**VII. Fallen Angels: Architects of This Present Darkness**

***Strategies for Overcoming Evil***

I. Satan: the Accuser of the Brethren: *the Source of Evil*

II. The Watchers and the Nephilim: *the Source of Demons and Evil Thoughts*

III. The Fallen Angels after the Tower of Babel: *the Gods of Mythology and the*

 *Rulers Behind the Leaders of the Nations*

IVa. How Evil Forces Corrupt Nations and Cultures

 IVb. The Paganization of America

V. How Evil Forces Have Questioned the Word of God

VI. How Evil Forces Have Challenged God's Role in Creation with Speculative and

 Mathematically Impossible Science

VIB Creation: How Long Ago Was It?

VII. Overcoming Evil Beings and This Present Darkness

The Point of the Fallen Angels Study

 1. Humans are not the source of evil – Satan and fallen angels are

 Adam and Eve were deceived

 2. Most of the evil thoughts in your head are from outside you

 3. Other humans, however famously evil, are not the source of evil and are

 redeemable

 "We wrestle not with flesh and blood"

 4. Remnant Christians do not need to have an inferiority complex re: our

 understanding of history, mythology, evil leadership and evil cultures, and the

 Bible as a reliable source

**Overcoming Evil Spirits and Principalities**

The Authority of the Believer

Luke 10:19

“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

Eph. 1:20-22

…which (God) worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places, f*ar above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all *things* under His feet,

Eph. 2:6

…and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

God does not have a problem dealing with Satan

God is sovereign

God is never surprised or fooled by Satan

God’s ultimate plan will not be thwarted by demons

There is actually a use for demons in God’s plan

From our standpoint, we must *sin* to grant demons power in our lives

Demonic spirits have only as much access to our souls as we allow

But other folk in our “boat” can bring demons nearer

The secret for most of us who are not in deliverance or territorial intercession ministry is not to *fight* with demons

 It is to embrace and walk with God in the Spirit

 It is to light candles to dispel the darkness

 The best defense is a good offense

We are, of course, to be vigilant and watch out for *deception* and falling to *temptation*

We are to avoid and flee from evil people, places, situations, shows

We sometimes must “wrestle” (Eph.6:12)

But the best strategy: learning to walk closer to God

Gal. 5:16

Walk by the Spirit and do not fulfill the desires of the flesh

I Cor.6:17??

He that is joined unto the Lord is *one spirit*

Eph. 2:5-6??

…alive together with Christ

Romans 8:11:-13

So you must count yourselves *dead to sin*, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its desires. Do not present the parts of your body to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and *present the parts of your body to Him* as instruments of righteousness

Unfortunately, if we are dead *to God and the Spirit*, we are more than just dead

 We are alive to sin and actively working for evil

We overcome with God’s help

Eph. 6:19

…in the strength of *His* might.

Rev 12:11

They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. And they did not love their lives unto the death*.(THE death)*

We have victory by Christ’s death judicially, de factor, in history, in the spiritual realm

 But we must achieve victory experientially, in real time

Obedience to the Word and Will of God moment-by-moment brings the victory

Disobedience and sinning invites evil spirits to torment us

 This can also lead to repentance and a new obedience

 But this is the “hard” way, the wide path that leads to destruction

The Bible speaks of *trials* and *temptations*

*Trials* are hardships that we go through*--the result of the fall. Loss, tragedy*

 How we respond to the trial determines if the trial will cause us to sin

 *Temptation*s are similar, but they are thrown at us with *the expressed purpose of causing*

*us to sin--always from Satan*

In both trials and temptations we are given the opportunity to respond in faith, or with sin

After the trial or temptation is presented to us, we can either overcome, or succumb to it

We can sin and become ashamed, bitter, unforgiving, lustful etc.

Or we can resist and grow in faith

Became *bitter* or *better*

Matt. 18:7

“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! *For it is necessary* that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!”

I Sam. 16:14

God sent an evil spirit to trouble Saul

Recall Peter and Satan’s desire to “sift him as wheat” (Luke 22:31)

 Paul and the thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan (II Cor. 12:7

God, who is able to work all things to the good for those who love Him--

Uses the very trials and temptations that Satan throws at us

To try and refine our faith,

To help us *grow* in our faith

To strengthen our relationship with Him

To learn to endure and overcome

Good can come from trials and temptations

Our faith is tried and proven in them

We get stronger as we overcome temptations, making it easier to overcome them the next

time

Grace and faith are really demonstrated in trials--not in church-going and Bible study

We *really* must trust God when He shows up to deliver and help us--not just when we hear a

sermon about faith

James 1:12-13

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

1 Peter 1:6-8

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being *much more precious than gold* *that perishes*, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

We overcome with God’s help, and with *asked for* self-control of the mind, the godly seeing, hearing, speaking, and acting

Never lose sight of the Victor, Jesus

 That we may know the “exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe (Eph.

 Keep our eyes on Him and off the darkness

Salvation is a gift; but our “inheritance,” our reward, and our “abundant life” on earth is granted to he/she who overcomes

We have an identity in Christ:

Beloved

Redeemed

Reconciled

Being restored and renewed

We must not identify ourselves or our self-worth by the things we have done or not done-

But must see ourselves for the *potential* we have in Christ

Where we are headed

“The journey is the destination”

The past is past

Phil. 3:13-14

But one thing I do: forge*tting what is behind* and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize of God’s heavenly calling in Christ Jesus.

This is the "secret" to a fruitful, joyful Christian life.

Identifying with our new life, our future, our potential in Christ

Walking in faith, trust, hope; and walking in the Spirit

Getting free if in bondage to a sin or sins

This is the "normal Christian walk"

This is also the very thing that Satan *does not* want us to realize

Every time we fall to temptation we lose mastery over the powers of darkness.

