

August 8, 2021

## The Question Behind the Question:

- The Bible seems to describe a spiritual war between good and evil being fought \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ us. (Ephesians 6:12)
- Many are convinced that spiritual warfare is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Christian life. Many others aren't \_\_\_\_\_.
- How \_\_\_\_\_ is spiritual warfare? What is our \_\_\_\_\_ in the war?

## What the Bible Doesn't Say

- The Bible doesn't explain the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ of our spiritual opponents.
- The Bible does not provide details on a \_\_\_\_\_ between angels and demons. (Revelation 12:7-8)
- The Bible doesn't say that all spiritual warfare is \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Thessalonians 2:18, Acts 16:7, 1 Corinthians 5:5)
- The Bible doesn't tell us how to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ demonic possession. (Mark 9:17-18, 29)

## What the Bible Says:

- The Bible teaches that Jesus has already \_\_\_\_\_ the powers of this world. (Ephesians 1:20-23)
- Through Jesus we can be \_\_\_\_\_ from the oppression of evil powers. (Ephesians 2:1-5)
- The church's role is to \_\_\_\_\_ the victory of Jesus through the way we \_\_\_\_\_. (Ephesians 3:8-10)
- Spiritual warfare is a \_\_\_\_\_ battle: to resist intimidation and \_\_\_\_\_ while we stay on mission. (Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Peter 5:8)

## Conclusions:

- There are real spiritual powers that effect our world—and Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ over all of them.
- We don't need to defeat the powers, or \_\_\_\_\_ over them; we need to \_\_\_\_\_ them and stay focused on the Gospel.
- The Good News is that there is \_\_\_\_\_ for anyone who seeks in in \_\_\_\_\_. (Luke 4:18-19).

## Discussion Questions

### 1. Getting Started:

- What did you find most interesting about the sermon this week? The most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
- How do you feel about spiritual warfare? Does it fascinate you, bore you, make you feel uncomfortable?
- Have you ever had an experience (you're willing to share) with spiritual warfare or opposition? What happened?

### 2. Into the Bible (Read Acts 19:11-20)

- In verse 12 we see a very strange method of exorcism. Why do you think Paul's handkerchiefs could cast out demons? Is Acts trying to teach us the cast out demons this way?
- The Jewish exorcists used Jesus name, but their exorcisms were unsuccessful. Can we tell what they were doing wrong? (Compare to Luke 9:49-50)

- Verse 17 says that the failure of the Jewish exorcists magnified the name of Jesus. How so?

- Does this passage teach us anything about how to perform exorcisms? If not, what does it teach us instead?

### 3. Going Deeper

- How do demonic powers intimidate or distract us from fulfilling our mission?
- What does spiritual bondage look like in our world today? Where have you seen it?
- How can we help people in those kinds of bondage today? If the Bible isn't an exorcism manual, how do we bring them freedom?