

BRUISED HEEL LIFESTYLE

**A look at the Multi-Dimensional Nature of
Spiritual Warfare in the Life of the Believer**

The Church of Jesus Christ is revealed in Scripture as the people of God and the bride of Christ. However, a further look shows this people as a part of a warring Kingdom in an ongoing conflict with the spiritual world. Much has been written and preached, nevertheless the Church struggles deeply with understanding this spiritual assault against both the believer and unbeliever.



Presented by Chrystal Hansen



BRUISED HEEL LIFESTYLE:

A look at the Multi-Dimensional Nature of Spiritual Warfare
in the Life of the Believer Workbook
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INTRODUCTION



The Bruised Heel Lifestyle

INTRODUCTION

Church history has shown both biblically and experientially the reality of a spiritual war wagging between two kingdoms. **We face a level of human anguish that demands and deserves a correct biblical lens and interpretation on this subject matter.** It is imperative that our theology is scripturally substantiated as well as experientially tried. Let's begin with laying a foundation of a world view that is based in scripture.

I. Biblical World View

Why a world view discussion? A world view will enable a foundation of presumptions that will bring about some conclusions of basic dynamics of the world. It will allow for both the materialistic and spiritualistic views to be interwoven.

The vast majority of human kind believes in an unseen dimension which we call the spirit realm. Around the world and in the Western world, we also see a materialistic or naturalistic world view. The underlying premise to this view is that the ultimate reality we are living, is one of life being generated spontaneously from non-life, sustaining itself through cycles of evolution.

Nevertheless, as it pertains to the writers of Scripture, they held to a theistic world view. This world view was a common view of a Creator who was God, and He, Himself uncreated. Christian theism is based on divine revelation, not human intuition. Christians do not believe in the one true God as a product of human intuition or common sense. We know what we know about God only because He has chosen to reveal Himself to humanity. (Ed Murphy, pg. 11)

As a result of this Biblical world view at some point in history, rebellion occurred in the heavenlies with the angelic beings. From this point on, evil entered the Kingdom of God and has set up a cosmic earthly conflict with the heavenly kingdom. This conflict is spoken of in a number of ways both from believers and unbelievers. We here of the good vs. evil, light verses dark or the struggle between right and wrong. Most commonly among the Christian world is the term “Spiritual Warfare” between the Kingdom of Satan and the Kingdom of God.

Next let’s look at the impact of our Western world view and the Traditional World view lined up against the Biblical View.

II. Comparison of Western and Traditional World Views

Take a look at the comparison chart on the next page. The traditional world view sees the spiritual or supernatural

as a part of the mix of life. However, the western world excludes the middle often resulting in a belief that these middle things are superstitions.

**The Excluded Middle:
Western and Traditional World Views Compared**

Western World View	Traditional World View
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God • Allah • Angels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God • Allah • Angels
Excluded Middle	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germs • Business Decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witchcraft • Curses • Evil Eye
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herbs • Food • Clan

Table by Brant Myers, "The Excluded Middle" MARC Newsletter, June 1991

Why a world view discussion? Because a world view has to do with our personal or groups collective view of reality. Thus, we see the world often through our learned western view by assuming we are right at all costs. **The danger is when we as western Believers then contextualize the Bible through a Western world view lens.** So, I will take a few moments to frame out good interpretation skills. Because the church as a whole does a poor job of studying and understanding the scriptures. The Greek word "hermeneuo" means "I interpret," which is a biblical discipline that is critical for the believer to engage in.

III. Interpreting Scripture

Why is this needed? The first reason is because of the rate of biblical illiteracy in the church. We as Pentecostals have lacked in this area in comparison with the Baptists and other Evangelicals who typically have an excellent understanding of the Bible. Managing the subject matter of Spiritual Warfare is critical to our mission as Christians. Our churches and gatherings are full of Christians suffering silently because of hurt, pain and trauma inflicted upon them. In addition, we the church have added to the trauma by trumping up 'raw-raw' messages and altar calls that have left them disillusioned. I am not interested in simplistic answers for profound questions and the evil that exists among us.

Secondly, we want to prevent errors in theology as well as disillusionment over what you think the scriptures might be saying but really are not. It's not good enough to say, "Whatever the Bible means to me, is what it means." Many do that. They read at face value without understanding the context in which it was written. That's how we get misconception and error. I say this next statement with great care and love: **"We can no longer sacrifice people at the expense of our theological presumptions. To continue with theology that hurts and wounds suffering believers and hurting people is sin."**

The goal in biblical interpretation is to find out what the original author meant when he penned the words. It's called **Original Intent**. And then we want to find out what **the application of that text was to his audience**. Once we do these two things, then we can make application for our lives. It is imperative to understand the culture, geography, context, language, life situation, and history of a text to find out what the author meant when he wrote it. The key is you cannot leave out history and culture when interpreting a text. What is the application of a particular text. What is this text calling me to do? **The scripture will not bear fruit in your life if you don't know how to apply it to your life**. This is where most people fail.

With regards to the subject matter of 'spiritual warfare', we have many different camps with many different steps and processes all available to instruct us toward deliverance, freedom and healing. Studies on the demonic and the war at hand lean often toward sensationalism on one hand and rigid dogmatism on the other. **It is quite interesting to note that Jesus nor his disciples ever taught on deliverance.** While the scriptures leave us without all the information we would like, they do say more than most realize about spiritual warfare as a believer.

SECTION ONE



The Origin and Scope of Spiritual Warfare

I. The Origin and Scope of Spiritual Warfare

Behind every situation we face there is a ruling spirit, a deliberate power working. It is never about people. In every battle the enemy rages, he has specific targets he is attempting to destroy. Spiritual warfare is an evil issue – warfare in and of itself is evil. **Evil has become the most perplexing problem faced by humanity.**

A. Warfare in Paradise

How is it possible for sin to arise in a kingdom of complete sinlessness, that is the Kingdom of God? How could angels who see God as He is, sin and fall? The scripture nowhere attempts to answers the how or why of angels and Lucifer were created with an ability to sin. The scripture simply lays out that all of heaven was put to a test and one-third fell with no provision of redemption. The bible reveals just enough in context to set forth the beginnings of God's elect nation of Israel. The rebellion that began in the heavenliness became earthly in the Garden of Eden as Adam was introduce in creation, making Genesis 3 a foundation stone of spiritual warfare.

