

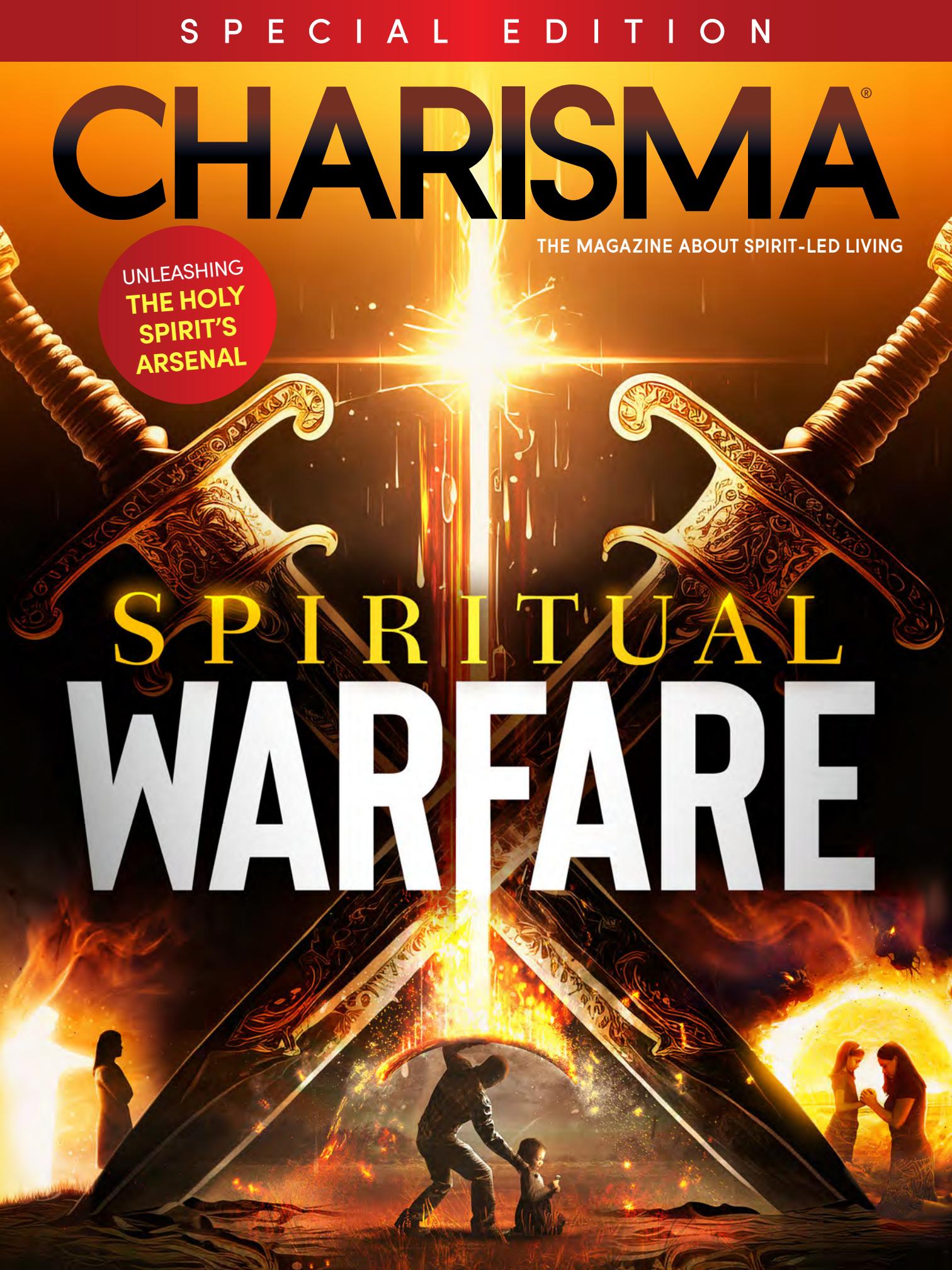
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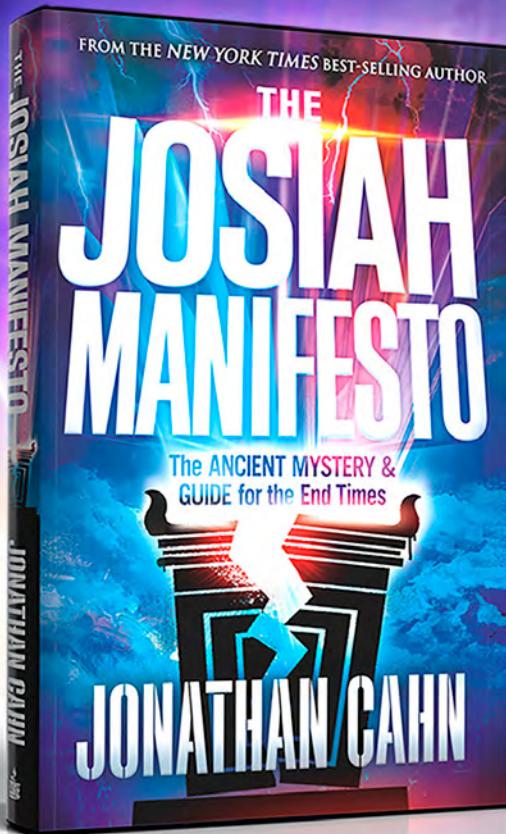
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# FEATURES

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## Opening Prayer

**F**ather God, thank You for loving me with an eternal love. I desire to know more of Your kingdom and understand how to stand firm and against the enemy.

The devil is a created being, an angel, who led a failed rebellion against You. For this, he was thrown out of heaven. In him, there is no good. Now, his only desire is to kill, steal and destroy.

I declare our Lord Jesus has stripped his power. Holy Spirit, I invite You to walk with me each moment and alert me to the lies of the enemy. Please help me detect his schemes and acts of deception. Help me realize the only power he has is what I give him.

In the name of our Lord Jesus, I submit myself to Your authority. I resist the devil and his devouring ways.  
By Your Word,

he must flee. I declare that You did not give me a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, and of love and of a sound mind.

I put on the full armor of God. I set the helmet of salvation over my mind and secure the breastplate of righteousness to cover my heart. I tighten Your belt of truth around me and place Your shoes of peace on my feet so You may direct my steps. I pick up the shield of faith to quench every fiery dart of the enemy. I choose to wield the sword of the Spirit, Your Word, and speak as You give me direction.

I plead the blood of Jesus over my heart, mind, body, soul and spirit and seal them in dedication to the Lord Jesus.

Holy Spirit, please lead me this day.

**In Jesus' name, amen!**

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Amid the culture war against the family unit, we can't forget the real battle is in the spiritual realm. Here's how to counter Satan's assault at home.

By Perry Stone

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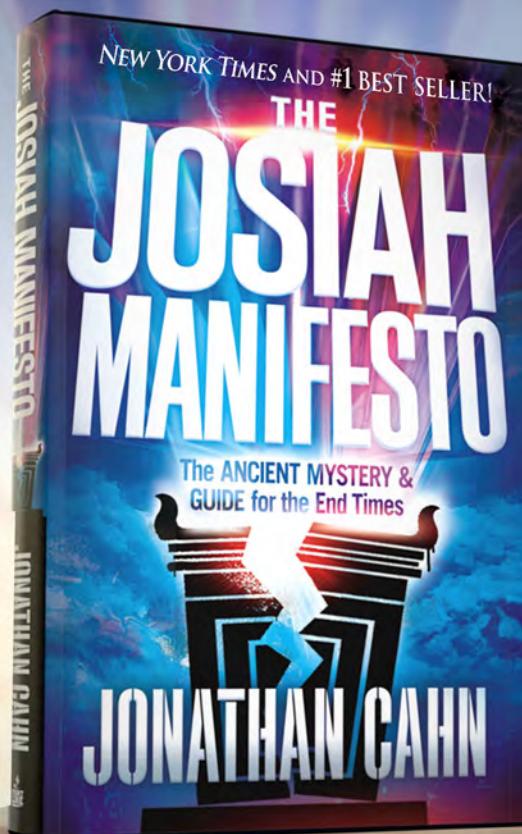
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How to Win  
**THE REAL FIGHT**  
For **YOUR FAMILY**

BY PERRY STONE

**R**emember *The Waltons*? A popular TV series when I was a teenager, it was set in the mountains of Virginia in the 1930s. A very large family with many children lived in one house, farming the land, eating large meals each night and working hard for their father's small lumber business. There was a time when this show typified real-life America, back in the days when Dad worked, Mom raised the kids, and the children were well disciplined, respected their elders, and worked hard from an early age on the farm.

Obviously things have changed. Mom and Dad both work to make ends meet; the children are placed in day care and school during the week and are entertained with mobile devices, TV, movies and the Internet; and family members travel on separate paths, often preventing quality family time.

Then there is the ever-present problem of teen rebellion that moves through America's families like spreading leprosy in the ancient homes in Israel. If a family consists of two children, it's likely that one is compliant and the other is defiant—or one is cooperative and the other rather inoperative. Most parents with numerous children understand the oddity that often one child tends to encounter more struggles, to battle more addictions or to rebel.

The cause for this can always be traced back to Satan's plans to "kill, steal and destroy" (John 10:10). From the very first family on Earth, from succeeding in getting Cain to murder his own brother, the devil's prime target has been the family unit. Simply put, Satan hates families. He will do whatever he can to bring about tension, division, strife and pain. His mission is to tear apart your family.

The devil has done well in today's Western culture to devalue and destroy the family unit. But amid the culture wars over abortion, so-called "same-sex marriage," divorce and other hot-button issues, often we can forget that the real battle begins in the spirit realm. As parents, we deal with many forms of satanic attacks during our lifetimes—some overt, others subtle. Most can be overcome through wise decisions and prayer. But the Lord has given us specific spiritual weapons and tactics we can use against the enemy of our souls to win this fight for our family.

### Four Common Weapons

What would you say is the most powerful spiritual weapon to remove the authority and influence of the adversary from your home and your life? If I asked a group of Spirit-filled believers that question, most would offer these four answers:

- 1) Quoting Scripture.
- 2) Experiencing the anointing.
- 3) Rebuking the devil.
- 4) Having strong faith.

Each of these is an important and invaluable weapon in the family fight against Satan. Every believer should carry the sword of the Spirit and be dedicated to knowing God's Word. But even Satan knows the Bible well enough to quote from it (Matt. 4:1-10), and he's assigned his own false prophets to use the Scriptures for their own deceptive, false teaching. So is this spiritual weapon enough to defeat the enemy when even he uses it from time to time?

Some Pentecostals or charismatics believe that a powerful anointing is the main weapon that will defeat the enemy. I once heard a noted TV minister make a statement that sent shivers down my spine. He screamed over a microphone, "I'm so anointed that the devil can't touch me!" A few weeks later, he began encountering a series of attacks against his ministry that were almost unbearable.

The anointing is a great gift that accompanies a Spirit-filled life. However, King David made an interesting observation when he said, "I am weak today, though

**Though the family unit is being attacked from all sides in today's culture wars, often we forget the war is primarily spiritual and begins with the enemy of our souls. Here are specific ways to counter Satan's assault on your family.**

# How to Change the Atmosphere in Your Home

None of us wants to give the devil free reign in our family life. Here are 5 ways to help protect your home and make it a place of peace and joy.

**1) Set boundaries in your house.** Boundaries are a set of limits that indicate what is and what isn't permitted. Some are set from a practical perspective, others for health reasons. Teenagers will often test these boundaries and challenge the authority they've lived under. This is when tough love is necessary to hold your line and not compromise. For example, we don't allow smoking or alcohol in our house, and we don't have any pay channels that allow pornography to come across the TV. You must agree upon and set the boundaries to prevent entrance of unwanted junk into your dwelling place.

**2) Build an altar.** By definition, an altar was a meeting place between God and man. In Scripture, altars were hot spots where people marked special visitations from angels and from the Almighty. At times of distress and need, they returned to the original place of visitation and presented offerings to God, requesting His intervention. Likewise, our homes should have a specific place set apart where we meet intimately with the Lord. Identify a peaceful place—a porch, office or bedroom—where you can close the door and enter into prayer.

**3) Anoint your house.** Anointing your house involves taking a small portion of olive oil, which represents the Holy Spirit's anointing, and applying it with your finger to the posts of your door, both outside and inside the home. While the oil itself does not have any intrinsic value, in Scripture the act of anointing was seen as a consecration of a person or thing to God.

**4) Mark your house.** The Lord instructed the early Israelites to mark the gates of their homes with the Word of God. This would be difficult today and would certainly draw attention if we began painting Scripture on the outside of our homes. In Bible times a sacred object called a *mezuzah* (meaning "doorpost") served as a reminder to those living in the home that the house had been dedicated to God and that those living therein were committed to walk in accordance with God's Word. (For more on this, see my book *Purging Your House, Pruning Your Family Tree*.) Some people see the mezuzah as a charm designed to ward off evil spirits, but this is certainly not the original intent. The underlying point is to have a physical mark upon your house—a reminder of God's covenant with your family and your dwelling place.

**5) Purge the atmosphere with praise and worship.** In the early days of our ministry, my wife and I often had trouble sleeping in hotel rooms when we would travel around the country to minister. This was unusual for us and was often accompanied by strange, disturbing dreams or bizarre experiences. I then heard about a well-known gospel singer who, upon arriving at his hotel room, would put in a praise and worship tape as he unpacked, turn up the volume and then head out to lunch or dinner. The praise and worship music filled the room while he was away. He called this purging the atmosphere. After hearing this, I decided to imitate his idea. I carried praise and worship cassettes and anointed messages from various ministers and played them from the time I awoke until the time of the service each evening. The music and messages literally changed the atmosphere where we stayed. In Scripture, David's music brought refreshing and peace to a tormented king (1 Sam. 16:23). If music had this effect in David's life and ministry, why would it not have the same effect today?



anointed king" (2 Sam. 3:39). When Christ was baptized, the Holy Spirit came upon Him and led Him into the wilderness where He was tested by the devil (Matt. 4:1). The anointing does not exempt you from attack but, in fact, can actually attract attack.

