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This book is dedicated to all who sincerely desire to learn more from the Word of God in order to live a God-glorifying lifestyle, and to those who will use it to teach others the positives of God's Word in the here and now.

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years much has been said about the subject of Spiritual Warfare. It is a very real part of our Christian life ~ especially if we genuinely want to live in victory ourselves, and especially if we want to see the captives set free. As we approach the climax of the ages (which will usher in the return of our Lord Jesus) we need to be aware that the enemy of our souls, Satan, is unleashing everything he has against humanity. He is desperate to take as many people as possible to destruction with him! Therefore, we who know the Lord and who have "understanding of the times ... to know what to do" (1 Chronicles 12:32) need to be aware of the strategies of the devil and work to break his hold over the minds of men.

Spiritual Warfare is more than a theory or teaching. It is knowing that God has given us "**power over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt us**" (Luke 10:19, KJV). It is being prepared to put what we know to the test and being willing to confront the devil in the Name of Jesus and see him go!

More and more who are coming to Jesus today are coming out of a background involvement of alternative lifestyles of new-age, eastern mysticism, witchcraft and Satanism, etc., much of which is "loaded" with evil spirits of various sorts. Others are bound with generational and ancestral bondages, sexual perversions and deviations. Then there are others whose rights have been violated through physical torment and torture, incest and rape.

We live in a sick, sad and broken society, much of which has been caused by the intrusion and interference from the kingdom of darkness: evil spirits that are out to take people away from the truth found only in Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Warfare is knowing how to minister to many different kinds of afflictions Satan has placed on humanity, and using our authority in Jesus to claim back those precious people "to the glory of God." ~ **Rodney W. Francis.**

CHAPTER ONE

SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS KNOWING, FACING, FIGHTING, AND DEFEATING SATANIC FORCES IN THE NAME OF JESUS!

" . . . Be, strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him; draw your strength from Him]; [that strength which His boundless might provides].

Put on God's whole armour [the armour of a heavy-armed soldier, which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and deceits of the devil.

For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms ("absolute or tyrannical rulers or governments" - Collins), against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.

Therefore put on God's complete armour, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place].

Stand therefore [hold your ground], having tightened the belt of truth around your loins and having put on the breastplate of integrity and of moral rectitude ("correctness of judgment" – Collins) and right standing with God;

And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace [Isaiah 52:7].

Lift up over all the [covering] shield of saving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked [one].

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God.

Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding on behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people).

And [pray] also for me, that [freedom of] utterance may be given me, that I may open my mouth to proclaim boldly the mystery of the good news [the Gospel], For which I am an ambassador in a coupling chain [in prison. Pray] that I may declare it boldly and courageously as I ought to do" (Ephesians 6;10-20, AMP).

"Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11, KJV).

The word "wiles" comes from the Greek word "methodeia" and means:

- "Methods, artifices, cunning, frauds" (Young's). "Artifices" are "crafty or subtle deceptions; skillfully contrived devices" (Collins).
- "Methods, arts, artifices, cunning devices, contrivances, crafts, wiles" (Bullinger's).
- "Trickery, cunning or craftiness; artful or seductive tricks or ploys; to lure, beguile, or entice" (Collins).

These Scriptures and word meanings show us that we have to be on guard against the cunning devices of the devil.

He continually plans and schemes to turn us aside from the ongoing purposes of God. His methods are always to strip us of our full inheritance in the finished work of Calvary. That finished work stripped the devil of all his power and credibility. But we must enter into that total victory Jesus achieved, or we will be robbed of the power of its tremendous truth!

Another word meaning for "wiles" is "contrivances" meaning:
"1. Something contrived, especially an ingenious device; contraption.

2. The act or faculty of devising or adapting; inventive skill or ability.
3. An artificial rather than natural selection or arrangement of details, parts, etc.
4. An elaborate or deceitful plan or expedient; stratagem" (Collins).