With this thought in mind – what are some lessons you have learned and taken away from the story of the first Adams' fall and rebellion?

Four Purposes found in Genesis 3 Story

1. Rebellion against God came from the outside of man
2. Man is responsible before God for his disobedience
3. Pronouncing ongoing warfare between humanity and Satan
4. Gods provision of full redemption

The temptation to rebel against God did not arise from within Eve and later in Adam, but first came from without by a personal, probably supernatural being who was dedicated to evil and sought to give birth to rebellion of humanity against God. **The dialogue between Eve and the serpent is key to seeing the spiritual world in operation through possession of an evil spirit.** Nevertheless, God does not allow Eve to blame Satan for their choice of rebellion. **The testing of their obedience and ours cannot and will never be blamed on another or a spirit.**

Immediate Effects of Humanity's Sin

1. Shame
2. Separation from God
3. Lack of honesty with God
4. Blame Game
5. Judgement
6. Forced separation from Paradise
7. **The existence of on-going spiritual warfare**

The pronouncement of judgement and prophetic declaration of ongoing war between the seeds leads us into a Biblical world view of spiritual warfare.

B. Warfare between the Two Seeds

"And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head and you will strike his heel." Genesis 3:15

These words had an immediate implication upon the lives of Adam and Eve, as well as reaching all humanity from then on. Prior to this prophetic pronouncement God had questioned Adam and Eve with regards to what had transpired. When God turns to the serpent, he does not question nor inquire of his motive or tactic but emphatically pronounces judgment upon his evil actions. Keep in mind that Satan is the agent of Adam's fall not the serpent.

A perpetual war is commenced between the kingdoms and proclaimed between the offspring of the woman and the offspring of the serpent. **From Genesis to Revelation we see Satan and his demonic powers and principalities in full swing with regards to warring against the Kingdom of God until the final defeat in Revelation 20.**

⁷ *"When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison. ⁸ He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore. ⁹ And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God's people and the beloved city. But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them. ¹⁰ Then the Devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." Revelation 20:7-10*

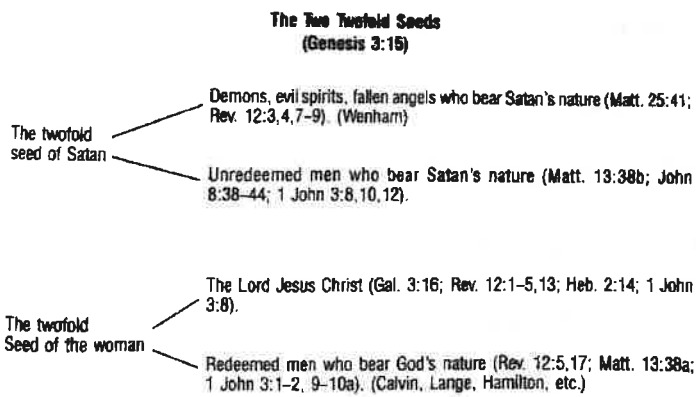


Table by Dr Ed Murphy, "The Handbook for Spiritual Warfare"

While our foe is powerful, he is a defeated foe.

Through Christ's death and resurrection Satan and his seed was totally defeated in our behalf. The secondary focus of this verse is the redeemed, aka Christians or the Church.

Romans 16:19-20 implies **the ongoing crushing** of the head of the serpent by the redeemed of God.

¹⁹ "But everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong. ²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you". **Romans 16:19-20**

There is an ongoing crushing through our lives as we resist the enemy and submit to our Heavenly Father.

And an ongoing crushing of his head in the lives of others as we bring Christ's love, life and healing power to their bruised lives. In context of the Genesis 3:15 verse, our powerful foe is defeated by our Lord and Savior first, then defeated by us his sons and daughters. We have been equipped and given weapons to stand firm and crush his head.

Two Keys of Victory

1. Authority over Satan that was committed to us

¹⁷ "When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name! ¹⁸ "Yes," he told them, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! ¹⁹ Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. ²⁰ But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven." **Luke 10:17-20**

2. Redemptive Suffering

¹² "Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. ¹³ **Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering,** so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs. ¹⁶ But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name!" **1 Peter 4:12-16**

⁸ "Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. **Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.** ¹⁰ In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So, after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation." **1 Peter 5:8-10**

¹⁰ "But you, Timothy, certainly know what I teach, and how I live, and what my purpose in life is. You know my faith, my patience, my love, and my endurance. ¹¹ You know how much persecution and suffering I have endured. You know all about how I was persecuted in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra—but the Lord rescued me from all of it. ¹² Yes, and **everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.** ¹³ But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived." **2 Timothy 3:10-13**

What does each key look like in your life?

What do you learn or struggle with from these verses and keys?

³" For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear." 2 Timothy 4:3

In the crushing process both in the life of Christ and ours as Christ followers, Satan will painfully but not mortally wound the heel of the seed of the woman and her offspring.

This is the agonizing aspect of our life and mission in Christ. In the midst of the ongoing war and demonic source of suffering and afflictions we face in our personal lives, Christ encourages us to take heart.

"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."
John 16:33

All seven churches in Revelation were given a message within the construct of spiritual warfare.

- All were encouraged to overcome
- All were warned about the scheme of the enemy within their ranks with the exception of one.

There is no redemptive ministry apart from warfare

sufferings. The dual wounding and bruising of Gen. 3:15 is a mystery to us, yet a part of God's plan. We all know that though Christ crushed Satan and stripped him of his weapons making him a spectacle, Satan and his host of demons were not annihilated nor ban from the earth.

They still exercise authority where they can and they are allowed to war against the children of God.

What do you feel about this statement?

Example from Paul's writing: 2 Cor 2:5-11

⁵ I am not overstating it when I say that the man who caused all the trouble hurt all of you more than he hurt me. ⁶ Most of you opposed him, and that was punishment enough. ⁷ Now, however, it is time to forgive and comfort him. Otherwise he may be overcome by discouragement. ⁸ So I urge you now to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹ I wrote to you as I did to test you and see if you would fully comply with my instructions. ¹⁰ When you forgive this man, I forgive him, too. And when I forgive whatever needs to be forgiven, I do so with Christ's authority for your benefit, ¹¹ **so that Satan will not outsmart us.** For we are familiar with his evil schemes." 2 Cor 2:5-11

- **We as believers face afflictions and sufferings as God's servant as we live for him in the enemy's territory – this world. (Gal. 1:4)**

Can we say with Paul?

