

Exposing the Hidden Agenda of Darkness

Dr. Ed Laymance

“There are two ways to be fooled; one is to believe what isn’t so, the other is to refuse to believe what is so.” Ascribed to **Soren Kierkegaard**

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve their existence. The other is to believe and feel an unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.” **C. S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters**

“Demonism is neither funny nor phony. It is real. It is, in fact, as serious and significant a subject as can ever be considered. But, strangely, it remains one of those unmentionables. Almost like, ‘Let’s not talk about it and maybe it will go away.’ We Christians avoid it like the plague. And when we do discuss it, our comments fall somewhere between traditional superstition and downright ignorance. Even though we have ignored it, the world has explored it. By twisting the truth and pushing the hot buttons of human curiosity and gross sensuality, slick promoters have turned it into a money-making extravaganza.... a weird sideshow attraction with all the crowd-pleasing gimmicks. *And the devil could not be happier.* The last thing he wants is to have his presence and his strategy exposed.” **Chuck Swindoll, Demonism**

Do not “be outwitted (outsmarted) by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his designs (schemes, strategies)” **2 Cor. 2:11**

“And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong. So, take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we’ll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.

Be prepared. You’re up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it’s all over but the shouting you’ll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You’ll need them throughout your life. God’s Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other’s spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.” **Eph. 6:10-18, The Message**

Perspective

Focus on Jesus, Deal with the Enemy – the key, foundational principle concerning intrusion

Stay in the Middle of the Room – our point of view concerning spiritual evil tends to be one of two extremes. Either we are consumed with the thought of spiritual intrusion and ascribe all problems and difficulties to the enemy; or, we disregard spiritual evil as a legitimate influence and focus only on human responsibility. We must maintain a balanced, Biblical approach

A Biblical Worldview is Essential - a biblical worldview does not separate spiritual reality from physical reality. Our western cultural biblical worldview does. The Bible is clear that we are to learn to recognize and navigate the interaction of both simultaneously.

Believe the Biblical Facts, Not Freaky Fiction – Hollywood mostly gets it wrong!

Influence and Control Not Demon Possessed – spiritual evil intrudes in the lives of everyone every day. Intrusion is not about ownership. As Christians, we are eternal property of God, bought with the precious blood of Jesus. So, for Believers, intrusion is a turf war – who will we listen to, Jesus or them? Darkness cannot make us do anything. They need our cooperation. We must understand that choosing to sin means we are actually partnering with the plans and purposes of spiritual evil. And when we refuse to confess, repent, and forgive sin, Darkness not only gains more and more influence with us over time, but a right to harass us and our family.

Pay Attention to Body, Soul, and Spirit – physical, mental, emotional, spiritual (4 tires)

Principles and Process, not a Scripted Event – learning to better recognize the strategies of Darkness and more effectively engage their intrusion is supposed to be part of the sanctification process - my lifelong daily walk with Jesus. It is not a one and done special event we schedule.

Basic Training, Not Special Ops – Discipleship 101 – what every believer must know and do

Think Romans 7 + Ephesians 6 – every day we are dealing with both/and, not either/or

It Takes a Village – created beings – they are not omnipresent, omniscient, or omnipotent

A Spiritual Terrorist Network – the cell assigned to you and your family intentionally plans what they do. They leverage sin, exploit opportunities, and orchestrate situations when possible.

All Our Thoughts Are Not Our Thoughts – spiritual evil typically speaks to us first person

Obstruction, Identity Theft, and Entrenchment – primary objectives of Darkness

We Must Intentionally Defy Darkness or We Will Unintentionally Comply with Darkness

Points of Access

Front Door Sin - "... sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you..." (Gen. 4:7)

Side Door Sin (A Wrong Response to Hurts) - "In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold." (Eph. 4:26-27)

Back Door Sin (Generational - Family Systems Past and Present) - "Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped ... as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:14-15)

Open Windows of People, Places, and Things - spiritual evil will leverage anything God has not signed off on - people you have relationships with, listen to and spend time with; places you go; stuff you have; things you use, read, watch, play, listen to; things you do

Standing Against Spiritual Evil

Take Spiritual Evil Seriously and Fearlessly - stay balanced - do not overestimate nor underestimate spiritual evil, and **do not fear them**. They are spiritual bullies. Stand up to them, stand against them, and advance the Kingdom in the authority and power of Jesus!