After all, Satan was originally the anointed cherub. He certainly understands the power of the anointing. It takes the anointing to break the yokes of sin (Is. 10:27); however, the anointing is not a barrier to prevent attacks.

So what about rebuking the enemy? Will that defeat the devil in our homes? Jesus rebuked the storm (Matt. 8:26), demons (Matt. 17:18) and sickness (Luke 4:39). His disciples followed His example by rebuking Satan, as seen when they attempted to rebuke the spirits in an epileptic child (Mark 9:17-19). But even they learned later that some spirits respond only to fasting and prayer (Matt. 17:21). The hindrance with the epileptic child had been the disciples' own unbelief.

Fasting and prayer would have increased their faith and authority level over the powers of the enemy. I must confess that there have been times when I have rebuked the enemy, and at that particular moment I didn't see any direct response. Perhaps it was weak faith or a weak confession (Heb. 10:23).

So, then, does that mean faith is the greatest weapon against the enemy? In the '80s there was a strong Word of Faith movement in which ministers taught and emphasized the message of faith and personal confession. The emphasis on the faith message was either received or criticized as extreme by many Christians in North America. Those who became engulfed in the message often taught that any sickness, financial difficulty or problem was a result of a lack of faith.

While studying this subject, I read James 2:19: "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" Suddenly I realized that demons have more faith than some alleged Christians. Demons believe that Jesus is the Son of God, yet some religious folks don't (Luke 4:41). Demons know Christ can heal, yet many preachers preach that miracles have ceased. The kingdom of darkness believes in the

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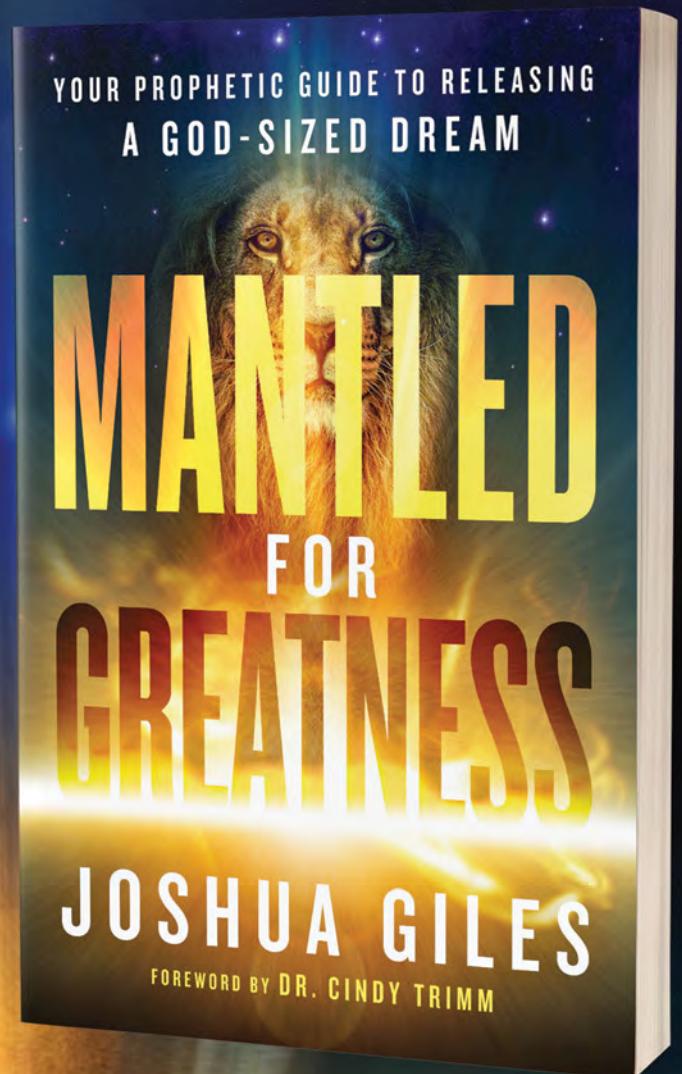
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# Words in the Air

## How the release of words—good and bad—affects the spiritual climate of your home

As young children, if we were verbally insulted by someone, we would say, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” Now that I’m older, I have come to understand that whoever came up with that little ditty was either unable to hear or had no friends and no contact with the public!

The truth is, one of the most powerful weapons in the world is the weapon of words. Solomon stated, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue” (Prov. 18:21).

Wars are started with words, and peace treaties are initiated with words. Marriages are covenanted through verbal vows, and divorces occur because of negative words and strife. Words create the atmosphere around you.

Years ago, I was ministering in a church where I knew nothing about the congregation or any internal difficulties they were experiencing. However, when I walked onto the platform, I could sense in my spirit a very tense atmosphere. As I ministered, I began dealing with the issue of strife and unforgiveness. I noticed that several of the people could not look me in the eyes when I made eye contact with them. The longer I preached, the tighter the atmosphere became.

After the service the pastor informed me that everything I said hit the target, and he shared with me that several people had begun a rebellion against his ministry, and the church was on the verge of a split. I knew by the atmosphere that something was wrong—words had formed a spiritually dark cloud over the congregation!

The same is true with your home. Tension is formed when angry, negative words are released. The psalmist taught that bitter words are like arrows from a bow. There is no greater blessing than a home where the peace of God prevails and those who lie down can have sweet sleep (Prov. 3:24). One of the continual compliments my wife receives from friends who sleep in our guest room is, “We slept so well; there is such peace in this house.” Christ taught that when believers stayed in the home of other believers, they were to ask the peace of God to rest on the home (Luke 10:5-6).



anointed king” (2 Sam. 3:39). When Christ was baptized, the Holy Spirit came upon Him and led Him into the wilderness where He was tested by the devil (Matt. 4:1). The anointing does not exempt you from attack but, in fact, can actually attract attack.

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### The Most Important Weapon

Early in the life of Christ, when the Roman soldiers slew all the infants they found in Bethlehem, Satan made an attempt to kill Jesus. Men in His hometown of Nazareth attempted to throw Christ off a cliff (Luke 4:29-30). Later a storm struck the Sea of Galilee when Christ was in a boat that became full of water yet never sank—another attempt by Satan to kill Christ (Mark 4:37-38). On another occasion men planned to stone Christ when He claimed to be the Son of God, but again He escaped (John 10:31-39). During the 42 months of Christ’s earthly ministry, we can see the invisible hand of the enemy guiding the subtle attacks against Christ. On one occasion—in the Garden of Gethsemane—Satan himself was present, but not even he had any influence or control over the

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situation.

In John 14:30, Jesus tells His disciples, “I will not talk with you much more, for the prince (evil genius, ruler) of the world is coming. And he has no claim on Me. [He has nothing in common with Me; there is nothing in Me that belongs to him, and he has no power over Me]” (AMP).

Christ was identifying Satan as the prince of this world (2 Cor. 4:4). Jesus knew He was about to endure the most agonizing hours of His life. The sins of the world were being placed upon Him in the garden (2 Cor. 5:21), and the sinless Lamb of God was feeling the burden of the entire world upon Him. Prior to these three hours in the garden, Christ wanted His disciples to know that the enemy was coming, but what they were about to see was not Satan attacking Him. It was the plan of God—not Satan. The adversary was coming, but he had no hold on Christ, nothing in Him and no power over Him. This was one moment that Satan had no power over Christ, because the sin placed on Christ was not His own but the sins of others being placed upon Him.

Our greatest weapon is the power of righteousness, or being in right standing with God. Satan could not hold on to Christ and had no power over Him as Christ was walking free from sin (John 14:30). When we are free from walking in sin, we are also free from guilt and condemnation, which is one of Satan’s most powerful tools to stop our confidence in our relationship with God (1 John 3:20-21). If we abide in sin, the enemy holds on to us. But if we walk in obedience to God and abide in Christ, we wield the most powerful weapon in our daily spiritual arsenal.

## A Threefold Response

So how do we walk in righteousness? How do we not allow sin to enter our homes and give the enemy a foothold into our family? Since every living person is a spirit, soul and body, the attacks of the enemy will manifest against our spirit, soul and body. Yet God has provided a spiritual action that will impact each individual area of our tripartite temple. Let’s cover the three fundamental ones:

### 1) Repent and come to Christ. Just

as Satan had nothing to hold Christ with in the garden, so repentance will shut the door on the access the enemy has in our spirits. To repent not only means to be regretful or sorry for your actions, but it also means to turn and to change your mind about your destination. We must teach our children—however old—not just to ask for forgiveness but to plan on a new lifestyle, new friends and an exciting journey free from the sins and bondages of their past.

**2) Renew your mind from the world’s corruption.** Scripture teaches that we must be “renewed in the spirit of your mind” (Eph. 4:23). W.E. Vines comments on Ephesians 4:23: “The renewal here mentioned is not that of the mind itself in its natural powers of memory, judgment and perception, but ‘the spirit of the mind,’ which under the controlling power of the indwelling Holy Spirit directs its bent and energies God-ward in the enjoyment of fellowship with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ, and of the fulfillment of the will of God.”

**3) Resist the enemy, and he will flee.** James encourages us to, “Submit yourselves, therefore, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (4:7). The word *resist* is used nine times in the New Testament in the King James Version. The word means “to stand against and oppose.”

So how do we resist or oppose the enemy? It begins and ends with recognizing the blood we carry as believers.

Let me explain with a story.

In the early 1990s, while ministering in Peru, I was welcomed into the house of a man who was a wealthy architect and had recently become connected with a local Peruvian congregation. As I was sleeping in bed, lying on my stomach, suddenly I felt the pressure of a fully grown man lying on my back, with each part of his body pressing against me. He felt as though he weighed 200 pounds or more. Suddenly I heard this being speak Spanish in my ear. There was one weird fact: No man was in the room, and this was not a literal person or human—it was some type of a demonic presence that had manifested in the room!

I immediately rebuked the spirit in Christ’s name and felt it lift. I turned over

in the bed, not knowing what to do next. The Holy Spirit impressed me to stand up and confess the authority of Christ’s blood over the wall, doors and windows of the bedroom. I did this boldly, saying, “I confess the protective power of Christ’s blood on this wall ... then that wall ... and I command the evil spirits not to enter this room again as long as I am sleeping here!” Then I lay back down and went to sleep.

Months later I learned that the owner of the house had been involved in the gay lifestyle and that many men had stayed in his home continually. I believe the spirit I encountered was familiar with certain local men and was making itself manifest to us during my stay. Regardless, the situation taught me about the power in pleading or confessing the Blood of Christ over a situation.

When a person receives the redemption covenant called salvation (Luke 1:77) and is born again (John 3:3) and redeemed (1 Pet. 1:18), that person enters into the covenant through the blood of Christ (v. 19). When a sinner is convicted by the Holy Spirit and repents and asks Christ into his or her life, that individual does not see or experience an angel of the Lord bringing the literal blood of Christ to repaint the heart and doorway. However, a real, very literal transformation occurs when you confess the Lord Jesus with your mouth.

This confession causes Christ to remove the guilt of sin and replace it with the peace of God (Rom. 8:1). Christ, who is our High Priest in the heavenly temple (Heb. 9:23-28), bears in His hands, feet and side the scars of His work of redemption for you (John 20:25-27).

The removal of the presence of sin is very real and literal. However, the Blood is applied through the confession of your faith. Many old-timers understood this and would resist the authority of the adversary by speaking in faith the name of Christ and confessing the blood of Christ over their children, homes and families.

We would do well to remember this. We do not oppose the devil in our natural strength; instead, we “submit

to God,” as James says, claiming the authority and power He has given us through Jesus’ blood.

In the natural, the human immune system is designed to fight off germs and viruses that could weaken the body. When the immune system is weakened, the body is more susceptible to sickness. Yet what is the key to a healthy immune system? The blood.

As it is in the physical realm, so it is in the spiritual. We are only able to fight off the attacks of the enemy through Jesus’ blood, which restores us to right standing with God and presents us as righteous before Him.

There are people who raise dangerous and deadly reptiles, including snakes. Some have been bitten so many times that their blood has built up immunities to the poison. When the sins of the world were laid upon Christ, He experienced a bite from the serpent. However, the precious blood of Christ became immunized against the power of sin, and when we receive His Blood through faith and redemption, sin no longer has dominion in our body and spirit.

### Enforcing the Victory

God has given us many other weapons and tactics in the spiritual battle over our families (see “How to Change the Atmosphere in Your Home”). All of them are powerful and effective tools we can not only possess, but also wield every day in the ongoing war against Satan. In and of themselves, they are not what saves us—only God does that. But by His divine plan, God has appointed us as partners with Him to claim victory over the enemy. First John 5:18 reminds us that, “We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.”