"I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church." Colossians 1:24

Can we acknowledge with Paul?

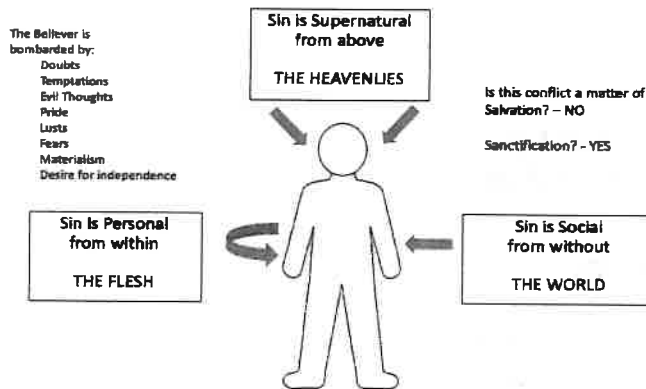
*"...We sent him to strengthen you, to encourage you in your faith, ³ and to keep you from being shaken by the troubles you were going through. **But you know that we are destined for such troubles.** ⁴ **Even while we were with you, we warned you that troubles would soon come—and they did, as you well know.** ⁵ That is why, when I could bear it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out whether your faith was still strong. **I was afraid that the tempter had gotten the best of you and that our work had been useless.**" 1 Thessalonians 3:2-5*

Scripture speaks to the bruised-heel lifestyle of the children of God. Until the final casting of Satan and his demons into the lake of fire our heel will be continually bruised by the serpent and his seed. On the upside, we continually crush the enemies head. In the end the Lord Himself will finish crushing the serpent's head. (Rev 20)

C. The Multi-Dimensional Nature of Warfare

The kingdom of God lifestyle while living in the kingdom of Satan, the world; means spiritual warfare.

Historically the church has seen the believers war with the flesh, the world and Satan himself. This multi-dimensional war often can discourage the believer as they wrestle in each dynamic, tiring of the assault bringing doubt.

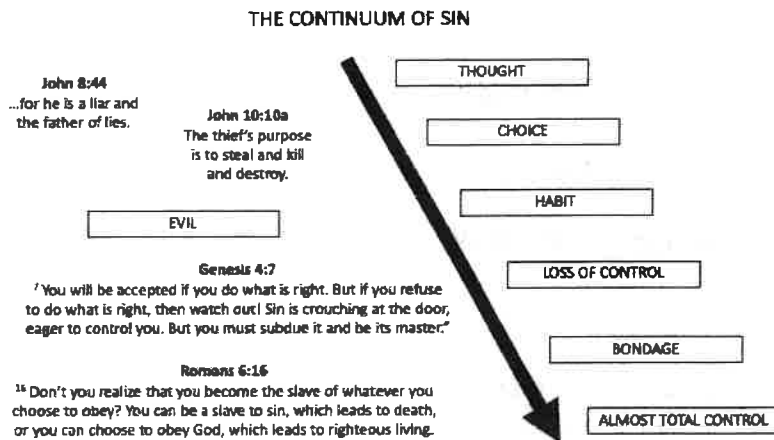


All three dimensions are always active at the same time. It is imperative to recognize that the sin war we believers are in, **has nothing to do with salvation but with sanctification**, the walking out of the will of God for our lives.

"You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God." Ephesians 2:2

"For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him." Philippians 2:13

What does sanctification mean and represent to you?



What step in the continuum births sin?

What step in the continuum should we exercise our authority?

"We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. ⁴ We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. ⁵ We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ."
2Corinthians 10:3-5

²¹ "I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. ²² I love God's law with all my heart. ²³ **But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind.** This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. ²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? ²⁵ Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So, you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin. ^{8.1} So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ² And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death." **Romans 7:21-8:2**

Paul in the writings of Ephesians is not writing about demonization but about the warfare between the power of Satan and the Power of God in the life of believers. Paul brings a significant emphasis on power.

How do we apply this verse in Romans 7?

Why do you think Paul emphasizes power?

Why does Paul emphasis power? Because the lifestyle of Ephesus and surrounding regions were entrenched in spirit-magic-occult lifestyle from the worship of Artemis.

Remember this is a sanctification issue not a salvation one.

"A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm." Ephesians 6:10-13

Living as Children of Light Ephesians 4:17-32

*¹⁷ With the Lord's authority I say this: **Live no longer as the Gentiles do**, for they are hopelessly confused. ¹⁸ Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. ¹⁹ They have no sense of shame. **They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.***

*²⁰ But that isn't what you learned about Christ. ²¹ Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²² **throw off your old sinful nature** and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³ Instead, **let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.** ²⁴ **Put on your new nature**, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. ²⁵ So **stop telling lies**. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. ²⁶ And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ for anger gives a foothold to the devil.*

What does the application of these verses entail and look like in our life?

²⁸ If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. ²⁹ Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. ³⁰ And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, **he has identified you as his own**, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.

³¹ **Get rid of** all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."

1 Timothy 1: 19

"Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their **faith has been shipwrecked.**"

John 8:42-45

⁴² Jesus told them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me. ⁴³ Why can't you understand what I am saying? It's because you can't even hear me! ⁴⁴ For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ So when I tell the truth, you just naturally don't believe me!

SECTION TWO



The Christian Life in context of Spiritual Warfare

II. The Christian Life in context of Spiritual Warfare

When speaking about our Christian life we must hold two concepts side by side as seen in **Hebrews 10:14**

- *For by that one offering he forever **made perfect** those who are **being made holy**. (NLT)*
- *For by one offering He has perfected forever those **who are being sanctified**. (KJV)*
- *For by the one offering He has **perfected forever** and completely cleansed those **who are being sanctified** [bringing each believer to spiritual completion and mature]. (AMP)*

A. Two Concepts

- 1.) **Hagiasmos** – made holy – positional sanctification by the blood of Christ
- 2.) **Hagiosune** – being made holy – the holy character – progressive sanctification
 - Cannot be transferred or imputed, it is an individual possession built up, little by little as a result of obedience to the Word of God, and of following the example of Christ

*“Work at living in peace with everyone, **and work at living a holy life**, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord.” **Hebrews 12:14***

*“I have **given you an example to follow**. Do as I have done to you.” **John 13:15***

God has made us holy and wants us to live a holy life. The enemy resists our efforts at every turn – warring against the saints. Thus, the Christian life is lived in the context of an on-going spiritual warfare.

