

**“Spiritual Warfare part 1”  
September 6, 2015**

**Ephesians 6:11-12**

**CORE:** Life is more than “natural causes & effects.” There is clearly a spiritual dimension. In this “spirit realm,” we encounter “evil.” [Galatians 1:4 refers to it as “this present evil age”—a NOW experience]. We need a clear, biblical understanding of what “evil” is in order to:

- Fully appreciate Jesus’ victory **OVER** evil
- Powerfully experience our deliverance **FROM** evil

**1. There is an EVIL ONE**

- The “**evil one**” causes people to either be paralyzed in fear OR to see him as a myth.
- **Lord’s prayer** is set against a present evil—opposition to His Kingdom & His will being done on earth
- Deliver us from “**the evil one**”—for “**Yours is the Kingdom!**” (There’s only one kingdom that lasts and matters; “**Yours is the power**”- (There really is only one ultimate power.)
- “**Eternal life**” is polar opposite of “**this present evil age**”; eternal life is more than “afterlife”—it’s **the dynamic result of being united with God!**
- The **first words** spoken by God over man & woman- “**He blessed them**” (**Gen. 1:28**)—**empowering them to be all they were created to be**—reigning over all things, expressing His love to all creation.; to fulfill their destiny.
- **Satan, in the Garden, a sign that “evil’s” presence predates creation.**
  - Evil started in him
  - Sometime during creation (we are told “**ALL the angels sang together**” as God was creating. **Job 38:7**)
  - Though sketchy, it appears that Satan **initiated** the rebellion
  - Then, he **deceived** Adam & Eve into joining him.
  - His name “**devil**” means “**gossip; slanderer; destroyer; the one who robs of hope and spreads despair**” (Why Jesus said to the Pharisees—who constantly “found fault” with Him and gathered people to themselves. “**...of your father, the devil**” (**John 8:44**))
  - He is a fallen creature primarily known as “**LIAR**”.
  - He is not a “god”—no dualism—he is merely a rebellious angel—masquerading as “the phony god of this world.”

**2. The HEART OF EVIL—to move us to distrust God**

**Romans 1:21 and 25 NIV**

- “Images” are not just “carvings”—but “reductions”—“less than”; **controllable**
- “Evil” is “**less than**” living—settling for less than God intended.
- An **image of God** as “less than” able to help, save, heal, & deliver.
- It’s seeing ourselves (and others) as **insignificant**; life as **mere existence**

It’s why Jesus said—“The thief comes **only to rob**...but I bring “**more than enough**” life!” (John 10:10). It’s why John says- “**Greater is He that is in you**” (1 Jn. 4:4). And “**Greater works...**” (John 14:12).

NOTE: Evil one distorts God as **cruel, shaming, frustrated, disgusted.**

**It is IDOLATRY to make God out to be someone He is not.**

### **3. We can OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD” (Romans 12:17-21 NLT)**

#### **a. Walk in an ever-increasing REVELATION & AWE of God**

- “**They no longer gave thanks**”—a reduced “god” is not worthy of worship or awe; does not generate adoration. **Worship** is a “**response to revelation.**” Hence, “**in spirit and in truth**” refers to a **genuine, spiritual response to a vibrantly alive, fully Loving God**—who gives “joy unspeakable, faith unsinkable, love unstoppable, everything is possible!”
- “**Suppressed the truth in unrighteousness**”—suppressing the truth about God & about you (as one “**made in His image**”)
- **READ Romans 5:5 TPT**

#### **b. Walk in RIGHT RELATIONSHIP with others**

**Romans 12:9-23- Specific ways to HONOR one another!**

- **Evil “reduces others**”—oppressive. Breaks relationships. Because God is “never enough”—we are “not enough”—therefore, we are threatened by others who are seen as “better than” us.
- Gossip, slander, criticism—are evil words that divide, defile, and destroy. (**Proverbs 10:12- “Hatred stirs up dissensions, but love covers all wrongs.”**)
- NOTE: If conversation does not move you to love more, pray more, forgive more, etc.—a good sign that evil has crept in. Wherever you find separation—evil is there (in families, churches, the workplace, etc.).

**NOTE:** For Jesus “**teaching and doing**” are **synonymous**. (i.e., Nicodemus’ comment RE: Jesus’ teaching & doing miracles; Luke’s intro to his Gospel- “All that Jesus taught & did” (He taught to explain what He did/was about to do); **Truth is only our reality—as it is consistent with our lifestyle.**)