And the more we fall, the greater the stronghold becomes, and the easier it is to fall

 The more we overcome temptation, the less hold it has over us, and easier it is to *not*

fall

A demon is only as powerful as the strength of the deception that we have believed

We destroy lies with:

Authority (God’s Word *believed*)

Testimony (God’s Word *confessed*)

What are some of the temptations that we face? Temptations to be:

Proud, boastful

Fearful, unsure

Unkind

Angry

Irresponsible

Lazy

Unfaithful

Dishonest

Betraying

Impatient

Intemperate

Selfish

Greedy

Lustful

Gal. 5:19-21

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

These are the opposite of the fruit of the spirit. These are the fruit of the *flesh*

What are some of the problems of *falling to* temptation?

 The personal effect:

It grieves our Father in heaven and breaks fellowship

It embarrasses our guardian angel

It brings curses (and not blessings) upon us

It brings guilt and shame

It dehumanizes us--makes us more like demons than like Jesus

With repetition, strongholds, addictions, and even demonic possession can occur

 The effect on others (family, friends, our church folk):

We lose our anointing

We cannot love and serve others effectively

We cannot bear others' burdens if our own sins are crushing us

Strategies for Overcoming the Accuser – personal spiritual warfare

1. Believe and quote the Word of God:

*Demon: Sir, they're literal holy terrors*

*They bind us, cast us out.*

*Then they do those charismatic jigs*

*They quote scriptures like the Son of God;*

*If you don't intervene*

*We’ll end up in a bunch of pigs*

*(Revival in the Land)*

Romans 8:11:-13

So you too must count yourselves *dead to sin*, but *alive* to God in Christ Jesus…*present the parts of your body to Him* as instruments of righteousness

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Rom. 8:1

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

Psalms 101:3

I will set nothing wicked before my eyes.

Job 31:1

"I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman?

1 Cor 10:12-13

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it

Ps 119:11

Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

Phil 4:13-14

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Phil 1:6-7

He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Is. 27:3

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusts in thee.

James 1:19-20

Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Ps. 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Matt. 14:27

Jesus said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

2. Flee and avoid sinful situations, people, shows

2 Tim 2:22-

*Flee* also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

3. Stand / resist

James 4:7-8

Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

4. Pray

Eph. 6:18

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

Matt 6:13

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one

Pray in English; pray in tongues

Daily Prayers to Help Us in the Morning

1. I am a new creation in Christ

2. My old nature has been crucified with Jesus

3. Lord, I declare that this day will go according to Your will.

4. Greater are You, Lord, who is in me than he that is in the world.

5. Fear will be far from me, and faith rise up in me today.

6. I am seated with You, Jesus, in the heavenlies, over all the circumstances I will encounter today.

5. Become difficult to tempt:

Phil 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.

Titus 1:15-16

To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.

Rom 14:14-15

I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is un-clean.

The godly Christian can learn to see as pure:

Material things

Food

Money

Attractive men and women

When a sin or temptation *consistently overcomes* us:

1. Recognize the demonic role

2. Take responsibility for the sin

3. Repent

4. Renounce

5. Remove

6. Resist

7. Find a friend or minister to pray and stand with you against the problem

James 1:12

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Additional tools:

1) Practice the presence of God

Learn to identify the presence -- different than just "not being in sin"

We often learn to recognize the presence first in *worship*, in *fellowship***,**

We can feel, experience the Presence during successful *service*--witnessing,

Ministry

As we mature, we can learn to practice the presence all day long

Learning to pay attention to the presence *in the mundane*, daily aspects of life

Like crossing a creek by stepping on stone: from presence to presence; from glory to

glory

We can pay attention to what the Spirit is doing around us

Watching how the Spirit is impacting people *through* you

Spotting what evil spirits are up to

2) Practice the Spiritual disciplines

The Inward Disciplines

Prayer -- ACTS

Meditation -- journaling

Fasting

Study

The Outward Disciplines

Simplicity

Solitude

Submission

Service

The Corporate Disciplines

Confession

Worship

Guidance

Celebration

Overcoming Principalities and Powers (Territorial Spirits)

Fallen angels from after the Tower of Babel, tormenting ancient Israel, worshipped as the pagan

gods of mythology, and ruling behind the scenes even in our “scientific, anti-

supernatural time”

They persist and currently promote predominant sins over nations and regions

Crime, violence, war-mongering, extreme nationalism, gambling, prostitution,

perversion, addiction, religion, laziness, false worship,

Examples: Las Vegas, New Orleans, Amsterdam, Bangkok, Russia

We have the authority over them (recall the verses)

How *not* to use your authority

Jude 8-9

Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones.  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!

II Peter 2:10-11

And especially those who indulgein the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord

We all have authority over the jurisdiction of:

 Self

 Immediate family

 At our workplace

 With friends and neighbors who grant us the authority

 At church if appointed by leaders

Some (but not all) believers are called to be intercessors and have been given authority over territorials spirits

Partner with intercessors with experience

Seat yourself with Christ in the heavenly with the other intercessors

Clean up the besetting and chronic sins in your life (if there is any)

And put on the whole armor of God of Ephesians 6

We must begin walking in this authority without fear, without false humility

Our world depends on us

Summary: hopefully, we are now more able to:

Identify and overcome evil that come from evil supernatural beings outside of

us - and not blame self for everything

Resolve to successfully obey the Lord as His disciples more consistently

Endure trials and resist temptations

Avoid unnecessary shame and grief

Identify and not be deceived by the evil influences on our families, communities and

culture from principalities, powers, thrones and dominions

Confidently defend the Bible, the Word of God, and the role of God, the creator, the

pre-existent being who is over all so-called gods, in creation

Contribute more to the good with family, friends, church, community