(See Multi-Dimensional War page 24)

What does Heb. 12:14 look like for you?

B. It's an Abundant Life

"...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10 (NKJV)

John refers to "life" in two ways in his writings:

- As it pertains to the universe
- As it pertains to eternal life

To John, true human life is eternal life, the gift of God, uniquely given by God to those who believe. (John 3:15) While we have all had our spiritual ups and downs, our eyes have been opened and our minds renewed. We no longer live in darkness but in the light of his presence.

In John's writing "eternal life" refers not only to its everlasting duration in eternity but **to its quality as life lived and possessed by the believer in the present.** The primary emphasis is upon eternal life as a present experience in the Christian life. John 10:10 Jesus is confirming that His life is made manifest in us. We can possess the abundant life to come in the present through Christ.

➤ DISCUSSION POINT:

How do we enter into this abundant life?

How is the abundant life to be lived out in daily experience? In daily thought? In daily actions?

Where is the difficulty?

Two-fold Difficulty

1. The difficulty of what is within – the flesh
2. The difficulty of defining entrance point

These are the most difficult and controversial questions to be asked – each believer can have a point of view, a point of reference at gauging a response. Some common ground might be found in the answer proposed by Dr. Edward Murphy in “The Handbook of Spiritual Warfare” pg. 65. Here it is in a concise form:

First – it begins with a crisis which brings us to salvation. We become the children of God and co-heirs with Christ. We are born of Him and fulfilled with His Spirit who comes to live within.

Second – it then becomes process. Paul speaks of his life not being of the old but of the Christ living in Him. (Gal 2:20)

Finally – it becomes the process of crisis. And at every turn we are faced with the multi-dimensional war we are. To be overcomers with Christ.

“I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

C. It Possesses an Agony Side

Romans 8:17

"And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering".
(NLT)

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. (KJV)

And since we are his true children, we qualify to share all his treasures, for indeed, we are heirs of God himself. And since we are joined to Christ, we also inherit all that he is and all that he has. We will experience being co-glorified with him provided that we accept his sufferings as our own.
(TPT)

By implication: if we suffer jointly we will enjoy glory jointly.

➤ DISCUSSION POINT: Romans 8:17-27

What are the three groanings Paul mentions?

What are the groanings waiting for?

What are the groanings compared to?

What are "we" waiting for and how are we to wait?



D. Abundance within the Agony

➤ DISCUSSION POINT: Romans 8:28-39

○ What do we know? Romans 8:28a
"we know that God causes ALL things to work together for our good..."

○ For Whom is this true? Romans 8:28b
"...of those who love God and are called according to His purposes"

○ What does God Know? Romans 8:29a

○ What has God done? Romans 8:30

○ What shall we say? Romans 8:31

○ What dares accuse or condemns us?
Romans 8: 33-34

○ Can anything separate from His love? And does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble, calamity, persecution, hunger, threats or death? Romans 8:35-37

○ What do we have in spite of everything?
Romans 8: 37b

○ What are the pairs contrasted in Romans 38-39?

While living in this broken world, temporarily infected by the Kingdom of Darkness, we grieve the infestation of sin, hurt and pain. We long to see the Kingdom of God come in all its fullness within the spirit of man and the natural realm. However, we know this will not be fully realized until the New Heavens and New Earth after the Kingdom of Darkness's last blow and righteousness is the only ruling force. In the meantime, we seek to walk and

*...live clean, innocent lives as children of God shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people, holding firmly to the word of life!... **Philippians 2:15-16a***

In essence, this is the Christian life in context of

spiritual warfare, its abundance within the agony. All

of us believers will fall short of the biblical ideal of living holy and blameless lives. Nevertheless, we are to keep moving toward that goal and seeing progress within our journey and walk with God. Paul records this journey well.

Philippians: 3:12-14

*"I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection which Christ Jesus first possessed for me. **NO dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God through Christ Jesus is calling us!"***

E. Sovereignty in the midst of Abundance and Agony

➤ DISCUSSION POINT: Hebrews 11

- What is faith? Hebrews 11:1

"faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see."

- What did the people in days of old earn from this faith? Hebrews 11:2

"a good reputation" (NLT)

"a good report" (KJV)

"For by this [kind of] faith then men of old gained [divine] approval. (AMP)

- Who are all the people in Hebrews 11:13a who died still believing?

- What did they not receive in Hebrews 11:13a?

- What did they see, do and agree to in Hebrews 11:13b?

- What did the people of Hebrews 11:33-35a receive by faith?

This is the account of those who were provided for, helped, delivered, healed, and even raised from the dead.

- What did the people of Hebrews 11:35b-38 receive from exercising faith?

This is the account of those who **were not** provided for, helped, delivered, or healed.

- What did these people earn Hebrews 11:39?

- What is the implication of Hebrews 11:40 – 12:4 as it pertains to faith?

*11:40 "For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us. ^{12:1} **Therefore,** since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. ³ **Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. ⁴ After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin."***



SECTION THREE



Power Encounters

III. Power Encounters

Building upon a biblical world view that believes in an uncreated Creator who is God, come in flesh, died and resurrected to redeem mankind from evil and Satan's rebellion – we must recover the knowledge and experience of the spirit world that the early church possessed. We must relearn the spirit world. **We must remove our Western world view eyeglasses which is blinding us to the biblical view of the spirit world.** Many questions arise. Many answers are given. And many are left unprepared and ignorant of the schemes of evil one.

Power Encounter Defined

- A crisis-point of encounter in the on-going spiritual warfare between the two kingdoms – the goal is the glory of God or of a non-god and the obedience of men to God or a non-god (Murphy, pg. 342)

Spiritual Warfare Defined

- Two kingdoms in opposition and warring for dominance in the lives of people, regions, and heavenlies

The two are not synonymous. However, while we can't have a power encounter without the spiritual warfare we can have spiritual warfare without a power encounter.

A power encounter must be something that is unique and special in one aspect between the Kingdoms of good and evil, showing force and dominance.

