



**Sunday July 21, 2019
Battle Zone**

We are in spiritual conflict. There are several Scriptures that tell us plainly that there is a spiritual battle that is going on. We are in the battle zone.

Let's look at Ephesians 6:12, to begin with:

Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

wrestle Greek '*pale*' refers to "wrestling (a contest between two in which each endeavours to throw the other, and which is decided when the victor is able to hold his opponent down with his hand upon his neck)" (Thayer's Greek Definitions).

We are in conflict with different kinds and levels of demonic powers. We do not have to be too impressed by their rank or order, but here is what these refer to:

principalities = chief rulers (Greek '*archas*')
powers = demons who have delegated power (Greek '*exousias*')
rulers = world-rulers (Greek '*kosmokratoras*'), rulers presiding over the darkness
spiritual hosts of wickedness = wicked (evil) spirits (Greek '*pneumatika ponerias*')
spiritual hosts of wickedness = wicked (evil) spirits (Greek '*pneumatika ponerias*')

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ENEMY

Now there is spiritual truth we need to be informed about and stand on concerning the enemy.

We quote a lot of Scriptures quickly, to show that everything we are stating is what the Word of God tells us.

Some people may say '*well that really does not mean that*'.

Well, we believe that God said what He meant, and meant what He said.

We do not question or doubt God's holy Word.

Enemy Crushed!

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."



This is what Jesus did to satan on the Cross.
To bruise your head, means to deal a crushing blow to the head.
Jesus crushed satans head - denoting a complete, crushing victory.

Enemy Expelled

John 12:31-33

31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

Prior to going to the Cross, Jesus announced that satan was going to be cast out, evicted or expelled.

Orders for satan to be expelled or evicted have been issued.

Satan's eviction notice has been given, and he has been cast out.

Satan's hold is broken and people can now be drawn to Jesus (or come to Jesus).

Satan is here for a period, and when Jesus returns to set up His Kingdom, satan will be bound for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1-3)

Enemy Condemned

John 16:8-11

8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

The court hearings are over. The verdict is out.

Satan has been found guilty, judged and condemned.

The sentence has been proclaimed.

So there is no need for any of us to appear in "The courts of heaven" to present our case. Our enemy has been tried, found guilty and already judged and condemned.

Our Advocate always stands before the Great Judge (1 John 2:1-2; Romans 8:33-34), as a constant reminder that He has already paid for all our sins, our debt has been cancelled and the adversary (satan) has already been judged and condemned.

Enemy Disarmed!

Colossians 2:14-15

14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was



contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Imagine a host of soldiers without any weapons.
That's the state of the enemy now.

Enemy Destroyed!

Hebrews 2:14-15

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

destroy Greek 'katargeō', some of Thayer's Greek Definitions for this word include: "to render inactivate, inoperative; to cause a person or thing to have no further efficiency; to deprive of force, influence, power; put an end to, do away with, annul, abolish".

As far as Jesus is concerned, through what He did on the Cross for us, the enemy has been crushed, expelled, condemned, disarmed and destroyed!

The authority that we are called to walk in is described in the words of Jesus in Luke 10:19:

Luke 10:19

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Let's say this out loud and bold:

Satan and all his demons have been crushed, expelled, condemned, disarmed and destroyed! I stand and operate boldly with a sense of complete authority and dominion over the enemy.

SATAN'S GAME PLAN

Tough questions

Why then does the enemy still seem so powerful against the believer and in the world?
How is it possible for an enemy who has been crushed, expelled, condemned, disarmed and destroyed to still cause so much havoc and destruction?

Today, we will specifically address satan's **primary** game plan against the believer. (We do not have the time to discuss all his schemes against the believer and all his operations in the world, etc. So this is not a complete study on spiritual warfare).



Imagine an army of soldiers without weapons.
They know they have been defeated.

They know their time to roam on this territory is limited.
What will they do, or what can they do?

Perhaps use propaganda and pretensions to convince people to yield to them, join them, etc.

Perhaps use any possible/available means to gain ground. Maybe resort to "guerilla warfare" which is a warfare of harassment through surprise, using hit-and-run tactics.

What does the Bible say about satan's tactics?

Here is what we see in 2 Corinthians:

2 Corinthians 2:11

lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

When we are ignorant to his devices (literally mind games, mental tactics), he has an advantage.

satan uses :

blindness (2 Corinthians 4:4) - keep people from knowing the truth

thoughts, arguments, reasoning, and mental strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

craftiness to deceive and weaken (corrupt, spoil, ruin, shrivel, wither) (2 Corinthians 11:3; Revelation 20:3)

Every part of our spiritual armor in Ephesians 6, also gives us an indication of the devices of the enemy, that he can use against us:

Our armor:	Tactic implied:
Helmet of salvation	<i>blinding our minds to our salvation</i>
Breastplate of righteousness	<i>Unrighteousness, inducements to sin</i>
Belt of truth	<i>lies, deceptions, untruths</i>
Shoes of the Good news of peace to move forward	<i>news producing discord, strife, ill-will, disunity to hinder our steps/progress</i>
Shield of faith	<i>doubt, fear, anxiety, worry</i>

So this is the enemy's game plan to get a foothold into a believer's life.

Satan and his demons really do not have very much they can do against the believer. Almost every form of attack begins here with these tactics, intending to become an



entry point.

Paul's instruction to us as believers is clear:

Ephesians 4:27 nor give place to the devil.

place Greek '*topos*', literally means a spot, a portion or space of land; metaphorically it refers to the **opportunity, power, or occasion for acting/doing something** (based on Thayer's Greek Definitions)

We submit ourselves to God (James 4:7) and use the spiritual weapons God has given to us - FAITH in our hearts and the WORD of God we speak - to resist the enemy.

TODAY'S TAKE AWAY

The truths that we desire for all of us to take away this morning is:

- 1, Satan and all his demons have been crushed, expelled, condemned, disarmed and destroyed! Therefore we can stand and operate boldly with a sense of complete authority and dominion over the enemy.
- 2, Be aware of satan's game plan and tactics. Using the weapons God has given to us, give satan no opportunity, power, or occasion for acting in your life.

MINISTRY TIME | SALVATION CALL



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday July 21, 2019
Battle Zone

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Colossians 2:14-15; Hebrews 2:14-15; Luke 10:19; Ephesians 6:10-18*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Satan and all his demons have been crushed, expelled, condemned, disarmed and destroyed! We must stand and operate boldly with a sense of complete authority and dominion over the enemy. Discuss satan's defeat and our authority as believers.

2, Discuss satan's primary game plan against the believer (as seen in 2 Corinthians 10:4-5; 2 Corinthians 11:3).

3, What should the believer's strategy be, to counter the enemy's tactics?

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.



FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>