

## SATANOLOGY (36)

**(Victory Step #4) - Understand him. II Cor. 2:11**

The Apostle Paul believed ignorance was a key warfare tactic of Satan. The word “ignorance” speaks of not knowing, recognizing and understanding the various schemes of Satan. The word “schemes” is different than in Ephesians 6:11 (μεθοδια), which speaks of his methodology. This word (νοηματα) emphasizes the thoughts and purposes and designs. This word has to do with the way Satan thinks (Smith, pp. 303-304).

Paul had knowledge of how Satan thinks and operates. He had a deep understanding of God’s Word to the point that satanic thinking was clearly seen and known by Paul. The more we know of the Word and doctrines of God, the more stable and powerful we are against satanic attack. We have already seen that many believers are blinded by Satan and don’t even realize it (II Tim. 2:26). It is imperative that a believer understand as much as he can from God’s Word, including the data that pertains to Satan, for this is a key to victory.

**(Victory Step #5) - Put On God’s Armor. Eph. 6:10-18**

In and of ourselves we cannot fight Satan nor defeat him. The armor we need to fight this battle is spiritual armor, not physical. A major key to armor is the Word of God, which was clearly evidenced by our Lord’s head-to-head meeting with Satan (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10). It stands to reason that knowledge of God’s Word will be critical to our defense against Satan, which is something supported by this armor passage:

As a prelude to putting on the armor we need to realize that our strength is in the Lord, not in us (6:10). Our continual ability to get strong, be strong and stay strong is found in the Lord. We also need to realize that we need the full armor package because we are up against satanic schemes and we are not fighting flesh and blood enemies (6:11-12). One thing we must do is to do everything we can to resist the devil, which requires a dependency on God and His armor.

**Armor Piece #1 - Gird loins with truth. Eph. 6:14a**

The belt is that which holds the clothes tight, the breastplate in position and the scabbard for the sword. If we are to wear God’s armor we must be people who are after truth. Satan is a liar and he will always attempt to twist and tamper with truth. But God’s truth must always take precedence in our lives over everything. We must stick to God’s Word and always be truthful, for this is a key defense against Satan. Where do we find God’s truth? God’s Word is truth, so a key to victory is we are armed with the truth of God. We know it, believe it and live it.

## SATANOLOGY (37)

**Armor Piece #2** - Put on the breastplate of righteousness. Eph. 6:14b

A critical key to combating satanic attack is first to have a justified righteousness that comes by faith in Christ and second to have a sanctified righteousness that comes by lining up our lives with the Word of God. The breastplate guards the heart and a heart committed to righteousness is critical to protecting one from satanic attack.

**Armor Piece #3** - Shod feet with the preparation of the Gospel of peace. Eph. 6:15

A victorious soldier will use his feet to prepare himself in understanding the good news grace Gospel that sinners may have peace with God (Rom. 5:1). He will use his feet to go to where he can learn this and also eventually take this marvelous message to others. Also a believer will also use his feet to pursue the kind of life that will keep peace between himself and God. He will go places that honor the Lord and do things for the Lord. This is a critical piece of armor.

**Armor Piece #4** - Take up the shield of faith. Eph. 6:16

Satan loves to create doubts especially when it comes to a believer's relationship with God and His Word. He knows without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). The Bible is very clear that "faith comes by hearing the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17). So the believer who wants a strong faith will use his feet to go to where he can hear the Word of God accurately taught, because that will produce faith. When a believer starts wavering a bit with doubts, the best thing for him to do is to go to hear God's Word for that will recharge the faith. When a believer is hit with some trial or trouble or when the believer fails and sins, Satan is right there to try to create doubts. The wise believer will cling to the Word at that moment, knowing that God will not leave or forsake his people and knowing that if he confesses his sin, God is faithful and just to forgive it and cleanse from all unrighteousness.

**Armor Piece #5** - Take up the helmet of salvation. Eph. 6:17a

The helmet protects the mind and Paul says a key part of armor is that a believer uses his mind to focus on the grace Gospel that teaches that complete forgiveness of sins is found by faith in Jesus Christ. The mind of a victorious believer focuses on God's grace salvation. It does not focus on works, merit, law, religion or ritual. It is critical that our minds are totally focused on the complete salvation that we have in Jesus Christ because Satan controls a broad religious world and thinking that is contrary to this.

**Armor Piece #6** - Take up the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Eph. 6:17b

The word "sword" speaks of a small sword that individuals carried to defend themselves. What this indicates is that each believer will have warfare and needs to be able to use this weapon. The noun "word" speaks of individual words. So the message is that every believer needs to know the very words found in Scripture so he may be able to defend himself by using those words in various moments of satanic attack. We cannot win our battles without God's book.