A power encounter is a unidimensional while spiritual warfare is multi-dimensional (flesh, world and evil). Let's compare a few contrasts and assumptions.

**WHAT SAY YEE:
Power Encounter or Spiritual Warfare?**

Evangelism?

Evangelism is always bringing men and women from the power of Satan into an enlightening of the power of God. In this sense, - YES evangelism is a type of power encounter. Evangelism always involves spiritual warfare and will occasionally involve a power encounter – in this sense NO. Yet a power encounter must be in some sense a more intense show down between the two, or it has no meaning at all.

Christian Living?

In Christian living, there is a sense that the whole of Christian life is a power encounter – YES. In part true because the enemy resists the life of the believer. However, this resisting does not always involve a power encounter – so in this sense NO.

Deliverance?

Casting out demons or even truth deliverance is both a spiritual warfare and a power encounter – so YES. However, every power encounter does not involve casting out – so NO.

Signs, Wonders and Miracles?

In one sense YES, confronting in some aspects
brings signs, wonders and miracles in our midst. In another
sense, NO, because power encounters are not just limited to
this world. Power encounters happen in the spirit world, in
the heavenlies unseen to our eye on many occasions
(Rev.12:3-9).

In addition, power encounters can occur on the
Christian level and on the non-Christian level. Each will
compete with the other for power, prominence and position.
Here are four observations that bring this discussion to a
partial settling point taken from the work of Dr. Ed Murphy
pgs. 342-3

- 1) Supernatural power can flow directly from God Himself or from the no-god with no human involvement.
- 2) Supernatural power can flow directly through God's angels or from the no-gods angels according to God's or no-gods purpose.
- 3) Supernatural power can flow directly through God's servants or the no-god's servants. The flow of supernatural power can be initiated by the believer because of the delegated authority to Christians. (Luke 10:17)
 - o Every believer in this type of ministry will act in "faith" totally dependent upon God's power being released through him or he fails.
- 4) Supernatural power can flow directly through God's angels and servants at the same time. Likewise, for the no-gods angels and servants.

To conclude this portion of encounters is the chart below that shows the quantity of references within the NT regarding Satan and Evil Spirits. With this in mind, it is clear that the spirit world was an active part of the life and ministry of Christ, of the disciples and of the birthing and developing of the Church.

Interesting though is this fact, that Jesus nor the disciples or apostles ever taught on a process of deliverance. The example of Christ's interaction and dealings with the spirit world are what set the example and command to go and do likewise.

"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."
Matthew 10:8

**Quantity of References in the New Testament
to Satan and to Evil Spirits**

	<i>Satan</i>	<i>Evil Spirits</i>
Romans	1	4
1 and 2 Corinthians	7	7
Galatians	0	5
Ephesians	6	3
Colossians	5	5
1 and 2 Thessalonians	3	3
1 and 2 Timothy	6	4
Hebrews	1	0
James	1	2
1 and 2 Peter	2	2
1 and 2 John	6	5
Jude	1	1
Total	39	41
Gospels	48	102
Acts	4	8
Revelation	29	57
Total	120	208

Table reference in Dr. Ed Murphy's The Handbook of Spiritual Warfare

A. Jesus Encounters with Satan and Demons

The conflict between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan stands at the center of the New Testament discourse. Matthew 3:16 - 4:2 introduces Jesus baptism immediately followed by temptation. One would think and expect an immediate ministry launch from the spectacular baptism announcement. But instead he was driven into the wilderness by the Spirit of God.

3:16 After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy." ^{4:1} Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. ² For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.
Matthew 3:16 - 4:2

This passage brings us face to face with spiritual warfare on a grand scale. The Son of God and Satan are face to face in true combat. In order to redeem men from Satan's kingdom, He first personally overcomes the power of Satan as a man. The first Adam failed in the Garden of Eden, where all his needs were met. Jesus as the second Adam, is taken to a hostile environment to undo the tragedy of the first.

First Temptation: Enticement to meet his physical need outside of God's will

Jesus responds with *rhema* – "It is written...". The indwelling of the Spirit prompts the answer. Later to be

seen as the “Sword of the Spirit”. While Satan fails with Jesus, he has many victories with believers. We tend to move into meeting our needs easily.

Second Temptation: Enticement toward religious fanaticism

Jesus sees through the temptation to test the Father into revealing His presence with him. It was a temptation to lay aside His common sense and the natural laws governing the earth and act as if only He was a totally spiritual being. It was an attempt to live a miracle-on-demand lifestyle and negate God’s divine timings of intervention. While God does confirm by signs, wonders and miracles, it is on His terms.

Third Temptation: Enticement to pay homage to Satan which in turn promises to give him what he owns

Foremost, Jesus doesn’t refute Satan’s claim of ownership of the kingdoms of the world and what he owned and could disperse. On a few occasions Jesus described him as the ruler of this world (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11). The issue Jesus addresses was ‘worship’. With a sharp and quick “be gone” rebuke followed by scripture the temptations come to an end.

With these three temptations with Jesus – he was a complete failure; with us – he all too often succeeds.



In the Synagogue

➤ DISCUSSION POINT: Mark 1:21-28

²¹ Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. ²² And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

²³ Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴ saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" ²⁶ And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. ²⁷ Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him." ²⁸ And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee.

- What is the setting of this encounter? (vs. 21-22)
- What could have possibly invoked the evil spirit to shout? (vs. 23)
- What was the evil spirit concerned over/disturbed by? (vs. 24)
- What may the use of personal pronouns be telling us in vs. 24?
- How many words did Jesus use to deal with the situation and what does this tell us?
- Other observations you want to make

In the Tombs

➤ DISCUSSION POINT: Mark 5:1-20

¹Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. ²And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, ³who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, ⁴because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. ⁵And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.

⁶When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him.

⁷And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me." ⁸For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" ⁹Then He asked him, "What is your name?" And he answered,

saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many." ¹⁰Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. ¹¹Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. ¹²So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them."

¹³And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea. ¹⁴So those who fed the swine fled, and they told it in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ¹⁶And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine. ¹⁷Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region. ¹⁸And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him.

¹⁹However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." ²⁰And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled."

