

BONUS CONTENT 18 - Spiritual Warfare | Rev 9

Chuck Swindoll says “Although we dwell in a physical reality, an unseen realm also exists, which influences our everyday lives. This spiritual realm will become increasingly more visible in the future.”

Rev 8 and 9 showed us the reality of the unseen world ...

- **Rev 8** - God removes only some of His common grace to the world and the world gets rocked.
- **Rev 9** - The 3 WOES show how God allows satan to have more freedom to work and all hell breaks loose!
- In this episode we examine the reality of the unseen world and spiritual warfare.
- Although we aren't experiencing the Rev 9 events now (7-year tribulation), we are still dealing with satan and demonic activity here and now on this earth.

We as believers have an adversary. This is what the word SATAN actually means.

1 Peter 5:8-9 *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*

We need to be aware of our enemy and fight against him!

- Satan is on the attack and he won't stop until God throws him into the lake of fire.
- “This battle ground is no place for remote observers or even embedded reporters. Like it or not, are very presence on earth as members of God's redeemed people demands our full throttle participation.” Chuck Swindoll
- Ignoring the reality of spiritual warfare is not smart and it won't make this reality go away!
 - God gives us the full **Armor of God** to fight against our great enemy. (Episode 19)

Revelation 9, satan, the king of fallen angels or demons, is given the power and authority by God to open the abyss and release these demons on earth as part of the instruments of God's divine wrath BUT satan and his demons are at work on our earth today as well!

Eph 6:12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

Let's start this study with where this war started...THE FALL OF SATAN!

Rev 9:1b (NASB) *and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him.*

- Satan is also called Lucifer (star of dawn, morning) and is an angel.
- He is a created being who was given power and authority for God's glory.
- This is important because people often associate satan and Jesus as equals - they are not!
 - Jesus is the Creator and satan is a created being.
 - Satan is limited in his power, for example, he is not omnipresent (everywhere).
- In Satan's pride He desired to be worshipped as God, resulting in him being kicked out of heaven.

Isa 14:12-15 gives us a picture of this: *“How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! 13 You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the*

clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' 15 But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.

- Satan in his pride was cast out of heaven by God.
 - God opposes the proud. (**James 4:6**)
- A third of the angels went with Him. (**Rev 12:4**)
- **Rev 12:7-9** gives us a picture of this comic battle:
7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.
- Jesus told the 72 disciples in **Luke 10:18** “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”
- **Job 1:6-7** tells us that satan is active and alive here on earth: *6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. 7 The Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”*

A response of ignorance to the present reality of spiritual warfare and satanic opposition is an unwise and unbiblical position.

- As those redeemed and brought out of darkness, we are instructed to recognize and engage in this battle of spiritual warfare.
- God has a plan and a purpose and will use us to glorify Him in the midst of the conflict.
- Example of the present conflict of satanic opposition: Daniel’s prayers were heard (**Daniel 10:10-14**) yet the angel sent to Daniel was delayed because of spiritual warfare.
 - Have you ever considered that spiritual warfare could be the cause of delay towards our answer to prayer? **1 John 5:14-15** (God hears our prayers)
 - Without the knowledge of spiritual warfare, you might see God’s inactivity or harshness the cause of the delay.
 - **Rev. 5:8, 8:3-4** Our prayers are as sweet incense before God.
 - Our prayers make a difference, as God will make ever wrong right as we engage in this warfare.

Understanding Spiritual warfare promotes our dependance upon God.

