

# Spiritual Warfare and Deception

How to raise the shield of faith  
and wield the sword of the Spirit  
in the warfare of the beast kingdom against us

By Jim Sayles

In Ephesians 6:12 Paul instructs us that our warfare is not with men but with “*spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places*,” whom we identify as Satan and his hierarchy of fallen angels, called demons.

But, unlike the horror movies we allow our Christian children to watch, prompting their (and our) fear of the supernatural powers that demons and the men they control have in this world, the Lord instructs us in Luke 10:19 that He has ALL authority in heaven and on earth.

And He has given us His authority and power (through faith) to TRAMPLE on serpents and scorpions (demons) and over ALL the power (supernatural abilities) that the enemy possesses, and nothing used by the enemy can harm us in any way **IF** we are walking by faith in our Lord’s authority.

It is important for us to note that the “power” of the enemy in this passage is the Greek word transliterated as *dynamis*, from which the words “dynamite” and “dynamo” originated. In the case of Satan and his hierarchy of fallen angels, they have the same supernatural powers and abilities that they had as angels before the Luciferian rebellion, but they no longer have kingdom **authority**.

The natural abilities and powers inherent in angelic beings (and demons) include the power to transfer visual images and thoughts from one to another instantaneously, the ability to move from one point in the natural creation to another instantaneously, and the ability to manipulate the natural creation in various ways, such as causing a storm, spontaneous fires, or even manipulating a vehicle on the highway to make it crash into another vehicle.

But the greatest *dynamis* they possess is the ability to communicate with men directly through our spirits and indirectly by impacting our souls (mind, emotions, will) by various other means.

In the direct sense demons can communicate with men through dreams, visions, thought transference or suggestion (i.e. voices), and various external manifestations such as ghosts, which are **not** manifestations of the spirits of dead men and women, but manifestations of the demonic entities that were familiar with the men or women they appear to be in order to deceive the living.

In regard to hearing voices, schizophrenia has been revealed to me as a demonic manifestation, and on two instances the Lord has caused me to command the demons manifesting as voices in Christian believers diagnosed with Schizophrenia to leave, resulting in immediate results, and a prayer of protection for them from any recurring events.

Thus, the truth about schizophrenia in at least some cases, if not all, is demonstrated to be a demonic manifestation.

Demons also manifest through men whose minds, emotions, and wills are voluntarily controlled by demonic entities, such as sorcerers, witches, psychics, mediums, etc. and even through some of the “insane.”

Demons can incite confusion, violence, war, and, above all, spiritual deception. Even the deception of born-again believers in Jesus Christ who, for the most part, do not know they are deceived.

The power that the Lord has given us, though, is not *dynamis*. It is the Greek word transliterated as *exousia*, which is commonly translated as “authority.”

In Luke 10:18 the Lord simply refers to an event in which He tells His disciples (and us) that He “saw” (witnessed and was responsible for) Satan’s fall from kingdom of God authority.

Thus, when He tells us that we have been given His *exousia* power (authority) over the enemy’s *dynamis* power (that has no authority in the kingdom of God or over the kingdom of God) He is telling us that our exercise of this kingdom authority over the enemy’s supernatural abilities through **faith** (not mere religious obedience) will protect us and others from physical, mental, and spiritual harm.

Yet, this exercise of authority is not automatic, or a matter of human will. It is a matter of active faith, which is our obedient response (like soldiers, bondservants, and disciples) to the moment by moment supernatural knowledge of His truth, promises, and commands as these are conveyed to us by the Spirit of truth through various means.

The general order in this case is **“You have my kingdom of God authority to confront and defeat the enemy’s attempts to harm yourselves or others in various ways, including the corruption of My truth upon which all matters of faith depend.”**

But we also need to be aware of our Lord’s specific commands in this regard, and that means that we need to have “ears to hear” and “eyes to see” what the Spirit is telling us in each and every situation.

In military terms we have authority over the demonic in a general sense, but the exercise of this authority requires a faith response to the truth and will of God in Christ in each circumstance, because it is His authority manifested through our obedient faith responses as His bond-servants that manifests the truth and power of our Lord as the sword of the Spirit and the shield of faith.

Thus, we must “hear” the prompting of the Spirit who speaks the truth, covenant promises, and commands of the Lord into our spirit-mind connection (our soul). We cannot presume this authority on our own. If we do, we will fail.

