

It's War - Demons

Who in this room is trained in some kind of self defense? If someone were to attack you, would you use it? If someone were to attack your family, would you use it? What if someone attacked a stranger and you were present, would you use it?

Now who is someone that has NOT been trained in self defense? What would you do if someone attacked you? your family? a stranger?

Whether trained or not, you have 3 primary options when attacked:

1. Fight the best you know how
2. Stand there and take a beating
3. RUN.....and hope you are faster than them

I would say that when physically attacked, most people would do their best to defend themselves. Some would ball up on the ground and cry, and some would just run...

But for some reason, the opposite tends to be true when it comes to a spiritual attack. The majority stands there and takes a beating or tries their best to RUN! Most will just give up....hoping the attacker will eventually be done and leave.

Listen, satan will not stop attacking you. Oh he might lighten up when you are so beat up and weak that he knows you have been beat into submission....but as soon as there is any shred of hope in your eyes, he's back at it. We have got to fight....trained or not! But today you are going to be prepared if you aren't already!

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)

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.

Make sure you know where the emphasis is in this verse. If you read 5 words and stop then you get bad theology. The emphasis is not on "For we do not wrestle".....don't stop there, we DO wrestle. It's just that our opponent is not what/who we see physically with our eyes. Our opponent is a spiritual one....satan and his demons!

We often times become detoured by "wrestling" with human adversaries instead of prayerfully warring against the invisible powers of darkness that are working behind the scenes.

The Greek word used here for wrestle is pale (pa-lay) - a contest between two in which each endeavours to throw the other, and which is decided when the victor is able to hold his opponent down with his hand upon his neck

This is a violent battle....who wants to hold down the devil with your hand around his neck???

We are to be aware of satan's schemes --- this means his evil purposes, what he thinks or plans

Demons

What are demons?

- Demons are evil or fallen angels who rebelled and sinned against God and now work out evil in the world
- So since they are angels, just like the holy angels, they are created spiritual beings without physical bodies
- It's important to know that when God created them, they were created good

Genesis 1:31 (HCSB)

31 God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

Again, we don't know exactly when angels were created but it was by this point in scripture for sure and God said all that He made was good! So they were created good but chose evil.

Demons are under the leadership and direction of satan.

- Satan is an angel created by God who served as a cherub until he rebelled against God and he now opposes God in every way. (He is not equal to God....opposes but not opposite)

Ezekiel 28:14-16 (HCSB)

14 You were an anointed guardian cherub, for I had appointed you.

You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked among the fiery stones.

15 From the day you were created you were blameless in your ways until wickedness was found in you.

16 Through the abundance of your trade, you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I expelled you in disgrace from the mountain of God, and banished you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.

satan was a cherub, if you remember from last week, cherubs were to protect and also to proclaim the glory of God around the throne. They were given the task of guarding the Garden of Eden. They were given charge to accompany the Ark of the Covenant.

satan had continuous and unrestricted access to the presence of God. But he wanted more....

Isaiah 14:12-15 (HCSB)

12 Shining morning star, how you have fallen from the heavens!

You destroyer of nations, you have been cut down to the ground.

13 You said to yourself: "I will ascend to the heavens; I will set up my throne above the stars of God.

I will sit on the mount of the gods' assembly, in the remotest parts of the North.

14 I will ascend above the highest clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

15 But you will be brought down to Sheol into the deepest regions of the Pit.

Revelation 12:8-10 (HCSB)

8 but he could not prevail, and there was no place for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was thrown out—the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him.

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

The salvation and the power

and the kingdom of our God

and the authority of His Messiah

have now come,

because the accuser of our brothers

has been thrown out:

the one who accuses them

before our God day and night.

His pride desired more power causing him to sin. satan hates God and in turn he hates everything that God loves (people).

