

Trench warfare with the devil or having already won? 1 of 4

Hi all,

Are we to live in the spiritual trenches on the defensive, being afraid something we might say or do, or not say or not do, might open the door for the devil in our lives?

Or do we treat the devil as a sometimes nuisance like a buzzing fly, but no real threat to us or our loved ones?

When we do all to stand, and having done all, stand, do we stand from a perspective of having already won, or do we put on that whole armor to do battle against an enemy where our victory is not yet determined?

Back in the days of the Word of Faith (WOF) movement...

...'positive confession' took center stage. Related to that was being careful (oops, 'careful' was one of the banned words) not to say words perceived as negative.

Around 1981 we were saying goodbye to some friends, and made the mistake of saying with a wave, "Take care!" Wow, the wife reacted! You would have thought we had just insulted her mother the way she snapped around and angrily corrected us: "We reject that in the name of Jesus, no devil, we take no cares on us. We are careful for nothing (careful to use the King James English because if it was good enough for Paul, it was good enough for them) Don't you know saying 'be careful' means to take care on yourself? We won't do that because we don't want the devil to have an open door into our lives!" Wow. We closed the door having been sternly rebuked.

All we were trying to do was express care for them in their drive home in the dark...we weren't suggesting they take the cares of the world upon their shoulders. Wow, that was a vivid lesson in two areas - one, to be careful about what we said, (oops, I did it again) and two, there were some people out there really afraid if they made one misstep, the devil could come into their lives and wreak havoc.

Here we are decades later

The belief systems related to saying the right thing and being concerned we might open the door to the devil, not only exists, but is thriving, and has become much more sophisticated.

There is the group that believes in an elaborate court system in heaven, with rules and protocols by which we may present our case. If we do something wrong, then the case could go against us.

There is the group that goes into detail about every demon in charge of everything from nations to regions to cities, and they do battle in prayer against those demons. During the height of the teaching about doing warfare with spirits over cities, one group in Tulsa dressed in army fatigues and rented the 60th floor of a building so they could be closer to the prince of the power of the air.

Do we read in Acts or the letters where Paul or Peter, James, John or Phillip did spiritual warfare over cities they traveled to? Do we see that in Samaria or Ephesus, to call down the evil spirits over those cities? No.

There is also the group(s) that follows their leaders religiously, hanging on their every word, often reading some spiritual sign or threat into everything from the color of the moon to dates on the calendar, all done in defensive mode to see what the devil may do. Does anyone remember when prayer alerts went out when the western calendar turned to 6/6/(0)6?

This stream holds their audience (captives) in rapt attention following every move, for if they don't tune in to the next service, if they don't do exactly as they are told, the devil will surely have a door into their lives and bring lack and whatever else he wants.

Fear takes many forms, many ways to manifest as you can see above, and I just mentioned a few ways. But when it comes to 'religion', fear puts the burden on us to be on the defensive against the devil.

Some are so addicted to fear, I call it "fear p*rn". They are both afraid and fascinated, and achieve a spiritual release by the fear p*rn addiction. They can't stop looking at those sights that wrap their news in fear.

That same fear that makes people afraid of the devil, makes God the adversary.

Some years ago leaders of one 'stream' of the faith told their followers if they just gathered enough people together at a conference, they would bring heaven down to earth and cause revival to pour out across the land. They would travel from one city to another in conferences with 3,000 and more people, even filling a stadium or two, and all with the same theme - if we gather enough people we can yell and shout and cry and beg to God the Father to pour out His Spirit to us and for our land.

In the various 'revivals' in recent history, yelling and crying and screaming out to God was the normal way for many people. They made God the Father in heaven who refused to hear them, refused to pour out His Spirit to send revival, who had to be cried to, shouted at, coerced, to answer prayer, or send revival.

All those people forgot that Christ lives in their spirit and we are one with Him - there is no need to shout.