Basic Ongoing Strategy - Humble, Submit, Resist (James 4:6-8). This is the order of things.

Shut the Doors, Close the Windows, Remove the Clutter, Go to Court - confess your sin and actively engage repentance; choose to forgive and process your pain; get rid of generational junk; remove spiritually unhealthy relationships, places, and things from your life, and ask God to break your ties with them; then ask God to judge and remove the oppressing spirits - free, cleanse, and restore you and your generations, and fill you with Himself.

Go All In With Jesus All Day Every Day - Read, think about, and apply God's Word daily; talk with God all the time about everything - prayer is an ongoing dialogue not an occasional monologue; worship, connect with, and do life with other likeminded believes

Challenge Your Thinking Out Loud - it may not be your idea Peter (Matt 16: 23)

The Armor Of God - more than a metaphor - learn how to apply the armor every day, throughout the day - (Belt) believe what God says - His truth holds everything together and sets you free; (Breastplate) accept who you are in Christ, this protects your heart; (Helmet) choose to transform your thinking and have the mind of Christ; (Shoes) prepare, abide, stay ready, and move only when and as God directs; (Shield) trust God with everything, regardless of the present look of things - be strong and courageous, do not be afraid; (Sword) engage Darkness and advance the Kingdom of God with the Word of God and the words of God as He directs; (Prayer) persist - don't give up, give in, or quit

What I Must Know and Do Concerning Spiritual Intrusion

Spiritual evil hopes I never recognize the vast extent of their intrusion in my life (Eph. 6:12).

Leveraging sin and selfishness, they seek to harass, oppress, and overwhelm me (1 Peter 5:6-8).

Ignorance is not bliss – it is dangerous and ultimately deadly (Eph. 2:1-4).

In order to implement their strategies (2 Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:11),

spiritual evil must first get my eyes off Jesus (Heb. 12:1-2).

So, they lie to me (John 8:44)

using confusion and doubt (Gen. 3:1),
 temptations (1 Thess. 3:5),
 accusations (Rev. 12:10b),
 and deception (2 Cor. 11:14);

hoping to entrap me (1 Tim. 3:7),
 establish strongholds in my life (Eph. 4:27; 2 Cor. 10:3-5),
 entrench themselves in my generations (Ex. 20:2-6),
 and take me captive to do the will and work of Satan (2 Tim. 2:26).

However, spiritual evil is already a defeated foe (Col. 2:15; 1 John 3:8; Heb. 2:14-15)!

For their plans to be clearly expose and their activity effectively engaged (2 Cor. 2:11)

I must fully embrace my true identity as a child of the King (Eph. 2:6; 1 Peter 2:9-10),

and unconditionally surrender every area of my life to Jesus as Savior and Lord (James 4:7-8).

Then I am privileged to go to the Supreme Court of Heaven (Heb. 4:14-16)

and ask Most High God to judge and remove the spiritual intruders (Col. 2:13-15; 2 Peter 2:4).

Therefore, I must choose all day every day to be all in with Jesus (Eph. 4:17-32; Rom. 12:1-2).

I must determine to no longer be in bondage to sin and bullied by Darkness (Gal. 5:1)!

I must learn how to apply every resource God supplies (Eph. 6:10-18; 2 Peter 2:3-9).

I must be alert (1 Peter 5:8),
 resist (James 4:7),
 stand firm (1 Peter 5:8),
 stand against (Eph. 6:11),
 not provide opportunity (Eph. 4:27),
 destroy strongholds (2 Cor. 10:3-5),
 be strong and courageous (Joshua 1:9),
 advance the Kingdom (Matt. 28:19-20),
 and fearlessly exercise my full authority in Jesus concerning spiritual intrusion (Luke 10:1)