Eph 6:11 *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.*

- If you don’t take these things seriously, you won’t depend on God and our fight will be in our own limited strength.
- In the battle of spiritual warfare, our victory and hope is in Jesus...**1 John 4:4** *for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*
- **Jude 1:9** *But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.”* This great and powerful angel (Michael) depended on the Lord for the rebuke and judgement against satan.
- Our power is in the name of Jesus, in His character and His might. We only overcome with Jesus and not our own strength!
- The approach of ignorance regarding spiritual warfare can be very dangerous because satan is roaming around the earth with the intent to destroy lives. (including yours)

Abaddon (Hebrew) & Apollyon (Greek) Rev 9:11 Both name translations mean destruction! (representing that satan is destructive to all people and races)

- Satan wants to destroy all people who are made in the image of God as a human.
- As you have been snatched from darkness to walk in God's calling and purposes, you are a target to satan.
- Jesus said in **John 10:10** *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.* We can walk in the abundant life of God's goodness, as we rely on His strength.

"This is a world at war. Since the devil's successful temptation of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden (Gen 3), the battle has continued. Not only has it affected human history; it also will one day engulf the whole world in deception and destruction." Chuck Swindoll

Another commentary said, "Satan's goal is to get you turned from God to hinder your progress. This is done through lies, murder, persecution, deception, confusion, or all matter of sin which he can involve you in. Satan will at times bring physical calamity, as in the life of Job, to attempt to turn God's people away from the truth. He will try every scheme to accomplish his goal. **His nature and character are described in the scriptures as the original murder, liar, and sinner.**" Glenn Shaffer

Jesus told us in **John 8:44** *He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

1 John 3:8 says... *"for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."*

Satan will never have victory over Jesus. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil!

Be aware of the devil's schemes. Satan is known as (his character):

The devil (**Matt 4:1**), The ruler of this world (**John 12:31; 14:30**), The evil one (**Matt 13:19**), The serpent (**2 Cor 11:3**), The tempter (**Matt 4:3; 1 Thes 3:5**), The accuser (**Rev 12:10**), Beelzebub (dung-god) (**Matt 10:25; 12:24**).

- All these names reflect some portion of his activities.

He is a limited creature and not only is it him we face but his demons.

- Demons are fallen angels that followed satan in this great cosmic battle!

"General names are given to demons to identify their character as being evil spirits, unclean spirits, and perverse spirits. These are not specific names but would certainly describe demons of all kinds." Glenn Shaffer

"Not every time the word "spirit" is used does it refer to a demon. Sometimes it is used to describe a disposition. (Spirit of heaviness (**Isa 61:3**), spirit of stupor (**Rom 11:8**), spirit of jealousy (**Num 5:14**)) A good example of Scripture is what some would call a "spirit of haughtiness." In context it refers to a proud human spirit, not a demon: *"Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall"* (**Proverbs 16: 18**). That is not to say that an evil spirit could not tempt someone to pride, but there is no biblical name for such." Glenn Shaffer

- Some claim that there is a demon for EVERYTHING. EXAMPLE: The demon of abuse, alcohol, or fear...**blaming demons can take away personal responsibility for our sin.**
- NOT EVERY BATTLE IS FROM SATAN AND HIS DEMONS...remember we still are fighting against our flesh, and the ways of the world! (**Rom 7:17-20; James 1:13-15; 1 John 2:16**)

Biblical names for demonic spirits (fallen angels) FROM GLENN SHAFFER (Discipleship 201)

1 Spirit of infirmity (Luke 13:11-16) Not every sickness is caused by a demon, but we see from these verses that it is real. The Bible tells us that Jesus went about doing good and healing all that were under the power of the devil (**Acts 10:38**). A spirit of infirmity may cause chronic illness or lingering disorders of the body.

2 Spirit of divination (prediction) (Acts 16:16-18) The spirit of divination was able to predict the future, that is, as far as the people were concerned. Only God knows the future. However, evil spirits may observe people's lives, their talk, and their plans, and communicate to someone with a spirit of divination, thus appearing to tell the future. God warns us about having anything to do with witchcraft, mediums, sorcerers, contacting the dead, and the like (**Deuteronomy 18: 10-12**). The Bible says that rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, so rebellion, stubbornness, and control can be a manifestation of this spirit as well.

