



Global Good

News Literature

Basic Christianity



Part II

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“All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17



“The entrance of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.” Psalm 119:130

***Note: All Scriptures in this study are either from NIV or NKJV**

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Lesson Six Spiritual Warfare & The Authority of the Believer

While the word “Spiritual” indicates the world that is outside or beyond the physical world, the word “warfare” tells us of the fight that is going on between two opposing powers. So, when we say “Spiritual Warfare”, we are referring to the fight beyond the physical world, that is going on between the believer, through whom the Spirit of God operates, and Satan who is always fighting against believers.

Since Satan knows he is no match for God, he fights with believers who are sometimes ignorant of the power they are entitled to as a child of God. He also fights those who know who they are in Christ because they are a threat to his kingdom of darkness. So, as believers, the only choice we have is to realize that we are in a spiritual warfare, be aware of the power we have been given as children of God and learn how to fight the good fight of faith.

In John 10:10 Jesus calls our enemy the devil “the thief”. *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*

I. Who is our enemy?

If there is warfare, there is an enemy. 1 Peter 5:8 points out who our enemy is. *“Be alert and of sober mind. **Your enemy the devil** prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”* This verse clearly tells us that people are not our enemy, even though the devil can use people to attack us. This verse does not say that the devil is a lion, but that he ‘prowls like a roaring lion’. For the

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believer who does not know about Spiritual warfare and the authority of the believer, the devil seems to be like a lion, but for the knowledgeable and obedient believer, the devil is just masquerading as a lion.

How did the devil become the enemy?

God did not create Satan as the devil. He was created as one of the Archangels, but because of his pride and rebellion he was cast out of heaven and down to earth. Both Ezekiel 28:12-17 and Isaiah 14:12-15 tell us about the fall of Satan.

Ezekiel 28:12-17

“Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

*“‘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 adorned you:
carnelian, chrysolite and emerald,
topaz, onyx and jasper,
lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl.*

*Your settings and mounting were made of gold;
on the day you were created they were prepared.*

¹⁴ *You were anointed as a guardian cherub,
for so I ordained you.*

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

¹⁵ *You were blameless in your ways
from the day you were created
till wickedness was found in you.*

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*¹⁶ Through your widespread trade
you were filled with violence,
and you sinned.
So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God,
and I expelled you, guardian cherub,
from among the fiery stones.
¹⁷ Your heart became proud
on account of your beauty,
and you corrupted your wisdom
because of your splendor.
So I threw you to the earth;
I made a spectacle of you before kings.”*

Isaiah 14:12-15

*¹² How you have fallen from heaven,
morning star, son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth,
you who once laid low the nations!
¹³ You said in your heart,
“I will ascend to the heavens;
I will raise my throne
above the stars of God;
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.
¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High.”
¹⁵ But you are brought down to the realm of the dead,
to the depths of the pit.*

II. What are the different strategies the enemy uses?

Before we go to the devil’s strategies, we would like to mention that the main battleground of this Spiritual warfare is **The Mind**. The devil

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is a master of deceit and lies. Jesus called him “The father of lies” in John 8:44 “...*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.*”

1. Ideas/Suggestions

As ‘the father of lies’ the main strategy the devil uses against believers and unbelievers alike is to bring ideas that are very appealing but contrary to the Word of God. That was what he did with Eve in the Garden of Eden in Gen 3:1-5

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.”

In verse 1, the devil Questioned God’s word. “*Has God indeed said.*” Then in verse four, he directly contradicted God’s Word. “*You will not surely die.*”

At last, in verse 5, he maligned God himself.

“For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God.” He implied that God had an ulterior motive. It is easy to blame Eve, but the Word of God warns us by saying; “*³ But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your*

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minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.” (2Corinthians 11:3)

In this verse we see that the key is the mind. That is where the devil is looking for an opening. First the devil questions the Word of God. Then he brings an idea that contradicts the Word of God. At the end, he tries to make us doubt God himself.

One thing we have to be clear on is that the devil cannot force anyone to do anything except to deceive us into doing it. The power he has is the power of deceits and suggestions.

2. The Flesh

Our flesh is another battleground that the devil uses and usually succeeds in fighting the believer. The ungodly desires that are resident in our flesh are readily available ammunition that the devil uses against us.

That is why Paul said: **“But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”** When he says, ‘my body’ he is referring to his flesh. Paul tells us in Galatians 5 that the flesh always has a tendency to go against the will of the Spirit.

“¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” ¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ 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.” The Spirit here refers to the Holy Spirit that is resident in the believer.

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Since the devil knows that the desires of the flesh are contrary to the Spirit, he entices the believer to be driven by the desires of the flesh. Then those evil desires bring sin into the believer's life.

“Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.” James 1:15

“All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.” Ephesians 2:3

3. Condemnation

One of the meanings of the word Satan in Hebrew is ‘accuser’ or one who condemns. Revelations 12:10 tells us that he is the accuser of the believer.