Let me interrupt myself right here: If you are at a spiritual place where your Heavenly Father has become your adversary, then whoever you've been listening to, whatever you've been watching, please run, don't walk, to the nearest exit. Those people who make the Father or Lord our adversary are not healthy nor balanced.

Let's look at scripture....

Have you noticed from Acts to Jude, very little is said about the devil? Consider Luke (wrote Acts that covers 30 years), Paul, Peter, James, John, Jude, wrote letters that make up our New Testament over the course of about 70 years, and none of these men have much of anything to say about the devil. There is no letter fully devoted to spiritual warfare. They barely mentioned the devil.

They lived in a time when Christians were being killed just for being Christians. But very little was said about the devil. There was no commentary or instruction about the demons motivating Caesar or local governments to persecute Christians. There were no calls to cast down the spirits controlling Rome.

We have I Peter who writes the most about suffering for the Lord. There are some 15 or 16 references to suffering for the Lord, with a few of those being bringing our flesh into subjection to Christ and the suffering it endures facing discipline (I Peter 4:1), but the rest are about persecution and how to handle oneself. (4:16-19)

Paul mentions 'this present distress' in I Corinthians 7:26, referring to persecution and submitting for their consideration it may not be the best time to get married - if one or both of you may lose your lives to martyrdom.

And in his closing words of his letter to the Ephesians he talks of prayer, how to behave as a parent and employer and employee, and mentions putting on the whole armor of God to stand against the devil.

The other side of that coin...

When Paul mentions in Ephesians 6:10-18 for us to put on the whole armor of God, he mentions this in the context that he is in prison for his faith - clearly the first meaning of that passage has to do with standing against the devil's plot to persecute you (v19-20).

The other side of the coin is to consider just whose armor he says to put on. If I say, 'You can have my coat, here, put it on because it's cold outside', you understand the coat is mine. So when Paul says put on the armor of God, whose armor is it?

The scriptural reference is Isaiah 59:15-21 which most if not all the original readers would have understood just Whose armor it was. Isaiah is prophesying about a time when those who are good, are accused of being evil. It is a time when doing good makes yourself a prey to evil people.

Isaiah continues in v16 saying the Lord marveled that there was no intercessor and it displeased Him there was no justice, no one to make things right, "So His arm brought salvation, righteousness sustained Him...He put on righteousness as a breastplate, the helmet of salvation was upon His head, His clothing was zeal..."

You see, when Paul said to put on the whole armor of God, the God he was talking about is the Lord Jesus, who was spiritually equipped to fulfill His mission on planet earth (persecuted throughout) - Do you remember when David was given King Saul's armor with which to face Goliath? Do you remember what he said to Saul: "I cannot wear this, for I have not proven it (in battle)." David took Saul's armor off and went to the stream to pick up 5 stones to arm himself with the weapon he had proven against the lion and bear. (1 Samuel 17:34-40)

Jesus proved the armor in battle. He successfully brought salvation, and now we are commanded to put on the whole armor of God - it has been proven in battle, it is for us.

But are we in the trenches using this armor, or do we battle like David, knowing we have already won before the fight even begins?

We will pick it up there next week. (This first in the series ran a little long, sorry, shorter next week)

Until then, blessings,

John Fenn

www.cwowi.org and email me at cwowi@aol.com

Trench warfare with the devil or having already won? 2 of 4

Hi all,

They say when training government agents about how to spot counterfeit money, they train the agents to know real money to the last detail. In that way, when a counterfeit is seen, the agent immediately recognizes it is counterfeit because they know the true so well.

So in this study I'm going to start by showing New Testament realities. Once we are so immersed in New Testament realities, when we encounter the fake, we'll immediately recognize it.

What is your 'ticket' into heaven?

To ask another way, "Why do you go to heaven? or, "How do you know you're going to heaven?"

Most people would immediately say, "My sins are forgiven".

But that is not the correct answer. What gets you into heaven is your spirit being recreated by the Holy Spirit.

