



# **ISSUES IN MISSIOLOGY**

**TWO BOOKS IN ONE VOLUME  
VOLUMES IIA AND IIB**

**IIA: SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

**IIB: SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE  
MISSIONARY**

**SECOND EDITIONS**

**ROBERT D. PATTON, M.D., D.D.**

**TWO BOOKS  
IN  
ONE VOLUME**

**IIA: SPIRITUAL  
WARFARE**

**IIB: SPIRITUAL LIFE  
OF  
THE MISSIONARY**

**BY**

**Dr. Robert D. Patton**

**ISSUES**  
**IN**  
**MISSIOLOGY**

**VOLUME IIA**  
**Spiritual Warfare**

**ROBERT D. PATTON, M.D., D.D.**

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**ISBN 978-0-9860036-4-6**  
BAPTIST WORLD MISSIONS  
P.O. Box 2149  
Decatur, Alabama 35602-2149  
Telephone Number: 256-353-2221  
Fax Number: 256-353-2266  
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Publishing and Formatting by:  
THE OLD PATHS PUBLICATIONS, Inc.  
142 Gold Flume Way  
Cleveland, Georgia, U.S.A. 30528  
Web: www.theoldpathspublications.com  
E-mail: TOP@theoldpathspublications.com

## DEDICATION

This volume is dedicated to the thousands of selfless missionary servants of the Lord, many whose names have long been forgotten by the world, but their faithful service has indeed been noted in heaven.

SAMPLE PAGES

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:19-20) (KJV)*

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SAMPLE PAGES

## PREFACE TO VOLUME II



**Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Patton**

When I was challenged to write a book on missions three years ago, I had planned to write a single large volume on the broad subject of missions from a fundamental Baptist perspective. I wanted to write especially to help those future missionaries going to the field so that they could avoid some of the mistakes I have made. I encountered problems in a number of areas for which I was ill prepared, including Spiritual Warfare, the Spirit-Controlled Life, Missionary Finances, Persecution of Christians, and Translation Issues. My wife and I also experienced first-hand the difficulties of adapting to living in a developing country and saw others struggling in their relationships within their own families as well as with the nationals.

While I do not have outstanding depth in any single area of missions, both my wife and I spent part of our early childhood as missionary children during World War II in the Far East. We spent five years raising our young family of four children when I was Professor of Internal Medicine, teaching in Liberia, West Africa. And we have spent 26 years in Suriname, South America with a rather broad-based ministry including church planting, training national leadership, starting Bible Institutes, translating the Bible into Sranantongo, writing discipleship material and commentaries in Sranantongo, and broadcasting on both radio and television. Hopefully these varied experiences can help give a relatively broad view of the area of missions, although there are many areas in which I have had no experience.

Over the last three years, I have had the opportunity to teach and preach in a number of Christian colleges, and learned much, both from the teaching experience and from the students. I decided to break down the topics into smaller units consisting of several small volumes rather than a single large textbook. I was encouraged in this approach by Dr. H. D. Williams, and also by the support of Baptist World Mission in allowing

me to write as well as to teach. We hope this approach will help both students and interested pastors or faculty.

In *Issues in Missiology, Volume I*, I looked briefly at the subjects of Persecution in the Church, and Missions and Money. In Volume II, we will look at the topics of Spiritual Warfare and The Spiritual Life of the Missionary. Both topics are vital for missionaries, especially those working in developing countries, although Satan is active in the “developed” world as well. Neither subject is covered exhaustively, but I trust in enough detail to help the missionary in both understanding and practicing Spiritual Warfare effectively, and in walking in the Spirit.

Further volumes are planned in the near future, including translation issues as well as Worldview and World Religions. We pray that these small volumes will help the missionary to be more effective for the Lord in his chosen field of endeavor. May God not only empower us as missionaries, but also may we give Him all the glory!

Robert D. Patton

Paramaribo, Suriname

March, 2012

## **Preface to Volume IIA Spiritual Warfare**

Ten years have passed since our first five volumes were produced and it seemed time to make an update. Volume I was divided into two volumes, and now I am dividing Volume II into Volume IIA Spiritual Warfare and Volume IIB Spiritual Development of the Missionary. During the last decade, the volumes were used in teaching several subjects at The Crown College of the Bible. This update reflects some expansion of areas which needed more emphasis, and, in some situations, new information is added. I pray that the information will prove helpful for teacher, student, and the general public over the area of spiritual warfare and demonology.

