

Danger: Backlash **By Win Worley**

As hornets will attack anyone who disturbs their nest, so demons will viciously attack those who dare to invade the kingdom of Satan to free the captives. This is not stated to frighten or dismay, only as a sober word of warning and caution. Engaging with the powers of the spirit world is not a game; it is a deadly serious undertaking. We learned the hard way about the danger from malevolent demon spirits to the workers – physically, mentally, and spiritually.

It is most foolhardy to underestimate the foe and his ability to counterattack. And counterattack he will, the severity of his blows being proportionate to the damage inflicted on his forces by the awakened believers. The more damage that is dealt to the kingdom of the prince of this world, the more severe you may expect his efforts at retaliation to be.

Keep in mind that the fighting that takes place in this contest will not be fought according to any rules with which you are likely to be familiar. Satan will stoop to any tactic to repel you and other workers, who come against him and his kingdom. He is the original rule breaker, and he will not hesitate to exploit any weakness you have. No slackness in your spiritual life will be overlooked in an effort to gain some advantage over you.

Remember the example of Elijah who engaged in warfare at a high level against the ruling powers of darkness. He came to the absolute peak of victory over the false prophets on Mount Carmel, putting them to open shames; but a short time later he was so totally demoralized, by a threat from wicked Jezebel, that he prayed to die (**I Kings 19:1-4**)! If we are not careful, while we are praising and thanking God for victory, Satan will slip in upon us (by the working of his hosts) and seek to deal dreadful and hurtful blows to body, mind or spirit. These can reduce our rejoicing to shambles, in short order.

In *this* battle, no quarter is asked or given. It is all-out, total warfare. Woe to the unprepared!

Christians certainly have thoroughly adequate protection available, but they are sometimes unfamiliar with the power available to them and how to effectively channel it. The enemy forces know all about the power they possess and how to extract the maximum advantage from it. They will try to seize on our every weakness, ignorance or carelessness to their interest. Workers must not be frightened off by fiery trials, for they are certain to come (**I Peter 4:12**). We are promised blessings *with* persecutions (**Mark 10:30**).

All of the raging mischief and overt hatred of the enemy is a sure sign that his interests are being seriously affected and overthrown. Yet, in the beginning especially, the recoil and counterattacks of the devil and his hosts can seem to be terribly harsh. Lucifer is a firm believer that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure; he responds quickly to the *first* evidence of any real attack on his evil kingdom. In concept, he would believe in shooting a plane while it is taxiing or attempting to takeoff, rather than waiting until it is airborne. We venture into this kind of work by being borne along by the power of the Holy Spirit (Greek *Haggais Pneumos* – Holy Wind) and we are lifted far above the limitations of our human flesh and frailties. We go aloft as eagles do, borne upon the wind.

Away with foolish pride and the self-sufficiency of mere, mortal men. It will not avail here. Only spiritually enlightened minds and humble hearts, filled with God-given compassion for the tormented captives, can hope to stand before the rage of this crafty and virulent foe.

When you begin to cast out demons, there will be severe repercussions as Satan mounts the offensive, seeking any vulnerable areas in the total being of the believer. If personal harassment will not deter the believer from pursuing spiritual warfare, the devil will broaden the scope of his offensive and will attack through your family and other professing believers.

My family and I and our church workers who became involved in deliverance were all subjected to severe, repeated and bizarre attacks, when we first launched into casting out demons. And we still periodically have weird attacks: apparitions; physical pains and sickness; the sound of footsteps; nightmares *while awake*, as well as during sleep; black figures bounding all over the bed pummeling you, ghostly hands touching; voices whispering; panting hot breath on the face; waves of icy air moving across and around you; growling; roaring; snorting; bellowing; and so forth. I do not exaggerate. All of these and more have been used in Satan's program of harassment. Cold, raw terror to induce fear is one of his favorite approaches. Fear throws a person off balance, paralyzes his defenses, and makes him more susceptible to other attacks. This fear does not come from the Lord, but from the devil; for the Bible declares "*God has not given us a spirit of fear...*" (**II Timothy 1:7**).