In the Scriptural setting here, it is always to do with deviousness in order to pull one's life down; to gain the

advantage over, as in a wrestling match: you pin him down, or he'll pin you!

"Wiles" has to do with being crafty. A "crafty" person is one who is:

- "Skilled in deception; shrewd; cunning" (Collins).
- "Cunning (usually in the bad sense); prudent, subtle" (Strong's); from the Hebrew word "arwm."
- "To be (or make) bare; but used only in the derogatory sense (through the idea perhaps of smoothness); to be cunning (usually in a bad sense) (Strong's); from the Hebrew word "aram."

"That you may be able to stand against the wiles ("contrivances, craftiness") ***of the devil"***
(Ephesians 6:11).

These word meanings show us quite clearly that our opponent is a skilled fighter. He is out to trick us, to cunningly deceive us into thinking he is not all bad. He is always out to defuse the Christian of the truth of God's Word, because it is the knowing of the truth (Jesus) that gives victory and freedom over Satan's ploys. When we do not know the truth, we do not have the power or authority to exercise over the powers of the devil and his evil devices. Therefore we must have our eyes and ears open to see and know what he is up to today.

- **Do not be deceived by the devil!**
- **Put on the whole armour of God!**

Listen to what the Bible teaches us ~ for our good and protection ~ and stand against the wiles of the wicked one.

CHAPTER TWO

WHO IS THE DEVIL?

The Greek word here is “diabolos” meaning:

- “A traducer (“to speak badly or maliciously of; to disgrace” - Collins’); “a false accuser; slanderer” (Strong’s).
- “Diabolus, the chief of the Demons, who are his angels, slanderous . . . Accuser . . . (to throw over, hence, accuse, malign). Hence the more general term of the enemy, the enemy of men, because he is the disturber of their connection with God” (Bullinger’s).

How true! The devil is actively working to “disturb our connection with God”!! No wonder we are told to stand against him!

“In the New Testament the plural word “devils” is specially applied to evil spirits, which are viewed in their morally destructive influence. They appear as special powers of evil in the service of Satan (Matthew 12:26-28) influencing the physical and the psychical life of human beings. Probably they take possession of the place that belongs to the spirit, so that the action of the personal life is disturbed and deranged” (Bullinger’s).

The word “psychic” means: “Outside the possibilities defined by natural laws . . . sensitive to forces not recognized by natural laws . . .” (Collins).

The devil is also known by the name “Satan” (Hebrew) and “Satanas” (Greek), meaning “an opponent, adversary, the

arch-enemy of good; an attacker, accuser, resister" (Strong's). Another meaning given is: "opposing spirit, the hater" (Young's). The name "Satan" is mentioned 54 times in the Bible (see list of Scriptures at the end of this chapter).

"For we wrestle against . . ." (verse 12).

- "Wrestle" means "struggle, tussle" ~ it's a combat of strength and tactics against an opponent who wants to beat you.

"For we wrestle against principalities . . ."
(verse 12).

- "Principalities" speak of "the first place; government, the highest dignitaries of the State; it relates to the dignity of the position ~ to its executive authority and power" (Bullinger's).
- Collins' Dictionary gives "principalities" as meaning "the seventh of the nine orders into which the angels are divided in medieval ("primitive or middle ages") angelology ~ the nine orders being: 1. Seraphim 2. Cherubim 3. Thrones 4. Dominations (or dominions) 5. Virtues 6. Powers 7. Principalities (or prince-doms) 8. Archangels, and 9. Angels."

Collins gives "principality" and "principalities" as meaning: "1. a territory ruled by a prince. 1b. a territory from which a prince draws his title. 2. the dignity or authority of a prince."

Paul says **we wrestle against these spiritual principalities!**

Let us remind ourselves again that these principalities are spiritual, not physical. They exist in the unseen realm. **The**

spirit world can only be “seen” and understood by the spiritual insight God gives us.

