing sin is much like a physical law, such as the law of gravity. Committing particular sins seems to cause a "SPIRITUAL GENETIC WEAKNESS" in a family, which make its members more susceptible to that sin; and to the demonization that goes along with it. ALTHOUGH DEMONIZATION DOES NOT OCCUR IN EVERY CASE, IT HAPPENS OFTEN ENOUGH THAT WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE IT. A parent who abuses his or her child, for instance, is likely to have come from an abusive home. Drug and alcohol problems run clearly in family lines. Children, grandchildren, even great-grandchildren of an adulterer are far more likely to fall into that lifestyle than people whose families have not been tainted in that way.

Many deliverance ministries state that some of the fiercest and most binding of all generational demons dealt with are those associated with Freemasonry. Those who have been in the ministry for years repeatedly say that Masons actually curse themselves, their families and their churches through the secret oath spoken during the rituals.

Though it may seem unfair, demonization can be passed from generation to generation. This cycle, unless the blood of Christ is appropriated, can go on and on. Every time the same sin is committed in a new generation, the curse of that sin is renewed and ready to be passed to the next generation. The legal right for demonic activity is also renewed. Even if a generation passes that does not commit the particular sin, without the blood of Jesus to cover it, that sin remains a weakness in the bloodline.

3. Victimization, Rejection and Trauma

As painful and unfair as it may seem, victims of abuse rejection or trauma are tragically vulnerable to demonization. These incidents can include rape, robbery, accidents, experiencing a tragedy or being an unwanted child. Demons can grab hold of people, especially children, through the pain of rejection, vows of "getting even," unforgiveness toward people or God, death wishes, anger, bitterness, grief or many other results from circumstance that may be beyond the person's control.

Demons do not play fair. The younger the victim, the better. They serve a master who is out to steal, kill and destroy the human race. These kinds of demonization cases are the main reason many with deliverance ministries feel called to see the captive set free.



The Enemy Hides In the Shadows

4. Witchcraft, Occult and Fraternal Orders

Few evangelicals will dispute the fact that those practicing witchcraft or occult rituals are targets for demonization. A description by Charles Kraft in his book *Defeating Dark Angels* helps us understand the many aspects of this kind of demonization: Conscious invitation of demonization is probable whenever there has been deliberate involvement with or worship of gods/powers other than the true God. Few, if any, of those involved in satanism or witchcraft escape demonization since they consciously open themselves up to invasion. Likewise, those involved in occult practices as seeking spirit guides and channeling are clearly demonic. Even many of the more innocent looking activities, *(such as those related to health and the environment)*, put the participants in great danger of becoming demonized. Other occult involvements to look for include organizations such as Freemasonry, Christian Science, and Scientology. Attending séances, going to fortune tellers, being involved in "table tilting" and levitation are also occult practices. Even more innocent looking activities such as playing with ouija boards and tarot cards put a person in great danger.

Dr. Kraft goes on to identify another form of demonization that comes as a result of these activities: when a person participates in such an activity through the invitation of someone in authority. Thus, demonization may occur when children are dedicated to spirits, gods or Satan; and when adults submit to cult leaders through dedication or satanically empowered "blessings."

5. Cursing

Curses are more than merely wishing evil on someone. Charles Kraft defines a curse this way: A curse is the invocation of the power of Satan or of God to affect negatively the person or thing at which the curse is directed. The invocation may be through words or things that have been cursed or dedicated. Curses convey spiritual power, particularly if the curses are invoked by occult practices that include sacrifice, voodoo or other forms of magic. In Bob Beckett Book "Commitment to Conquer" he quickly points out that not every curse results in demonization. Kraft and Ed Murphy agree that demonization does not often occur solely because of a curse, particularly against a Christian. But because demonization can result from a curse, particularly in its strongest forms, he has chosen to include it in his writings.

Closing the Door

The next step in delivering an individual, once we have looked at some common entry points for demonic activity, is finding out which of these possibilities applies to his or her situation. It is important to know why demons are able to do what they are doing. Once we have this knowledge, we can formulate a strategy for closing the door to the demonic, rescind the legal right for demonic



Understanding Spiritual Warfare

activity through prayer, then evict the demons from a home no longer vulnerable to their evil influence. Knowing why demons are there is the key to understanding what they are doing and how we can expel them.

There are two basic ways of knowing why demonization occurred in a given situation. The first is through a word of knowledge; which is information given an individual supernaturally by the Holy Spirit. This is almost like spiritual intuition provided by God. The second method of knowing why demonization occurred is through an interview with the demonized person; simply sitting down and talking with him or her.

Final Word

The studying of demons and demonic activity is not something to be entered into casually. On the other hand, it is rewarding and insightful to see what demons are capable of. This insight will open a greater understanding of the greatest call given to man – *make disciples*. If left unattended, the operation of the demonic realm, briefly described in this paper, could put the church at a disadvantage. Why? Because, it promotes isolation which could lead to schism in the body of Christ.

I've held the office of an evangelist for over fourteen years; and after accepting the office of a pastor, my Church-view shifted. I quickly noticed that many Christians had a shallow understanding of Godliness. Most did not understand the mechanics behind "WALKING IN THE SPIRIT"; and were plagued with SENSATIONALISM. Their relationship with God was overshadowed by religiosity. They simply were not KINGDOM MINDED. At the time, I did not realize that I was a part of this Christian culture; but out of my called duty, I earnestly sought God on this matter. After a year and a half of praying the Lord began to reveal to me - KINGDOMOLOGY. This journey opened a fresh understanding of the reality of heavenly activities. My God-called responsibility, on earth, became clear. I can tell you from personal experience demonic activities are hiding in plain sight. Additionally, there is no reason why any Christian should live a "CHRISTIAN LIFE" without SPIRITUAL FREEDOM. There is no reason why, as Christians, we take a passive approach, when it comes to devils.

In caution, Christians should not "GO AFTER" devils; looking for them at every turn. Rather, take note that we are called to be the salt of the earth, and the light of the world. Our God-called position generates a HIGHER LIVING CONDITION. And it is expedient that we learn to minister to this generation; who has been plagued with: Godlessness, lust, molestation, sexual promiscuity, incest, occult dabbling, demonic practices, and more. So, when demons get in the way, and they will, neutralize their effort, and proceed forward: BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD – SOUL BY SOUL.

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