

Spiritual Warfare

We believe spiritual awareness is an important part of our messianic life. The Bible says there is a devil and that we are in a **spiritual** battle. That's why we use the words "spiritual warfare." We wrestle against evil spiritual powers.

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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.;" Ephesians 6:11-12 NKJV.

The devil is against us and we must resist his attacks.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith;" 1 Peter 5:8-9 NKJV

The devil works behind the scenes to deceive people. They often don't realize what is going on.
2 Cor. 11:3

What does science and medicine often say about devil spirits?

They say they are not real, it is just a disease, a conditioned response, or neural disorder.

When we think of the devil what image do we see?

Extraordinary or habitual sinful activities are sometimes not just bad habits or due to disease or conditioned responses.

The devil confuses us into thinking the sin is just who we are.

Devil spirits are real – the man with the devil spirit leaped on seven men and overpowered them so the seven men left the house wounded and naked in Acts 19:13-16.

Yeshua is over all including the devil. Eph. 1:19-23; Col. 2:15; Matthew 10:1; Mark 6:7

The devil spirits are subject to us through the name of Yeshua (Jesus). Luke 10:17

God knows who we are referring to even if we use Yeshua's (Jesus) English name.

Yeshua is Jesus' real name.

Yeshua cast out devil spirits. Mark 1:23-27, 5:13, 7:25-29, 9:25

New Testament believers also cast out devil spirits. Acts 5:16, 8:7

The Jews understood there were devil spirits. In Acts 19:13-16, some unbelieving Jews tried to cast out a devil spirit. That's why the New Testament portion talks about the casting out of spirits. The typical Jewish method for casting out devil spirits was to obtain the devil spirit's name. Since a dumb and deaf person could not communicate, the rabbis said only the messiah would cast out a dumb and deaf spirit. Yeshua cast out a dumb and deaf spirit in Mark 9:25.

The Jews knew about devil spirits. Luke 4:36

In Genesis it says we are made in the image of God and the devil hates God and wants to destroy us. The devil is the destroyer. Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:15-16; John 8:44; Heb. 2:14

We need to know about the devil and how he works. 2 Cor. 2:11

Magic (not talking about slight of hand or trickery) and sorcery are backed by devil spirits. The Bible tells us not to practice these things. Deut. 18:9-12; Zech. 10:2; Acts 19:19.

Sin (not following God's commandments) is backed by devil spirits. The devil tries to influence people and sometimes give people suggestions. If a person gives place to the devil, the devil can control a person in certain areas of their life. For example, if a person lies a lot, a lying spirit can influence or even control that person and make them lie. The same is true for sexual sin or other sins.

The Bible says we shouldn't allow the devil a place in our lives; live good lives. Eph. 4:26-32

We need to be careful with unforgiveness and divisive attitudes. Romans 16:17

We need to watch our attitudes and what we say to ourselves. 2 Cor. 10:3-5:

"For although we do live in the world, we do not wage war in a worldly way; because the weapons we use to wage war are not worldly. On the contrary, they have God's power for demolishing strongholds. We demolish arguments and every arrogance that raises itself up against the knowledge of God; we take every thought captive and make it obey the Messiah."

The devil is the destroyer. Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:15-16; John 8:44; Heb. 2:14; Rev. 12:9

The devil is a deceiver. 2 Tim. 4:1-4; 1 John 4:1; 2 John 1:7

If believers don't resist the devil they can be influenced and even controlled by the devil.

Some argue that possession means they are owned – the devil doesn't own anyone, but believers and unbelievers alike can give themselves over to behaviors that the devil can control; these are called strongholds.

We can break demonic strongholds. Dan. 10:1-21; John 8:36; John 17:15; 2 Cor. 10:4-5; Eph. 6:1-13; James 4:7-8; 1 Peter 5:8-11

We have victory over the devil through Yeshua.

“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.” Col 2:15 (NKJV)

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” 1 Cor 10:13 (NKJV)

In Acts 19:13-16, even though they called on the name of Yeshua, they did not believe in Yeshua. The power is not there outside of a believing relationship with Yeshua. There is something else that we can learn from this.

* We must believe and trust in Yeshua.

* We must also be willing to take action on our own and fight – we should have holy contempt to resist the devil. The person being prayed for should be fed up with the devil and not want to sin any more or be controlled any more).

We have authority and power through Yeshua and we each must stand and fight spiritually. Eph. 6:10-13 NKJV:

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the (the rulers of this darkness—text) rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Yeshua wants something better for us.

In John chapter 10 Yeshua talks about the religious leaders of His time. They were immersed in the world and the ways of the world and influenced by the devil.

John 10:9-11NKJV

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

The leaders of Yeshua's time had bought into the devil's corrupt system.

The devil steals, kills, and destroys, but Yeshua came to give us life.

Yeshua gives us back our lives and wants us to engage in spiritual warfare. Luke 9:1 NKJV, "Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. Luke 10:1, 17: "After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also." ... "Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.'

Yeshua wasn't training people and giving them authority so that it would end after He ascended to heaven. Yeshua wants that to continue.

Paul said that we are to stand against the devil. Eph. 6:10-13

We can trust in Yeshua because He is over all. Eph. 1:21

Yeshua gives us authority through Him and power over the demonic.

We are set free by the power of God and we help others to be set free. 1 John 4:4 NKJV:

"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

Yeshua came to not only give us eternal life, but power to set us free from sin and the demonic and give us something better than this world has to offer.

Shaul (Paul) tells Timothy we should be gentle to others who are caught in sin and help them to know the truth and come to their senses. This is so they may escape from the traps of the devil.

2 Timothy 2:25-26 CJB:

"Also he should be gentle as he corrects his opponents. For God may perhaps grant them the opportunity to turn from their sins, acquire full knowledge of the truth, come to their senses and escape the trap of the Adversary, after having been captured alive by him to do his will."

Yeshua said, "To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God;" Rev 2:7 NKJV.