○ What is the setting of this encounter? (vs. 1-2)

○ What could have possibly invoked the evil spirit to run, fall at Jesus feet and shout? (vs 6-7)

○ What was the evil spirit concerned over/disturbed by? (vs.6-7)

○ How many words did Jesus use to deal with the situation and what does this tell us? (vs 8-9)

○ What can we make of the result of this encounter in vs 15-17?

○ What can we make of Jesus response to the man's desire to go with him? (vs 18-20)

○ Other observations you want to make

B. Success and Failures

The Success of the Seventy-Two: Luke 10:1-20

The most detailed report of successful deliverance ministry by the Lord's disciples is recorded in Luke 10. Seventy-two more disciples are chosen and sent in twos to minister to people in towns and places He had planned to visit. We can assume that deliverance was a major component to the ministry of these disciples from their response upon their return.

Jesus began the dethronement of the Kingdom of Satan at His birth and ministry on this earth. He continues the dethronement through His church and body. He began transferring the power then and we are now recipients.

¹⁷ When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!" ¹⁸ "Yes," he told them, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! ¹⁹ Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. ²⁰ But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven."
Luke 10:17-20

This discourse of events brings a balance to this ministry. He reaffirms the power and authority, redirects their focus and brings a caution. **The surpassing greatness of being His disciples is not the works of a minister but the position of who you are in Christ.** This is the height of joy!

In the first section Origin and Scope of Spiritual Warfare – we spoke about 2 keys of victory (pg. 21). They are Authority and Redemptive Suffering. Here in this passage Jesus highlights the promise of delegated authority to us. This verse is one of the greatest promises and gems we have to live in and operate from as believers.

The Promise of Delegated Authority

➤ DISCUSSION POINT: Luke 10:19

- The source of the promise

The value of any promise is proportionate to the authority of who grants it.

- The assurance of the promise

The verb is in the perfect tense – meaning an action completed. It is not for the future it is NOW. We already have the authority promised.

- The gift of the promise

Dunamis power is the might and ability while *exousia* is the right to act. The enemy has might and ability while we as believers have the right to act because we have delegated authority.

- The opposition of the promise

The enemy we face is singular. He is neither omnipresent, omniscient nor omnipotent thus all the other enemies are an extension of his evil power.

- The extent of the promise

There can be misapplication here when:

- 1) We go demon hunting based on this verse. The promise is context with the missionary mandate – the sending out of Jesus redemptive ministry. Jesus is implying that when the enemy opposes you – and when he does you have all power over him to defeat him. This is what we see in Jesus’s encounters with Satan and the demons.
- 2) We have been told we can dethrone the principalities and powers which have ruled both geographical and socio-cultural units of society for centuries. These often take collaboration and unity among the believers. This is self-deception. Our enemy though defeated is still at war with us. He fights until he is forced to withdrawal, but it’s not permanent. He regroupes and reasserts seeking every possible channel through which he can regain ground.
- 3) We abuse the authority, faith and power through assumption. We must avoid spiritual power trips just like we are to avoid worldly power trips. We often proclaim ignorantly that “I can handle it”, “Bring it on Devil”, “Is that all you got?” This is goading the enemy which is not seen in the life and ministry of Christ, his disciples nor the Angelic host of Heaven. To do so is to engage at your human level of strength – good luck with that!!

- The consolation of the promise

Is this really true? YES and NO

No because God’s people are standing and still contending against the enemy have been and are still being hurt by him; often very painfully. For the Apostle Paul declared he bore the bruises and marks of Jesus on his body (Gal 6:17).

Yes, it is true! Because in our warfare we may be cast down but we are not destroyed. We are more than conquerors in Christ.

Lessons from a Failure: The demonized boy Mark 9:14-29

To understand the extent of deliverance ministry it serves as well to examine the one recorded failure to release a demonized person. A few details to lay the landscape here that are implied.

- Deliverance was a norm of the disciple's ministry
- Apostles and the Father of the boy knew of the effectiveness of deliverance as a normal part of the apostolic ministry
- Because deliverance was a normal part of ministry, they were perplexed of their own inability with authority and the ability of the demonic to not obey
- Jesus own remarks indicate the severity of the situation (vs 29)
- *Seleniazo* is the word used in Greek literally meaning "moon struck". It is translated both "epileptic" and "lunatic" in the NT. It was believed that epilepsy was influenced by the moon. In Mat 4:24 this word is used for biological epilepsy in direct contrast with demonization mentioned in same verse.

"News about him spread as far as Syria, and people soon began bringing to him all who were sick. And whatever their sickness or disease, or if they were demon possessed or epileptic or paralyzed—he healed them all." Mat. 4:24

- **It would serve us well to know the difference as the NT world knew the difference. And the same for mental illnesses**
- This was not a story about suicide but about murder.

Possible Reasons for Failure

- 1) They were in the wrong spirit (vs. 14)
- 2) The disciples faced a difficult kind of spirit (vs 29)
- 3) Their (disciples) own faith failed them (vs19 and 28)

Why are some cases so difficult?

As it is with most 'why' questions dealing with the spirit world – there are no hard and fast answers to present. The solution is complex as are demons, individuals and demonization. **Jesus did not teach on deliverance – he modeled it in scripture.** And no two situations are the same. **We must be okay with that – with what is revealed and what is still mysterious.** Perhaps this is where the greatest faith is expended.

First, much is hidden and unknown and complex when dealing with people and their histories. Next are life experiences up to the moment of deliverance. Much can depend on the type and class of the demonic being dealt with. As seen within this story alone, historical and biblical account verifies that some are more difficult to deal with.

Finally, most important is this:

The faith that would be victorious in a contest with the weakest or most powerful demonic entity would need to give themselves to much prayer, fasting and self-denial. Enabling them to win the war from 'within' – the lust of the flesh, and from 'without' – the lust of the eyes.