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June 2022

SAMPLE PAGES

# **SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*  
1 Peter 5:8

# INTRODUCTION.

I initially hesitated to write on what many call Spiritual Warfare because I anticipate skepticism and disbelief among many Independent Fundamental Baptist readers. I had a similar attitude before I accepted the Lord even while I was in Liberia, West Africa. I had heard about demons and demonic activity, but as a good scientist, I dismissed the reports and sought a rational scientific explanation for them. Of course, as a scientist, I had no way to study something invisible which I could not see, measure, or test repeatedly using the scientific method.

## **This Doctor Struggles in Understanding the Demonic.**

I also read the Biblical accounts with the same bias, and I believed that these reports were long ago in a country far away, and that they were non-scientific attempts to explain events which could be better explained today in scientific terms. A classic example would be my dismissal of the boy with epilepsy cured by Jesus when He descended from the mount of transfiguration. I felt that this was simply a case of epilepsy, and not demonic in origin.

My western scientific worldview blocked my acceptance of supernatural beings called demons. I was trained as a scientist. I am generally objective and not easily given to emotionalism. As a physician, I had been in charge of an intensive care unit and trained in cardiology. I was trained to be accurate, objective, and dispassionate. After I was saved in Liberia, I decided to believe what the Bible said as being the truth. When we returned to the USA, especially on deputation, we ran into a few situations which appeared to be truly demonic in origin. I also learned that my mother-in-law had had longstanding problems before she was freed from demonic oppression.

When we came to Suriname, at first, we did not have many problems in this area. Personally, I believe that we were perhaps not ready to handle them, and the Lord protected us. However, later we ran into many situations, beginning with the young man described below, which clearly

fit the Biblical description of demonic attacks, and could not be easily dismissed with an alternate “scientific” explanation.

These persons who were oppressed by evil spirits were not strangers. Most were people whom we had personally led to the Lord and discipled. They were leaders in the church, wives of pastors, Sunday school leaders and Bible club teachers. In one of our side churches, one day I counted that 50% of the individuals in the choir we had personally helped with demonic attacks.

Again, I would remind you of my medical training. I am careful about diagnosis. I had been told that demons could do nothing to Christians. Was I wrong in all these cases, when those who appeared to be some of our most solid Christian believers came under attack? Were they all unbelievers? Could it be that I was so emotionally involved that I could not see things objectively? I could not really accept such an explanation. Further, the Bible commands us to be alert and stand up against the devil. If Christians were totally immune to demonic influence, then why would the Bible give these warnings?

### **Experiences From Other Cultures.**

At the same time, I read about many cases of missionaries in other cultures who had confronted demonic power, usually, but not always, with success. These missionaries came from a wide variety of theological backgrounds. I had direct contact with Dr. Darrell Champlin<sup>1</sup> in Suriname, who had personally danced on broken glass and in a fire, while in a power encounter with a witch doctor at Ricanau Mofo. I had heard an eyewitness account of this event related in a church service by our deacon chairman, who was present when it occurred. In the biography of J. O. Fraser, the book describes how men under demonic control would climb a ladder of sharpened swords without suffering adverse effects.<sup>2</sup> I had also a number of conversations with some of our national believers who described the effects of demonic power. These included dancing in the air, persons displaced from one location to another (for example, from one side of a river to the other), out-of-body experiences, and protection against weapons.<sup>3</sup> Similar experiences are reported over wide areas - from China, India, Africa, etc.

## INTRODUCTION

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Unfortunately, there is little in the literature written from a Fundamental Baptist perspective. There are a number of writers of evangelical persuasion, such as Mark Brubeck<sup>4</sup>, Neil Anderson,<sup>5</sup> Jim Logan,<sup>6</sup> Dr. Ed Murphy, and A. Scott Moreau<sup>7</sup> who would be considered Baptist or evangelical. Of course, as one would expect, there is also much written from the charismatic perspective. One might well differ with some areas of the theology of some of these men, but they were actually in the battle and having a degree of effectiveness and success. They were not just speaking about theory, but from personal experience as well.

I have never sought out persons with demonic problems among the unsaved to make them free. Our churches do not hold healing campaigns to free people from demonic as well as physical illnesses. However, we were having problems coming to us in the church itself. We have had, from time to time, demonic attacks in church services, prayer meetings, and youth meetings. Should we simply ignore them? Should we say that we are not able to help our people in these situations?

