

Living Above the Fray

Our Real Enemy

2 Timothy 2:25-26

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²⁵ Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

The Unknown Enemy

Like angels, they (demons) are also created, spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence but without physical bodies. We may define demons as follows: *Demons are evil angels who sinned against God and who now continually work evil in the world.*

Grudem, W. A. (2004). (p. 412). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House.

Activity of Satan & Demons

1. Satan was the originator of sin.
2. Demons oppose and try to destroy every work of God.
3. Yet Demons are limited by God's control and have limited power.
4. There have been differing stages of demonic activity in the history of redemption.

Activity of Satan & Demons

- During the ministry of Jesus

²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.” Mark 1:27

Activity of Satan & Demons

- During the church age
 1. Jesus gave authority over the enemy to the 12 and then to the 70 (Mat 10⁸ | Mark 3¹⁵).
 2. The early church was prepared for spiritual battle (James 4⁷ | 1 Peter 5⁸⁻⁹).

Should we be afraid?

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 John 4:4

Ephesians 6:10-13

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that

Ephesians 6:10-13

when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Our Response

1. We are not to be afraid
2. We are to be prepared

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

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2 Corinthians 10:3-5

³ For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

How to fight

- Resist – in the power of the resurrected Christ

⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

James 4:7–10

How to fight

- Resolve –

To learn more about the one who has saved you and secured your salvation through his defeat of Satan.

To give God the glory for how He is using this circumstance to deepen your faith.

To Go . . .

- Is your world view secular or biblical?
- Why is the work of enemy overlooked in the American church?
- How prepared are you to fight battles on the spiritual front?