SECTION FOUR



The Road to Personal Victory

IV. The Road to Personal Victory:

Building upon a biblical world view that believes in an uncreated Creator who is God, come in flesh, died and resurrected to redeem mankind from evil and Satan's rebellion –

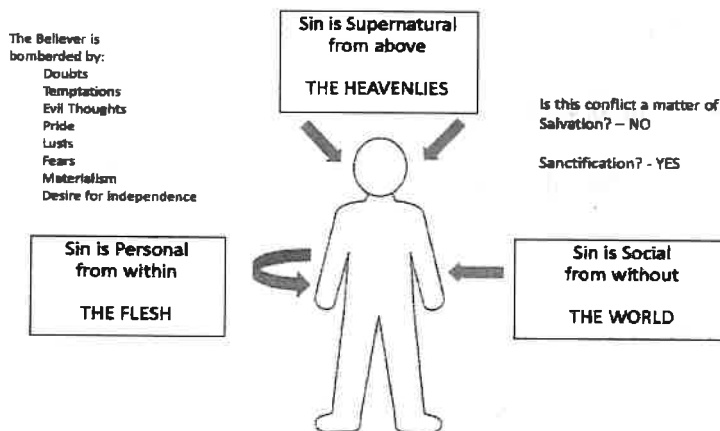
- **We must recover the knowledge and experience of the spirit world that the early church possessed**
- **We must relearn the spirit world**
- **We must remove our Western world view eyeglasses which is blinding us to the biblical view of the spirit world**

Many questions arise. Many answers are given. And many are left unprepared and ignorant of the schemes of the evil one.

The Bible refers to the fact that we are at war with an enemy. **From cover to cover we see the battling in play, even after the full defeat of Satan on the Cross and through the Body of Christ.** It is in the last days, Satan and all his armies will receive the final crushing from Jesus as they are thrown in to the lake of fire (Rev 20:10). Until then we war! Warfare is being waged against each of us and against the whole of our humanity. We are to learn faithfulness and identify with the Overcomer.

A. The Believer and The Demonic

Much controversy lies in the dynamic between the Believer and the Demonic. I am not here to layout and emphatic or dogmatic approach but to look at Scripture in such a way as to see the possibilities that existed within the early church and how they were dealt with. Let's begin by looking once more at the multi-dimensional war at hand in our lives.



For this section I want to focus on the flesh and the world dynamics, the influence they wield and our choices in the fight.

WHAT IS THE FLESH?

The flesh that we battle with daily is not the same as the old man /self which once controlled our life.

The old self has been crucified with Christ on the Cross.

"My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So, I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

However; we are crucifying daily our flesh. **The flesh can be seen as the impulse to sin or the seat of sin itself.** It is that urge to self-centeredness within us. That place that wants to be our own god, proud ego, uncrucified self where at its core is willful defiance and rebellion against authority.

Paul states his struggle with the flesh:

¹⁴ So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. ¹⁵ I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. ¹⁶ But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. ¹⁸ And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature (Greek states FLESH). I want to do what is right, but I can't. ¹⁹ I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. ²⁰ But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. ²¹ I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. ²² I love God's law with all my heart. ²³ But there is another power^[e] within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. ²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? ²⁵ Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature (Greek states FLESH). I am a slave to sin.
Romans 7:14-25

As believers we have a **new self** that began with our life in Christ. Because Christ lives in me in the person of the Holy Spirit and God lives in me in the person of His Son, I am no longer a slave to sin. **My new self is responding and following the Spirit.**



"Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. ⁶ We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷ For when we died with Christ we **were set free from the power of sin.** ⁸ And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him." **Romans 6:5-8**

"I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And **may they be in us** so that the world will believe you sent me. ²² "I have given them the glory you gave me, so **they may be one as we are one.** ²³ I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me." **John 17:21-23**

"He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who **no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.**" **Romans 8:4**

As a believer, I now walk in the Spirit not in my sinful nature. This is true even when I am not aware of it. However, when I am aware of it, I need to accept that I am dead to sin and alive to God because of the redemptive work.

I still live in an unredeemed body and world. The sin problem continues and presents itself to me as long as I am in this world. However, Paul states this emphatically:

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. ¹² Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, **you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.** ¹³ For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your ~~sinful nature~~ (Greek states DEEDS OF THE BODY) you will live. **Romans 8:11-13**

Does this mean that the sin problem is solved for a true believer?

Can I no longer be tempted or sin?

➤ **DISCUSSION POINT**

Short Story: The Elephant and The Rope

Author Unknown



As my friend was passing the elephants, he suddenly stopped, confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could, at any time, break away from the ropes they were tied to but for some reason, they did not. My friend saw a trainer nearby and asked why these beautiful, magnificent animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away.

"Well," he said, "when they are very young and much smaller we use the same size of rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free." My friend was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds but because they believed they couldn't, they were stuck right where they were.

Like the elephants, how many of us go through life hanging onto a belief that imprisons us?

- What are you being held back by believing deceptive lies from the enemy?
- What are you avoiding in your Christian life because of a limiting belief?
- Worse, whose limiting beliefs are holding you back?

Paul speaks to the members or parts of our body.

He obviously is meaning a large context that includes my mind, emotions, will and imaginations.

"Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. ¹³ Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So, use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God." Romans 6:12-13

Until the bondage to the flesh is broken, we are vulnerable to the demonic. Open doors allow the demonic entrance to our life. Open doors consist of willful sin, unforgiveness, inner vows and judgments, generational curses and hurt, pain and trauma. At times the warfare issue in a believer's life may be demonic attachment or demonic affliction. The first step of addressing this is through repenting and confession in the areas where we have allowed sin, offenses and hurts to remain unaddressed.

B. The How-To of Spiritual Warfare

James 4:1-8 is one of the most complete how-to passages on spiritual warfare that deals with all three dimensions of the multi-dimensional war we as believers are in: the flesh, the world and the evil in high places. Following this passage in the steps outlined will bring about freedom and victory in our lives as believers. Spiritual warfare must first be won in some degree in our lives before we attempt to deliver others. (Matthew 7:3-5)

"And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? ⁴ How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? ⁵ Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye." Matthew 7:3-5

**James 4:1-8 and the road to personal victory
– a.k.a. self-deliverance**

**1. Facing the Sins of the Flesh – the war within
(vs 1-3)**

¹What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? ² You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. ³ And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

- James begins where all sin begins – within, with interpersonal fractured relationships.
- The flesh, the urge to self-centeredness – “you want only what will give you pleasure.” Vs 3
- These sin handles give Satan and his demons footholds and legal ground in our life to disrupt our walk with God and in our relationships with others
- Examine your life – expose your sin handles - confess and repent of them

2. Facing the Ungodly Values of the World – the war from without (vs 4-5)

⁴ You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. ⁵ Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him.