What are the alternatives? Although I do not agree with all points of the theology of some other authors, I have benefitted from their experience in successfully battling the forces of evil. Some of their practical approaches have proven very helpful. Should I simply duck the issue because it is controversial, and avoid writing about it? I was warned to be careful about reporting some confrontations we had experienced on the field because of the reaction of supporting pastors and churches. Should I simply let other Fundamental Independent missionaries learn the hard way the same things that I had to learn because I had received no instruction or insight? Should I completely abandon the topic as some missionaries have done, and leave the new believers defenseless, or more likely, to run back to their witch doctors, or go to the Pentecostal churches who will deal with the demonic? I have chosen not to take that approach, but to try to be objective and as Biblical as I know how. I have tried to give enough Biblical material and suggested some methods of dealing with the demonic to be helpful, although the information here is far from exhaustive. I leave to the reader to decide whether or not this information is helpful personally, but it has been invaluable to minister to our people here in Suriname.

## The Influence of Worldview.

We are all influenced by our worldviews. Before the Enlightenment, the worldview of the western world was basically similar to that of the Bible. It was accepted that there is an all-powerful, invisible, Creator God who is separate from His creation. Angels and demons were invisible created beings, part of the creation and separate from the Creator. God also created the visible universe.

With the advent of the Enlightenment, there was a shift in worldview, with the development of rationalism, pragmatism, scientific worldview, and the acceptance of evolution as fact rather than theory. This worldview separated the visible from the invisible. God, angels, and demons were relegated to the area of religion, and science was restricted to the visible, measurable universe. Science was considered public truth, and religion was private truth at best, or more likely, foolish superstition.<sup>8</sup> Although most Bible-believing pastors, teachers and missionaries would give verbal assent to the reality of angels, this belief might be denied in practice because it did not correspond with the western worldview which they unconsciously held.

I did not work out a control group and experimental group as I would in a scientific experiment. However, with experience, we saw at least 90% of so of the individuals we helped find true freedom in Christ so that they were no longer under the influence of evil spirits.

# CHAPTER 1

## OUR INTRODUCTION TO DEMONIC AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Our introduction to spiritual warfare came about through a young man called E. My wife was driving near the church several years ago when a young man came tearing towards her, crying for help. She noticed that he had a variety of witchcraft items tied around him. At first, she was afraid that he might be trying to rob her, but then she realized that he was terrified of evil spirits. She commanded the evil spirits to leave him alone. He fell to the ground like a shot. She then led him to the Lord. When he asked my wife to remove the amulets from his body, she refused, saying that he should do it himself. He did, and cried out, "I am free."

The following day, I went to his home with a Suriname deacon from our church to see how he was doing. When we arrived, the captain of his village and two other village basjes (under-captains) were sitting there visiting the family. Again, he came tearing around the corner, and had amulets back on him. We started praying. A voice cried out: "I am going to hell, I am going to hell." Suddenly, my friend started praying: "You are right. You are going to hell." Initially, I thought he was saying that the young man would go to hell. Then I realized that he was addressing the spirit. Eventually, after a period of prayer, the young man became free of demonic control.

A few days later, we found him at another home. Once again, he had the amulets back on him. He had a Bible under his pillow. It appeared that the family was using the Bible as some sort of amulet to protect him. For the moment, he was quiet. We tried to convince the family not to put the witchcraft on him. That Sunday, he came with his father to church. As he walked through the church door, he froze; his face was contorted. Several believers took him aside and prayed for him once again until he was free.

A considerable time later, his family called me to see him, this time in a third location. Another one of the deacons and I went to see him. The house was abandoned, and the smell of beer permeated the room. The

family had washed him with beer. They sometimes do this in an attempt to remove evil spirits, but it did not work. The evil spirit actually addressed us. He told us that we arrived too late, and that he had already eaten the liver of E.! E. was hopeless, and about to die. Of course, this was a lie. We prayed for approximately an hour without success. We then took him to a prayer meeting which was being held at one of our churches, and a group of believers prayed for nearly 3 hours for him. After he became finally normal again, we went to his new home where he was staying. As we walked in, even I could see witchcraft items there. The family then took him to French Guiana. We later heard that they took him to Holland. I do not know for certain what his status is at this time although one friend thought that he was doing better.