"...Truly, truly I tell you, 'Except a person is born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.' That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit, is spirit." John 3:5

Here Jesus says the 'ticket' into heaven is having your spirit recreated by the Holy Spirit - He said nothing about sins being forgiven. Think of it another way; that everyone in heaven has a spirit that has been recreated by the Holy Spirit. Old things are past, behold, all things have become new. We are new creations in Christ.

Having our sins forgiven was the legal action which allowed the Father to recreate our spirit by His Spirit.

What about the water?

For some, this has been a point of great debate, but if we set it in context it makes sense. The first method of setting the context is to see who Jesus is talking to. That answer is Nicodemus, a leader in Israel, who was trying to grasp the ministry of Jesus. They met at night, privately, and we are given insights to this private discussion.

Then we ask 'when?' That answer to that is early on in the ministry of Jesus. In John 1 it was all about John the Baptist, and Jesus Himself had submitted to water baptism. Jesus had to show Nicodemus He was righteous - He had fulfilled all righteousness by being water baptized. What does that mean?

What did water baptism meant to Nicodemus and first century Judaism? In Judaism in the first century, there were many 'ritual washings', including full and partial baptism. Gentiles who wanted to become Jewish were water baptized as a public expression of their faith in the God of Israel. Jewish people were baptized to express repentance or renewal of dedication to the Lord.

So whether Jew or a Gentile convert, faith in the God of Israel was publicly expressed by being water baptized. Without it, you were not counted as being in covenant with God. That's why Jesus submitted to being water baptized, so He would have credibility, because it was right culturally and historically to the Jewish faith.

This is in the 3rd chapter of John

Jesus had submitted to John's water baptism. John's words and Jesus' baptism would have been fresh on Nicodemus' mind, for he understood to be ushered into the faith, Jew or Gentile, one must first be water baptized.

So when Jesus said to Nicodemus in this private meeting; 'Except you be born of water (initiated into faith in the faith of the God of Israel) and the Spirit (your spirit recreated by the Spirit of God', you cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven', it makes sense.

This understanding of the emphasis on the recreated spirit being the 'ticket' to heaven is seen throughout the New Testament.

I haven't forgotten the subject is spiritual warfare...

But we need to know the position from which we do battle - from the trench or from having already won?

Once your spirit is recreated by the Holy Spirit - that is you are born by the Spirit, you are now a citizen of heaven. You are a child of God for He took of His Spirit to cause you to be born into His Kingdom.

"From this point on I will judge no one by earthly standards, for if anyone is in Christ old things are passed away, behold! All things have become new, and those all things, are of God..." II Corinthians 5:16-18

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ." Ephesians 1:3

"...after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, after you believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise..." Ephesians 1:13

"...that the eyes of your understanding would be opened to know the invitation He has given to you, and what the riches of that inheritance is for the saints, and His exceeding great power which is directed to and for us who believe. That is the same power He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and authority and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this world but also that which is to come. And He (Father) has put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the Head over all things to the church (the body of Christ), which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills the universe with Himself." Ephesians 1:18-23

This is just a start at seeing what we have and who we are in Christ. We are recreated by the Holy Spirit, we have the authority to use the name of Jesus against demons, we are seated in the heavenlies in Christ. We've been adopted to the Father through the sacrifice of Jesus (1:5).

Once you realize this, you'll know demons are terrified of the Christian who knows who they are in Christ.

I freely share things of the Lord and angels during visitations - those times I am 'in the Spirit' as Revelation 1:10 and 4:2 calls it. But I rarely talk about seeing demons, though I've seen many.

Nearly every time I've seen a demon, and he realizes I can see him, he runs away terrified. They are terrified of us. An exception to that was a demon I saw in a church once, actually I've seen a few of that kind. They look kind of like the character from Star Wars called 'Jabba the Hutt'. Big, slovenly, fat, lazy. In each time they were secure in their position in the church building.

And each time I saw them they were in what we could call 'prosperity churches'. Their task seemed to be causing people to become prideful in their possessions, resulting in laziness - let someone else reach the poor, the downtrodden. "Teach me but don't challenge me to apply it to my life" sort of Christian. The kind of church where people invite Jesus into their life as part of their schedule, rather than give Jesus their whole being.