Satan's names reveal who he is and what his schemes are

- satan - the adversary (enemy, opponent, force that attacks)
- devil - the slanderer
- lucifer - son of the morning (shining one, light bearer) - remember he imitates an angel of light
- belial - false god (fake, imposter)

Other times he is just called what he is

- the evil one
- the tempter
- the accuser
- father of lies
- a thief

John 10:10 (HCSB)

10 A thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

Something key to remember is that not only are the demons fallen angels but satan himself is also. So all the limitations that apply to angels also apply to satan and demons

- They are limited in space (can only be in one place at a time) Not omnipresent.
- They are limited in knowledge. (don't know everything.)
- They are limited in power (can only do what God allows)

This is why satan has “demons”. Unlike God who is omnipresent (the Holy Spirit is everywhere at once) satan is not, remember no matter what he tells you, satan is not the opposite of God. If you want to know his opposite it would be cherub (holy angel). Less than God....and less than man.

There are lots of demons, but we are told that one third of the angels fell with satan, so there are still two thirds of the holy angels left which means demons are outnumbered 2 to 1.....and because of our victorious Lord, Jesus Christ, we have the overcoming power of the Holy Spirit.....boy are the demons in trouble!

Like angels we know of different roles/levels of demons from the bible.

In Ephesians 6 we see 4 categories/ranks of demons:

Principalities - (arche - ar-khay) the origin, the first person in a series, the leader

- This is speaking of territories or jurisdictions
- Assigned over nations or large regions

Powers - (exousia - eks-u-see-a) power of authority and of right, power of rule, regal authority

- These are given authority in specific areas, under direction of Principalities
- Assigned over cities, states, territories or smaller, more specific areas

Rulers (kosmokrator - kos-mo-dra-tor) of the darkness of this age - lord of the world, this period in time

- These are in control of this period of time, limited to this darkness here on earth
- what they are in control of is darkness (skotos - ska-tas) spiritual blindness or ignorance
- They operate through deception often using agendas or movements
 - false philosophies
 - false religions

- false ministers
- false doctrine
- false disciples
- false morals

Spiritual hosts of wickedness (poneria - po-na-re-a) - evil spirits

- These are destructive in character
- These afflict and sometimes possess people or animals
 - bring sickness
 - persecution
 - promote division
 - plant doubt
 - prevent us from doing good or serving God
 - attacks faith

So what about these demons affecting our lives. What do we do about it.

We should pray for our country, our state, city, school system, government, etc. Know that the enemy is at work in all of these things. If you want to see change, complaining isn't going to make it happen....prayer is the way to see change happen!

As for the individual, most of us would discount demonic activity in our lives because we are a Christian. If you are saved you can't have a demon in your life right??? Kinda....sorta...

There are three primary relationships a demon can have with a human. We get these from the Greek words used in the bible when talking about demons. When you study them out, there are 3 kinds which are mostly translated as the same in English, similar to how there are 4 Greek words for love and we just use love for all of them.

1. Demonic Possession

This is to "have a demon". In this case the demon or demons are inside of you and can take control and influence your soul (mind, will, emotions) and even take control of your physical body.

If a person is demon possessed, they have not been born again, they are not saved. If the Holy Spirit resides in your heart, He isn't roomies with demons.

A person in this state needs to repent, and be delivered, saved, filled with the Holy Spirit.

2. Demonic Oppression

This is to “be with a demon”. In this case you don’t have a demon “in you” but they are “on” or “around” you. Due to access that you have given them, they have the right to speak, tempt, lure, and influence you.

This can and does happen to born again believers.

A person in this state needs to repent, and be delivered from the oppressing spirits.

3. Demonization

This is to “be demonized”. This is the most common or frequent that we see in scriptures. In this case you don’t have a demon in you or even hanging on your back or constantly harassing you. But instead a demon has control to some degree in a specific area of your life.

The devil has a foot in the door and can whisper into your heart, tempting, luring, and drawing you back to the sin that gave him access. The more you open the door to sin, the more influence you give him to speak into your life.