Jesus talks about this type of situation in *Luke 11:[24] When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. [25] And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. [26] Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.*

If the individual becomes free but goes back into witchcraft, his situation becomes much worse. Finding freedom becomes much more difficult. This is often a result of the Bush Negroes calling a bonoeman (witch doctor) to “seti da winti.” What the witchdoctor is really doing is calling a more powerful spirit to control the spirit which is giving the individual trouble. Of course, this “solution” will ultimately make the individual even more tightly bound by more powerful evil spirits.

E. demonstrated this clearly. When my wife led him to the Lord, he was freed rather easily. It was a bit more difficult the following day at his house, and even more difficult when he came to the church. When we met him washed with beer several months later, it was a battle for several hours before he became free. Each time that he had become free, either of his own will or the will of the family, he returned to witchcraft, using such items as amulets, beer, etc.

## CHAPTER 2

# GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE ON THE MISSION FIELD

The situation with E. was an excellent introduction to the world of witchcraft. My wife and I had been in Suriname for several years as missionaries. We knew that witchcraft was present but had not yet had personal confrontations with the spirit world. E. was our introduction. He illustrates the fact which I mentioned above: that if the individual persists in going back to witchcraft, his situation worsens. Fortunately, almost all of our experiences after E. have had a positive outcome, with people succeeding in coming free from the influence of evil spirits. This outcome is especially true of those who come to church for help. After they are initially free, we also teach them how to remain free to continue in victory.

### **We Have a Responsibility to Minister to Our People.**

We must be in a position to administer to our people. Many missionaries work on the assumption of the western worldview, which believes that evil spirits don't exist. These missionaries cannot help those who are bound by Satan. Unfortunately, this is also true of many pastors in the western world. Satan is also active here in the USA.

We must remember that we have three enemies. The first is our own sin nature, the second is the world system that the Bible calls the Greek word *cosmos*, and the third is the devil himself. All three enemies come from the evil one. Our old nature comes from the encounter of Satan with Adam and Eve. We inherit our sin nature from Adam. The world system fell into the hands of the evil one and is now based on the principle of "me first; what is good for me is best." And then of course there is the evil one himself, Satan.

We are in a worldwide war. Satan seeks to destroy us. *1 Peter 5:[8]*

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: [9] Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

Jesus is the good shepherd to protect us. *Jn. 10:[10] The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. [11] I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

Jesus came to bring victory: *1 Jn. 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*

We must recognize the voice of our shepherd, Jesus, by spending time with Him so that we are not misled by the devil or the world. *Jn. 10:[1] Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber:[2] But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. [3] To him the porter openeth, and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. [4] And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. [5] And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers....[27] My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:[28] And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

We must not be conformed to the world. *Romans 12:[1] I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

We must know how the enemy thinks and works. *2 Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.* The Bible is our source of reliable information, and we must study it well, where we will find the strategies of Satan. The devil has been

## CHAPTER 2: GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE ON THE MISSION FIELD

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successful for thousands of years in deceiving mankind and uses the same strategies today.

We do not need to be afraid, because the enemy is already defeated: *Colossians 2:15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Hebrews 2:[14] Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; [15] And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. Satan was defeated at the cross.*

We need to remember that it is the fear of God that is the basis of wisdom and not the fear of the devil. *Psalm 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever. 2 Timothy 1:7 urges us to resolute action instead the presence of fear. 2 Tim. 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

### **A Biblical Worldview.**

We need to develop a biblical worldview. Remember that a worldview consists of the assumptions we hold as to the basic makeup of the universe. These assumptions are usually unconscious and unexamined. Many believe that demons never do anything to a good Christian, and so it is best to ignore them. This is not from the Bible. The Bible says that we must resist and stand against the devil.

*1 Peter 5:[8] Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:[9] Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

*Ephesians 6:[10] Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. [11] Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. [12] For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. [13] Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that*

**ISSUES**  
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**The Spiritual Life  
of the Missionary**

**ROBERT D. PATTON, M.D., D.D.**

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**ISBN 978-0-9860036-4-6**

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All Scripture quotes are from the King James Bible except those verses compared and then the source is identified.