Those who are not born-again, Holy Spirit-filled believers in Jesus Christ, and who give themselves to occultic practices, can also “see,” **which actively works to blind them from “seeing” the greater, more powerful truth of God the Holy Spirit.**

I have talked with a middle-aged person who was born into a life of satanic worship and rituals, who had never heard of God ~ ever! She had been so blinded to the true spirit realm that when I talked of how much God really loves her, she could not comprehend it. Her argument was, *“If God exists and loves me so much, why has He let me go through all the heartache and tragedies?”* Life was (and maybe still is) a living hell for her. She has been on the run for years, from country to country and, unfortunately (at the time of writing this) I have lost contact with her. She knew the satanic side of the spirit world only too well. It was full of hurt and evil, hounding and sacrifice, fear and torment.

We Christians are so privileged to be able to live in the good side of the spirit world because of **all that Jesus has accomplished for us!** The challenge, therefore, is that we be aware of the whole picture of life and not be blinded into “seeing” only a very small part. I am in no way saying that we should be studying up and seeking experiences in the darker side of the spirit world, but to recognize that it does exist, that scores of people in our modern world are bound by evil spirits and/or evil activities, and that the only way they are going to be set free is for them **to experience a truly life-changing encounter with God the Holy Spirit.** And because God the Holy Spirit indwells the true believer,

we have authority to set those people free (who want to be free) from all the power of the enemy, Satan. Praise the Lord!

- **There are evil principalities and powers.**
- **There are good principalities and powers!**

All are active in the spirit or unseen, invisible realm. The spirit world ~ both good and evil ~ is more powerful than the physical, seen world. So, be awake and be on guard!

And . . . **know** that "**Greater is He Who is in us, than he (Satan) *that is in the world***" (1 John 4:4).

- **That promise is to the overcomers! Those who overcome the spirit world!**

Back to Ephesians 6:

"We wrestle against powers . . ." (verse 12).

"Powers" here refers to "delegated authority, liberty, or authority to do anything. A combination of right and might" (Bullinger's).

Collins gives this meaning: "1. ability or capacity to do something . . . 4. control or dominion or a position of control, dominion or authority . . . 6. a person who exercises control, influence or authority."

Satan's kingdom has a hierarchy, with numbers of evil spirits or demons who seek to fulfil their given instructions to bring about the downfall of humanity; **to rob them of knowing life through faith in Jesus Christ.**

A "hierarchy" is:

1. a system of persons or things arranged in a graded order.
2. a body of persons in holy orders organized into graded ranks.
3. the collective body of those so organized.
4. a series of ordered groupings within a system . . .
5. government by an organized priesthood" (Collins).

A spiritual hierarchy operates just like the dictionary states for a physical hierarchy. Satan is the head of the kingdom of darkness, with graded ranks of demonic forces below him.

Ephesians 6:12 is speaking of spiritual powers that are seeking to disempower the Christians (individually) and the Church (collectively) and control its activities through its own ineffectiveness. We, as members of the Church, must wrestle against those powers. It is not a "**flesh and blood**" fight. It is spiritual and it is real.

Experience has shown us that when dealing with evil spirits and evil spirit activity, some spirits are easier to deal with than others. Some will come out with just one command in Jesus' Name, while others are more stubborn, resistant and powerful, and need some time to see the victory take place. Jesus acknowledged the various "strengths" of spirits when

dealing with the dumb spirit in the boy recorded in Matthew 17:14-21; Mark 9:17-29 and Luke 9:37-45.

Sometimes we have to prepare ourselves prior to ministering to these "stronger" spirits by special disciplines of prayer and fasting. In Mark 9:29 Jesus said, "***This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting***" (AMP). (Some Bible versions do not include fasting in this verse). When Jesus said "***This kind***" He was stating that the spirit in that boy making him dumb was a stronger spirit than other kinds.

There is a hierarchy in the spirit realm with power to match their respective positions of authority.