Dreams can be divine, in which the person is left normal, calm, quiet, reasonable, and with an open, clear mind. Satanic dreams are noted for their mystery, absurdity, emptiness, and folly and leave the person elated or dazed, confused, and unreasonable. Sleeplessness, too, can be a source of distress. "Insomnia may be the work of evil spirits, adapting their workings to the overwrought condition of the person, so as to hide their attacks under cover. Believers who are open to the supernatural world should specially guard their nights by prayer."¹

¹ From *War on the Saints* by Jesse Penn-Lewis, copyright 1973 by Thomas E. Lowe, PO Box 1049, Cathedral Station, New York, NY 10025. Used by permission. P. 153.

If any of this happens to you, coolly, calmly, even with hair prickling on your neck and chills coursing through your body, you *must* take the offensive, using the name of Jesus as your combination shield and battering ram. Pray and praise Him for His blood, eternal life, salvation full and free; and claim His protection from the hosts of darkness. Rebuke Satan and his hosts and take authority over them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ as a believer priest (**Revelation 1:6; 5:10**). Command the spirits to leave you (**I John 4:4**). You may have to repeat this several times. Be persistent. They will be reluctant to obey. They also sometimes linger to see if you really believe what you are saying.

I have awakened, usually between 3 and 4 a.m., to find myself held in a vice-like grip by icy hands — my hands, feet, mouth, and throat all held tightly, so that I could neither move nor make a sound. I assure you that I was not dreaming but was wide awake. My body prickled with fear from head to toe.

One rule you must follow: Never panic. Refuse to stampede. Pray in the name of Jesus, pleading the blood and thanking God for Jesus salvation, in your mind, even if your throat and voice temporarily will not function. Take authority over the spirit forces, rebuking them in name of Jesus. They will release you and retreat as you prove that you are not going to let them gain a foothold of fear from which to harass you.

As your faith and confidence builds in the sufficiency of the Saviour ("*If thou canst believe, all things are possible.*" **Matthew 19:26; 9:23; 10:27**), the praise of Jesus Christ and a love for him will erect a shield which spiritual forces are unable to overcome (**Psalms 22:3-5**). Such attacks will continue until Satan is convinced that you will persevere in the warfare, no matter what he throws against you; so do not accept a premature "truce."

His next tactic is to shift his pressure point, seeking any weakness. He will accelerate his war with you, pressing you in areas of your personal, family, business, and spiritual life, in order to destroy you. This can literally crowd you to Christ for fellowship and protection. This end result explains why God permits him to harass you so — to drive you to Himself, thus frustrating the "destroyer" in his plans. When men stand faithful, the enemy never wins.

But you must recognize how Satan deploys his troops in an all-out attempt to convince you to turn back from your course. By crushing pressure, harassment, depression, oppression, and all sorts of crippling attacks, he will come at you. Your only recourse in the midst of this bombardment will be to claim with the Psalmist: "*I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler and from the noise some pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler... There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling, for he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways*" (**Psalms 91:2-6, 10-11**).

The pressures of the enemy are arranged to stop you from pursuing real spiritual warfare. So no matter what area of your life is under attack, it is all part of a cunningly devised strategy to stop you from rescuing the oppressed. Do count the cost (**Luke 14:28**), then determine by God's grace that you will go on. Decide whether the deliverance of many lives from Satan's bondage is worth the effort, the misunderstanding, and hatred that will surely be your lot (**John 15:18, 24; 17:14**).

Ministers and other godly people may line up in horror against you in this undertaking. It is contrary to their experience and their expectation. They are seemingly impervious to the fact that the deliverance ministry is definitely spelled out in example, precept and command in the Bible, and is desperately needed in these last days. Keep in mind that these truths are spiritually discerned (**I Corinthians 2:14-15; 3:1**) and that until the Holy Spirit breaks through prejudice, fears, and ignorance, blinded minds will not comprehend and understand. Indeed, some of those who attack you will think they do God a service! Some opponents will fall into the sad category of those whom Paul calls enemies of the cross (**Philippians 3:18**). Do not waste time trying to categorize the attackers. Ignore them and press on with Jesus Christ.