These demons knew I couldn't cast them out of the building because the pastor and leadership and people wanted them there.

In one visitation with the Lord He was teaching me how demons get into the mind of a person.

Christians cannot have demons in their spirit, for that has been recreated by the Holy Spirit. But if a person entertains evil thoughts they can reach a point a demon will enter into their minds and try to take over their thoughts and emotions.

In this visitation it was about a Christian man who was just standing there, and in the Spirit where the Lord and I were, this man was in a massive sphere of light. The light was not stopped by floor or ceiling or walls. The man had about a 10 foot (3m) or more sphere of light he was in - God's light, God's life.

Two demons were walking around the outside of this sphere of light, looking for a way to get to this man's mind. The Lord and I were standing behind them as the Lord talked to me, for the demons were focused on the man and didn't even look behind themselves to see us.

The Lord talked of how this man was righteous

But in one area he had a secret sin that he protected. About every 2 weeks the Lord said, he would entertain thoughts of his flesh, and instead of disciplining himself and redirecting his attention, he would open the door for those demons.

Just then a part of the sphere pulled open, like a slice of pie, wide on the outside and narrowing towards the center. But it was an opening. I saw the demons turn sideways as they moved towards the man in that 'slice' so as not to touch the light. When they got close enough to the man they jumped up on his shoulders, and started talking into his ears, and then hopped inside his head, to occupy his thoughts. Then the man sinned, repented, they jumped out, and the opening in the light closed with the demons on the outside once again.

Spiritual warfare gets very personal when we talk of our will, discipline, and secret sins. But I learned in that visitation that we have all the power, all the authority we need. When it comes to personal spiritual warfare, very often we open the doors.

But the devil does also get into our lives by people around us, to harass us - and we'll pick it up there next week. Until then, blessings,
John Fenn

www.cwowi.org and email me at cwowi@aol.com

Trench warfare or already won? 1 chase 1,000? 3 of 4

Hi all,

Some years ago I was driving across western Kansas, which is nearly as flat as a table top. For those outside the US or those Americans who have never traveled it, Kansas is in the middle of the USA, and many crops such as wheat are grown there. There is 1 main interstate highway, I-70, that runs the full length of the state east to west, a distance of 437 miles, or 703 kilometers. Central and eastern Kansas have hills, but western Kansas is so flat a person can see horizon to horizon without trees or buildings to interrupt the 180 degree view of the sky.

Night was falling on a cloudless evening, and as I drove I looked around at the unobstructed view horizon to horizon. As the sun set I could literally watch the darkness in the east move westward to envelope the land. It was a rare and awe-inspiring scene. I said within myself: "Father, look at how the darkness is advancing!" Immediately He replied clearly and concisely:

"It's not that the darkness is advancing; it's that the light is retreating."

That statement from the Father illustrates the two sides of spiritual warfare. One side is fearful, crying out because the darkness is to their perspective, advancing on their life, the lives of their loved ones, or society. The other perspective is that the darkness has no power in and of itself, for it advances only to the degree the light retreats.

When we are talking about 'spiritual warfare', it is important to take the perspective of the Father, to see the only reason the enemy is advancing in one's life, is because somewhere, somehow, the light retreated from them.

The mistake people make

Bible teachers and pastors are infamous for taking verses out of context, twisting them to something that sounds good and that they can market. When they do that concerning the subject of spiritual warfare, their error leads to Christians believing what they do is scriptural, when it really is not. That means God is no where near their prayers, declarations, and spiritual warfare fight.

Because these teachers don't understand the reality of Christ in us and what He did on the cross and resurrection, and how we have authority to use that most powerful name in the universe, they must rely on Old Testament verses now obsolete because we are in a new covenant established upon new and better promises (Hebrews 8:6)

They are therefore afraid the darkness is advancing and lead others in their fear, allowing the darkness to advance in these good-hearted people.