"We wrestle against the rulers of the darkness of this world . . ." (verse 12).

- "Ruler" means "World-ruler" (Young's).
- "***Rulers***" means "lord of the world" or "the world holders (of this darkness)" (Bullinger's).
- "Persons who rule or command" (Collins).

"Rulers" in the spirit realm are exactly what their name declares. "***Rulers***" rule! They rule over! Therefore there are those who submit under. There are spirits who are subordinate ("1. of lesser order or importance. 2. under the authority or control of another . . . 4. to put in a lower rank or position (than). 5. to make subservient" – Collins).

The Apostle Paul states that we must wrestle against the "***rulers***" ~ the big ones! The chiefs!

I remember ministering to a nine-year-old girl who was under a witchcraft spell as a result of her mother breaking off a relationship. The "boy friend" was into witchcraft (unknown to her when the relationship started) and tried to get back at the mother through her daughter (that's cunning!). When the daughter manifested in an uncontrollable way over 1200 miles from where she was hexed, I was called in to see if I could help. When I say manifested I mean four adults could not stop that nine-year-old from breaking cups, saucers and plates! When I arrived she had calmed down a little and so I sat her on my knee and began to talk to her at the level of a nine-year-old about what Jesus wanted to do for her that day. When I began to pray for her, the girl got a coloured vision of what was happening in the spirit realm. She "saw" her mind like the keyboard on a piano. Running up and down the keyboard were a number of (in her words) "little black men." In the corner of the room she saw a "big black angel" who was giving orders to the "little black men" on the keyboard. They had been carrying out his orders. When I began to bring the power of the finished work of Calvary through the blood of Jesus Christ against the spirits in that girl, she described it as follows: "I see God coming down from heaven with a big bucket of 'red paint'! He is pouring it over the little black men on the keyboard and they are running in all directions." (As they ran away her mind became clear and free). When the little black men ran away the big black angel in the corner got very angry and demanded the little black men get back and pound the keyboard. The little black men were in a real state of panic because they had to obey the big black angel, but the "red paint" or blood of Jesus was much stronger!

After I prayed there came a peace into the girl and the room. So we sat chatting for about 10 minutes when the nine-year-old saw the little black men being ordered back to the keyboard again. They did come back and again confusion filled her mind. Again I prayed and came against the

witchcraft hex, powers of Satan, etc., and again the girl saw the scene repeated. This time they left and she was free.

At the end of the session (which lasted approximately 45 minutes) an unsaved man (one of the four who tried to control the manifesting girl before I arrived), when he saw the change in the girl, came into the room and sat at my feet, saying, "Sir, will you lead me to **Jesus**?" Right there and then I was able to lead that man to Jesus! Wonderful Jesus!

- **When the power of the ruler is broken people come closer to Jesus!**

Back to Ephesians 6:

"We wrestle against spiritual wickedness in high places . . ." (Verse 12).

"Wickedness" is "evil nature, delight in evil, malignity, malevolence, the wicked act of the mind" (Bullinger's).

- "Malignity" is "the condition or quality of being malign ("evil in influence, intention, or effect. To slander or defame"), malevolent, or deadly. A malign or malicious act or feeling" (Collins).
- "Malevolent" is wishing or appearing to wish evil to others; malicious. Having an evil influence" (Collins).

"High places" ~ speaks of "heavenly places."

Many who are enticed into witchcraft and other occult practices are then held into those things by wicked deeds that they have to perform as part of their "initiation." This is, in part, a kind of self-protection for the higher ranking people in that group. Once a new "member" has committed

some atrocity (in the Satanic covens it is often a baby sacrifice plus other revolting practices) that locks the new member into a code of silence or "secrecy vow." If anyone tells or goes to the police, the others in the group have sufficient evidence to make sure the one who talks "goes down with them." It is wickedness done as a result of opening the life up to evil spirits.