We must abide in Christ, walking sinless and wielding the weapon of righteousness through His Blood. As we fight this battle with or on behalf of those in our family, we can claim not only God’s protection, but His victory and abundant blessings. ◀

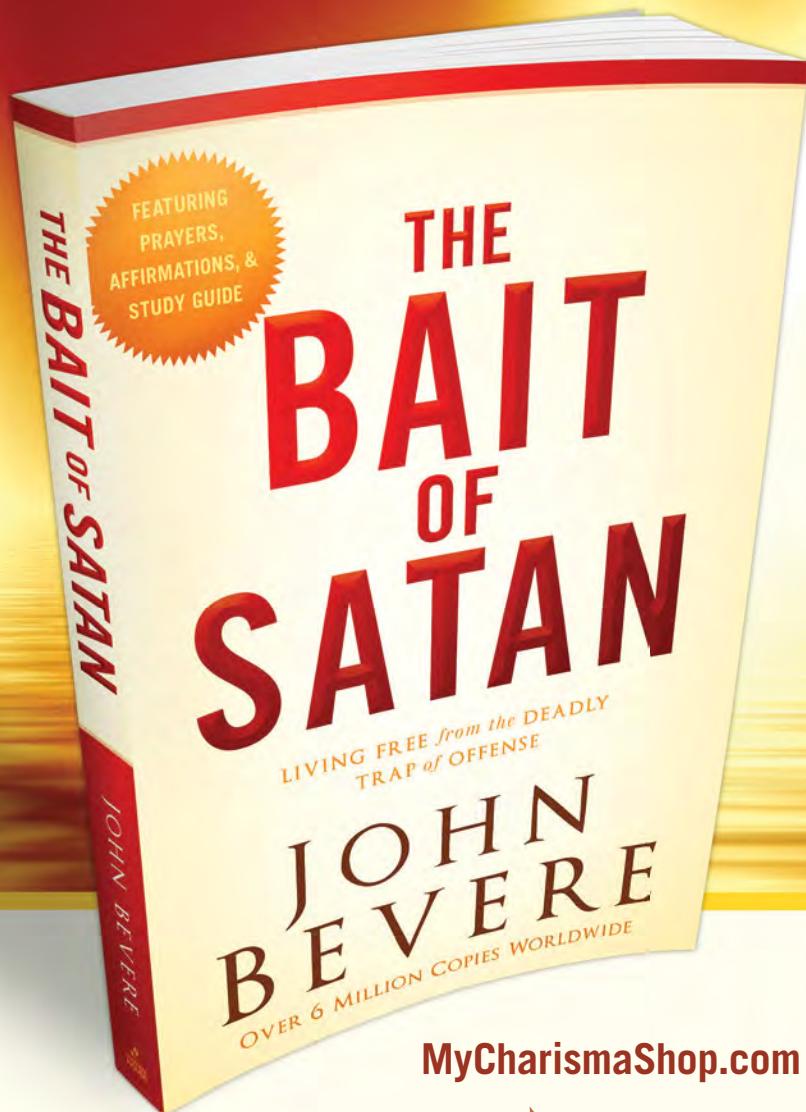
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- Encourage community leaders to support and uphold the value of **WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILIES and LIFE!**  
One blood/one human race! **Support HUMAN DIGNITY** from the womb to the tomb and beyond!



# AMERICA AGREES: WE MUST PROTECT MOTHERS AND THEIR BABIES.

*By Dr. Alveda King*

Gratefully, America now bears witness to the one-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, which overturned *Roe v. Wade* and held that there is no constitutional right to abortion. Sadly, and not surprisingly, some continue to respond with an apocalyptic tone. Fearful, false and alarmist claims of fascism, a war on women, and systematic inequality due to the Supreme Court's decision still attempt to lead to dozens of violent attacks on pro-life groups across the country.

As it turns out, the anti-life propaganda is false. Thankfully there is a solution to calm the storm. Speak truth to power in a united voice of agape love.

Dobbs didn't lead to a catastrophe for women's rights across the country at all; instead, it merely returned the contentious issue of abortion to the states, where the people could debate the merits of the issue for themselves and elected representatives to reflect their beliefs.

This principle is the core of self-government, which asserts that the people—not the courts—are our nation's true source of authority. But for the pro-life movement, this first anniversary of Dobbs raises a new question: what comes next?

First and foremost, the pro-life movement must turn its efforts to the state level. Already, 15 states have moved to ban abortions either entirely or after the first six weeks of pregnancy, and other abortion restrictions are pending in various other places throughout the country due to legal challenges. Nearly three in four Americans agree that there is not one but two lives at stake in the abortion debate, and these state-level actions are encouraging examples of the American people working through state legislatures to make their voices heard.

Members of the true pro-woman movement understand. We know that the life issue doesn't stop at restricting abortion. Therefore, our goal is to reduce the number of women seeking abortions. Moving forward, our work must be to provide unconditional love and support for all parties involved in the abortion debate: the unborn baby, the mother, and yes, the father. Therefore, our goal is to reduce the number of women seeking abortions; and make abortion unthinkable.

That's why investment in things like foster care, adoption, maternal healthcare, and resources for mothers facing unwanted pregnancy is so essential in the days ahead. Thank God, we have tens of thousands—if not hundreds of thousands—of new lives which will be saved every year going forward, but we also need to be prepared to step up and meet the needs of so many new mothers.

Thankfully hundreds of pregnancy resource centers nationwide are already doing much of this vital work. Today, over 3,000 pregnancy resource centers across the country—staffed almost entirely by volunteers—offer vulnerable women some of the resources they need to take care of their babies.

These services include free or low-cost medical care, consultations, ultrasounds, counseling, childcare resources, and other services women need. In just one year alone, these pregnancy resource centers served nearly 2 million women, with a total value of care at an estimated \$260 million.

Now, a year after the Dobbs decision, we can celebrate the most significant win for life in generations, and the supposed "right" to abortion is no longer enshrined as a substantive right in our Constitution.

Nonetheless, our work is far from over. My uncle, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., famously said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." While some states have moved boldly to protect life in the past year, there remains much work for us to do to build a comprehensive culture of life and show our love for unborn babies and their vulnerable mothers.

Today, our goal as believers is to cherish all life, in every stage, from the unborn baby to the vulnerable mother, to the elderly and infirmed. When we live this truth in our lives fully, we can then be said to be a culture, as the one blood human race, that values all its children, from the womb to the tomb; into eternity.

*Dr. Alveda King is a Christian Evangelist, and founder of SPEAK FOR LIFE and ALVEDA KING MINISTRIES.*

# PRAYING DOWN

## POWERS & PRINCIPALITIES

Though many people go to unhealthy extremes in their approach to spiritual warfare, the Bible provides us with a model for affecting change in the Spirit realm

BY MIKE BICKLE

**E**nglish poet and hymn-writer William Cowper once wrote, “Satan trembles when he sees the weakest Christian on his knees.” Indeed, the enemy of our souls knows all too well about the power of the praying saints. Even more, he is fully aware of what can happen when praying believers engage in spiritual warfare and effect change in the heavenly realm through intercession.

The problem isn’t that the enemy is unaware of this type of prayer, however; it’s that so many people—including believers—misunderstand it.

How often have you seen overzealous believers approach spiritual warfare with the idea that they are demon-busters out looking for the next satanic stronghold to bring down? They focus almost entirely on the demonic realm and get excited at the mere mention of binding evil spirits, casting out devils and pulling down strongholds.

There’s a problem with this, however. In most cases spiritual warfare is not to be carried out by directly confronting the powers and principalities over cities and nations. The New Testament model for spiritual warfare is to direct our prayers to God, proclaim His name and promises, and do His works as the primary way to wrestle with the disembodied evil spirits in the heavenly places. These evil spirits are called principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age and spiritual hosts of wickedness (Eph. 6:12). Of course, there are exceptions to this general rule, in which case we address our proclamations directly to the enemy. On specific occasions the Spirit may lead someone to speak directly in intercession to a demonic principality. But this is not the primary prayer model presented by the New Testament apostles.

Jesus and the apostles spoke directly to the demons that dwelt in a demonized person—in other words, to “embodied” demonic spirits—but what they did is not the same as speaking to “disembodied” demonic principalities that dwell in heavenly places. We do wrestle with them (Eph. 6:12), but usually by praying to the Father, not by speaking to them directly. The prophet Daniel dislodged the powerful demonic principality of Persia (Dan. 10:12-13) as he fasted and prayed, focusing on the God of Israel (Dan. 9:4-23), not on the demonic being itself.

Spiritual warfare prayer requires a three-pronged approach. First, we proclaim God’s victory by agreeing with the supremacy of Jesus, His power, promises and





will. We pray the prayers of the Bible, remind God of His promises and make prophetic decrees related to the certainty of God's supremacy and His kingdom purposes. Second, we confess sin and renounce the works of darkness (i.e., we break our agreement with the enemy). In this way, we resist Satan: "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). Third, we do the works of the kingdom, acting in the opposite spirit of the evil characteristics that permeate a specific city or region.

### 3 Types of Strongholds

Spiritual warfare has often been a key focus for many segments of the body of Christ—including within many charismatic and Pentecostal streams. In those pockets, you'll often hear of spiritual "strongholds," as based on 2 Corinthians 10:4-5: "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing

that exalts itself against the knowledge of God." But what exactly is a stronghold?

A stronghold is a collection of ideas that are in agreement with Satan's lies and accusations against the truth of God (v. 5). They are lies about God, who He is and what He says He will do, and when we receive them, they bind our hearts in darkness.

Whole geographic regions can be affected by the same lies and assaulted by the same demonic darkness that is manifest. We are to pull down and dismantle spiritual strongholds by agreeing with God and His Word and by "casting down arguments"—renouncing the lies—that are against the knowledge of God, His Word and His will. In this way we break any agreement with Satan.

There are three types of spiritual strongholds:

**1) Personal strongholds** of the mind that bind people in sinful mindsets and lifestyles.

**2) Cultural strongholds**, or values in

our society, that are in agreement with darkness. Cultural strongholds are agreements with Satan's values in our society at large. There are many ways in which people agree with him and keep those evil values entrenched.

**3) Cosmic strongholds**, which are demonic powers and principalities in the air, are demonic angels or demonic hosts. Paul describes them in his letter to the Ephesians: "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" (Eph. 6:12).

We dismantle these strongholds by *agreeing* with God and *renouncing* Satan's lies through our prayers and actions.

### The Principle of Agreeing with God

Engaging in spiritual warfare is essentially agreeing with God and disagreeing with the enemy. It involves reminding God of His character and covenant promises, agreeing with His Word, and declaring the supremacy of Jesus and who we are in Christ—a new creation, the sons of God, the bride of Christ and so on. It also involves renouncing agreement with Satan as we confess sin, reject the works of darkness and act in the opposite spirit by doing the works of the kingdom.

Corporately we agree with God when we engage in worship and intercession. Some prayer ministries emphasize worship, and others highlight intercession. Sometimes I'm asked which is more important in spiritual warfare: worship or intercession. I encourage people not to concern themselves too much with this question. When we agree with *who God is*, we call it "worship." When we agree with *what God promised to do*, we call it "intercession." In heaven worship and intercession are woven together in the exercise of God's government. They overlap and are deeply related. Both are necessary, so we must value both activities in our approach to God-centered spiritual warfare.

In addition to agreeing with God through worship and intercession, we can agree with Him through holiness and healing. All four forms of agreement play a role in spiritual warfare.

## 7 Prayer Focuses for Victory Over Cultural Strongholds

A guide for warring in the spirit through intercession or your city, region, state or nation

In addition to encouraging believers to pray for the Lord to release a greater measure of the Spirit with His gifts, fruit and wisdom on the church, I also encourage people to pray apostolic prayers and/or to remind God of biblical promises when interceding for a kingdom victory over cultural strongholds in society that are caused by persistent sin and demonic spirits.

**1) Justice issues.** Pray for a greater release of God's power, love and provision in relation to abortion, human trafficking, genocide, economic slavery, injustice, etc.

**2) Crisis events.** Pray for a greater release of God's power, love and provision in relation to catastrophic events in nature (weather, earthquakes, famines, wars, plagues, etc.).

**3) Political issues.** Pray for the government, especially political and civic issues (1 Tim. 2:1). Ask the Lord to put the person of His choice into office. Ask Him to inspire leaders to make choices for righteousness and to stop unjust policies, appointments, laws, etc.

**4) Economic issues.** Pray for a greater release of God's power, blessing, creative wisdom and provision with regard to marketplace assignments and for an end to economic crisis.

**5) Family issues.** Pray for a greater release of God's love, wisdom and power with regard to the fatherless, youth issues, marriages, divorce, domestic violence, widows, the elderly, the disabled, etc.

**6) Media issues.** Pray for the Lord to raise up media messengers with prophetic ideas and creative wisdom about how to do the work of the kingdom through media. Ask Him to silence the violence, sexual perversion and occult themes that are flooding the media channels today.

**7) Educational issues.** Pray that God's favor and blessing, with righteousness and excellence, be released in our educational institutions, on teachers and in classrooms.

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In heaven worship and intercession flow as one river and are woven together in the exercise of God's government.

» **Worship is agreement with who God is.** In worship we declare truths about who God is. For example, the saints and angels in heaven declare truths such as “Holy, holy, holy” (Rev. 4:8). They also proclaim, “Holy is the Lord” and “You are worthy.” Throughout the Old Testament we find the declaration “The Lord is good, and His mercy endures forever.” This is the most emphasized declaration about who God is.

» **Intercession is agreement with what God promises to do.** In intercession we declare truths related to what God promises to do. For example, we pray: “Lord, release a greater measure of Your Spirit’s activity to revive the church. Release the power of Your Word, confirmed with signs and wonders.”

» **Holiness is agreement with God’s heart of love.** Holiness involves repentance that breaks any agreement with sin and comes into agreement with God’s standards of purity.

» **Healing is agreement with God’s heart for life.** We proclaim the truth of Jesus as Healer, and we break all agreement with sickness.

## What Happens in the Spirit

### Realm When We Pray?

Daniel 10 gives us a snapshot of what happens in the spirit realm when God’s people pray. This is a favorite chapter for many intercessors because the veil is drawn back, allowing us to see how our prayers affect angels and demonic powers and principalities. It also reveals the intense and ongoing conflict between high-ranking angels and demons that is manifest in earthly spheres of government.

Angelic and demonic authority structures exist over each city and region in the world. There are high-ranking angels that serve God’s purposes, and there are high-ranking demons that fight His purposes. The conflict between these angelic and demonic beings is dynamically related to the prayers and deeds of the people in the city or region the beings preside over. If we could see into the spirit realm, I believe we would be amazed by how much the heavenly host is involved in earthly affairs and how they respond to our prayers.

There is a dynamic correlation between what people do on earth and the measure of demonic activity released in the areas in which they live. For example,

as people sin more in a particular city or region, they give greater access to the demonic realm to increase the amount of spiritual darkness in that city or region. The same principle operates in the angelic realm—the righteous deeds and prayers of the saints affect the measure of angelic activity in a specific area.

