

## Message from Pastor Kermit:

Blessings to all of the Saints of God, here we are at the start of another six-week bible study. Few people want to be in a battle. As followers of Christ, however, we're in the middle of a conflict that has been raging for thousands of years whether we know it or not. Ours is a spiritual battle, and it's critical for us to know the stakes. This study is designed for us to learn the cause of the battle and to be victorious in the midst of the battle.

*“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,”*

*II Corinthians 10:4-5 NKJV*

## Battle Plan – Put on the Whole Armor of God!

During this lesson series be sure to:

- **Be engaged.**
  - Take notes, participate, and do the worksheets.
- **Be in prayer.**
  - Pray that God will open up our understanding to His Word.
- **Invite a friend.**
- **Discover true joy in Jesus Christ.**

# The Dark Side: Confronting Evil

Thursday Night  
Bible Study

Facilitator:  
Pastor Kermit Perry

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Satan](#)

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## Lesson 1: Satan (Revelation 12:7-12)

- What monster or fictional villain best represents evil to you?

### Revelation 12:7-9

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,

8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

### Discussion Question #1&2

- What have you been taught about the devil? (John 8:42-45)
- Where do you see evidence of Satan's deceptive work in the world today?

### Revelation 12:10

**10** Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

- **The Devil accused Job. (Job 1:9-11)**
- **The Devil accused Joshua (Zechariah 3:1), and he accuses us!**
- **The Lord stood with Joshua (Zechariah 3:2), Peter (Luke 22:31-32), and us (1John 2:1)!**

### Discussion Question #3

- How should we understand Satan's role as our "accuser"?

### Revelation 12:11-12

11 "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

12 "Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

### Discussion Question #4

- What are some ways we can defend against Satan's accusations?

## Live It Out

**We overcome Satan through Jesus Christ. How will you walk in victory this week?**

- **Confess.** Turn from sin and give Satan no grounds for accusations in your life. Place your trust in Christ for forgiveness and freedom.
- **Read.** Make scripture reading a daily habit. Let the truth if scripture fills your mind rather than the deceit and lies of Satan. Test every thought to see how it stands against the truth of Christ in His Word.

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- **Speak.** When you see others living in false guilt because of Satan's lies, point to the victory they can have in Christ. Ask them to embrace the truth and walk in victory.

Don't fall into the trap of believing evil doesn't exist or believing that evil only impacts the world in faraway places. Satan is a clear and present danger to God's people. Thankfully, our status as God's people means we can claim the victory He has already won.

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## Lesson 2: Demons (Mark 9:17-29)

- What do you typically do when you feel afraid?

### Mark 9:17-22a

17 Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit.

18 "And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not."

19 He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me."

20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

21 So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood.

22 "And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him.

### Discussion Question #1

- What have you been taught about demons and demon possession?

### Mark 9:22b-27

But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." 23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"

26 Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead."

27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

### Discussion Question and Scripture #2&3

- What about these verses strikes you as most interesting? Why?
- When have you felt like the father in these verses wanting to believe but struggling to do so?
  - **Read John 14:13-14 & 1 John 5:14-15**

### Mark 9:28-29

28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"

29 So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

### Discussion Question #4

- Why is faith in Jesus essential when dealing with evil?

## Live It Out

What steps can you take to ground yourself in Christ as preparation for the enemy's attacks?

- **Pray Often.** Ask God to increase and strengthen your faith. Make it a habit of asking God to strengthen your faith and guide you into a deeper truth in Him.
- **Pray Daily.** Stop relying on yourself as you face difficulties and spiritual attacks. Express your total dependence on God through prayer at the beginning of each day.
- **Pray Constantly.** Invite the presence of Jesus into every situation. Form the discipline of continually conversing with God's Spirit as you encounter new situations and circumstances throughout each day.

As disciples of Jesus, we don't need to look for a “demon under every bush” but neither should we be unaware or unprepared. Use prayer to keep yourself intimately connected with God's power through Jesus Christ.

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## Lesson 3: The Paranormal (Deuteronomy 18:9-18)

- What movies or TV shows bank on our culture's interest in the paranormal?

### Deuteronomy 18:9-11

9 "When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations.

10 "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,

11 "or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.

- **Child Sacrifice.** Children were killed to appease a pagan god and influence events that god supposedly controlled.
- **Divination.** This was a general term for trying to gain insights from the gods through various means, including other practices listed in this passage.
- **Fortune Telling.** Means "those who cause to appear." It might have referred to making apparitions appear or making a persons' course of action visible through occultic practices.
- **Interpreting Omens.** Those who practice this sought to determine the future through the use of objects.
- **Sorcery.** Witches and sorcerers attempted to manipulate the powers of nature.
- **Casting Spells.** The Hebrew term has the sense of binding or fascinating; it meant to bind a person with a curse.



- **Consulting The Dead.** Moses used several terms such as medium, spiritist, those who inquire of the dead.

### Discussion Question #1&2

- What have you been taught about the practices in these verses?
- Why do people still dabble in this kind of practice?

### Deuteronomy 18:12-14

12 "For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you.

13 "You shall be blameless before the LORD your God.

14 "For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.

### Discussion Question #3

- What makes paranormal practices so dangerous and destructive?

### Deuteronomy 18:15-18

15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,

16 "according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.'

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17 "And the LORD said to me: 'What they have spoken is good.

18 'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.

#### Discussion Question #4

- What are reliable ways for us to seek out God's plan and purpose in our lives?

### Live It Out

What steps can you take this week to shine the light of Jesus against the darkness of the paranormal?