## SATANOLOGY (38)

**Armor Piece #7** - We must be people who pray. Eph. 6:18

Prayer is a critical key to survival and it is a major part of putting on this armor. This has been called the greatest weapon of all. We are to pray at all times and we are to pray for all people. We are to reverence God and we are to petition God. Now we are to pray “in the Spirit,” which means we are to pray with a life that is in harmony with the Spirit of God.

Believers who do not pray or do not come to prayer meetings to pray with and for others are right where Satan wants them. Winning warriors are prayer warriors.

## DEMONOLOGY – THE DOCTRINE OF DEMONS

There is in the Bible a great deal of written information concerning a group of spirit beings who are servants of Satan. These beings are numerous, evil and powerful. They are called demons. The study of demonology is closely connected to Satanology because the Scriptures declare that Satan rules over two realms: 1) The world; 2) The demons. The Scriptures call demons Satan's own angels "his angels" or literally "the angels of him" (οι αγγελοι αυτου)- Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:9. Therefore, it is logical and biblical to study demonology in close proximity to Satanology under the general heading of "Angelology," since all are spirit beings.

**QUESTION #1** – Why study the doctrine of demons?

**(Reason #1)** - Because of biblical revelation. II Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is inspired by God, which means the written Word of God has the very life and breath in it. Since God is the Person who reveals information about demons in His written Word, it is critical that we understand what His Word does say.

**(Reason #2)** - Because of spiritual development. II Timothy 3:16-17

No matter what our present spiritual classification—babe, immature or mature, the fact is sound faith is developed and brought to deeper maturity through the Word of God (Romans 10:17; Hebrews 5:11-14). When it comes to any doctrine or book, the more we know the more we may grow. It is always a deep understanding of God's Word that produces sound faith. Therefore, a proper doctrinal study of demons actually helps to enhance our spiritual development and stability.

**(Reason #3)** - Because of prophetic intensification. I Timothy 4:1-3

As we near the end of this age, there will be an increased intensification of demonic activity that is designed to lure people away from an accurate understanding of the true Word of God (I Tim. 4:5). Paul predicted the time would come when some would "not endure sound doctrine" (II Tim. 4:3). The parables which were taught by Jesus Christ predicted demonic activity prior to His return (Matthew 13:18; 24-25; 31-32). Dr. Charles Ryrie said: "The twentieth century has witnessed an almost complete turn-around in attitudes toward the reality of demons. In the first part of the century, their reality was commonly denied; in the latter part, it is much more readily and universally affirmed" (*Basic Theology*, p. 157).

In that God has given us specific predictions that demonic activity will intensify as we near the end of the Church Age, it is imperative that we learn as much as possible of the biblical doctrine of demons. There is no question that with the increase of suicides, astrology, fortune-telling, witchcraft and Satanism, and with the increase among many "Christians" who do not seem to really be interested in carefully studying the Bible, we may assume that we are rapidly approaching the end of the age and demonic activity is escalating.

## DEMONOLOGY (2)

**The one thing we want to always pursue as this Church Age nears its conclusion is a careful and accurate understanding of God's written Word, including truth about demons.**

**QUESTION #2** – What does the word “demon” mean?

The actual word “demon” (δαίμονιον) refers to that which is Divine . According to G. Abbott Smith, this word refers to “an inferior divinity” (*Greek Lexicon*, p. 97).

In the O.T., the term refers to Divine beings which were not of God , which were false (Deut. 32:17). These Divine beings were all inferior to God (Ps. 96:4-5) and were originally created by God (Psalm 148:1-5; Nehemiah 9:6). In the N.T., the term refers to Divine beings that are evil and totally opposed to God (I Cor. 10:20).

When we think of demons, we need to think of the fact that they are angelic beings created by God who are evil and powerful and who are totally opposed to God. Demons are always inferior to God (*Ibid.*, p. 97).

**QUESTION #3** – Who are the demons?

**Demons are fallen angels!** They were originally created by God and apparently one-third of the angelic realm followed Satan in his rebellion against God (Rev. 12:4, 7-9). The Bible reveals that there are two classifications of demons:

**Classification #1** - Demons who are free .

These demons are free to roam the earth, performing the will of Satan, possessing men and animals and trying to influence the world in a way contrary to God and His Word (Mt. 8:28-24; 9:32-33; 10:8; 12:22; Mk. 5:9-15; I Tim. 4:1; I Jn. 4:1).

**Classification #2** - Demons who are bound .

These are demons that are not free to roam this earth, but are presently confined and are bound to a specific place. There are two types of bound demons:

**(Type #1)** - Demons bound permanently . II Pet. 2:4; Jude 6

These demons have been bound forever by God and remain in that state until God brings them to judgment and condemns them to hell forever.

**(Type #2)** - Demons bound temporarily . Revelation 9:1-11

These demons are bound now but will be released for a short time during the Tribulation.