3 Deaf and mute spirit (Mark 9:25-27) This spirit not only kept a boy from hearing and talking, but it also tried to kill him in water and fire. It apparently threw the boy into convulsions from time to time, including the moment Jesus commanded the spirit to leave. Jesus rebuked the deaf and mute spirit.

4 Spirit of Whoredoms (prostitution) (Hosea 4:12) A spirit that primarily works in the areas of sexual sin and unfaithfulness. It is prevalent in all manner of sexual sin and perverseness, including molestation, rape, incest, lust, seduction, exhibitionism, etc. This demon, like other spirits, looks for influence through sinful patterns.

5 Lying spirit (2 Chronicles 18:22; 1 Kings 22:21-22) This spirit works in many areas because the nature of Satan himself is deception and lying. A lying spirit can be traced to rejection, fear, oppression, deception, pride, and many other strongholds.

6 Spirit of Antichrist (1 John 4:3) This spirit works to reject Jesus as the Son of God and brings persecution against the saints and the work of the church. It opposes the miraculous works of Christ. John and the other apostles, no doubt, dealt with this spirit regularly.

These types of spirits and methods of demonic attack from Glenn Shaffer's comments will help us to think biblically about fallen spirits/demons. I don't think this sums up every type of demon, but it is a good start in seeking biblical truth regarding the spiritual warfare we face. Though it is scary, **it should cause us to take this cosmic battle serious!**

Chuck Swindoll Said, "An invisible war rages. The warriors strike unsuspecting victims without warning, afflicting them at their weakest moments. Their insidious attacks leave individuals and families reeling in pain and heartache. This war has been rumbling for centuries-even millennia. I'm not referring to political battles over borders fought between nations and kingdoms. This is not a social or cultural war against terrorism, poverty, drugs, or pornography. No, this is spiritual warfare between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light- and every human is in danger of imminent attack."

We see from **Rev 9 (& Eph 6:12)** that there are ranks of demons and these powerful beings are in our world! Again worth repeating, it is not wise for us to just ignore them and their attacks!

“They (speaking of satan and demons) have never ceased pursuing their ultimate goals of destroying humanity's dignity and driving a wedge between humans and their creator.” Chuck Swindoll

The Bible teaches 4 levels of demonic activity in the world (FROM J Hampton Keathley III)

1 Demon Influence and Temptation: In view of Satan's constant activity through his demonic forces, all people face this to some degree (**1 Pet 5:8; Eph 2:2; 6:12-13; 1 Tim 4:1-2; 2 Tim 2:26**)

2 Demon Subjection or Control: This occurs through the lust patterns of the flesh and the many temptations found in the world which, of course, operates to a large degree under Satan's control and influence. It is for this reason that he is called “the god of this world (age) (**2 Cor 4:4**) and the “ruler of this world” (**John 12:31; 16:11; also see Eph 2:2; 1 John 2:15-17; Mark 4:14-19**).

3 Demon Harassment or Oppression: This involves direct demonic attack that often leads to severe harm mentally, emotionally, and physically. This is possibly the cause of Paul's thorn in the flesh that he describes as "a messenger of Satan" mention in **2 Corinthians 12:7**.

4 Demon Possession: Demon possession is a condition where a demon (or demons) actually take up residence within the body of a person and not only controls the person but uses their central nervous system and vocal cords. The gospels are filled with illustrations of this.

As we see this demonic activity in our world today...

THIS IS WHY WE NEED CHRIST AND HIS AUTHORITY & POWER!!!

1 John 4:4 *Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

- Although demons are active and influencing this world, we can overcome in Christ.

I BELIEVE THAT A CHRISTIAN CAN NOT BE POSSESSED by a demon!!!