Some people in high ranking positions within our governments, top businesses, professions, etc., are known to be involved in secret societies, covens, orders . . . from where they are able to control a lot of people through their occultic powers and positions of authority. "***Spiritual wickedness in high places***" is always very anti-Christian but not anti the world's religious systems. They don't mind us being religious as long as we have no power. No power means no threat!

EVIL DAYS:

We are living in openly evil days. Our modern societies have become so mixed-up in their understanding of what life is all about that it now seems that "good is evil and evil is good; right is wrong and wrong is right."

- **There is no fear of God anymore!**

Even in the Church there appears to be very little fear of God! And if we Christians do not have a healthy respect for God, then who will?

We must "***withstand***" ~ ("to stand against; to set one's self against, i.e. to oppose, resist, withstand") ***in the evil day.***" Against spiritual foes we are called "***to STAND!***" (verses 11, 13-14).

"To stand" means:

- "1. To be or cause to be in an erect or upright position . . . 6. To adopt or remain in a resolute position or attitude . . . 8. To remain in force or continue in effect, whatever the difficulties . . . 13. To resist, survive: to stand the test of time" (Collins).

We are called to stand! To resist the onslaughts of the enemy! The days are such that true Christians must unite together to "help fight truth decay!"

We must be alive in and for the truth of God. The strategies against us are subtle . . . very subtle. So, whatever the difficulties, we must always seek to stand up for Jesus and stand against the wicked one and to stand in the evil day.

In 2 Corinthians 11:1-4 Paul gives us some more insight into the workings of our enemy Satan:

"Would to God you could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused ("promised" - NIV) you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste ("consecrated" - Young's) virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that comes preaches another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if you receive another spirit, which you have not received, or another Gospel, which you have not accepted, you might well bear with him."

Another translation puts it this way:

"I am anxious for you with the deep concern of God Himself ~ anxious that your love should be for Christ alone, just as a pure maiden saves her love for one

man only, for the one who will be her husband. But I am frightened, fearing that in some way you will be led away from your pure and simple devotion to our Lord, just as Eve was deceived by Satan in the Garden of Eden. You seem to be gullible (“easily taken in or tricked” – Collins): ***you believe whatever anyone tells you even if he is preaching about another Jesus than the One we preach, or a different spirit than the Holy Spirit you received, or shows you a different way to be saved. You swallow it all*** (2 Corinthians 11:2-4, TLB).

Powerful words!

Powerful challenge!

Satan is the **“serpent”** (verse 3 and Genesis 3:1-5) meaning: “2. A manifestation of Satan as a guileful tempter. 3. A sly, deceitful or unscrupulous person” (Collins). “Symbolically used of the devil meaning to see, behold; to eye, view accurately” (Bullinger’s).

Satan **“beguiled”** Eve.

“Beguile” means: 1. “To deceive greatly” (“deceive” means “to mislead by deliberate misinterpretation or lies” – Young’s). 2. “To reckon wrong, miscount; to reason falsely; then, to cheat or delude by false reasoning” (Bullinger’s). “3. To charm; fascinate.”

How did Satan beguile Eve? Through his **“subtlety”**:

“Subtlety” means: “Unscrupulous, cunning” (Young’s). “Unscrupulous conduct, knavery (“a deceitful or dishonest act; trickery” – Collins), villainy (“1. vicious behaviour or action 2. an evil, abhorrent, or criminal act or deed” – Collins) (Bullinger’s).”

“Subtle” means: “1. Not immediately obvious or comprehensible. 2. Difficult to detect or analyze, often through being delicate or highly refined . . . 4. Marked by or requiring mental acuteness or ingenuity; discriminating. 5.

Delicate or faint: a subtle shade. 6. Cunning or wily.
7. Operating or executed in secret" (Collins).

When we look at the character of Satan described as a serpent (snake) and the meanings of "beguile" and "subtle," we do need to ask ourselves whether or not we are taking too many things for granted?