We need not fear the enemy, but we had certainly better respect him. We need not cower before him, but it is gross stupidity to misjudge the foe. Deliverance is not some Sunday school picnic to be approached lightheartedly as an exciting lark, but is a deadly serious and dangerous business, raw open warfare with the forces of hell. I repeat, in this battle no quarter is asked or given. It is all out, total warfare. Woe to the unprepared!

Since the entire wisdom and cunning of Satan is arrayed against, us the only way we can possibly meet the enemy is by the appropriation of supernatural power and wisdom from Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. No victory is possible without the authority and power of the Lord Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 1:19-21; Philippians 2:9, 10**). He alone is capable of overcoming Satan and gave us this assurance. *"I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy... and nothing by any means shall hurt you"* (**Luke 10:19,20**).

Keep in mind that you are not exempt from attacks in the areas of your former weaknesses and bondage. Watch as well as pray. Demons are extremely sensitive in such matters and know well when they are approached by one who has been delivered from their kindred spirits. They express a particularly virulent hatred for, and fear of, that individual.

Do demons attempt a comeback after expulsion? Yes, in every case I know of. It is wise also to remember that physical weakness makes it more difficult to resist the attacks of the Evil One, and even when victory seems secure, the demons will often attempt to return. God does not free an individual to walk away in carelessness or rebellion, but to live in joyful obedience to Him.

Check yourself and gird on the armor tightly before you enter the fray, for there will be no time once the battle is joined. Woe to the one who enters the conflict lightheartedly or rashly, with some pieces of the armor askew or missing. Be clean before the Lord (**I John 1:9**). Demons can ask some embarrassing questions of the workers, if they choose. They can spot a phony immediately.

"Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand safe against all strategies and tricks of Satan. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies – the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty Satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world. So use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy whenever he attacks, and when it is all over, you will still be standing up" (Ephesians 6:11-13, Living Bible).

Being kicked, cursed, spit upon, threatened, and attacked in many ways by monstrous spiritual forces is not some believer's idea of serving God. Safe in their ivory towers of theological deadness and unreality, they pontificate against those "fanatics" and "deluded ones," who would have the audacity to take the Bible seriously and believe that God meant what He said and said what He meant, even about the dark forces of the spiritual world. The Bible was written in simple language for average people. Most of the precious truths are easily obtainable for anyone willing to take the Holy Spirit for his guide and to seek wisdom from the One Who promised to give wisdom without upbraiding (**James 1:5**).

There is a peril in failing to take action against the foe, as the Lord warned in speaking of His wrath against Moab: "Cursed be those withholding their sword from your blood, refusing to do the work that God has given them" (Jeremiah 48:10, Living Bible). Although I generally do not utilize form prayers, feeling that they all too often degenerate into ritualistic mouthings, I here include Michael Harper's suggested prayer for one preparing for spiritual warfare. It does contain all of the elements you need to pray about in this type of work. Rote repetition will not be of value (**Matthew 6:7**); but as a reminder of essentials, this may be helpful:

"Lord Jesus, I claim by faith now the protection of Your armor, that I may stand against Satan and all his hosts, and in the name of Jesus overcome them. I take Your truth to counter the lies and errors of a cunning enemy. I take Your righteousness to overcome the evil thought and accusations of Satan. I take the equipment of the gospel of peace and forsake the safety and comforts of life in order to wage war with the enemy.