For instance: 1 can put 1,000 to flight and 2 can put 10,000 to flight

This teaching is so common whole generations of Christians think their understanding is chapter and verse. Namely, that they can pray with someone to multiply their power against demons.

The verse in question is Deuteronomy 32:30: "How should 1 chase 1,000, and 2 put 10,000 to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had shut them up?"

Deuteronomy means 'words', and is the transcript of Moses telling the story of the birth of Israel to those born in the wilderness during their 40 years of wandering.

Because those who came out of Egypt had within a few months refused the Lord 10 times, He gave them what they told Him they wanted - to die in the wilderness. "Truly as I live says the Lord, as you have said to Me that is what I will give you; Your bodies will fall in the wilderness..." (Numbers 14:2, 28-29)

Here in Deuteronomy 32, Moses tells all this to the children of those who died in the wilderness. Moses is about to die, and these young people needed to hear what happened to their parents. They needed to know why the enemies of Israel were successful; It was because after stubbornly refusing to believe after 10 times, He was forced to their parents what they demanded: Die in the wilderness. (They couldn't go back to Egypt at this point)

It is within that context Moses says in 32:30: "How could one single enemy chase a thousand of them, And two put ten thousand to flight, Unless their Rock had sold them (to their own unbelief), Unless the Lord had close them in - limited their attempts to do it on their own?"

The verse is about how the enemy triumphed over the unbelieving generation: How 1 enemy made 1,000 Israelites run in terror and 2 enemy made 10,000 Israelites run away because they abandoned God, who eventually had given them over to their unbelief and its consequences.

But some preacher years ago took the first part of that verse, and thought it would 'preach'. Thus an erroneous doctrine was born, and eventually became a doctrinal plank in the foundation of many Christians - and they wonder why their efforts are so powerless. God is Truth, and they have been lied to, believing that verse says something it does not. So God isn't in it.

There are many such false doctrines that well meaning Christians have believed. But the Holy Spirit isn't in error for He is Truth, so those people feel powerless spiritually and have no idea why.

Is the darkness advancing or is your light retreating because you've believed error all these years?

Next week, what the New Testament says about spiritual warfare...until then, blessings,
John Fenn
www.cwowi.org and email me at cwowi@aol.com

Trench warfare or having already won? Using our authority against us 4 of 4

Hi all,

Today I'll share part of a visitation I had with the Lord decades ago, but it changed my life. I rarely share it because it is personal and some of the questions I asked of Him were due to events in my family and in the families of people close to me. But I will share part.

I had been thinking on Matthew 28:18:

"All power (authority) has been given Me in heaven and earth, therefore you go..."

The Greek word translated in some versions as 'power' is actually 'authority', or exousia. Jesus said;
"All authority is given to me in heaven and in earth, you go therefore and teach all nations.."

The difference between power and authority can be seen in a police officer. The gun they carry is power, but traffic stops or goes when they hold up their hand by authority. When they give directions to traffic it is not anything within themselves that stops traffic, it is that they have the authority of the government to cause people to obey.

All authority was given to Jesus by the Father, therefore we are to make disciples. Why 'therefore'? Because we are in Him and He in us, we are the ones who are charged with exercising His authority in the earth.

Like a police officer who has authority to use power, so too we have authority to use the power of God. And in the same way that both authority and power must be in place within an officer of the law, so too we Christians should be living in both the authority of the Lord and able to use the Father's power (by His Spirit) where He wills.

It is the power of the Father by His Holy Spirit that authority is teamed with. The Word and Spirit agree, so though you may have authority to use His name, you must be doing that in teamwork with the Holy Spirit, who is the power. Jesus said He cast demons out by the Spirit - the Holy Spirit is the power that actually does the work.

You can speak the name of Jesus as many times as you want, and you have the authority to do so, but unless the Holy Spirit joins with that use, nothing will happen. When the Spirit is joined with the Name, all it takes is one mention of that Name to release the power of God into the situation.