- **Are we really aware of Satan's tactics?**

Or, do we think he is only working on deceiving others? If we are "worth our salt" as a Christian, then we should know that Satan is out to pull us down, to outsmart and outwit us so we'll be reduced to "has-beens."

- **Christian ~ there's a subtle, spiritual war going on . . . and you're in it! And so am I! It's happening right now!**

Satan works on our minds to "**corrupt**" them from the simplicity ("plainness, singleness") that is in Christ (verse 3).

"To corrupt" means "to spoil, destroy; to bring into a worse state." The serpent subtly worked on Eve to destroy her faith in God's Word and made her **TO DOUBT IT**. He wants us to doubt it also! It is Satan who always seeks to get us away from Christ in order to get us to believe in other things. He doesn't mind what we do or get involved with, as long as it does not include **Jesus Christ being Lord of our life**.

Satan goes to great lengths to deceive the Christian.

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed

as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (2 Corinthians 11:13-15, KJV).

We must continually be on our guard against our unseen foe!

"For this is my purpose in writing you, to test your attitude and see if you would stand the test, whether you are obedient and altogether agreeable [to following my orders] in everything. If you forgive any one anything, I too forgive that one; and what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sakes in the presence [and with the approval] of Christ, the Messiah, To keep Satan from getting the advantage over us; for we are not ignorant of his wiles and intentions" (2 Corinthians 2:9-11, AMP.).

In 2 Corinthians 2:10-11 Paul warns us that Satan seeks to get an advantage over us. He continually seeks "to get the better of us; to defraud or make a prey of us."

"Advantage" means: 1. "To gain a more superior or favourable position of power; to seduce" (Collins).

One of the main ways the devil works on Christians to gain the better of us is to create situations amongst believers where we hurt one another ~ and then fail to forgive. **UNFORGIVENESS** is an open invitation to Satan to take advantage of us!

- **Don't be ignorant of his devices** ("thoughts, plans, purposes")!

Satan is **"the accuser** ("one who speaks against") **of the brethren, who accuses us before God day and night"** (See Revelation 12:9-11).

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil! (Hebrews 2:14 and 1 John 3:8). We must know this truth in reality in our lives and see the victory worked out in our generation.

- **Don't be ignorant of who our enemy is and how he works!**

This book contains only a few Scriptures on this subject, but enough to let you know that the Bible teaches and warns of the evil workings of Satan against Christians.

"The BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST cleanses from all sin!"

~ when we walk in the light with Him! (1 John 1:7).

54 TIMES!

The name "Satan" is mentioned 54 times in the Bible (Strong's):

1 Chronicles 21:1; Job 1:6; Job 1:7 (twice); Job 1:8; Job 1:9; Job 1:12 (twice); Job 2:1; Job 2:2 (twice); Job 2:3; Job 2:4; Job 2:6; Job 2:7; Psalm 109:6; Zechariah 3:1; Zechariah 3:2; Matthew 4:10; Matthew 12:26 (twice); Matthew 16:23; Mark 1:13; Mark 3:23 (twice); Mark 3:26; Mark 4:15; Mark 8:33; Luke 4:8; Luke 10:18; Luke 11:18; Luke 13:16; Luke 22:3; Luke 22:31; John 13:27; Acts 5:3; Acts 26:18; Romans 16:20; 1 Corinthians 5:5; 1 Corinthians 7:5; 2 Corinthians 2:11; 2 Corinthians 11:14; 2 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Thessalonians 2:18; 2 Thessalonians 2:9; 1 Timothy 1:20; 1 Timothy 5:15; Revelation 2:9; Revelation 2:24; Revelation 3:9; Revelation 12:9; Revelation 20:2; Revelation 20:7.

If you are especially interested in learning more about Spiritual Warfare and the tactics of the enemy, the following books by the same author are recommended:

- The Evil Powers of Canaan (Book)
- Baal Worship (Manual)
- Counselling and Deliverance Seminar (Manual)



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