

Declaring War

Pt. 2 - Recognizing the Enemy

Ephesians 6:12, For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

- **Recognizing our enemy requires that we acknowledge that demons are real.**

2 Corinthians 4:4, Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe.

1 Peter 5:8, Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Revelation 12:4, Now the dragon's tail swept away a third of the stars in heaven and hurled them to the earth.

- **Recognizing our enemy requires we acknowledge the mission of our enemy.**

John 10:10, The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come so that they may have life and may have it abundantly.

Our Enemies Mission

1. To oppress.

Acts 10:38, And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

2. To possess.

Matthew 12:45, Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there.

3. To teach.

1 Timothy 4:1, Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons.

4. To recruit.

1 Corinthians 10:20, I am saying that these sacrifices are offered to demons, not to God. And I don't want you to participate with demons.

1 Kings 22:21, Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, saying, 'I will entice him. 'And the Lord said to him, 'By what means?' And he said, 'I will go out, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.

5. To deceive.

Revelation 12:9, This great dragon - the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world - was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

6. To influence.

Revelation 16:14, They are demonic spirits who work miracles and go out to all the rulers of the world to gather them for battle against the Lord on that great judgment day of God the Almighty.

- **Recognizing our enemy requires that we recognize and walk in our authority over him through Christ.**

Isaiah 14:12-16,¹² "How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world. ¹³ For you said to yourself, 'I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. ¹⁴ I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.' ¹⁵ Instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead, down to its lowest depths. ¹⁶ Everyone there will stare at you and ask, 'Can this be the one who shook the earth and made the kingdoms of the world tremble?

Things to Know About the Authority of the Believer

1. We can resist demonic power ourselves.

James 4:7, Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2. We can help others escape demonic powers.

Matthew 10:1, And calling His twelve disciples to Him, Jesus gave them authority over unclean spirits, so that they could drive them out and heal every disease and sickness.

3. The authority we are given is to bind and to loose.

Matthew 18:18, "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

4. The authority is in the Name of Jesus.

Philippians 2:9-11, 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

5. The authority is compounded in our agreement.

Matthew 18:19, "I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you."