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Publishing and Formatting by:  
THE OLD PATHS PUBLICATIONS, Inc.  
142 Gold Flume Way  
Cleveland, Georgia, U.S.A. 30528  
Web: [www.theoldpathspublications.com](http://www.theoldpathspublications.com)  
E-mail: [TOP@theoldpathspublications.com](mailto:TOP@theoldpathspublications.com)1.0

## **DEDICATION**

This volume is dedicated to the thousands of selfless missionary servants of the Lord, many whose names have long been forgotten by the world, but their faithful service has indeed been noted in heaven.

SAMPLE PAGES

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:19-20) (KJV)*

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## PREFACE TO VOLUME II



**Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Patton**

When I was challenged to write a book on missions three years ago, I had planned to write a single large volume on the broad subject of missions from a fundamental Baptist perspective. I wanted to write especially to help those future missionaries going to the field so that they could avoid some of the mistakes I have made. I encountered problems in a number of areas for which I was ill prepared, including Spiritual Warfare, the Spirit-Controlled Life, Missionary Finances, Persecution of Christians, and Translation Issues. My wife and I also experienced first-hand the difficulties of adapting to living in a developing country, and saw others struggling in their relationships within their own families as well as with the nationals.

While I do not have outstanding depth in any single area of missions, both my wife and I spent part of our early childhood as missionary children during World War II in the Far East. We spent five years raising our young family of four children when I was Professor of Internal Medicine, teaching in Liberia, West Africa. And we have spent 26 years in Suriname, South America with a rather broad-based ministry including church planting, training national leadership, starting Bible Institutes, translating the Bible into Sranantongo, writing discipleship material and commentaries in Sranantongo, and broadcasting on both radio and television. Hopefully these varied experiences can help give a relatively broad view of the area of missions, although there are many areas in which I have had no experience.

Over the last three years, I have had the opportunity to teach and preach in a number of Christian colleges, and learned much, both from the teaching experience and from the students. I decided to break down the topics into smaller units consisting of several small volumes rather than a

single large textbook. I was encouraged in this approach by Dr. H. D. Williams, and also by the support of Baptist World Mission in allowing me to write as well as to teach. We hope this approach will help both students and interested pastors or faculty.

In *Issues in Missiology, Volume I*, I looked briefly at the subjects of Persecution in the Church, and Missions and Money. In Volume II, we will look at the topics of Spiritual Warfare and The Spiritual Life of the Missionary. Both topics are vital for missionaries, especially those working in developing countries, although Satan is active in the “developed” world as well. Neither subject is covered exhaustively, but I trust in enough detail to help the missionary in both understanding and practicing Spiritual Warfare effectively, and in walking in the Spirit.

Further volumes are planned in the near future, including translation issues as well as Worldview and World Religions. We pray that these small volumes will help the missionary to be more effective for the Lord in his chosen field of endeavor. May God not only empower us as missionaries, but also may we give Him all the glory!

Robert D. Patton

Paramaribo, Suriname

March, 2012

## **Update 2<sup>nd</sup> edition**

In the decade that has passed since the first edition was published, this book has served as a textbook for classes at The Crown College of the Bible. The second edition has expanded some of the areas of discussion, which I trust has made this book more useful. As we get older, we are constantly reminded that it must be His strength and wisdom in the ministry, and not simply our efforts. May we trust and obey, and may He get the glory!

Robert D. Patton

Powell, Tennessee

October, 2022

SAMPLE PAGES

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 1 Peter 5:8*

SAMPLE PAGES

# **THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE MISSIONARY**

*Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:11-12) (KJV)*

# CHAPTER 1

## ENTERING ENEMY TERRITORY

The missionary is inevitably involved in spiritual warfare. He is entering enemy territory. Often, the enemy has had this territory for a long time, and his control not been challenged in centuries. He has dug in; he has his territory heavily defended.<sup>1</sup> He has used the culture of the people and bound them by ties with evil spirits.<sup>2</sup> So as the missionary begins his work, it is far more than simply learning a new culture and a new language. He is engaged in fighting against the enemy. *Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

This section briefly outlines the general spiritual growth and maturity which all missionaries need at all times. In the previous book, we dealt with the specifics of what many call spiritual warfare, which may include direct confrontation with evil spirits. This latter type of warfare is more obvious in many parts of the world than in the United States. Although many in the USA deny the existence of demons, evil spirits are a major fact of life in much of the developing world. In fact, demonic problems are also present in the USA, but less frequently recognized and acknowledged. The missionary must be prepared to deal with evil spirits who will not only attack his own life, but in order to help the people to whom he ministers become free.