- God's Spirit lives inside of every Christian and will not allow a demon to possess His Child

We can be tempted, subjected, and even oppressed (attacked) by the demonic realm BUT **WE CAN HAVE VICTORY IN CHRIST!!!**

Chuck Swindoll said “During His earthly ministry, Jesus gave authority to 70 of His followers to preach, to heal, and cast out demons (**Luke 10:1-16**). Upon returning from their “short-term mission”, they exclaimed, ‘Lord even the demons are subject to us in your name’ (**Luke 10:17**)”.

- Jesus has given us this same authority! (**Matt 28:18-20**)
- We are able to walk in the authority of Christ and rebuke the enemy in Jesus name!
Mark 16:17b *...in my name they will cast out demons*
Prov 18:10 *The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.*
- We are covered by Jesus' blood and protected from this enemy!
- We were slaves of sin, but we are now slaves of righteousness and the enemy doesn't have any power over us! (**Romans 6; 1 Peter 2:9-10**)
- We are able to walk in victory when we walk in the ways of Jesus and don't buy the lies of the enemy!
James 4:7 *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
- God's Spirit and His ways protect our lives! (**Psalms 91; 23; 121:7-8; Isa 41:10-12**)
2 Thes 3:3 *But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.*
2 Tim 4:18 *The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

- When need to understand that Jesus defeated Satan on the cross and Jesus will have the final victory!
- We do not need to walk in fear, but in faith looking to Jesus.
Rev 20:10 *And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*
 - There is no redemption for fallen angels (**2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6**)
- Satan will not have the final victory BUT God will, and we are on His Side!

Circling back to Revelation 9, Chuck Swindoll in his commentary states 4 practical things we can learn and apply from the text:

1 We must remember that, although they are very invisible, demons are real and aggressive.

“Not all demons are confined to the abyss (see **Luke 8:31**). Countless spirits of wickedness roam freely, and as long as they do, they are in search and destroy mode. They'll pounce at any opportunity to strike both believers and unbelievers. Sometimes we'd rather pretend these beings don't exist- or that they are so limited in power that we don't need to worry about them. Not true! Ignorance of our enemies gives them an advantage over us. Don't be naïve! -CS

2 We are reminded that demons are organized and committed to destruction.

Like a battle-hardened army, Satan's forces know how to wage an efficient war to conquer the hearts and minds of all people. From subtle tricks to a full-blown spiritual blitzkrieg, they are ready to use whatever means necessary to win. CS

- In light of this truth, the question we must ask ourselves is are we ready?
- Are we taking these realities seriously and preparing against the attacks and schemes of our enemy?

1 Peter 1:13-16 (NASB) *13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*

3 We should be encouraged that, although these demons are powerful, they have limitations.

We see that even during the tribulation these wicked angels can only do what they are allowed to do. Today —in the age of the Spirit's restraining power through the church — their abilities are even more limited (**2 Thes 2:6-8**) CS

- Satan is not all powerful...GOD IS!!!
- God is sovereign and He is limiting satan and his destructive ways by His grace!
- We should not underestimate satan's power because he is a greater being then we are BUT we can have assurance knowing our God is greater!
- We must remain STRONG in the strength of God's Might and abide in Him (**Eph 6:10-18; John 15:4-5**)

4 We must never forget that these aggressive and insidious creatures flee at the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“At His matchless name they cower in fear, run for cover, and scramble for survival. With a single syllable of rebuke, Jesus Christ can flatten Satan's entire army. They are no match for him (**Luke 8:26-31**). Let Christ handle your spiritual battles for you. Submit to Him. CS

I love the picture of Armageddon in **Rev 19:19-21** *And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. 20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.*

- Satan and anyone who opposes Jesus-our great God, will never win!
- He destroys them by simply speaking...just saying the word!

We have victory over the demonic realm as we speak Jesus' name and His Word into our lives and His truth abolishes the lies of satan!

"Be encouraged! Through Christ we can be victors over the forces of darkness not victims of their evil schemes". -CS

On our next episode I want to walk you through the Armor of God in Eph 6 to help you with the practical steps for walking in victory! So keep fighting the good fight and rest in Christ for victory.