That's why I take time to linger as I pray for someone. It's why in our conferences we break up into small circles of 6 or 8 people so each person can be prayed for with time to linger so all can know the mind of the Father and therefore how His Spirit will minister to the one receiving prayer.

I train people to first determine the will of the Father by where the Holy Spirit is moving, before we use the name of Jesus in prayer for the person. You can also tell how little faith in the Name a person has or how dull they are to the Spirit if they just jump right in with many words that sound all powerful and full of declaration. And if they pray and use His name multiple times and/or use various religious formula's as if they can add to the power. It's very simple: If you know by the Spirit what the Lord wants to do, simply command using that Name of Jesus and it will be done. Short, simple, powerful, because the Holy Spirit does the work.

My question earlier in the visitation about Jesus having all authority as He said in Matthew 28:18, was why the Father allows children to be abused, neglected, even injured or worse in horrible families. If He has all authority, where is He when children suffer like that?

He immediately answered: "The Father created the family and delegated family to mankind. The intent was that family would be the main way the knowledge of His ways would be spread throughout the earth. (There are many OT and NT verses that demonstrate this) Because family is delegated authority, we are shut out of many families because they do not want us nor the ways of the Father."

"The Father often has to wait until that child begins growing up and outside of the family authority structure, which is why many come to me when they are approaching and in their teen or college years. Even if they come to know Me as a young child in the midst of such a family, I am limited by the authority of the family. Sometimes their faith is just between us because no one else in the family walks with Me. In other situations, as soon as a child starts to become independent, it becomes legally possible and right for the Father to seek those children to comfort and begin to heal them, and draw them to Himself. We will not be blamed. On that day all will see that everything we do is just and right that no one may bring an accusation against us."

After some discussion about this, how He must respect the very authority structure He delegated to mankind and related things, He then commented further:

"I do have all authority in heaven and earth, and you are in Me, therefore you have authority in the earth. Satan has no authority. He gets people to give him their authority, then he uses their authority against them. What you see in the world, and even in my people, is the accumulation and culmination of years and often decades of people giving him their authority, which he has used against them, to the enslavement of even whole nations." In many cases multiple generations have grown up giving Satan their authority thinking that is just how life is, to the enslavement of whole families, generations, and nations. When a person is born again, life becomes a journey to take back the authority they had previously (ignorantly) given to Satan."

Suddenly I saw it. Every person's will is sovereign. In Christ we are in Him and He in us, and we live within His authority. Jesus has all authority. But free will supersedes everything. Being free-willed beings, we can give our authority to whomever we choose - God or the devil. God uses our will and our authority in Him to better us, but the devil uses our authority against us to harass and destroy us.

A person's free will is greater than God and the devil. Neither God nor the devil can make a person do anything. I have often used the illustration of millions of people who don't know God, overcome their addictions simply by their will. Christians have lost sight of the fact they merely need to grow a backbone, a strong will, to overcome the devil. Your will is stronger than any demon. Knowing yourself and determining your will first, before you ever become tempted, is key to living a victorious life. When you know yourself well enough and know the Father well enough that you hate breaking the sweet Presence of His Spirit by the grievance of sin, when protecting that Presence becomes all-important to you; When sin tempts you will be able to say 'That's not me, that's not who I am.', and it goes away.

Anything we have in Christ certainly adds power to the firmness of our decision to break the devil's stronghold in our lives, but the core is that we must decide we won't do ____ anymore. You can't try to resist temptation if secretly in your heart you know you want it. The flesh is always capable of sin, but we are to control the flesh and tell it what it may and may not do.

It is often said of addiction

No one can help the addict until and unless they decide they want help. To put it as Paul did in Ephesians 2:3, sinners sin because by their nature they are 'children of wrath'. That means sinners sin because it is their nature; Christians sin because it's their choice.

