

Who is our enemy? May 16, 2024

Last time I spoke I led you through my testimony and highlighted some of the different ways God has spoken to me or revealed His will to me.

This time I will focus on the different ways to battle in the spiritual realm as I experience the light are shining brighter, but the darkness is also more active than before.

And by darkness, I mean the manifestation of the evil spirits or the devil himself. For me this is a scary topic as I have had encounters with the devil close to what you can watch in scary movies. And these encounters have left me in a state of absolute terror and fear.

But praise God. He has never left me even though I have given in to the fear against my better knowledge. He has given me wisdom, and He has explained and taught me important spiritual principles along the way.

First of all we have to acknowledge that there is a force called evil.

This is just pure logic as many great thinkers have come to the conclusion that they have experienced good, like a loving mother, a trustworthy friend, on a state or political level – laws that gives us benefits and make sure people are safe.

Secondly: we also have to acknowledge that everything happening to you that does not feel good is not necessarily the devils work. As we are the children of God – He sometimes uses circumstances to discipline us, to help us grow and to reach a higher level of authority.

Thirdly: We also have to acknowledge that not every temptation we experience is from the devil, because we are not all spiritual beings, we also have a soul, and we live in a body.

The soul likes to feel good and the mortal body is under the laws of this world. It is also called the flesh and according to the Bible it goes directly against the will of God in many ways.

As I move along this subject, please remember that we all are on a journey. None of us has reached a full understanding of any subject. And will deal with this subject according to my own experiences and what the Lord led me through this morning. And I believe the reason why He wants me to bring the subject to the table is because of the direction Christian teaching has taken today: *it is all about individuality, happiness, prosperity, and things that feel good and things that look good to others.*

But the reality of a true Christian life is that there is a battle going on for the souls around us. And there is also a constant battle going on around you. The devil tries to get you to take the eyes of Jesus so he can distract you out of His will and purpose for your life. Do not give in to these kind of temptations. But I will come back to that.

But I also want to bring this subject to the table so we can talk about it and maybe you have experiences or encounters that you have problems sharing with other Christians because you are afraid, they will call you crazy.

We need to know our opponent. It is like a match in any ballgame. Before a big game, the coaches on both sides take the time to watch videos of the other team to reveal their weaknesses and strengths. The weaknesses will be exploited or taken advantage of and the strengths will be avoided or taken out of the game. In the same sense we should know our opponent, the devil. His whereabouts and His plans so we can avoid the big pitfalls and completely rule the ground we set our foot on.

Because we know him and are able to use all the weapons God has given us to conquer him.

The devil is real, the evil spirits are real. There is no way if we believe in the Bible that we can say these phenomena are just stories or they just existed in the Old Testament, and these things do not occur anymore.

Let's look at what the Bible says. In the garden Eden in **Genesis 3: 1-4**

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,

3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman.

5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So we can understand from these verses and the rest of the story that Satan was present from the beginning and he could possess a snake or make himself like a snake and it says he was crafty. Someone who knows the way around things and gladly uses these knowledge.

Furthermore we have some interesting verses in Isaiah, maybe explaining to us a little bit were the envy in Satan that led him astray from the Lord saying in verse 13 that he wanted to be above the stars of God

Isaiah 14:12-17

12 How you have fallen from Heaven, morning star, son of the dawn!

You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

13 You said in your Heart, "I will ascend to the Heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost Heights of Mount Zaphon.

14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

15 But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit.

16 Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: "Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble,

17 the man who made the world a wilderness, who overthrew its cities and would not let His captives go home?"

Pride:

We can also call this pride. And this "talent" is something he uses in many people. But do not be tempted to go there. It is not a good place and according to Isaiah – he ends up in the pit of the dead.

Power:

He has power – he can ruin personal lives and he can ruin cities if we let him. We all have a responsibility to stop him. Do not give people who follow him power. Do not elect them into office or promote them to positions of influence. If you have the opportunity to stop them you should do so.

Another place Isaiah describes evil presence as goat demons: I conclude that this must be something that is visible for the human eye. Sometimes we get impressions in our spirit on what is going on in the spiritual world and other times like Isaiah describes it can be seen with the human eyes.

Isaiah 13:21 New International Version

“But desert beasts will lie down there, and their houses will be full of howling creatures; there owls will dwell, and goat-demons will dance there.”

We also meet the evil presence when Jesus is tempted in the desert. And when the good Lord was tempted - who was without sin. Who are we to believe we will not be tempted?

We also meet the devil again in or as the person Judas. The one who betrayed Jesus and give him up to the Pharisees and the Romans. We do not really know his intentions or his reason for doing this, but we know today that it all had to happen so Jesus would die for our sins. So somebody needed to do the dirty work. And the end of Judas was a death in sorrow, solitude and disgrace.

Throughout Jesus life He meets people who are possessed with demons.

Luke 8:26-32

26 They sailed to the region of the Gerasene's, which is across the lake from Galilee.

27 When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time, this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house but had lived in the tombs.

28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at His feet, shouting at the top of his voice, “*What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!*”

29 For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.

30 Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “Legion,” he replied, because many demons had gone into him.

31 And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

32 A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and He gave them permission.

33 When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

So in the New Testament Jesus and His disciples had encounters with evil spirits possessing humans.

So through these Bible verses I am pretty convinced we are on solid ground if we say we do have an evil presence in this world and he works on areas in our life that we might want to ignore. I think that sometimes we Christians have this idea in our heads that we should not give the devil too much attention. We have this illusion that as long as we focus on Jesus the devil will live us alone, but for most of us this is not the case.

I will share a couple of stories with you and then I will just open up for sharing.

If you are bothered by spirits of any kind, if you see things that give you fear. Remember – he is an oppressor as well – he enjoys control and there are such a thing as controlling spirits. Anyways I will share some stories from my own life and we will see where the spirit leads us after that.

First time I had an evil encounter where a demon showed itself to me was at the first apartment I rented:

- Cleansing my house.
- Demon possessed people:

So what has these experiences showed me and how has the Lord helped me in this circumstances.