This also can and does happen to born again believers.

A person in this state needs to repent and be delivered closing the door on the devil.

One level of demonic influence can escalate to the next, and to the next. This is why we must take it seriously and address demonic influence as quickly as we recognize it.

Ephesians 4:27 (HCSB)

27 and don’t give the Devil an opportunity.

Other translations say “give no place to the devil” or “don’t give a foothold to the devil”

The devil and his demons can only have access to what you allow them access to! Now if a person is not born again, washed in the blood of Christ, then the devil has access to everything already.

What you need to know about the devil is that he is very legalistic. He is all about rules and rights because he is limited by them. He does not have supreme authority so he lurks and waits for authority to be given to him!

Sin opens the door giving him the authority to enter.....

Too often people try to rebuke the devil and command him to leave when he doesn't have to leave. He may have the authority to be there and you may not have the authority to kick him out!

How would you take it if I came to your house and told you that you had to leave? You would probably laugh and slam the door in my face!

Every person, Christian and non-Christian, is influenced by the demons in the world. The influence that they have over a person's life ranges from the ordinary temptations at one end of the scale to near total control at the other end.

Demons work on us to cause fear, doubt, despair, lust, greed, and hatred all the time. They attempt to skew our perception of reality and the work of God. That is part and parcel of being a Christian.

The Word tells us that we should not be dismayed when we feel tempted.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (HCSB)

13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to humanity. God is faithful, and He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation He will also provide a way of escape so that you are able to bear it.

If you feel attacked today, I'm here to tell you there is a way of escape....

James 4:7-8 (HCSB)

7 Therefore, submit to God. But resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, double-minded people!

We see over and over in the bible, Jesus casting out demons. We also see multiple times where He gave that authority to His disciples. We engage in this battle in Jesus' name!

Matthew 12:28 (HCSB)

28 If I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.

Colossians 2:15 (HCSB)

15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; He triumphed over them by Him.

1 John 3:8 (HCSB)

8 The one who commits sin is of the Devil, for the Devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the Devil's works.

Jesus has overcome.....How can I respond?

James 5:16 (HCSB)

16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The urgent request of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.

Healed literally means to make whole. We want the devil removed and to be made whole!

1. Confess
 - a. be specific
2. Repent
 - a. change your mind, stop the sin
3. Have a righteous man or woman pray with you
4. Believe the work has been done
5. Fill the gap
 - a. fill that space with God - the Word, prayer, worship, godly fellowship
6. Be ready for the return but don't receive it!
 - a. it's very possible that the spirit that has been broken off or cast out will try and come back to check and see someone (God) is dwelling in his old room.

Make sure you pray "In the name of Jesus" and ask His blood to wash away that sin. Any authority we have over the enemy or sin comes in the name of Jesus and through His shed blood.

Now before you come forward, you need to do a couple of things. First, you must be ready for freedom. If you don't want it, there is no reason to come forward because it start with you, repenting and confessing.

Second, if you need to tie up loose ends at home before you can be free, do that and come forward next week. Porn....throw away the videos and magazines, Drugs....flush them, Alcohol....pour it out.

Matthew 12:43-45 (HCSB)

43 "When an unclean spirit comes out of a man, it roams through waterless places looking for rest but doesn't find any. 44 Then it says, 'I'll go back to my house that I came from.' And returning, it finds the house vacant, swept, and put in order. 45 Then off it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and settle down there. As a result, that man's last condition is worse than the first. That's how it will also be with this evil generation."

I want to be clear....we believe in freedom through Jesus Christ. Don't fear or worry about what people might think. If you desire freedom, come to the altar today. Don't be embarrassed, it

doesn't matter what level of demonic influence is in your life.....we desire to see you walking in freedom! Anyone who feels otherwise is free to go!

**Sources: Dr. David Platt's teaching in "Secret Church" and Jakob Barrientos' book Dealing with Darkness.