Once we set our will, then heaven or hell respond accordingly. When we set our will, and when we know that greater is He in us than he that is in the world. And we know we are blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ. And we know we are part of a royal priesthood first adopted into and then born into the family of the king - you won't think you have to search out some formula to overcome your sins or the sins of your forefathers.

You'll realize Christ really does live in you, and you really can go directly to the Father to seek mercy and grace to help in time of need. You will realize you have been given the authority backed up by the power of the Father to command demons away from your life.

Formulas become obsolete. When we spiritually wrestle against authorities and principalities, we do so from the perspective of having already won - we have all authority over them because Christ in us has all authority. Our lives build in momentum: From the first efforts to take back authority we had ignorantly given to the devil, to closing openings for the devil, because all our authority is now directed to the things of the Kingdom of God.

Can demons bring temptation? Yes. Can demons provoke people to attack you? Yes. But if your will is set, and those demons who know you and have watched you over time know your will is set and you have no interest in sinning, when you exert your authority and use that Name above all names, the power of the Father will back you up and vanquish those demons, making any attacks just for a short season.

Godliness becomes dominant, and life though filled with challenges, is lived victoriously....

New subject next week....hope these insights have been helpful. Blessings,
John Fenn
cwowi.org and email me at cwowi@aol.com

Final thoughts on spiritual warfare – 8 oktober 2022.

Hi all,
Some final, very practical thoughts on spiritual warfare.

Demons can't read your mind

Demons and even Satan himself, are only individuals. They cannot read our minds. For people who have been taught to be on the look out for the devil, the question of demons reading our minds is important. They may even find it hard to believe he can't read their minds.

And along with that, demons can understand tongues because we speak the languages of earth and heaven. But what does it matter? We are praying to the Father, so who cares who knows what we are praying? If you realize demons have no authority in your life, you won't really care what a demon may or may not know or understand - they are immaterial and irrelevant. Christ in me is all that matters.

For example: How much revelation from God did you have, how much did you know, before you were born again? The answer is very little. It wasn't until after your spirit was recreated by the Holy Spirit that the things of God became things that you knew, that suddenly made sense to you. That is because you were before in darkness, alienated from God, having very little revelation. But once in the family, the truths of the Father were revealed.

Now imagine beings thousands of times in greater darkness than you used to be.

If you being human had no light of God in your life, no personal revelation of the things of God, how much more in the dark and ignorance do you suppose demons are? They can't read your mind.

This is why we get weird thoughts and weird temptations that make no sense floating across our mind - they don't have a clue what we are thinking so they just throw things out there to see if any of it gets

taken by us as a thought. Further, many demons have been around families for generations. In the same way the Father gives us angels to be in charge, Satan's perversion is that demons can be assigned to families, and are what the Bible calls 'familiar spirits'. Familiar because they have been around a family, often for generations, using up one body after another through the decades.

So they know what makes you stressed or afraid by observation, not by reading your mind. Relax, they are nothing to be afraid of - knowing they don't know your mind, that they can only guess what you are thinking because they know you and have observed you or your family for years, shouldn't bother you.

This is why what we say and what we do are so important. They observe us. By your words you reveal your heart. In the same way your words reveal your will to another person, your words also limit or give information to demons enabling them to act, or run away realizing there is nothing for them with you.

Cast them out

Jesus said to simply cast out demons. He didn't go looking for them, but when a person crossed His path who had a demon, He commanded them out. The same is seen in the book of Acts.

There is only 1 record of anyone talking to a demon, and that was Jesus talking with the boss demon, Legion, in Mark 5. That was just to determine who was boss over those thousands of spirit that man had, so He could cast them out. Ministries who regularly talk with the demons are off balance, for there was only that 1 time in the NT it was done, and that by the Lord for specifically learning who was boss over thousands.

You cannot override someone's free will

In Matthew 15:22 Jesus is asked by a mother to heal/deliver her daughter. In Luke 9:38-42 a father seeks healing and deliverance for his son, in the Greek 'boy', which is younger than a teen.