- **Be Educated.** We will only know God's guidance as we immerse ourselves in His Word.
- **Be Discerning.** Make discernment a regular part of your prayer life. Ask God to guide your thoughts and actions away from evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)
- **Be Blameless.** Seek to demonstrate a blameless heart, fully devoted to the Lord, by removing from your presence anything that promotes and encourages the use of paranormal practices.

People in our culture are fascinated with the paranormal because they are really longing for God.

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## Lesson 4: Fear Not (1 John 4:1-6)

- What are some of the most unusual phobias you've heard of?

### 1 John 4:1-3

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

### When you test the validity of a group, consider these examples:

- Mormonism teaches that Jesus was the first Spirit child born to humanity's heavenly parents.
- Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus was a spirit creature created by God who later. Amen to earth as a man.
- Islam teaches that Jesus was a highly revered prophet, but He was not the Son of God.
- Hinduism teaches that Jesus was a man who reached "God Consciousness."

### Discussion Question #1&2

- What comes to mind when you hear the word “discernment”? Why?
- What are some distortions of the nature of Jesus we still hear today?

### 1 John 4:4-6

4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.

6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

### Discussion Question #3&4

- What emotions do you experience when you read this passage?
- Jesus is greater than those who oppose us. How will this truth influence your life today and in the days to come?

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## Live It Out

How will the truth that you have nothing to fear in Christ make a difference in your life this week?

- **Memorize.** If you're prone to fear, memorize 1 John 4:4.
- **Be Filled.** God has placed His Holy Spirit in your life. Stay focused in Prayer so you can continually rely on that Spirit to fill you, and give you discernment.
- **Be Discerning.** Regularly evaluate the different "voices" you encounter in books, sermons, studies, online devotions, and articles. Determine what they believe about Christ and to what degree they lift up and honor the name of Christ.

Severe phobias aren't the only factor that keeps us from experiencing the life we were meant to live. Yes, evil is real. But so is God and he is far superior to any force or opposition that might move against us. So don't be afraid.

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## Lesson 5: Battle Armor (Ephesians 6:10-20)

- What are some “tools of the trade” you rely on most days?

### Ephesians 6:10-13

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

### Discussion Question #1

- What have you learned about spiritual warfare?

### Ephesians 6:14-17

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

## God provides His armor for the battles we face in His name:

- **Belt Of Truth.** The belt secured the rest of the soldier's armor and held his weapons. Truth is the belt of preparation for the believer. Everything we do is held in place when we accept and trust God's Word.
- **Breastplate Of Righteousness.** A soldier's breastplate covered the chest and protected the vital organs from arrows. Paul wasn't referring to our righteousness in Christ, which can never be taken away. Instead, he was referring to Living in Righteousness (Eph. 4:24; 5:8-9) our daily walk with Christ.
- **Feet Shod With Readiness.** Roman soldiers were issued quality footwear, studded boots that allowed them to travel great distances and yet stand firm in the heat of battle.
- **Shield Of Faith.** A company of soldiers could interlock their shields and form a solid wall as they moved forward. Our shield is comprised of our faith, our trust in the promises and power of God.
- **Helmet Of Salvation.** A soldier protected his head with a heavy helmet of metal. Our helmet is our hope in Christ.
- **Sword Of The Spirit.** The soldier's sword was short, like a dagger, and used for close combat. Our sword is God's Word; it's our only weapon that is both offensive and defensive.

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### Discussion Question# 2&3

- Which piece of God's armor most resonates with you? Why?
- What are some real-life situations in which this armor is essential for followers of Christ?

### Ephesians 6:18-20

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,

20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

### Discussion Question# 3&4

- How does Prayer contribute to our efforts in spiritual warfare?

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## Live It Out

**What will you do this week to trust in Christ and rely on what He has provided?**

- **Pray.** Take everything to God in Prayer. Make Prayer a regular part of your day.
- **Stand.** If you find you're susceptible to the flaming arrows of the evil one, his lies, doubts, and temptations use God's armor.
- **Stand together.** Discuss ways to support and encourage each other in the spiritual battles we face.

Don't lose sight of the fact you're in a spiritual battle that doesn't include just you. You have help! You have the support of your friends and family. More importantly, you have the support of God, who empowers you to stand.

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## Lesson 6: Battle Plan (Matthew 4:1-10)

- Where do you turn when you need a fool-proof plan?

### Matthew 4:1-4

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

4 But He answered and said, "**It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'** "

### Discussion Question #1

- What are some ways we face temptation through our physical appetites? (Hebrews 4:15)

### Matthew 4:5-7

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,

6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' "

7 Jesus said to him, "**It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'** "

## Discussion Question #2

- What are some ways we are tempted to test God?

## Philippians 4:8-10

8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

10 Then Jesus said to him, "**Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'**"

## Discussion Question #3&4

- What are we often tempted to worship in place of God?
- What can we learn from Jesus' example about overcoming spiritual attacks?

## Live It Out

Based on our study this session, what steps will you take to defeat the attacks that come your way?

- **Look to Jesus.** Be intentional about keeping your focus on Christ. Lean on Him for strength to stand, knowing He understands. "For since He himself has suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted" (Heb. 2:18)

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- **Stay clear.** If you know of people, places, or circumstances that fuel your vulnerability to temptation and spiritual attack, resolve to avoid those things.
- **Memorize scripture.** Make scripture memory a weekly discipline and habit.

Expect opposition when you step forward in faith. Spiritual attacks will come. But we can follow Jesus' example to stand against those attacks and remain victorious.

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