Since we are in a spiritual battle, we must fight with spiritual weapons. Satan began by attacking Eve in her mind, and he does the same with us. *2 Cor. 10:[3] For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:[4] (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)[5] Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ...*<sup>1</sup> The missionary needs to protect his thoughts and compare them with scripture.

We must be properly armed, and it is Lord Himself who provides us with our proper armor. Remember, we are entering enemy territory, and the enemy will not surrender without a fight. Paul warns us of this in *Ephesians 6:[10] Finally, my brethren, be strong in the lord, and in the power of his might. [11] Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. [12] For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. [13] Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

*[14] Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; [15] And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16. Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. [17] And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. [18] Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*<sup>4</sup>

The Lord Himself not only provides the armor, but in many senses, He is our armor. When we take our position in Jesus Christ, we are in a place where the devil cannot defeat us. Paul states that we must gird our loins about with truth. We must work with the truth against the lies of the devil. God cannot lie. Jesus is the truth. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. And Jesus said: *Jn. 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.* Thus, in Christ and His Word, we have the truth.

Jesus Christ is our righteousness, our wisdom, and our sanctification as well as our redemption. (*1 Cor.1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.*) We must remember that this position in Christ is the work and gift of God. He places us in Christ. We must not abandon our position of safety and power.

We are given the message of peace, both peace with God and also with our fellow man. *Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: Ephesians 2:[14]*

*For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; [15] Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;*

We must apply our faith, which is also not of ourselves, but a gift of God. (*Ephesians 2: [8] For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: [9] Not of works, lest any man should boast.*) Our faith enables us to apply the truth of God's Word against the lies and tricks of the devil. (*2 Cor. 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*) We must remember the security of our salvation in Christ. Finally, we must use our offensive weapons of the Spirit, the Word of truth and prayer.

### **Three Major Areas of Concern.**

Three areas are of considerable concern for the missionary: the study of the Word, prayer, and walking in the Spirit. The missionary must take time to develop all three areas despite the busyness of his work. He must remember that "to be" is more important than "to do." Many supports which he may have had before entering the mission field are no longer present. This lack of support is particularly true for the recent Bible school or seminary graduate. The recent graduate no longer has the weekly chapels, the godly faculty, and the encouragement of other believing students around him. This problem may also be true for the missionary who spent a number of years in a strong church prior to going to the mission field.

Thus, we must know how to maintain a strong relationship with the Lord at all times. We must learn to remain in our invincible position in Christ. The devil is devious. He will try all sorts of ways to lure us out of our position of trusting the Lord so that we begin trusting ourselves. If we fail to maintain our walk with the Lord and use the weapons He provides, we are like a foolish soldier who enters a deadly combat without wearing his equipment.

## The Word of God.

The Word of God is basic for every missionary. However, it is not enough to have simply knowledge about the Bible, but also to have a personal relationship with the Author. As we read the Word of God, the Holy Spirit can illuminate our minds to understand the Bible and to see the truths which we need in our lives. The Lord will reveal Himself to us through His Word. In the same way that the more time you spend with someone, the better you know him, we must spend time reading and meditating on the Bible to come to know God in a very personal way.

In the Dutch language, there are two words translated in English to know: *weten* and *kennen*. The word *weten* means to know facts about someone or something. *Wetenschap* is the word for science. It is impersonal. The word *kennen* speaks of personal knowledge. *Kennis making* is to get to know someone personally. We need this personal knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our attitude to the Word of God is absolutely vital. We must believe that it is true. I am an absolute believer in the verbal plenary inspiration of the scriptures. I believe that the entire Bible from Genesis 1:1 through Revelation 22:21 is the very Word of God. Furthermore, I believe that His Word has been preserved for us in the Old Testament Masoretic text and in the New Testament Greek Textus Receptus so that we have and can know the Word of God today. The Bible is God-breathed, and it can work in and through our lives. *2 Timothy 3:[16] All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: [17] That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.* The Bible provides the answer for our needs. The Word of God can give us God's wisdom when we are confronted with situations beyond our own understanding.

We must learn to trust the Word of God above our own personal experiences. We must interpret our experiences through the Word of God rather than interpret the Word of God through our experiences. The latter approach has led to some of the excesses of the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements. The apostle Peter shows us this fact clearly. *2 Peter 1:[16] For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we*