Going back to even 500BC we find Jewish tradition (in the Mishnah, the oral law) stating that a parent is responsible for the actions of a child until they turn age 13 (sometimes 12 for girls). That coming of age ceremony is called a 'bar mitzvah' for a boy, 'bat mitzvah' for a girl. It is based on the onset of puberty.

But many parents, including Barb and I, found that the Lord roughly follows the same principle. I remember laying hands on and commanding the fever away of one of my sons when he was young. Nothing happened, which was unusual. When I asked the Father why, He told me simply: "He knows enough and is old enough to stand on his own faith. He's responsible now."

If you have a teen or adult child, and they are not walking with the Lord

Perhaps even doing things where you discern demons are involved in their lives, your authority is very limited. You can intercede for them, and even command the demons away from them, but if they willfully live that way, the demons don't have to obey you. At the most, your loved one finds relief for a time, but when the demons return they give in, and the cycle begins all over again.

Perhaps that is why Paul's prayers in Ephesians 1:17-19, 3:14-20, and Colossians 1:9, all have to do with the Father reaching people and dealing with people in their hearts, not by rebuking demons in their lives. Ultimately, deliverance must start in the heart of a person - they must first reject demonic influence found in that habit, that addiction, that sin. There is no prayer of intercession for others recorded in the NT that involves casting demons out of someone's life, it's always about how they may be strengthened in the Lord, and see His call on them.

The body of Christ in Ephesus had been before Christ, involved in deep occult practices (remember Acts 19 records they burned their books on the occult when they came to the Lord). So we would expect Paul to write about demons extensively in his letter to the Ephesians - but we don't see that. We instead see prayers for the eyes of their understanding to be opened, for them to be strengthened by the Father's Spirit in their inner man, and so on. Those prayers are focused on Christ in them and walking in who they are in Christ.

Personal sin and demonic influence

Romans 13:14 says; "Put on the Lord Jesus, and don't make provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof."

The devil gets much more blame for the private sins of believers than he is responsible for. There is no demon mentioned here by Paul: he says you deal with your flesh. The Greek of Romans 13:14 for 'provision' is the word 'pronoia', from 'pro' which means before, or ahead of time, and 'noia' meaning 'to think'. Literally then: "Put on the Lord Jesus, and don't think ahead of time how you will fulfill the lusts of the flesh."

Demonic attack in sleep

Not all dreams are spiritual, many are the product of stressful lives and the cares of this world. But sometimes people fight demons in their sleep. Early on in ministry we noticed people who had been sexually or otherwise abused (verbal or physical) battled demons in their sleep.

For example, if a man molested his daughter, or a boy was molested by an uncle or older boy in the neighborhood, or things like that, the demons that motivated those attackers will often seek to continue to harass the victim, often in their sleep.

I have no chapter and verse on this, just experience. Demons seek people so they may expand their influence, or if the perpetrator dies, those spirits are left without influence, so will seek out the victims of the perpetrator. Often the perpetrator is still alive, but the girl or boy grew up and out of that authority structure (like family, or a social club like Scouts) that opened the door for the demons, so the demons will seek the victim to try to gain authority in their adult life. Often that is in their dreams - I don't know how it works that they harass at night, but I've seen it countless times.

Again, set your will.

Fight them in the name of Jesus, even in your sleep, using His name, and they will soon find no place and will leave that person alone. If this goes on for years, experience has shown that sometimes the victim has not fully dealt with the damage that was done to them, so it keeps the wound open and therefore the door open for those demons to harass them. Sometimes not. Sometimes the demons are strong-willed and try repeatedly. But you have to assert your will as stronger and set, and they will go away. First the attacks will lessen, then months apart, like they come back every once in a while just to test things to see if anything has changed with you. But if one's will is set, those demons will at some point give up, even if that person is working through the injury to their soul.

The subject is huge and my teachings in this space aren't meant to be exhaustive on any subject, but I hope beneficial and food for thought. New subject next week, until then, blessings,

John Fenn

cwowi.org and email me at cwowi@aol.com