

# The Adversary: The Christian Versus Demon Activity

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## 1. The Biblical Perspective of Warfare

### Location 255

He (Satan and demons) retreats only from before the authority the believer has through his union with the Lord Jesus Christ and the absolute truth of the Word of God.

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The Word of God recognizes that we face three unique enemies that seek to defeat the spiritual life of believers. Commonly we speak of these three as the **world, the flesh, and the devil.**

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The believer who does not become familiar with spiritual warfare will indeed be a poor soldier of Jesus Christ.

## 2. Warfare with the Flesh

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The flesh is a built-in law of failure, making it impossible for natural man to please or serve God. It is a compulsive inner force inherited from man's fall, which expresses itself in general and specific rebellion against God and His righteousness. The flesh can never be reformed or improved. The only hope for escape from the law of the flesh is its total execution and replacement by a new life in the Lord Jesus Christ.

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The flesh is a deadly enemy that is capable of completely defeating a believer and keeping him from pleasing God with a holy life.

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The flesh is intimately intertwined with our mind, our will, and our emotions,

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Warfare with our flesh is a lifetime battle which we must meet.

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The more one grows into spiritual maturity and the riches of grace, the more his warfare with the flesh becomes defined and focused in intensity.

### 462

Willful indulgence in fleshly sins without claiming our ground of victory in the Lord Jesus Christ can produce a bondage to Satan.

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Success in spiritual warfare is achieved through objective fact and not through subjective feelings. This point will be stressed often in these pages. Faith always proceeds on the basis of absolute truth and not vague wishes and emotional desires.

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Christ's death, His death was our death.

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Victory over the flesh is always an active, aggressive, day-to-day and moment-by-moment appropriation of the absolute truth that "I have been crucified with Christ"

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For the flesh to be conquered, death is not enough; new life must enter into our beings.

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We have a body, a soul, and a spirit. Our soul contains our personality, which is made up of our mind, our will, and our emotion.

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Baptism of the Spirit an objective fact by which believers are made members of the body of Christ

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We must not depend upon feeling and experience as an evidence of our being filled with the Holy Spirit.

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A walk in the Spirit is absolutely essential if we are to know victory over the flesh.

## **4. The Sword of the Spirit Is Still the Word**

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No one will become strong in warfare who neglects using the Word of God in an active program of memorization and meditation.

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Meditation on the Word is really possible only as you have first committed it to memory.

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Memorization and meditation upon the Scriptures is perhaps the single greatest step a believer can take in helping him overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil.

## **6. Understand and Don't Be Afraid**

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One of his most subtle methods of attack is to cause us to act independently of God and to act upon decisions that are contrary to the will of God. This

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Satan will always be around to lead us to act independently of God in times of decision.

## **7. There's Still a Place for Objective Doctrine**

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Doctrinal praying is the practice of praying or applying the objective, absolute truths of the Word of God as the hope and basis of resolving our prayer burdens. God loves for us to pray His Word back to Him, claiming His attributes, promises, and redemptive work as the ground of our faith that He will answer.