Political leaders and the governmental infrastructures under them are deeply affected by the activity of angels and demons, though many of these leaders are completely unaware they are wrestling against, and being oppressed and influenced by, demonic powers and principalities (Eph. 6:12). Whether they are kings, presidents or prime ministers, they have high-ranking angels and demons related to their political sphere of authority. The result of the conflict between these forces affects many events and political decisions as well as the spiritual culture of the cities of the earth.

I believe there are demonic assignments focused on deceiving and harassing every governmental leader. When a person steps into office, he is stepping into an increased assault. For this reason we need to stand for him before God’s throne—and the only way to prevail in wrestling with demonic principalities is by submitting to Jesus’ leadership and exerting His authority over these evil powers in prayer.

When we pray, the Holy Spirit and the angels increase their activity on behalf of all those for whom we pray, and the result ultimately benefits us. Paul understood this truth, so he encouraged the body of Christ to make it a priority to pray for all in authority: “I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence” (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

Paul also knew from Scripture that the heart of a king or political leader “is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes” (Prov. 21:1). God can turn the hearts of those in authority like channels of water, and He can use angels in this process.

Consider an example of how our prayers can affect a political leader. Sometimes when the leader of a nation feels

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oppressed, it is due to the influence of a demon. For example, when the president of a nation is having a difficult day, he may think he's simply in a bad mood. It may be just that, but in reality it may be that a demonic spirit is attacking him. One purpose of the oppression is to get the leader to establish new laws and decrees while under the negative, oppressive influence of a demonic power. As a result of our prayers, angels drive back demons and hinder their negative influence on political leaders of all stripes.

Just as demons can influence leaders to make poor decisions, angels can influence them to make wise decisions. When an ungodly king or president feels a sudden surge of peace in his heart, often because of the prayers of the saints, he is far more likely to make good decisions for his nation. Therefore, even the tone and attitude in a president's cabinet meetings can be affected by such prayers, which release angelic activity that hinders the oppressive feeling demons can incite.

If the demonic hierarchy is not hindered sufficiently, then the human leader is influenced to make evil decisions. The leader has a free will; but if he has a happy mind-set with peace, even though he is an unbeliever, then his decisions will be different from those he may make when he is angry, fearful, jealous, bitter and oppressed by a demon. The leader still makes his own decisions, but under a very different influence, according to the angel or the demon that may be "putting his hand on their chest," so to speak.

Our prayers for kings, presidents and other leaders really matter, and they can affect the decisions a leader makes. His decisions can then affect our lifestyles, families and economies. This is the reason Paul exhorted us to pray for all who are in authority "that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life" (1 Tim. 2:2).

## Lessons From Daniel's Experience

When the prophet Daniel was probably in his mid-80s, he set his heart to pray for the Jews in Jerusalem. He prayed for 21 days, mourning with prayer and fasting because of the resistance of the remnant back in Jerusalem.

"In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into

my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled" (Dan. 10:2-3).

In response to Daniel's prayer a mighty angel came (vv. 10-14). This high-ranking, mighty angel (vv. 5-6) was similar in stature to the angel the apostle John later saw in his vision (Rev. 10:1). The angel said to Daniel: "From the first day that you set your heart to ... humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince [demonic principality] of the kingdom of Persia withstood me 21 days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes [archangel], came to help me" (Dan. 10:12-13).

This is a very important passage for understanding the biblical theology of intercession and spiritual warfare. A mighty angel told Daniel, in essence, "From the very first day, 21 days ago, when you set your heart to humble yourself, I was sent to you." The mighty angel made a dramatic statement: "I came because of your words." This statement makes clear that angels respond to the prayers of the saints. Gabriel had told Daniel the same thing two years earlier: "Because of your words, the Father sent me" (see Dan. 9:22-23).

But if Daniel had not *continued* in prayer with fasting, the angel would not have come. It was important for Daniel to persevere in prayer for the full 21 days to get the necessary breakthrough. His experience proves that there is a dynamic relationship between what we do and how God visits a city or nation. Remember, this is not about "earning" anything but about aligning with Him by coming into *agreement* with His will. Our words are heard because of Jesus' death and resurrection.

The mighty angel pulled back the curtain in the spirit realm to allow Daniel to see a glimpse of the angelic and demonic authorities that are over the natural authority structures of the nations. He told Daniel that the "prince of the kingdom of Persia" withstood him when Daniel first began to pray. This is a reference to the demonic prince—principality or high-ranking demonic power—exerting his influence over the region of ancient Persia (modern-day

Iran) and was affecting the human prince, or king, of Persia in a negative way. This demonic prince was warring against Israel by seeking to stir up the human king of Persia against God's people (Dan. 10:13, 20-21).

Daniel fought the demonic prince of Persia by agreeing with God in prayer and fasting. The mighty angel informed him that "Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help" (v. 13). A "chief prince" is an archangel, one who leads angels.

Jesus can easily overpower a demonic principality. However, His authority is exerted or made manifest in the earthly realm through believers who agree with Him and who persevere in obedience and prayer with faith. The reason Jesus releases His power more through prayer is because He wants partnership with His people, and prayer is one of the main ways partnership is strengthened.

The spiritual events of Daniel 10 were recorded in the Scripture to give us a model of what God wants to do in our day to hinder the demonic principalities over Iran, Iraq and every other nation. These principalities can be withstood as the Spirit raises up a "corporate Daniel" to pray for angelic help to overcome the demonic powers assaulting Israel.

Indeed, Daniel 10 is a model of spiritual warfare for the end-time church. Let us take our stand before the throne of God as we follow this prayer model and ask the Lord for angelic intervention in our world today. ◀

**MIKE BICKLE** is the director of the *International House of Prayer Missions Base in Kansas City, Missouri*, and author of several books, including his newest, *Growing in Prayer Devotional*.

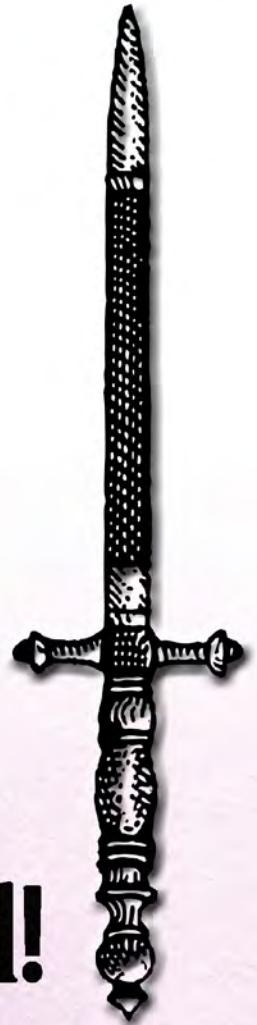
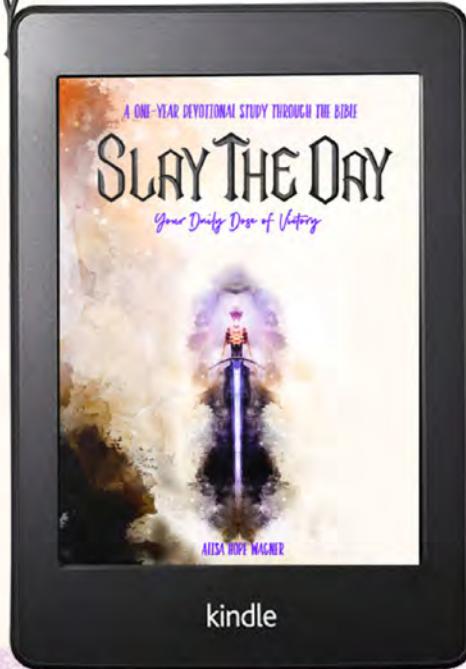
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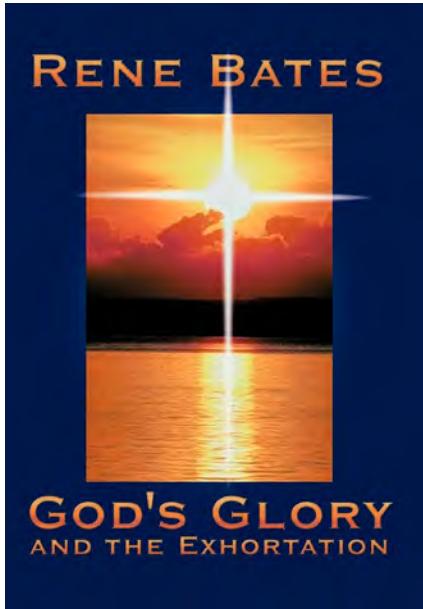
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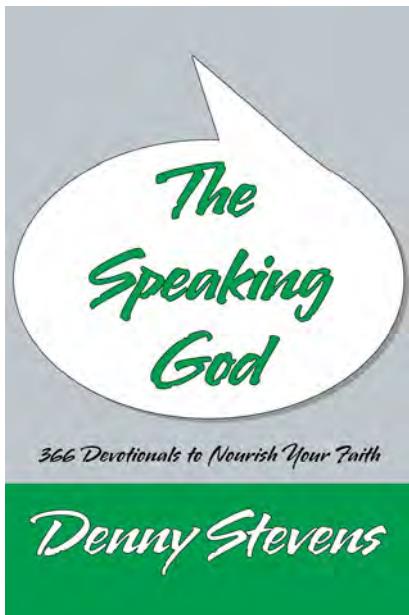
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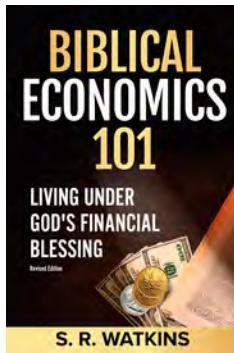
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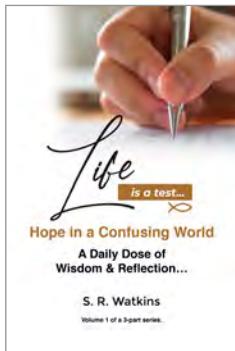




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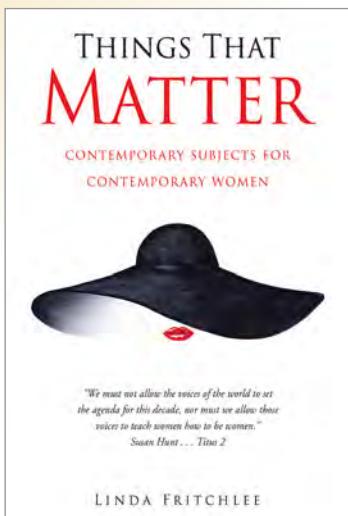
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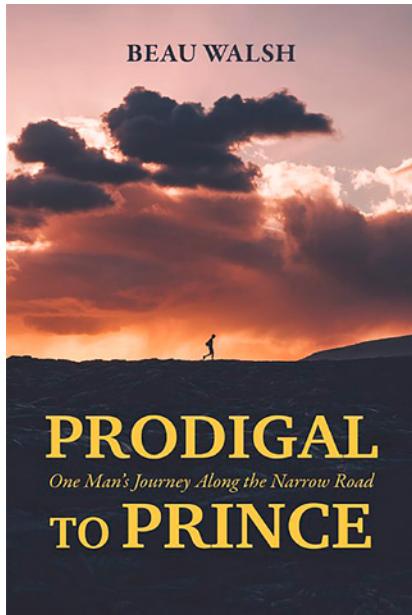
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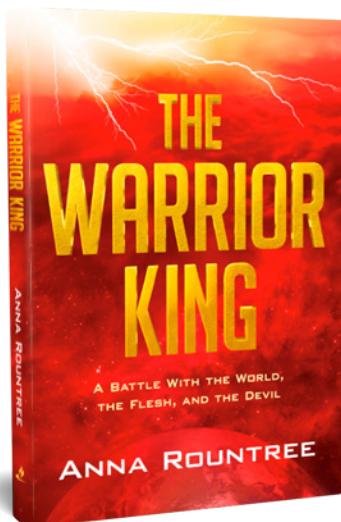
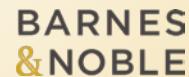
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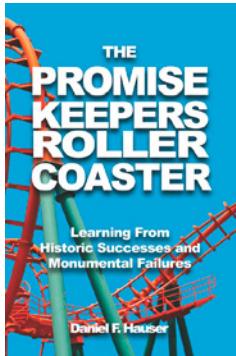
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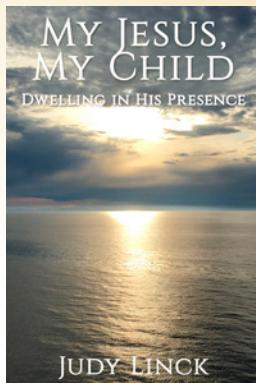


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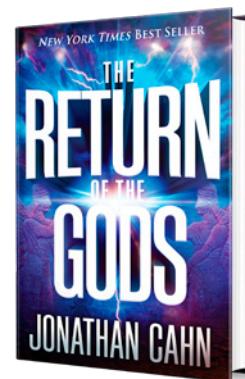
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# THE DEVIL'S Playbook

## EXPOSING THE TOP 3 TACTICS SATAN USES TO DERAIL AND DESTROY US

BY KYLE WINKLER

**N**ot long ago a church group invited me to speak on a two-part series during a study of spiritual warfare. To begin, I shared about the dueling plans of Satan versus God and how the devil whispers lies and accusations to keep you out of God's abundant life. When I returned for the second session, a lady approached me to share a story that nearly brought me to tears.

"I had an addiction," she immediately confessed, "an addiction to alcohol." She was sure to tell me that her drinking didn't include hard liquor, which is why it was a bit more justifiable to her. "I was a wine connoisseur," she said. "I very much enjoyed sophisticated red wine ... every day." Her enjoyment didn't consist of a couple sips or even a glass, but she consumed a bottle a day. Really, she admitted, the bottle was consuming her. Her addiction cost her about \$10 to \$20 per day. When she would realize how much she was spending, she'd go down in

price, maybe to \$6 a bottle but would eventually return to the higher-priced wines, thinking she deserved it.