*“¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:
“Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God,
and the authority of his Messiah.*

***For the accuser of our brothers and sisters,
who accuses them before our God, day and night,
has been hurled down.***

*¹¹ They triumphed over him
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony.”*

In the Old Testament we see Satan accuse Job (Job 1:6), and Joshua the High Priest.

*“Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.”
Zachariah 3:1*

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Satan, not only accuses the believer before God, with or without cause, as with Joshua (with cause) or Job (without cause), but also accuses us before our own conscience. Especially the believer, who has not yet grasped the depth of God's mercy, can condemn himself by echoing the devil's condemnation, even after he has confessed and asked for God's forgiveness.

The truth we find in the scriptures is that once a believer confesses his sins, there is no more condemnation.

“⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.” 1 John 2:1

“¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:15-16

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

4. False teaching/Doctrine

Another one of the devil's strategies is false doctrines/teachings. The central characteristics of these false doctrines are:

- Denying the deity of Christ. Denies that Christ is the Son of God and equal with God. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” “And the Word became flesh.”* John 1:1-2, 14 For Example, the Jehovah's witnesses Bible, the new World Translation, changed verse one to say, “and the word was **a god**”, because Jehovah Witnesses deny that Jesus is equal with the father. Actually, according to their doctrine Jesus is the first created being.
- Denies the Trinity, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

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- Denies the sufficiency of the atonement (the price Jesus paid on the cross on our behalf)
- The central focus becomes man instead of Christ.

III. What Authority is given to the believer?

When we say ‘the believer’, we are referring to someone who has committed his life to the Lordship of Christ through repentance and faith. It doesn’t include someone who merely professes to believe in Christ. The authority of the believer described below does not work for the latter.

The moment someone makes Jesus the Lord of his life, he receives the authority of becoming a child of God.

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:” 1 John 1:12

As a child of God, the believer has an inherent authority that comes with it. If someone is a child of an earthly king, he has tremendous authority in his father’s kingdom. His father’s authority itself is behind him. This is a relational authority that comes with the package. That is why Paul could say, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* Philippians 4:13. This, proclamation of ‘I can do all things’ is not just for Paul, but for all believers, because it is ‘through Christ’ who is the source of the strength.

To climax all this, Jesus Christ himself said to his disciples (potentially to all believers), *“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.”* Luke 10:19

Wow, what a powerful statement regarding the authority of the believer. *He said, ‘I give you authority ... over all the power of*

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the enemy'. "All" means all. There is no power of the enemy (the devil) that we have not been given authority over.

But there are conditions for this authority to work properly in our lives. Next to being a child of God, the other pre-requisite is that we are not living in sin. **If we are playing with sin the devil is going to laugh at us saying; "You are already in my territory. You are playing with my stuff. You have forfeited your authority."** We have to be in a right standing with God before we can resist the devil.

That is why the Bible says: **"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."** (James 4:7) You must submit to God, before you can resist the devil.

Likewise, in Romans 16:19-20 it says: **"For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore, I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.²⁰ And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly."** When we live an obedient life, the Lord makes sure the devil is under our feet.

Further, Ephesians 6:10-18 tells us to put God's armor to be victorious. **"¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,¹³ against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**

¹⁴Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶above all, taking the shield of faith with which, you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit,

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which is the word of God; ¹⁸praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”

What is this authority and how does it get manifested in our daily lives?

This authority is invested in:

- The Word of God!
- The Name of Jesus!
- The blood of Jesus!

1. The Name of Jesus

Just like a child has the right to use his father’s name by birth, we also have the Spiritual right to use the Name of Jesus because we are born again and have become a child of God. In Acts 19:13-16, we read of a story about sons of a priest who tried to cast out demons in the Name of Jesus. The problem was that they didn’t know Jesus personally, they just heard about Him, and it doesn’t work like that. Only those who know Him personally can call upon him and use his Name with authority. Let’s read what happened to these people who tried to use what didn’t belong to them.

“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^[a] exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.” ¹⁴ Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. ¹⁵ One day the evil spirit answered them, “**Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?**” ¹⁶ Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.” Acts 19:13-16

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The enemy knows those who have the right and the authority to call upon the Name of Jesus and he will flee from them. The Bible tells us the “Resist the devil and he will flee from you”. We resist the devil in the Name of Jesus.

What kind of power and Authority is in the Name of Jesus Christ?

Phil 2:9-11 says: “Therefore God exalted him (Jesus) to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.”

This verse clearly tells us that the Name of Jesus is above any other name in heaven, on earth and under the earth. Every knee shall bow to Him and every tongue acknowledge that he is Lord. Some, like those who accepted Him, do it willingly. Others, overwhelmed by His Lordship, will confess that He is Lord, whether they like it or not.

Again, it says this in Eph 1:19-23

“¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”

These verses tell us that the Name of Jesus is above every Name and all has been subjected under His feet. Since the Church is His body and He is the Head, ‘under His feet’ means “under His Church’s feet” also, because the Church is His body, His hands, His feet etc....

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Romans 10:13 tells us, “¹³ for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Whenever we call the Name of the Lord, we are saved protected and delivered.

Even in the Old Testament, we see David triumph over Goliath in the Name of the Lord.