- James stress breaking the ungodly values with the world
- To love the world and God at the same time is spiritual adultery

- The world represents the collective socialization of the activities of the flesh and the evil in high places that influence and control at will. (see chart pg. 56)

3. God's Affirmation of Grace (vs 6a)

^{6a} *And he gives grace generously.*

- Grace is a critical component in warfare
- Many believers are so battered by bruised emotions, personal failures and demons – they lose hope
- Undiscovered and undealt with sin and often evil spirits are tormenting them
- The promise right in the midst of warfare – is grace Reminds of the Oreo ☺



4. God's One Essential Qualification (vs 6b)

^{6b} *As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

- Pride is one of the first things in our lives that stops God and deliverance
- Finding the ground of sin in our lives which allows afflicting spirits to hinder the believer is critical

5. God's Commands and Promises (vs 7 – 8)

⁷ So **humble** yourselves before God. **Resist** the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ **Come close** to God, and God will come close to you. **Wash** your hands, you sinners; **purify** your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

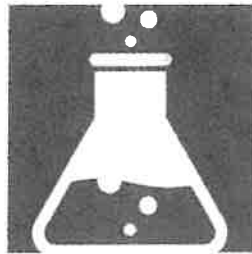
- **Humble Yourself** (wash and purify) The sin of our lives must be addressed. When we hold back an area of our lives from God, we have difficulty resisting the devil and seeing him flee

- **Resist the devil** – How? In the spoken word as Jesus did and in a righteous lifestyle. Time??? As long as it takes

- **FIRST PROMISE** of being humble and resisting is:

The Enemy will Flee From you

- He must flee – it is not his choice but God's alone
- A formula at last! $A+B=C$



- **SECOND PROMISE**

Come close and he will come close

C. Bruised Heel Lifestyle – Bearing the Bruises

Suffering enters all of our lives at one point or another.

It is not an invited guest but often an intruder. And in the midst of that intrusion, we experience devastation, confusion, hurt and pain. Then we are left wondering what in the world is going on and where is God in all of this?

Sin happens within us by our choices, sin happens upon us by the choices of others and life happens. Life and sin no matter how small or large the impact; bring pain, hurt and brokenness.

*"In everything we do, we show that we are true ministers of God. We patiently **endure troubles and hardships and calamities of every kind.**" 2 Corinthians 6:4*

What are your thoughts at this point with Bruised Heel Lifestyle concept?

➤ DISCUSSION POINT

Read the following and add your own verse or two to the list.

*"From now on let no one trouble me [by making it necessary for me to justify my authority as an apostle, and the absolute truth of the gospel], for **I bear on my body the branding-marks of Jesus** [the wounds, scars, and other outward evidence of persecutions—these testify to His ownership of me]." **Galatians 6:17***

*"We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. ⁹ We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. ¹⁰ **Through suffering**, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies." **2 Corinthians 4:8-10***

*"For our present **troubles** are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!" **2 Corinthians 4:17***

*"Joseph named his older son Manasseh, for he said, **'God has made me forget all my troubles and everyone in my father's family.'**" **Genesis 41:51***

*"If my misery could be weighed and my **troubles** be put on the scales..." **Job 6:2***

*"I will be glad and rejoice in your unfailing love, for you have seen my **troubles**, and you care about **the anguish of my soul.**" **Psalms 31:7***

*"He comforts us in all our **troubles** so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us." **2 Corinthians 1:4***

What verse would you add to this list?

What applications can you make from reading these verses?



The only way we can endure is to shift our mindset and theology of suffering and pain. Most of us have assumed that something is wrong with suffering. We look at suffering as something to avoid or escape and run from, something that ought never to be. Scripture paints a different picture.

I believe there is not always something wrong with suffering in and of itself. **Throughout the pages of scripture, suffering can be seen as a tool God uses in transforming His children into His likeness.** It can be seen as the way to life, the way to experience life, and the way to understand it. Suffering can be seen as something that opens the door into the very heart of God and into His mysteries.

I realize that this is a hard truth to digest and believe, and it seems to imply that God likes to bring suffering, that He ordains it, that He plans it into people lives. **So, if we are going to accept that suffering is a tool used by God, to bring transformation to our lives, we must first understand something about the way God thinks.** Because until we gain a measure of understanding here, we will continue to view our suffering as something that is bad, and God ought to take it away. How God sees things is often opposite from how we see.

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. Isaiah 55:8

In other words, if we have a differing view than Gods, let's not waste much time in determining who is right or wrong, or whose way is better. **2 Samuel states:**
"As for God His ways are perfect." We can't out do perfect. Scripture also reveals to us that His ways are full of paradoxes:

- To be first you become last
- To be strong you become weak
- The foolish are wise
- You lose your life to find it
- Giving is receiving
- The least in the kingdom is the greatest

So, what must we conclude here:

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. James 1:2-4

God calls us to accept in and throughout our lives, difficult situations. Bearing these bruises is hard and not easy. The second key to victory discussed early on page 21 was

Redemptive Suffering. Let's define these words:

- **Suffering:** Any experience where we are forced to endure pain, heartache and distress.
- **Redemption:** To make worthwhile or offset a bad effect.

So, what is the meaning of suffering? It is for the purpose of God redeeming and transforming us into His likeness. It is taking something that appears to be so bad, and turning it into something that brings glory to Him and joy to us.

So, why doesn't God relieve my pain? The truth is, God allows in his wisdom, what could easily be prevented by his power. That is His way, His way of drawing us into a place of humility in order to bring glory to His name.

Suffering can be redemptive if you allow it to be.

It is your choice to participate with God in your suffering or to remain frustrated in your own efforts to figure out how to get out of your circumstances.

The Bruised Heel Lifestyle

- A perpetual war is commenced between the kingdoms and proclaimed between the offspring.
- There is an ongoing crushing of Satan through Christ and our redeem lives - yet Satan will attempt to painfully but not mortally bruise and wound our heel
- We have 2 keys to victory: Authority and Redemptive Suffering
- Sovereignty in the midst of Abundance and Agony of the Christian Life

➤ TAKE A WAYS

INTRODUCTION:

SECTION ONE:
THE ORIGIN AND SCOPE OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

SECTION TWO:
THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IN CONTEXT OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

SECTION THREE:
POWER ENCOUNTERS

SECTION FOUR:
THE ROAD TO PERSONAL VICTORY

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