When her church group began to study spiritual warfare, she decided to put the wine down. As she spoke to me, she was beaming that she hadn't picked up a bottle in two weeks. Of course, she was beginning to save a considerable amount of money, and she even lost 10 pounds!

"It was like I saw behind the scenes of how Satan works," she reported. The message awakened her to Satan's common attacks, and she finally became aware of how he was using the addiction in her life to beat her down and make her feel unworthy. Recognizing the works of the enemy set her free!

This lady's testimony impassioned me to expose Satan's ways. Now, some people argue that we shouldn't give too much attention to the devil's work, because we might lose our focus on the goodness of God. Though that can be true,



## Satan has the most fun tinkering with your thoughts because he knows that your thoughts are the forerunners to your actions.

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remember that Paul instructed us to at least be familiar with Satan's schemes, so that he should not "take advantage of us. For we are not ignorant of his devices" (2 Cor. 2:11, MEV), or as it says in The New Living Translation so "Satan will not outsmart us."

I don't want to obsess, but I simply want to bring awareness of the devil's common tactics so that you may be able to recognize and ward off his attacks when they happen. Satan isn't stupid, nor is he weak, but he is predictable. If you look around at those who would say that they are under attack, more often than not the attacks begin in one place and can be put into one of only a few categories. This is what I call his playbook.

A playbook is a notebook containing outlines and plans for certain

situations. It may be best known in the world of sports, such as football, where common techniques and vocabulary relating to game plays and team formations are kept and studied. Satan's playbook contains the usual tactics he uses to achieve his ends, which we know is to steal and to kill and to destroy (John 10:10).

### The Devil's Playground

We must first understand that the most common place Satan makes his starting play is in the mind. This is why it's said that the mind is the devil's playground. He has the most fun tinkering with your thoughts because he knows that your thoughts are the forerunners to your actions. Because of this, the Bible frequently reminds us, "More than anything you guard,

protect your mind, for life flows from it" (Prov. 4:23, CEB).

Other translations say that the mind is the place from which your issues arise (KJV). Isn't this the truth! Most of the issues you face stem from what you think about. Thoughts have the power to lead you into temptation or hold you captive to things such as hopelessness or depression.

The lady in the story on the previous page kept returning to the wine bottle because she kept her mind on the taste and experience of drinking wine. A man who keeps lust on his mind eventually will fall into sexual sin. A teenage girl who constantly compares herself to the airbrushed magazine models will always feel as if she isn't good enough. This is what the Bible teaches—that we live according to our flesh when our minds are set on things of the flesh. Romans 8:5-6 says, "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace."

Where the mind goes, the person follows. Whatever you feel—confident or insecure, loved or unloved, hopeful or hopeless—it's likely a result of your thoughts. Satan knows this, which is why he likes to use our minds as his garbage dump to inject his stinkin' thinkin'. That's why Paul says, "We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5, NLT).

Now that we know where Satan primarily operates, let's expose his top three tactics—those plays from his playbook that he uses most often.

### Play #1: Speak Lies

The Bible says, "There is nothing new under the sun" (Eccl. 1:9), and that's certainly true of Satan's attacks. Jesus revealed the devil has used the same tricks since Creation: "He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he

speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44).

Everything the devil speaks is a lie, for he is the father of lies. A lie is simply an untrue statement with the intent to *deceive*. And deception takes place in the mind, which is where we said most of Satan’s attacks begin.

Recall again the story of Adam and Eve, which is the story Jesus was likely referring to when he called Satan a murderer and liar from the beginning. Satan had already been kicked out of heaven and was awaiting his opportunity to deceive. When he approached Eve, he came with a dose of doubt. “*Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’*”

Eve knew God’s words and responded accordingly. Satan’s next tactic was a bold-faced lie. He said, “*You will not die*; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Gen. 3:1-5, emphasis added).

At this point you can imagine that Eve’s mind began to spin. “Maybe God is holding back from me. Can I really trust God? Does He really love me?”

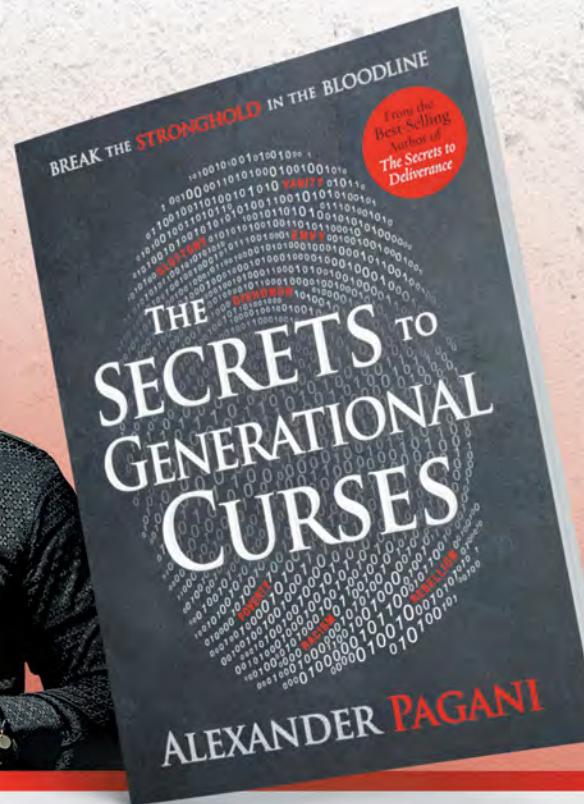
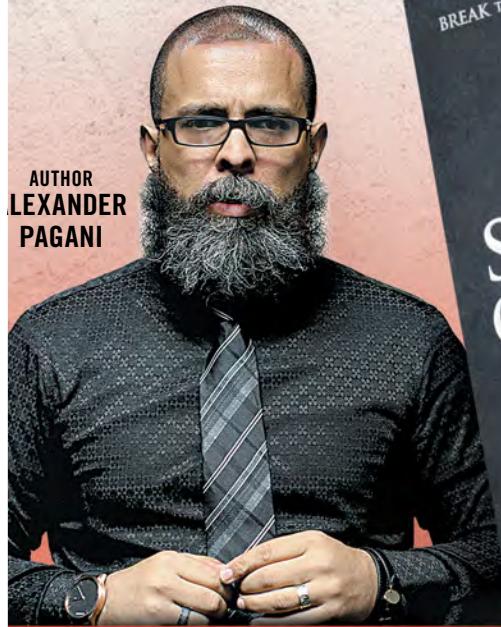
Has your mind ever run down a similar rabbit trail? I know mine has. I often talk to people who are held back from all that God has for them simply because of the devil’s lies. A lady who suffered from traumatic back injury and pain once confessed to me that for years she resisted going forward in church to have hands laid on her for healing because she didn’t think she was good enough. In fact, she thought there were other, more serious issues for God to take care of first. She basically believed that God had a limited supply of miracles, and she didn’t want to use one for herself in case someone else needed it more. This lie held her back. The truth is that God’s love and compassion toward you never run dry. He has enough for you and everyone else on this planet (see Lam. 2:22-24).

You can trust God to see you through any challenge life throws at you. His love never ceases toward you.

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# Generational Curses Are One of Satan’s WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

AUTHOR  
**ALEXANDER  
PAGANI**



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He's not holding back any good thing from you (Ps. 84:11). If you haven't yet received what you're praying for, it's because God is working on something better. In fact, as you read this, the Lord is whipping up a brand-new batch of love, compassion, hope and healing—*just for you*.

Satan wants you to doubt all of this, which is why lies are the first tactics in his playbook. Lies are his scheme to keep you from all that God has for you.

## Play #2: Overwhelm With Guilt and Shame

Satan penetrated the hearts of Adam and Eve with a lie. They possessed knowledge of good *and* evil and an awareness of their immorality, which is why they suddenly saw themselves naked and hid from God. What the first couple experienced was the first guilt and shame.

Guilt and shame are very similar; each is rooted in the feeling that you've done something wrong, yet there are important distinctions. Guilt is always felt first. It's the immediate voice: "I have done something wrong." An initial feeling of guilt isn't always wrong. Perhaps it's part of the Spirit's conviction, which is often necessary for repentance. But it becomes crippling if it persists after you've repented. And persistent, unchecked guilt eventually turns into shame.

It's the devil's follow-up tactic, and it's very potent. Whereas guilt says, "I *have done* something wrong," shame says, "I *am* something wrong." Shame is the identification with the devil's lie: "I am unworthy; I am dirty; I am alone; I am unloved; I am hopeless."

Certainly guilt and shame are the devil's logical next steps after he's tempted you into sin. But other times it's not a result of anything you did wrong, but of the circumstances he's put you in.

For example, in my elementary-school years I was extremely shy, almost debilitatingly so. My timidity affected my schoolwork, but it also severely inhibited my ability to make friends or excel at much of anything. I was misunderstood by most of my

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classmates and became an outcast at school. Things that most kids live for, such as recess and PE class, I dreaded every day. It was embarrassing to have no one to play with on the playground or to be picked last for the team.

I tried to hide the fact that I was an outcast. When we'd have class parties or parent days, I'd never tell my mom or dad, hoping they wouldn't show up. I remember them feeling hurt because they thought I was ashamed of them. The truth was that I was ashamed of myself. I never wanted them to see me with no friends, in such a pitiful place. "Why am I so shy? Why does no one want to be my friend? Why can't I kick the ball as well? It must be because I am something wrong," I thought.

As time went on, like Adam and Eve, I tried to cover up my shame with a variety of my own fig leaves, including overachieving, perfectionism, maintaining only distant relationships and avoiding certain types of situations. The devil set me up to be shackled by shame so that I couldn't experience the free life that Jesus died to give.

### Play #3: Steal Their Identity

The U.S. government cites stolen identities as one of the top consumer complaints every year. According to a study done by Javelin Strategy and Research, more than 12 million people were victims of this crime in 2012.

But the rate of identity theft is much higher than the U.S. government reports. In fact, most people I know have suffered from a stolen identity at one point in their life—spiritually speaking. Identity theft was first Satan's idea and is his greatest scheme! It's the goal of his lies and shame.

Instead of you seeing yourself in God's image, Satan wants you to see yourself in the image of your problems, struggles or others' opinions. Then he'll come in with whispers questioning your status before God. The devil wants you to be identified by his whispers instead of what God says about you.

Job is a biblical example of someone who felt the tension between God's words and Satan's whispers.

Job's identity is revealed as a man who was "blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil" (Job 1:1). The story then enters a heavenly courtroom scene where Job's identity is questioned. Here, Satan appears before the Lord, probably to make his usual accusations. Then God brings Satan's attention to Job. "Have you considered my servant Job?" God appears to brag, "There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil" (v. 8.)

With a bit of arrogance, it seems, Satan asks permission of God to test Job, and God permits it, as long as Job's life isn't touched. Job 1 and 2 detail the devil's attempts to steal Job's possessions, children and his health.

Close friends and family are always first to notice our hardships. Job's friends were no different. They observed his suffering and came to his side to accompany him, but for seven days they didn't utter a word (Job 2:13)—that is, until the devil began whispering his words. In the night Job's best friend Eliphaz heard a voice that changed everything: "Now a word came stealing to me, my ear received the whisper of it. Amid thoughts from visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on mortals, dread came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones shake. A spirit glided past my face; the hair of my flesh bristled. It stood still, but I could not discern its appearance. A form was before my eyes; there was silence, then I heard a voice: 'Can mortals be righteous before God? Can human beings be pure before their Maker?'" (4:12-17).

Eliphaz reported that a spirit began to speak to him in the night, which caused him much fear and trembling. God doesn't cause dread, nor does He put His own words into question. Previously God had declared Job to be righteous and pure. But this spirit questioned that very identity. This was not the work of God but of Satan himself!

Satan posed these questions to steal Job's identity. Job's friend was so convinced by Satan's questions that he broke his silence to declare Job a

sinner. At that point, Satan had won a victory. No longer was Job recognized by the identity that God had declared but by the one Satan had planted through his whispers.

The question Satan asked is an important one to consider, one he whispers to you and me almost daily: Can we be righteous and pure? Are we worthy of God's love? Certainly we aren't worthy based upon our own merits.

The Bible asserts that we are all unrighteous because "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Yet for those of us who have made Jesus our Lord and Savior, God *declares* us righteous (2 Cor. 5:21).

So what do we make of Satan's question? Can human beings be pure before their Maker? Yes, but only *if* God declares them as such. Know that you and I are *nothing* by ourselves, but we are *everything* in Christ.

Understanding my true identity in Christ was crucial to breaking the false identity I had built up from years of rejection. I'd to come to realize that I'm not my past, my struggles or what anyone else has ever said about me. God's Word is my ultimate reality, and He calls me righteous, loved and accepted.

This is your true identity too. Don't let any accusations or whispers from Satan make you believe otherwise. ◀

**KYLE WINKLER** is the founder of *Kyle Winkler Ministries*, a media and teaching ministry impacting thousands around the world.

#### FOR MORE STUDY...

In his latest book, *Silence Satan* (Passio), Kyle Winkler reveals many ways the enemy tries to silence us with wounds, accusations, lies and deceit, and teaches you how to stand strong against him. The book can be found anywhere Christian books are sold or at [christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com) or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).



# Discerning SPIRITS IN THE CHURCH

As much as we'd like the church to be a safe refuge, that isn't always the case. Often the spirits we face there are just as evil as those outside, which is why we must increase our ability to discern

BY KIMBERLY DANIELS

**O**ne Saturday evening one of our ministry teams was called to the church for an emergency deliverance session. Carol had been released from a mental institution and was driven six hours to meet with us. We were in the parking lot when the car drove up.

What I am about to tell you may be hard to believe, because I struggled with it even though I saw it with my own eyes. When they pulled onto the church grounds, the entire car began to shake. A little woman about 45 years old stepped out of the car, talking to herself.