1 Samuel 17:45-46 “⁴⁵David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.⁴⁶This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.”

David further boasts in His Lord and God.

“¹⁰ All the nations surrounded me,
but in the name of the LORD, I cut them down.

¹¹ They surrounded me on every side,
but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.

¹² They swarmed around me like bees,
but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns;
in the name of the LORD I cut them down.” Psalms 118:10-12

“⁷ Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

⁸ They are brought to their knees and fall,
but we rise up and stand firm.” Psalms 20:7-8

Solomon in proverbs says:

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**“¹⁰The name of the LORD is a fortified tower;
the righteous run to it and are safe.”** Proverbs 18:10

The Lord guards those who acknowledge His name.

**“¹⁴Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.”** Psalms 91:14

2. The Word of God.

As we read in Ephesians 6 above, verse 17 says: **‘Take ... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.’** While all the other weapons mentioned in Eph 6 as “The armor of God” are to protect and defend the believer, the Word of God is the only offensive weapon a Christian is to arm himself with.

“For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

When Jesus was tempted three times by the devil, He responded three times **“It is Written”, “It is Written”, It is Written”**. He overcame the enemy by the Word of God. Since the Word of God is, **“The Sword of the Spirit”**, it has the power to pierce and cut the enemy. Revelation 1 tells us about the majesty of Christ, and in verse sixteen it says: **“¹⁶In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.”** That double edged sword coming out of His mouth is **HIS WORD**. It is still double-edged sword when **HIS WORD** comes out of our mouth by faith.

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As light overcomes darkness, the Word of God also has the power to overcome the power of darkness. “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalms 119:105

A believer who has made the Word of God his/her refuge has a sure foundation. “Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.” Matthew 7:24-25

3. The Blood of Jesus

There is special power in the blood of Jesus. This power is different from the power in the name of Jesus or the Word of God. The power found in the blood of Jesus is to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7

⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.” 1 John 1:8-10

If there is sin in our lives our fellowship with the Lord is blocked and we become vulnerable to the enemy. That is why we have to deal with it as soon as possible. We should not linger in our sin a little longer. The sooner we get rid sin from our life the better off we would be. The two ingredients that are needed to get rid of sin from our life are repentance and the blood of Jesus Christ.

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Sin is something we will never be totally 100% free from because we are living in a flesh that has the fallen nature inherited from Adam. However, God has provided a powerful detergent that can cleanse us from any kind of sin.

Comparing the blood of Jesus with the blood of goats and sheep that was shed for the remission of sin in the Old Testament, the word of God tells us that the blood of Jesus is the best and only detergent to remove the stain of sin.

“¹³For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” Hebrews 9:13-14

If we do not apply the blood of Jesus to our lives whenever we fall into sin, then we would be helpless before the enemy and none of the other authorities, His Name and His Word would work for us.

I. Two things that keep us from using the Authority we already have.

Even though we are the children of God, there are two things that can rob us of the power and authority that we have been given by God.

These two things are:

a. Sin

Sin breaks our fellowship with God. (Isaiah 59:1-2, Psalms 66:17)

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“Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened,
That it cannot save;
Nor His ear heavy,
That it cannot hear.
But your iniquities have separated you from your God;
And your sins have hidden *His* face from you,
So that He will not hear.” Isaiah 59:1-2

“If I regard iniquity in my heart,
The Lord will not hear.” Psalms 66:17

Mighty Samson lost his power when he let sin creep into his life and stay too long.

“²⁰ And she said, “The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!” So, he awoke from his sleep, and said, “I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!” But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.” Judges 16:20

As we mentioned above, if there is un-confessed sin in our life, then we are vulnerable to the enemy. We become powerless against our enemy. The solution is to quickly confess our sins and let the blood of Jesus cleanse our conscience.

b. Spiritual ignorance

The second enemy that robs us of our Authority is ignorance. Maybe ignorance is the number one enemy most Christians have. Since they are ignorant of what rightly belongs to them, and they are ignorant of their ignorance, it is a double whammy. When you have a problem, and you don’t know what the problem is or you don’t know that you have a problem; **that is a real problem**. That is ignorance.

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The word of God says:

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for me. Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.” Hosea 4:6

If we don't know the authority we have been given as a child of God, we will live like a slave. Slave to sin and to the enemy. Ignorance can make a prince live like a pauper.

**May the Lord open our eyes,
to live in the Authority, he has already given to us.**

Lesson 6 – Spiritual Warfare - Quiz

(Please give your answers on a separate piece of paper)

Student ID #: _____

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

1. What does Spiritual warfare mean to you?

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2. In what ways does the enemy fight with believers? What are the main ways he fights with you?
3. One of the ways the enemy fights us is by bringing evil thoughts. How can a believer protect himself from this vulnerability?
4. What are the ways the Authority given to the believer manifested? How should the believer use these ways?
5. What are the things that can be an obstacle from living a victorious Christian life?
6. Explain one incident where you faced spiritual warfare, and you came out victorious.
7. How do you exercise your own spiritual authority in your daily life?