Above all, I take Your faith to bar the way to doubts and unbelief entering my mind. I take Your salvation and trust You to protect my body, soul, and spirit from Satan's varied attacks. I take Your Word and pray that the Holy Spirit will enable me to use it

effectively against the enemy to sever every bondage and deliver every captive of Satan. In the strong and all conquering name of Jesus Christ my Lord, Amen."²

In a prolonged deliverance session (which may stretch into hours), body and mind will become fatigued and incredibly weary. The struggles with spiritual forces will easily be one of the most draining and exhausting exercises you will ever experience. This can be dangerous for you personally (as I pointed out earlier in the diary section). If you relax your spiritual guards and shields, even briefly, know that a cunning and incredibly vicious intelligence is monitoring the whole affair, whose aim is to determine when to order an attack on the attackers.

Often the question is posed: "Why the long, drawn-out sessions of battle with the enemy?" Some piously remark that there is no record of Jesus or the others in Scripture going through such a struggle. "Why not just speak the word and command them to leave?"

It may be that we will someday attain the spiritual level (and perhaps some have) where we can consistently do this. If the demons will flee without a commotion, fine! I have witnessed hundreds leave with little or no fuss and manifestation, but the deep-rooted, more powerful ones (especially the ones associated with lust, the occult, religion, and pride) seem to burrow in and will put up a strong battle before leaving. Jesus said that some demons can be cast out only prayer and fasting (**Mark 9:29**).

It is possible that we are not yet ready for such absolute power (and I speak of my own group) lest our foolish hearts be puffed up with pride. Those who say you should never argue with or otherwise engage enemy in a pitched battle merely indicates to me that they have not gone very far into the business of spiritual warfare. We have had individuals come to us, still unrelieved from problems. They had confidently patted on the head elsewhere and told that it was done, to *claim the victory by faith*. When we prayed with them, fierce and vicious demons answered us and began to talk and argue before being out. They were not removed by bland smiles and form prayers, but by spiritual battle.

When dealing with a person through whom you expect demonic response, it is wise to bind the strong man (**Matthew 12:29**) before beginning to pray. A prayer similar to this may prove useful: "Satan, I rebuke you in Jesus' name and command you and all free demons around us to be bound and prevented from interfering or intervening in the deliverance of this person. I claim the promise that whatever I bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, in Jesus' name." This can often reduce the violence of the deliverance; although the personality, power and grip of the demon on the life involved influences this also.

² From *Spiritual Warfare* by Michael Harper, copyright 1970 by Michael Harper, Plainfield, NJ 07060. Reprinted by permission. p. 106.

Keep in mind that a ruler spirit may have a legion or demons under his control. If you successfully bind the commander, you will hinder all those under his command from functioning. To illustrate, a controlling demon we dealt with (a spirit of Mind Control) had command of entire legions that were under his direct control. Under his supervision were other rulers: Hate, Pride, and Martial Arts (Karate, Judo, Jujitsu), each having many subordinate spirits. By binding the controlling demon we were then able to attack the others. The pressure on Mind Control became so intense that, in order to gain relief, he ordered Hate, Pride, and Martial Arts to leave with their spirits. They were furious but had to obey. Screaming, protesting, and spewing out obscenities, they reluctantly left.

Then, as we badgered Mind Control with questions and prayers, he was forced to release a part of his own supporting force of many legions. When the Holy Spirit confused him and made his mind reel (in answer to prayer), he often would answer questions, in violation of his determination neither to talk with me nor to divulge any information. When this happened, he would stiffen with awful agony, groaning convulsively. His hatred for me knew no bounds and was like a physical force stabbing at my forehead, a pressure similar to being prodded by a broomstick. Through the victim's gritted teeth, he explained that, in punishment for blundering and yielding before a mortal's attack, Satan had subtracted a portion of his forces from him and sent them out into the world.

He had worked, he boasted, to garner power to himself. His authority was indeed impressive, but Satan has no mercy on the embattled demons when they fail. Even when Satan's promised reinforcements fail to appear, he still severely chastises those who do not win – there are no excuses for failure among Satan's hosts!

Toward the end of the session, the demon slipped and revealed more information (all under severe spiritual pressure); and Lucifer subtracted six legions in punishment. He groaned with awful pain when this happened. At the end of the session, only twenty-seven of his forty-five legions remained. All this was made possible by binding the ruler spirit.