As I came closer to her I heard these words come out of her mouth: "Yeah, Kim can't cast me out. She never dealt with a demon like this before. Benny Hinn can't cast me out. You do not know who I am."

We had not experienced a demon that talked this way before, and the voice coming from Carol was totally demonic. The woman was comatose, but the spirits used her body fluently. My husband and I were accompanied by two ex-witches and an ex-prostitute. We were so shocked by what we saw that we sat down and watched the demon walk around the room (through the woman's body) and quote Scriptures.

continued »



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We were all breathless! Carol's family had been in church for many generations, and she had been in church all of her life. The spirit revealed itself to us as a "religious spirit." We had not heard of such a thing. The demon mocked us and said, "I prophesy and quote Scriptures like the Son of God. Everything you can do, I can do better!"

Many people get offended when I mention the religious spirit. But these spirits killed Christ. They are legitimate enemies of God. They are "demons of the letter," and 2 Corinthians 3:6 tells us that the letter kills. There is only one spirit that kills: Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). There is one thief, one murderer and one destroyer. He does not care if he uses a sawed-off shotgun or a brand-new Bible to do his dirty work.

We took a deep breath, shook ourselves, accepted the truth of what we were confronting and began to work those devils over like a jackhammer. Thank God for the Holy Ghost! We did not know where to start, but the prophetic anointing of God came in and gave us direction. We pleaded the blood of Jesus over that room and took authority over the boldness of the devils we were dealing with.

The demons began to beg for us to leave them alone. We could hear them crying as they came out of the woman's body. God blessed us to discover the entry point of the devils in Carol's life. After many hours of deliverance, Carol got a major breakthrough.

Today she is not running away, and demons are not speaking through her anymore. She has a new glow on her face, and I see her at conferences all the time. She is living a normal life, because the spirit of torment has been broken off of her life.

## The Great Deception

God wants His people to be in a place to hear from Him, and "religion" is the greatest hindrance. If you believe I have a personal problem with religion, this teaching is already helping you discern accurately! I hate religion because God hates it. It is one of the worst subliminal bondages in the body of Christ.

When our discerners are sharpened to hear God's voice, we will not listen

to or follow the voices of the enemy. Too often we think the enemy's voice only comes as it did in Carol's case—as a strange, demonic sound. And that's exactly why we need discernment. For every gift that God has given, the enemy has sent a counterfeit. James said that "every good and perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17).

In Acts 16, the soothsayer followed the apostles for days without any notice. She wasn't chanting or throwing voodoo dust. She was quoting Scriptures. The Bible says the devil comes as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). I believe that the encounter in Acts was prophetic in many ways. Many people who are operating in "other" spirits have followed the church quoting Scriptures for too long. This is the season when the apostolic mantle of God is going to fall on the church and publicly reveal the counterfeits.

We have had much infiltration from the other side in our local church. Every time we open our doors, the enemy comes in to steal, kill and destroy! If you are doing something for the Lord that gives life, you can bet the enemy will be there to destroy it. I'm not speaking of the devil personified by the world as the little cartoon character. I'm talking about the spirits that jump on people and walk in the door and sit on the first row.

Most often these religious spirits are incredibly subtle. They do not come as vampires and werewolves; they come like Jesus or as another Holy Ghost. They hide behind titles such as "Evangelist," "Mother," "Father" and "Pastor." They are wolves in sheep's clothing. Their gifts seem so similar, but we can always know them by the spirit in which they come.

First Corinthians tells us the gifts of God operate by one Spirit who submits only to Him. This is how we can easily detect the counterfeit: (1) They operate by another spirit; and (2) they submit their gifts to many gods. Paul had to specify and make sure the people knew which Jesus he was preaching about. He said, "And that this Jesus, whom I

preach unto you, is Christ" (Acts 17:3).

Second Corinthians 11:4 gives a similar warning: "For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him."

These verses refer to the simplicity of the gospel. Paul was telling the church at Corinth that he feared the possibility of deception creeping into the church. He used the example of the serpent beguiling Eve through its subtlety. He told them to be watchful so their minds would not be corrupted.

Discerning of spirits is needed more than ever in the body of Christ. I believe that from reading the previous passages, we can safely say there is a counterfeit Jesus and Holy Ghost spirits, and another gospel that can be proclaimed.

## Gifted to Discern

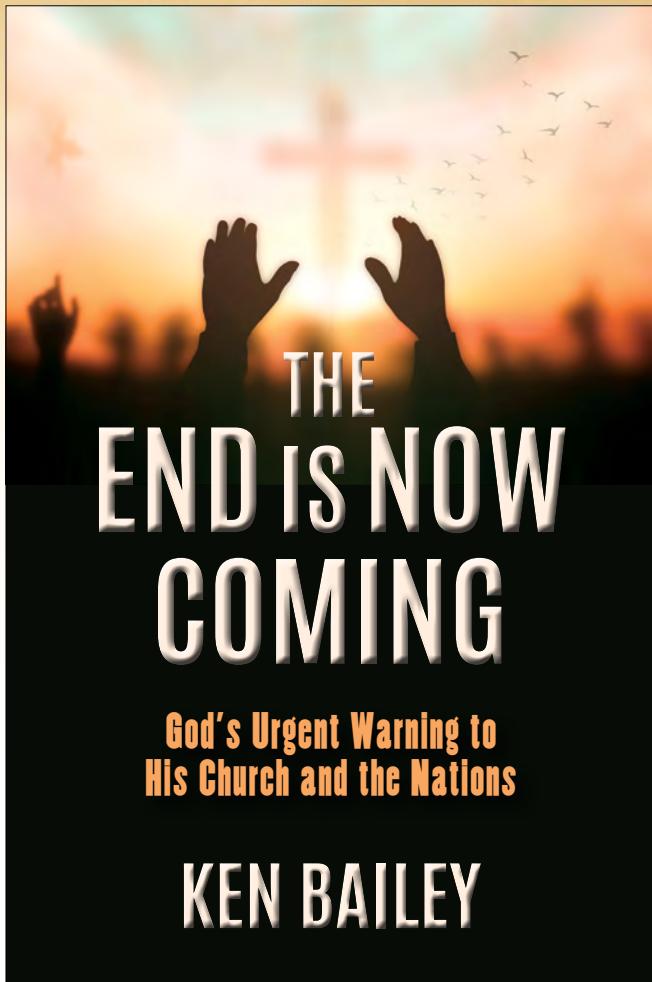
This is a time in God when we must allow Him to sharpen our spiritual discerners. I believe the Bible supports the fact that every believer has a certain level of discernment given to him or her.

Romans 8 says the sons and daughters of God are led by His Spirit. First Corinthians 2:15 tells us that he who is spiritual judges, or discerns, all things. First John 4:1 says that as believers we must "try" (*dokimazo*, which means to test, examine and prove) the spirits to judge whether they are of God. And Hebrews 5:14 says, "strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." This Scripture clearly tells us that there are born-again believers who have (1) matured in the area of discerning spirits by reason of use; and (2) exercised to discern both good and evil.

In 1 Corinthians, Paul emphasized that he was teaching by the Holy Ghost, comparing spiritual things to spiritual things (2:4). In doing this, he identified the enemy that would hinder true discernment of the things of God—"the natural man." In the occult world this is a term for a believer who walks by what he sees instead of by faith in God.

Participants in occult activity believe they can easily curse a "natural man."

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Paul said the natural man would not receive the things of the spirit because they are foolishness to him. He goes on to say the natural man cannot know the deeper things of God because they are spiritually discerned (1 Cor. 2:14). The curse of the natural man is the fruit of religion. It has a form of godliness, but it denies the power thereof (2 Tim. 3:5).

There are many things religious people do not believe in that are scriptural. They deny the power of things such as women in ministry, speaking in tongues, casting out devils and more. They are distracted by and drawn to things that concern the outer appearance. Apparel and programs become the agenda of their everyday worship, and there is no spirit or truth in any of it.

The sad part is that there are demons behind these religious acts, and they run rampant in churches. The religious spirit is the strongest spirit I have warred against as a believer. This is a devil that you will waste your time trying to cast out if you do not deal with its essence. The essence of the religious spirit is a garment of bondage or a cloak of deception that must be removed before true deliverance can take place.

## Defeating the Religious Spirit

There are principalities that rule over every religious network, and Scripture proves this easily. First Corinthians 2:7-8 says: “But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory, which none of the *princes of this world* knew; for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (emphasis added).

Note that the word *princes* is related to the word *principality* in the original Greek. We know that physical people killed Jesus. It is also safe to say religious people called for His execution. Despite this, the Bible makes reference to higher powers than the people who killed Jesus. Ephesians 2 talks about the prince of the power of the air that rules over the children of disobedience.

The people carried out the orders, but the orders were written in the second heaven. The devil used the tool of religion to kill the Lord of glory. The

good thing about this Scripture is that even though the devil’s plan was completed, he had no understanding of what he was doing. The Bible says if he had known what he was doing, he would not have done it. Glory to God!

Paul mentioned the mystery of the hidden wisdom. God ordained this wisdom before the world was created for our glory (1 Cor. 2:7). This Scripture is speaking specifically about “our glory” as a believer. Many believers do not know that they have a glory, but Colossians 1:27 says this glory is Christ in us, the hope of glory. That is the one thing the devil and his crew cannot counterfeit: “Christ in us.”

Because the dark side does not have this benefit, their knowledge of the mysteries of God is null and void. As believers we must take advantage of the Christ in us. If you are a believer and you feel like you have not been taking advantage of your spiritual discernment, it’s not too late. Sharpening your discernment requires spiritual discipline first of all. As with working out in the natural, the most difficult part of the regimen is developing the discipline to stick to it.

As you get started, first ask yourself, “Am I a religious person?” If you are not sure, here are some indicators of religion:

1) You are a regimented person; any change in your schedule upsets you in an unusual way.

2) Your prayers are repetitive, and you often run out of things to pray as soon as you start praying.

3) You find yourself being very judgmental of how things appear, and what people think is an obsession to you.

4) You are very comfortable with how things have always been and have guarded yourself against any move of God that you are not familiar with.

5) You have difficulty obeying God when you know He has spoken because what He has told you to do does not make sense.

These indicators are not written in stone to be a guideline for the religious spirit. Based on the experiences I have had with this spirit, if you exhibit three of these five behaviors I would pray

## MORE INFORMATION

In *From a Mess to a Miracle* (Charisma House), Kimberly Daniels exposes the enemy’s traps that prevent believers from experiencing a truly transformed life in Christ. She pulls no punches as she teaches how to sharpen your spiritual discernment. The book can be found anywhere Christian books are sold or at [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com) or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).



this prayer:

*Father God, in the name of Jesus, I renounce every form of godliness that would cause me to deny the essence of Your true power. I renounce any zeal that I have obtained in God that is not according to true knowledge. I renounce the obsession of worrying about what people think. I refuse to be a “people pleaser,” and I break loose from the paradigms of the expectations of others.*

*I pull down every guard I have built around my mind that causes me to reject legitimate moves of God because of a lack of familiarity. I renounce my way and receive the way of Christ. Father, forgive me for being judgmental of things and people I do not understand. I release the people I have held in contempt in the spirit because of my set ways.*

*I renounce religious regimen and declare that I am a child of God and will be led by the Spirit of God. I separate myself from the rudiments of men, man’s religion, vain religion (James 1:26) and antichrist religions that persecute the church of God (Gal. 1:12). I commit to come out of the comfort zone of accepting only things I can easily understand. I renounce the natural man (1 Cor. 2:14). I believe and receive the fact that my spiritual discernment is being sharpened as I speak! I am not dull of hearing from the Lord, and I have an eye in the spirit to see the vision God is revealing to me.*

*Lord Jesus, I thank You that I am walking in the spirit of pure religion, which is undefiled before God. I break all covenants with the spirit that killed Christ—the “religious spirit”! Jesus, You are Lord in this area of my life. Amen. ◀*

**KIMBERLY DANIELS** is the founder and overseer of Rhema Way City Church, formally known as Spoken Word Ministries.

# REVIVING THE REMNANT

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### A Word from Guest Speaker, Pastor Jo

There has always been a need for people to encounter the One and True Living God, but never as much as today when the time grows closer to the return of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

My friend and brother, Evangelist KC Coles, recognizes that there is a remnant that continues to get overlooked—those living on the streets and sleeping in homeless shelters. Our commission comes from this:

**So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.** Matthew 22:10 (NKJV)

As we draw near to Jesus' return, it breaks my heart that we keep focusing on the same people.

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11<sup>th</sup>

2023

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On November 11, at 11AM, KC and I will team up together to serve the less fortunate in my state of Virginia, and invite them to the wedding feast of the King. Brother KC Coles identifies these precious souls as the remnant, the few who've been left out of previous revivals and need a touch from God. Our goal is to feed them, love them, and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At the bare minimum, we will donate Blessing Bags and school supplies and station food trucks to provide food.

Of course, you don't have to be homeless to come. **Everyone is welcome!**

Please consider joining me and Brother KC, The Salvation Army, and other servants of God in sharing the Good News. It's all FREE—food, school supplies, love, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We need bus drivers and helpers. Call KC Coles ministry to see where you can serve our King: **757 775 3732**



**T**here was a time—and not too long ago—when many believed communism to be an unstoppable, indestructible force. The fear surrounding this system and cloaking its activities behind an “iron curtain” prompted an era of anxiety and uncertainty in the Western world. Few could imagine the day this behemoth would fall—for it was, indeed, one of the most pure examples in modern history of a behemoth.

A behemoth is any system large enough in size or power to oppress multitudes of people. It can be a religious, political, cultural or economic system—and even a blend of those, as in the case with communism. Behemoths are erected by the enemy to keep the gospel out and multitudes of people in darkness.

Communism was an antichrist system that controlled hundreds of millions. But this system has been shaken and continues to fall. The head of this system (U.S.S.R.) has crumbled economically and politically, and now the gospel is being preached in Russia, and churches are springing up everywhere. For years the church prayed and fasted for the dismantling of this behemoth, and now we see the results of our prayers.