This *exousia* authority is not a unique gift only for certain born-again believers. It is the specific will of the Lord that every born-again man and woman operate in this faith empowered gift in order to overcome both our own flesh (the natural man) and whatever demonic influences and assaults have come against us in this life. And when we have individually learned to walk in the *exousia* authority of Jesus Christ we are enabled to help others overcome, which is our Lord’s specific will for us.

If this is a strange concept to you, simply examine the Lord’s commission given to His disciples through which they were instructed to teach all those that they brought to faith including the very generation reading this commentary.

**Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority ...*exousia*...over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. Matthew 10:1 NASB**

This leaves no room for denial that all born-again believers in Jesus Christ have this *exousia* authority in Christ, but like all matters of faith, we do not manifest this authority as a matter of personal will.

We are, instead, directed by the Holy Spirit, who is the voice of the Lord, because it is His *dunamis* power that manifests through our obedient faith responses, not our own *dunamis* power.

If we are not accustomed to hearing and responding to the voice of the Lord spoken into our hearts by the Spirit of truth, we will not likely manifest this *exousia* authority of the Lord manifested as *dunamis* power, though it is His perfect will that we ALL walk in His *exousia* authority, not just a few specially gifted individuals.

What those who are experienced in this covenant command and associated authority recognize is that the opportunities to minister this *exousia* authority for the purposes of the Lord and the welfare of the body of Christ increases as our desire to walk in this universal command and will of the Lord for His bondservants becomes our primary motivation in life.

In this regard, nothing is impossible. The dead are raised to life. The blind are given eyes to see. The deaf are given ears to hear. Schizophrenics are freed instantaneously from their confusion. Those who experience homosexual desires are freed from that bondage.

There is no limit. The only limit is the limit we place on ourselves and whatever limitations He has ordained for each of us.

Satan's greatest faith hindering weapon is deception and denial of the very clear truth spoken to us by our Lord Himself, and he introduces his lies of denial into the body of Christ through multiple means, including the following:

1. Causing men who have authority in the organized church to receive lies instead of the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth of God in Christ as that truth is conveyed and confirmed to us by the Spirit of truth. Then this "truth" having become an institutional doctrine is accepted by unknowing Christians as the truth, which, in turn, causes them to reject the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth of God conveyed to us by the Spirit of truth. Proof of this statement is our division into a multitude of denominations with varying doctrines and practices (i.e. a scattering of the sheep) when the will of God in Christ is that we be united in both faith and doctrine.
2. Personal deception, other than the deception we unknowingly receive from authorities in the organized church, comes to us individually through a multitude of Satanic assaults. Some of these include 1) generational curses passed down through our ancestors; 2) our unknowing participation in Satanic covenants such as the Masonic Lodge; and, 3) our unknowing acceptance of false doctrine and false practice from "authorities" in the organized church as though these are the truth and will of God.

Our pursuit of truth as the Spirit of truth supernaturally "guides" us and confirms the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth to us enables us to overcome deception and it empowers our faith.

But denominationalism bypasses the Spirit of truth, and though it comforts our flesh through our identity with the denominational body we are associated with, it is a stronghold of both truth and error intermingled, which compromises the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth of God in Christ in some ways.

Yet, the Father has ordained the way we are to receive, believe, and act on His truth, His covenant promises and His commands.

Thus, the promise of our Lord to each believer: ***But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take from Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; this is why I said that He takes from Mine and will disclose it to you.*** John 16:13-15 NASB

The key to our overcoming of flesh impulses that oppose the will of God is to “hear” the voice of the Holy Spirit and respond to His voice by making obedient faith responses to the will of God in Christ.

Satan’s primary warfare against the body of Christ is to deceive us where the truth of God in Christ is concerned in order to keep us in the compromised position of pursuing the lusts of the flesh rather than the truth, covenant promises, and commands of our Lord who gave himself as a sacrifice for our sins in order that we might live a life empowered by the Holy Spirit to not only overcome the flesh but to overcome Satan and his works.

The secondary warfare and deception of Satan is through his corruption of doctrine and practice as this is manifested through denominationalism.

What denominationalism demonstrates is a lack of unity concerning doctrine and practice, which is NOT the will of God.

***Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Phillipians 2:1,2 NASB***

This unity in the spirit is denied as a possibility by those who are invested in denominational organizations and their specific interpretations of scriptural truth. Yet, I am united with all others who have received and confirmed the truth revealed and confirmed by the Spirit of truth concerning any doctrine of practice as is perfectly communicated by the Lord:

***But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.***

John 16:14 NASB

Who will guide us into all truth? Our denomination? A specific translation of the Bible? Our seminary trained pastor?

In the Lord’s own words it is the Spirit of truth who guides us into all of the truth. But our division throughout the body of Christ concerning doctrine and practice is convicting evidence that we are not all being guided by the Spirit of truth.

Our pastors and teachers may help us receive and respond to the truth, promises, and covenant commands of the Lord, but it is the Lord’s voice spoken through the Spirit of truth that empowers our faith responses and confirms His absolute, immutable, revelatory truth in scripture.

Thus, our various interpretations of doctrine and practice, including prophetic doctrine, based on our intellectual interpretations rather than guided by the Spirit of truth, divides us, and all doctrine and practice we receive and believe as revelatory truth from the Spirit of truth unites us.

Judge for yourselves, then, what the condition of the body of Christ at large is in regarding this condition as spoken directly to us by the Lord Himself.

Note the important truth contained in John 16:13-15, that it is not our intellects alone, no matter how brilliant or studied, that guide and confirm our “*rhema*” understanding of the “*logos*” truth.

The IMPORTANCE of this understanding is that Satan uses **deception** to not only divide us but to hinder us in the warfare of the beast kingdom against the body of Christ in the world, in which we are to walk by faith if we are going to overcome through the spiritual armor of God.

As one who was delivered from intense Satanic bondage to become a minister of righteousness in this warfare of the kingdom of God in Christ against the beast kingdom ruled by Satan, I am aware that our division into a multitude of conflicting denominational beliefs and practices as well as individual beliefs and practices, is an observable demonstration of Satan’s effectiveness in this warfare.

In mankind’s wars of nation against nation and men against men deception is one of the most effective keys to success.

By causing the enemy to believe that we are going to do one thing when we actually intend to do something different, we cause them to be unprepared for the actual assault.

This is the same tactic Satan uses against the body of Christ. He uses unknowing men and women in the organized church, whether members of the body of Christ or not, to introduce false doctrine and practice into accepted church practice.

This then divides us so that we fight amongst ourselves concerning doctrine and practice when it is the will of God that we be united in both doctrine and practice.

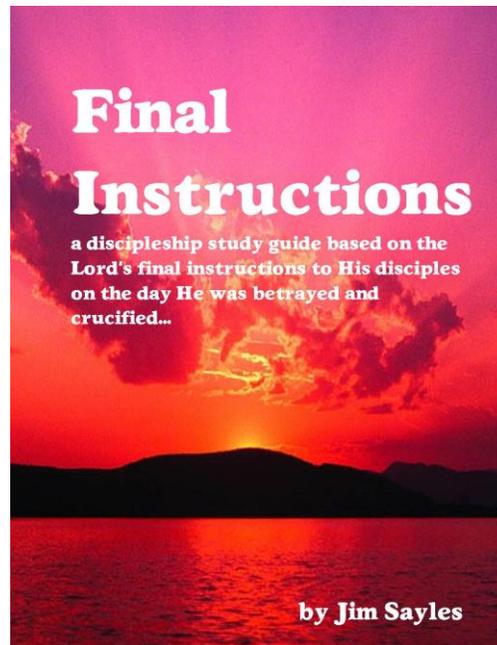
False doctrine and practice also hinder our ability walk in the power of the Lord manifested through our obedient faith responses as is the status of the majority of Christianity today.

Yet, the “wise” will be awakened as the conflict between the beast kingdom and the kingdom of God escalates with the soon to come opening of the 4<sup>th</sup> seal to begin a rather lengthy time identified by the Lord as “*tribulation*” prepares the wise for their ultimate victory over the beast kingdom during the 3.5 years of 7<sup>th</sup> seal “*great tribulation.*”

Be, therefore, wise in your overcoming of Satan’s deceptions as these have been introduced into the organized church in all of its forms.

Yet, we have been given the Spirit of truth to guide us into all truth so that we are enabled to walk effectively by faith as bondservants and warriors in the fight of the kingdom of God against the beast kingdom as we glorify (manifest) our Lord as we do.

In the name of the Lord Himself: *Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.* Luke 10:19 KJV Amen. (So be it.)



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