In deliverance, the best approach is always to press for the expulsion of the demon. However, if due to the weariness of the workers, physical exhaustion, shortness of time, or other factors, an alternative course must be pursued, you may take authority and bind the manifesting demons. If you have to close the session before deliverance is completed, make every effort to bind all demons still present in the person. In doing so it is good to list the demons who have revealed their names.

In one case, a young man came to the house for help but could stay only a short time because of his work. Demons manifested themselves and some were cast out. The more resistant ones I bound, praying, "Satan, I come against you and the spirits of (naming certain ones) and I command that they be bound in the name of Jesus. By binding I mean that you are not to harass, torment, or manifest in any way in this man

until you are called out in deliverance. Further, I forbid you to communicate with your rulers, your princes, each other or this man. You are to sit in silence and be alone [demons hate being alone]. I command this to be so, and order it to be done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I claim the promise that whatever I bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven. Be bound in Jesus' name!" Again, some demons will resist this binding savagely, but keep insisting and praying for their binding. They will submit. When they do, the person will "surface" and, aside from being exhausted from the struggle, should feel peaceful and calm.

In this particular case I had overlooked some evil spirits that had been discovered but not cast out. Not being bound, they attacked the man that night with severe pains in the stomach and legs, causing something akin to near paralysis in the limbs of his body. He came back and I discovered that the bound spirits were still bound, seething with rage and frustration, I bound the loose demons causing the trouble; the pains and all symptoms immediately ceased. He came later for deliverance, and we sent them all out in Jesus' name.

Let us face an awful fact. Many Christians are just plain lazy. They do not come down from the "rafters of righteousness" to become involved in anything so undignified, which carries as much reproach from the world, as does battle with demonic spirits. Indignantly they draw back from an encounter that might rumple their carefully pressed clothes and rob them of sleep and their religious lethargy.

There are times when I almost wish it was as simple as the critics say -- that there is no such thing as spiritual warfare for Christians, or that the demons obediently and instantly hop out when some supercharged Christian appears on the scene. No account I have read, written by anyone who has ever *actually* dealt with demons, will fail "clue you in" that there is a real war here, not a polite little skirmish. There is no "nice" way to clean out a septic tank; and in deliverance, we are, in a sense, pumping out the demonic sewage and filth accumulated in persons who need help. To people who raise their hands in horror the fact that deliverances take place regularly in our church services, I reply that Jesus and his followers performed deliverances in the public streets and at least ours are inside a building! -- for now at least.

Although I have not had the years of experience that he has, I understand Dr. Koch's statement: "As a result of my work among the occultly oppressed and the possessed, I am sometimes stretched to the very limits of my physical, mental, and spiritual powers. If it were not the fact that the Lord has held His hand over me in the past, I would have been ruined long ago. *'For I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her'*" (**Zechariah 2:5**)³

You may be sure that after hours of bitter struggling, straining every physical, mental and spiritual muscle you own, you will have very little pride in your own ability left. You will also have no doubts about Who what turned the victory against the supernatural

³ From *Occult Bondage and Deliverance* by Kurt Koch, copyright 1970 by Kregel Pub., Grand Rapids, Mich. 40503. p. 110.

foe. There is no to explain to a "combat soldier" in these struggles that, without the mighty power of the name and the blood of Jesus Christ, His protecting angels, and the strengthening enabling of the Holy Spirit, we would be utterly helpless and easily wiped out. If these mighty lords of darkness could really get at the workers, they would tear them to pieces.

After the combat, you are extremely conscious that the power came through, but was not of you. You are the pipe, not the water -- the instrument, not the surgeon. So it is always, in order that glory and praise be given to the Lord Jesus Who alone is worthy (**Revelation 4:11**). The religious crowd will leave you, but be not dismayed. They have always shied away from anyone who follows the Lord too closely. Among them you will find those who will ardently persecute, rather than to concede that their position may be wrong.