Behemoths are strongholds that must be broken in order to see millions of people released from darkness and come into the glorious light of the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Yet these demonic “giants” have been around for generations. In Job 40:15, the Lord calls Job’s attention to a creature known in his day as the behemoth: “Look now at the behemoth, which I made along with you; he eats grass like an ox.” The Berkeley translation calls him “the hippopotamus.” Another translation calls him “the river ox.” The ox is known primarily for its strength. Behemoth is a massive creature known for its power and

# BATTLING the BEHEMOTHS of Our Time

As one massive stronghold around the world falls, another is rising. How do we recognize and defeat these powerful evil forces in the spirit?

BY JOHN ECKHARDT

strength. Both in the natural here and in the spirit realm today, his sheer size and strength make him a formidable foe.

Thankfully, the Lord is raising up an army of believers who understand spiritual warfare and will challenge and pull down the behemoths of our day. Yet the church must realize that when we are dealing with Behemoth, we are fighting a demonic system that is large and strong, whether it be religious, economic, cultural or political. Many believers who engage in spiritual warfare have accurately identified strongholds in a city, region or even nation; and in fact, *stronghold* has become a common term among Christians. But it's time the church woke up and recognized that there are some strongholds in various parts of the world that are behemoths—and this size alone should cause us to seek deeper understanding and revelation from the Lord on how to deal with them in spiritual warfare.

## The Behemoth of Islam

One of the most formidable behemoths in our world today is Islam. Just as communism controlled the minds of millions through its antichrist ideology, so does the religion known as Islam. Islam controls entire nations, enslaving millions of people through its antichrist message. The gospel is kept out by this behemoth, and millions are dying without the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The church must realize that we are fighting more than a spirit of antichrist and false religion. We are dealing with a behemoth that influences and controls governments, cultures and economies of entire nations.

This religious system has enslaved some nations for more than 1,000 years. It is an oppressive system that enslaves multitudes to its rigid code of religious law. The good news is that the behemoth of Islam will fall just as the behemoth

of communism is falling, and the gospel will be preached to those people for whom Jesus died.

To see that day, however, the church must recognize some of the key attributes of this enemy, which we can glean from Scripture.

**1) Behemoth's nature is to reproduce.** In describing the physical behemoth of old, Job 40:16 says, "Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly" (KJV). This verse talks about the strength of Behemoth's loins. "Loins" represent the ability to reproduce and have offspring. Reproduction is a key to having dominion. Whatever or whoever is able to reproduce eventually will have dominion and the ability to subdue. The strength of Behemoth is his ability to reproduce himself and subdue those under his power.

This was the key to communism. From its roots in Russia, the Bolshevik revolution in 1917, it spread to such places as China, North Korea, North Vietnam, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, East Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Cuba and Romania.

The same is true of Islam. From its roots in Arabia, it spread to countries including Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, Turkey, Afghanistan, Sudan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Indonesia, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Mauritania and Niger. These nations are completely or partially under the control of Islam.

**2) Behemoth's power is in his virility.** The Spurrell translation of Job 40:16 says "his virility [is] in the navel of his belly." To be virile means having the nature, properties or qualities of an adult male—to be capable of functioning as a male in copulation. This is the ability to reproduce—the ability to grow, multiply and subdue. Note also that this is a

spiritual law: “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it” (Gen. 1:28, KJV).

Whatever is fruitful, whatever multiplies and replenishes eventually will subdue. Behemoth’s ability to reproduce gives him the strength to subdue. The political system of communism and the religious system of Islam reproduced themselves in many nations. They became behemoths that controlled the people and bound up nations, preventing

them from receiving the truth.

**3) Behemoth’s makeup reflects his strength.** Job 40:17 says, “He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together” (KJV). This verse speaks of Behemoth’s tail and his sinews (muscles). The New American Bible says, “The sinews of his thighs are like cables.” The quadriceps in the thigh are among the body’s strongest muscles.

In the next verse, the Lord describes his bones: “His bones are as strong as

pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron” (Job 40:18, KJV). Bones provide the structure for the physical body. The structure of a behemoth is one of strength, characterized by strong bones. The Jerusalem translation says, “His vertebrae are bronze tubing, his bones as hard as hammered iron.” His bones, though hard, are not impossible to break. However, it is difficult to break a system that has become a behemoth. With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

**4) Despite Behemoth’s size and strength, God is still Master.** In Job 40:19, we find a key spiritual insight into Behemoth: “He is the chief of the ways of God: He that made him can make his sword to approach unto him” (KJV). The Amplified says, “[The hippopotamus] is the first [in magnitude and power] of the works of God [in animal life]; only He Who made him provide him with his [swordlike tusks, or only God Who made him, can bring near His sword to master him].”

There isn’t a creature God made that He can’t control. The Lord, with His strong and mighty sword, can master Behemoth. Every ungodly, antichrist system erected by the devil to hinder the message of the gospel can and will be destroyed by the awesome power of our God! The gates of hell will not prevail against the church. Behemoth’s power will be broken, his bones crushed, his sinews ripped, and his loins stripped of power by the might of our God.

**5) Behemoth is a tyrant.** The New English Bible states, “He is the chief of God’s works, made to be tyrant over his peers.” The key word here is *tyrant*. Behemoth is a tyrant. Religious, political or economic systems that are behemoths become tyrannical and oppressive. They become controlling and domineering. This is nothing other than the spirit of witchcraft. To control the mind and will of a person, or a people, is witchcraft.

The gospel of Jesus Christ always produces liberty. Behemoths resist the gospel and the truth of Jesus Christ and attempt to keep people in bondage. Behemoth denies religious freedom, fights the existence of the church, and tries to control the church. This can be a tyrannical government system such as communism

## Knees to the Floor

Amid beheadings and disturbing prophetic warnings from charismatic leaders, there’s only one way to ultimately defeat the behemoth of Islam

By Jennifer LeClaire

An ancient behemoth has mounted an antichrist campaign to eradicate the gospel from the Earth. The behemoth of Islam is unleashing religious terror unlike anything our generation has witnessed—and steadily advancing in the nations.

Iraqi Christians are facing extinction as leaders of this demonic movement gain momentum in a holy war that aims to establish a caliphate (Islamic State) led by a religious and political leader (caliph) who is a successor to the Islamic prophet Muhammad. Whether you call it ISIS, ISIL or the Islamic State, the behemoth of Islam and its radical jihadist adherents are releasing heart-gripping fear through propaganda and beheadings of men, women and children in a quest to dominate the nations of the Earth.

Political and prophetic voices alike are warning the Islamic State will wreak natural havoc on Western soil if we don’t rise up against it. Rick Joyner, founder of Morningstar Ministries, issued a warning after receiving a disturbing prophetic dream about ISIS’s intent in America. “I have done in-depth studies of the cruelty in the Middle Ages, but this was a whole new level of demonic cruelty. It wasn’t just about killing people,” Joyner said. “It was about bringing as much absolute pain, terror and everything else you can before death.”

Considering the gruesome images circulating in Islamic media that show jihadists herding Christians like cattle to mass executions and Muslim extremists sawing off people’s heads with small knives, Joyner’s prophetic experience is not far-fetched. In response to the violence, America has launched airstrikes that have merely inflamed this behemoth’s hatred and spawned more terrifying threats against the nation.

Former U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair believes we need boots on the ground to defeat ISIS, but the truth is we need knees on the floor. In other words, we need to engage in effective, fervent spiritual warfare prayer against this behemoth spirit. This ancient stronghold is not easily broken—but it must bow to the Name of Jesus. Cindy Jacobs, co-founder of Generals International, bore witness to Joyner’s dream but offered hope and prophetic insight as to how to respond in an age where the reality of Luke 21:26—men’s hearts failing them for fear—seems to be upon us.

“It’s important not to get into fear. Fear and faith don’t mix,” Jacobs says, noting that she prays Psalm 91 for protection every day. “We need to pray for the president. We need to pray for the Pentagon. We need to pray for the Congress. We need to cry out for wisdom. Regardless of different partisan beliefs, we are commanded to pray for them. We must pray for them. Our future depends on our prayers ... and [we must] trust God that if we pray He will protect us. This is His Word, and these are His promises. God warns to protect.”

*Jennifer LeClaire is the former news editor of Charisma.*

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(which, thanks be to God, is crumbling around the world), or a religious system such as Islam (which also shall fall—glory to God!).

**6) Behemoth is full of pride.** A few verses later, in Job 40:23, we find a revealing characteristic: “Behold, he drinketh up a river, and hasteth not: he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth” (KJV). The Amplified translation says, “Behold, if a river is violent and overflows, he does not tremble; he is confident, though the Jordan [River] swells and rushes against his mouth.”

One of Behemoth’s characteristics is self-confidence. He is large and strong enough to swallow a raging river. Thus, we see Behemoth is closely related to Leviathan. God is using these creatures as pictures of pride. Pride causes men to rebel against God; all rebellion and disobedience are rooted in pride.

Our confidence isn’t in the flesh but in God. Any religion of works is one of self-confidence, but true Christianity is based on salvation by grace with our confidence in the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

## Martin Luther and the Behemoth of Religion

No one is known more for preaching this message of salvation by grace than Martin Luther. Yet Luther found himself facing a behemoth when he began to oppose the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. A religious system can become a behemoth when it becomes controlling and oppressive. And the established Catholic church of his day certainly controlled kings, governments and entire nations. The pope’s word was supreme, as he was considered to be the voice of Christ on Earth. He was considered infallible and could install, approve or disapprove of kings and rulers.

The Roman Catholic Church had absolute authority in church matters, to establish and set doctrine, to ordain and install ministers (priesthood), to excommunicate members considered heretics, etc. Those who disagreed with the teachings of the church were not only subject to excommunication but sometimes death. Many were placed on “the rack” (a method of torture designed to stretch the human body), burned at the stake or beheaded. The Roman Catholic Church

was so large and powerful it affected the politics, economics, religion and culture of most of Europe during the Dark Ages.

Enter one Martin Luther, who is known throughout history as the “father of the Protestant Reformation.” He was not the only reformer of his day, but his stand against the behemoth of his day was unprecedented. He was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church in 1521. Those who followed him were called Lutherans. They left many of the established church’s teachings, which they considered false when compared to the Word of God, and began to follow the teachings of the Holy Bible.

Behemoth can become violent when attacked. He uses fear and intimidation to maintain his control. The Taylor translation of Job 40:19 says, “How ferocious he is among all of God’s creation, so let whoever hopes to master him bring a sharp sword!” (TLB).

Martin Luther lived in constant fear for his life. There was an edict issued that declared him an outlaw. Legally anyone could strike him dead and not be punished for murder. But the anointing upon Luther caused him to preach and teach the Word of God despite this behemoth of established religion. His message of “the just shall live by faith” (Heb. 10:38) shook the religious system of his day and set many people free from religious error and false teaching.

## Conquering Behemoth

God continues his description of the behemoth: “He taketh it with his eyes: his nose pierceth through snares” (Job 40:24, KJV). The Taylor translation says, “No one can catch him off guard or put a ring in his nose and lead him away” (TLB). The New American translation says, “Who can capture him by his eyes, or pierce his nose with a trap?”

This verse shows us the difficulty and impossibility of catching and conquering Behemoth. This stronghold cannot be attacked like others because of the sheer size and magnitude of its strength. This size can include geographical, monetary, political and military strength. It took years to pray and dismantle the behemoth of communism, and it will require the same,

if not more, to take down Islam. Yet persistence and patience are necessary in pulling down a behemoth. Prayer, fasting and often martyrdom are necessary to destroy a behemoth.

It’s important to note, however, that man, in his own strength, cannot tame or capture Behemoth or Leviathan. Only God who created them can tame and subdue them. Our confidence is in the Lord of hosts. Our Captain is raising up and training an army of believers who will wage war in the spirit against the behemoths of our day. Do not attempt to face this strongman head-on or alone. You must be submitted under the proper spiritual covering to be effective in the fight. Let the leaders and mature spiritual-warfare ministers in your church lead you in how to pray against Behemoth. Some spirits are beyond our individual authority. (Remember what happened to the seven sons of Sceva in Acts 19:11-20.)

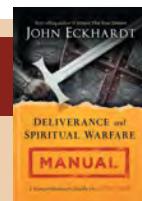
United under the leadership of the God of heaven’s armies, we have been anointed and commissioned to pull down strongholds and set the captives free. The Lord is increasing our discernment and understanding of the strongholds of the devil. And as this happens, we will begin to recognize the behemoths of our time and, by the power of Jesus Christ, destroy these massive strongholds of the enemy. ◀

**JOHN ECKHARDT** is overseer of *Cru-saders Ministries in Chicago*. He is the author of over 20 books, including the popular *Prayers That ... series* (*Prayers That Rout Demons, Prayers That Break Curses, et al*), and his latest, *Prayers That Unlock Favor*.

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John Eckhardt’s book, *Deliverance and Spiritual Warfare Manual* (Charisma House), exposes Satan’s works

of darkness and provides essential information on spiritual warfare basics and strategies. The book can be found anywhere Christian books are sold or at [christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com) or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).



# GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS



**The Calling Of The Lord Jesus Christ Upon Pastor Anwar Fazal is to win souls worldwide and to move in this calling. God has blessed Pastor Fazal with the spiritual gift of healing which has impacted millions worldwide.**

Eternal Life Ministries of Pakistan and Issac TV Channel, are Holy Spirit ministries that God has given to Pastor Fazal. The Holy Spirit has provided the vision to reach the world with the Gospel of Christ.

The News Anchor of CBS News Live, James Brown, interviewed Marilyn Hickey and asked her about her visit to Pakistan. He called Pastor Anwar Fazal the “**Billy Graham of Pakistan**”. Another famous Bishop of Pakistan said: “The world should know, that we also have Billy Graham in Pakistan, his name is Pastor Anwar Fazal”.

With humble beginnings, Pastor Anwar began Eternal Life Ministries of Pakistan with only four people. God began manifesting himself through Pastor Anwar with mighty signs and wonders. The ministry grew exponentially and by the grace of God now more than 40,000 people attend Sunday and Wednesday healing services weekly in person in Lahore and millions attend online globally. Furthermore, millions of people have experienced healing from various diseases and physical ailments, resulting in an unprecedented amount of deliverance and salvations’.

The ministry also provides Healing Crusades in various cities of Pakistan. Countless people attend these making this the biggest healing service in all of Pakistan. Pastor Anwar being a faithful servant of God, took a bold step of faith and through the guidance of The Holy Spirit launched “ISAAC TELEVISION” the first Christian satellite television station in Pakistan. The slogan for ISAAC TV is “Hope for the Nation” and has given that very hope to Christians and non-Christians alike. Isaac television broadcasts to more than 70 countries throughout Asia, the Middle East, and many other un-reached areas.

Pastor Anwar has started a channel named “Eternal Life Television Network”. Eternal Life Television is an English-speaking channel reaching America, Canada, Europe, Africa and many other countries. The channel broadcasts compelling and anointed preachers with teachings, worship songs and children’s programs. Eternal Life Television network is winning souls, changing lives and expanding the kingdom of God.

**Contact Pastor Anwar at [ANWARELM@YAHOO.COM](mailto:ANWARELM@YAHOO.COM)**



**Pastor Anwar Fazal  
and his wife Nida Anwar**



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# Maybe we can't say a man is a man or a woman is a woman

*Pro-life Leader Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life*

I hear it everywhere I go. Our fellow citizens, especially if they are believers, have a distinct feeling that something is different about the divisions in our nation. We've all lived out the battles of Right vs. Left, Conservative vs. Liberal, Democrat vs. Republican, and we are used to that battle.

But what's happening today feels different. People are not just disagreeing, but de-platforming those who disagree. The government is not simply governing either from the Left or the Right; it is punishing those with particular viewpoints. Opposing ideas are not just being aired on campuses, but those with certain ideas are being attacked on campus.

Something is different, too, about what is being disputed.

It used to be that citizens shared a common commitment to virtue, human life and dignity, freedom, faith, family, and the good of our country. We just debated different ways of advancing those values.

Now the dispute is literally about whether those values are good or bad, and whether they should be preserved at all. Family and gender are redefined; America, her history and her symbols are trashed; and we can't seem to even agree that the police should keep our streets peaceful.

Indeed, it is a battle between Common sense and Insanity, and more fundamentally, between Good and Evil.

Good and evil have always been in conflict, from the dawn of time, and from the day "the light came into the world, but some preferred darkness to light" (Jn. 3:19)

But it seems that today, evil has taken off its mask and makes no more pretense to want any "moderate" positions.

Recently, the largest-ever gathering of Satanists took place. The participants in "SatanCon 2023" claimed that they were not worshipping a spiritual being called "Satan," but rather were simply asserting the value of personal freedom.

But when that means I don't have to follow any moral norms outside of what I create as "my own truth" and "my own morality," that's exactly what Satan wants. Anything goes, as long as you don't worship God.

This was the original temptation, "You will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Gen. 3:5). This is why Isaiah called the King of Babylon "Lucifer," "because you said in your heart, 'I will be like the Most High'" (Is. 14:14) This is why, when war broke out in heaven (see Rev. 12), the one who led the battle against the devil was called "Michael" (that is, "Who is like God?"). And this is why the mind of the Holy One, as revealed

by Paul in Philippians 2, is that "Though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not deem equality with God something to be grasped; rather, he emptied himself... becoming obedient ... Therefore God highly exalted him."

It is a denial of creation that is at the heart of the "woke" culture that embraces "critical theory" (including critical race theory), which denies the very existence of truth.

It is a denial of creation that has created a culture in which we can't even say a man is a man or a woman is a woman.

And maybe that's because for fifty years we've been saying a baby is not a baby.

That has been the heart of the abortion culture. Roe vs. Wade, the decision that legalized abortion in 1973, claimed the Supreme Court was "not competent to speculate as to the answer" of when human life begins.

Maybe that's why a Supreme Court Justice today said in her confirmation hearing that she could not define what a woman is.

This is a denial of the truth God has placed in creation. And that confusion about creation is rooted in a denial of the Creator.

If you forget God, you will never understand his creation.

And what's worse, you'll think that you can create it yourself.

This divorce of freedom from truth leads back to tyranny. This was the key concern of our Founding Fathers, who in giving sovereignty to the people warned, in the words of John Adams, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Indeed. How can a people govern themselves if they've forgotten the difference between good and evil? That, in a nutshell, defines the moral, cultural, and political battle of our day.

• • • • •

*Pro-life Leader Frank Pavone is one of the most prominent pro-life leaders in the world, leads EndAbortion.US, and has been named one of the 50 pro-life leaders most responsible for the overturn of Roe vs. Wade.*

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*(A DBA of "Priests for Life")*

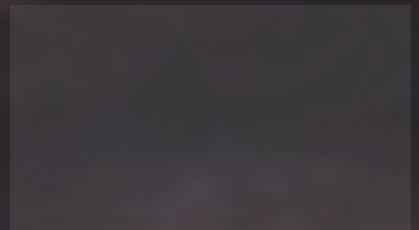
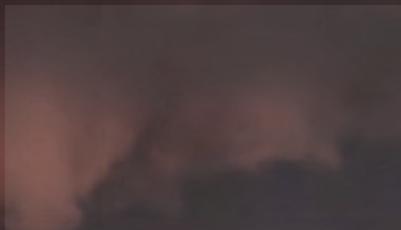
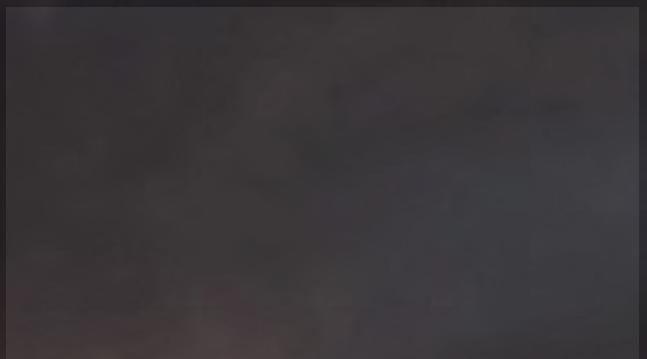
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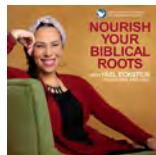
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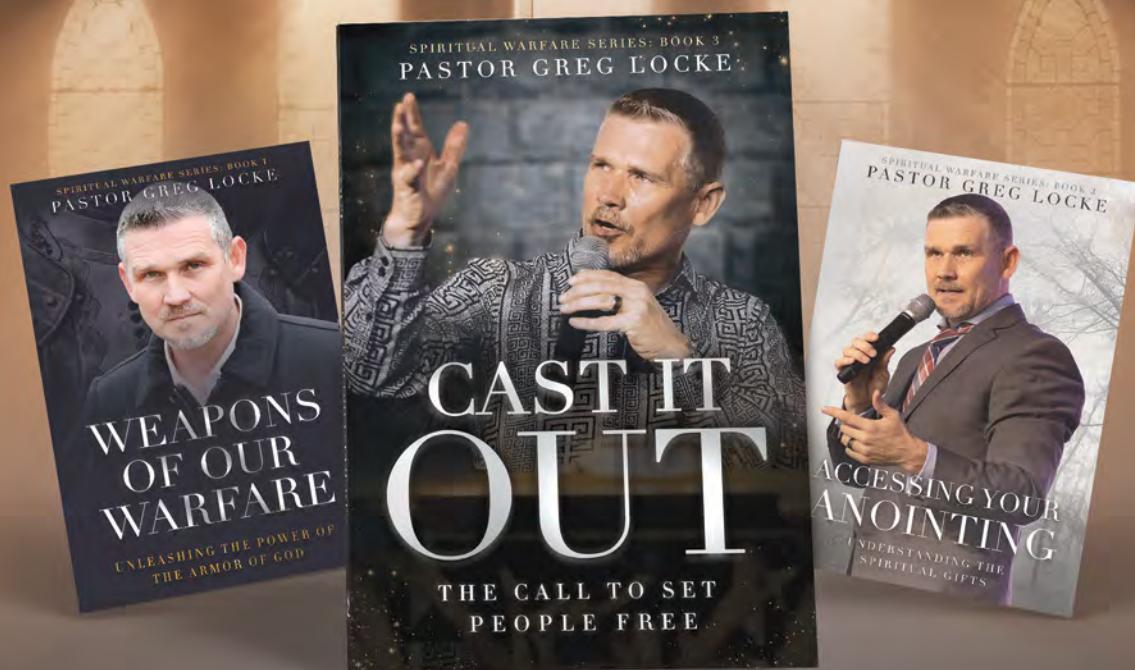
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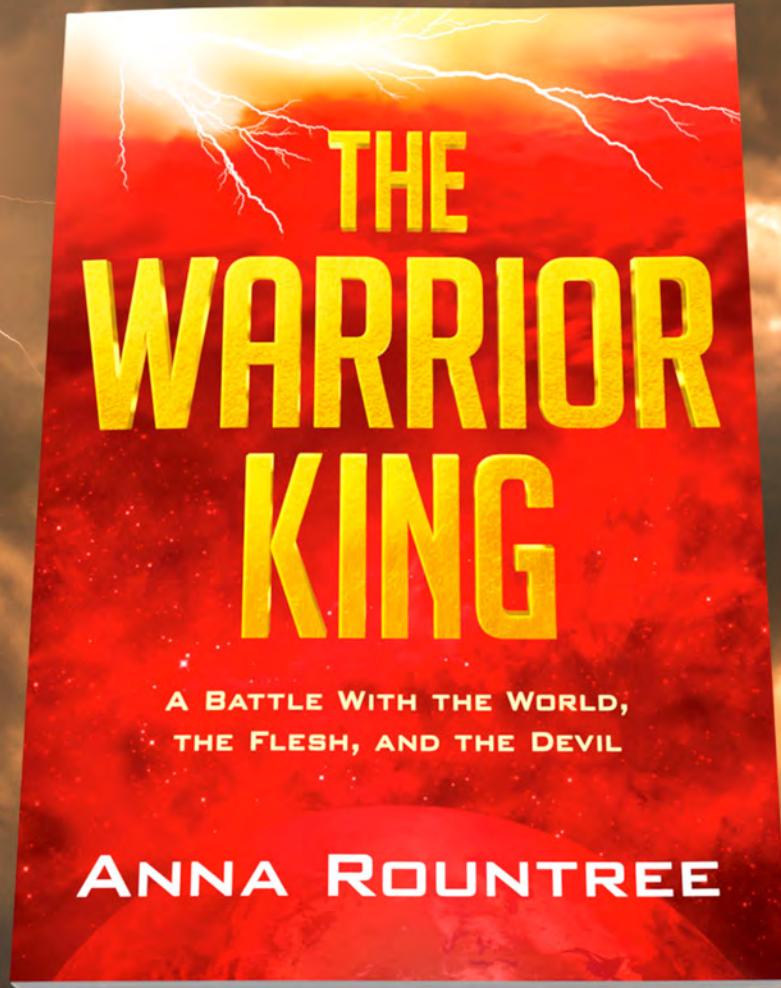
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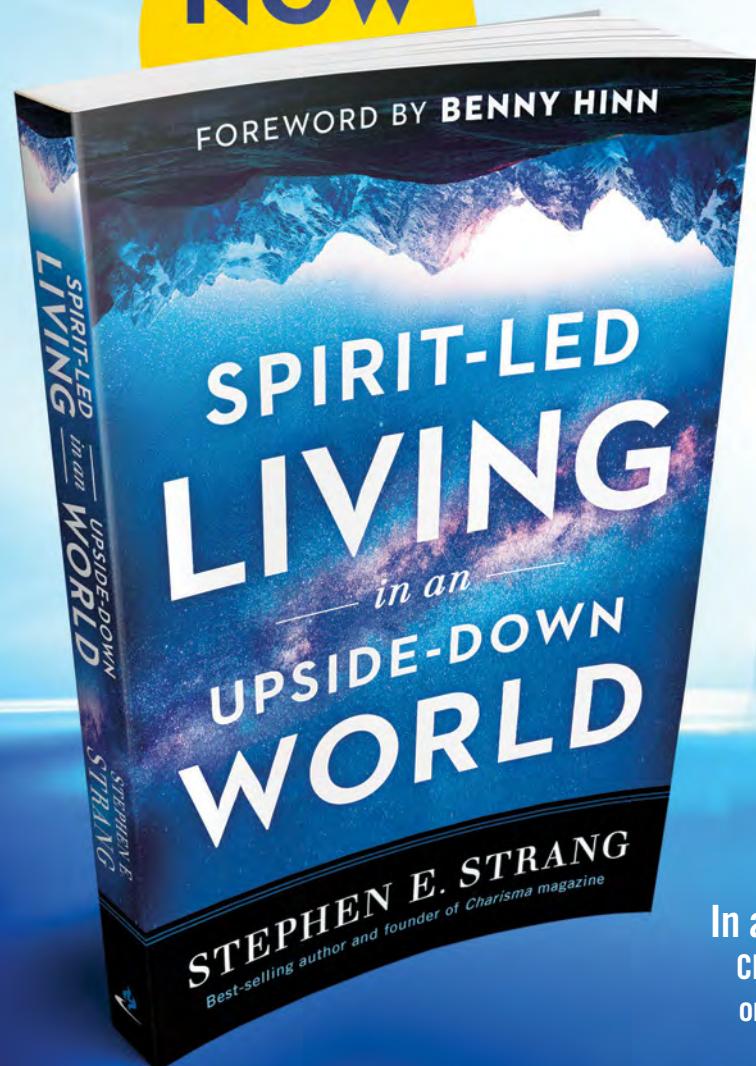


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