

THE WARFARE BRIEFING

The Spiritual Warfare Briefing and The Believer's Place In This War



Dr. Matthew Stahl

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By

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2 Corinthians 10:1-6

"Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 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. And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled."

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Printed in the United States of America
August 2025

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ISBN: 979-8-9928358-6-1

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Published and Formatted by
THE OLD PATHS PUBLICATIONS, Inc.
Web: www.theoldpathspublications.com
E-mail: TOP@theoldpathspublications.com

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my loving wife, Angie, and five children, Hannah, Josh, Emma, Luke, and Jude, who have gone through the fiery trials with me, by simply being my family. Each of them has spent much time ministering to people in God's love and have also been severely wounded by many of those same people. They have also had to endure my own mistakes as a husband, father, and as a pastor as I have tried to learn the simplicity that is Christ in contrast to all that has been taught to the contrary. I am thankful for their love for me. I am also grateful to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who loved me, and gave himself for me; who has had grace and mercy towards me all along the way, and who is healing us and will continue to. It is my sincere desire that all who have been hurt by sin, theirs or of others, can have a real opportunity to know the God who is love and comfort, grace and mercy, forgiveness and peace, righteousness and true justice.

FOREWORD

Dr. Matthew Stahl has real life experience with battles of spiritual nature, and I am excited about this book that can help so many.

As a pastor I am surprised when I hear that many are struggling with real day to day encounters with Spiritual Battles and fail to understand that victory is already in our grasp. Truths that are within our reach and yet seem so far away can make the difference between defeat and victory. An understanding of who our enemy really is and how we are to approach difficulties can become so important.

Dr. Stahl has assembled a resource that will enable and remind you about the real enemy and why we are in this struggle; and most importantly using the Bible, reveals the path to victory.

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August 2025

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INTRODUCTION

A. General Information.

1. Spiritual Warfare is very real, and every biblical counselor must know the reality of the satanic powers which attack and influence people and must know how to effectively apply biblical counsel to assist people in victory over evil.

2. Spiritual Warfare in its biblical understanding is to inform biblical counselors about the reality of the spiritual warfare that effects every person, including believers.

3. The Spiritual Warfare Briefing is meant to equip the biblical counselor to effectively navigate the myriads of satanic strong holds in people's lives and offer them lasting freedom and peace for their sake and for the glory of God.

B. Specific Mission Objectives.

1. To prepare the biblical counselor in the proper and skillful use of the Bible through a sound understanding of the doctrine regarding Satan and his angels and how they work in this world.

2. To effect in the biblical counselor the reality of the evil spiritual world that is at constant work to steal, kill, and to devour every person, including believers.

3. To instill in the biblical counselor a greater desire for continued growth in both the spiritual and intellectual realms of which people live in.

4. To prepare the biblical counselor for a ministry of the Word of God to effectively counsel those who are under satanic influences, oppression, and even possession, by identifying and qualifying what is or is not a spiritual attack, and what is the biblical approach to victory.

6. To stimulate the biblical counselor and prepare them for further studies in this realm.

7. To equip the biblical counselor to confidently and effectually declare that the Word of God indeed does have all of life's answers, including in the realm of the powerful forces of Satan at work in the mind, emotions, and will of mankind.

Definition of Terms

C. Spiritual Warfare.

The reality of the war that wages unseen from the heavens and upon earth as the kingdom of Satan seeks to destroy the works of God, the people of God, and the unsaved alike. It is the reality of Satan's destructive influence upon all societies, people, nations, religions and governments through lies against the truth of God. This evil influence is a relentless assault upon the hearts and minds of mankind.

D. Briefing.

The imparting of information to pertinent parties prior to commencing of an exercise,

duty, or responsibility so as to equip and prepare them for a successful endeavor.

E. Biblical Counseling.

The application of Bible truths to discover the problems that someone is having and the instruction of wisdom to provide them the truth that is able to make them free. It is the use of scriptural wisdom to draw out of the heart of another, the conflict, pain, sorrow, fear, wrong beliefs, unbelief, etc. and instill truth, setting them free.

F. Satan.

The "god of this world," who was formerly known as Lucifer, the anointed Cherub, who infamously rebelled against God, seeking his very throne. He is also called the "Devil," meaning "slanderer" and aptly identifies the sinister character of Satan who is declared to be the accuser of the brethren. He is called the "Great Red Dragon," among other names. He is not God, but an angel. He has great power, but not all power. He is not omnipresent, nor is he omniscient. He is a liar from the beginning and all that he can do is lie; his power over you is in the lie. He is the prince of the power of the air who currently has access to the second heaven and all the earth. He is a devourer who roams about seeking his victims. He is transformed into an angel of light as fits his character of deception, and is not red with horns and a pitchfork. According to scripture we see that

he has only personally possessed one person (Judas Iscariot) but that he will possess one more in the near future, the "man of sin." He is already a defeated foe at the hands of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and will eventually be cast into the lake of fire to be tormented for ever and ever for his sins.

G. Devils/Demons.

The word devil is also applied to the one-third of God's angels who rebelled with Lucifer, thus taking on his nature and character. They are also called in scripture, "unclean spirits," "evil spirits," and "his (the Devil) angels." They are able to oppress and possess people and can inhabit animals. Devils are indeed worshipped by people in the world today just as in times past. Sacrifices to devils has been a common practice amongst devil worshippers and is evidenced in the scriptures. Not all devil worship is overt; most is actually covert, as in the worship of idols or gods. Devil worship has priests and other names for religious leaders. Devils can be cast out of someone and all whom Jesus Christ commanded to do so, did. Devils have their own doctrines, dogmas, and creeds. All of the fallen angels have their eternal doom already sealed, just like their infamous leader, Satan.

H. Captivity.

There are many ways in which people are made or held captive, or prisoners, regarding

spiritual warfare, including believers. Captivity is a state of being led away from what was previously and kept from that previous state. Jesus Christ came to set the captives free indeed. Satan desires only to enslave and keep people in sin's prison.

I. Strong Holds.

Although the original writings of the Apostle Paul, and English translations up to the King James Bible uses two distinct words when speaking of our next topic, we tend to gloss over that fact and create one word, strongholds. It is given every time in scripture as a hold that is strong. It is seen as a place of refuge or safety in many instances and is represented as a place of warfare or escape therefrom. In the spiritual realm, strong holds are that which our Lord wants to, and is mighty to pull down, so that we may be free indeed.

1. Strong = fortified
2. Holds = castle, fortress

J. Spiritual Warfare Counseling

As the name implies, there are three aspects to this ministry. First and foremost we acknowledge that there is a dimension unseen that does impact every aspect of human life, and that is a spiritual one, outside of, but certainly pertaining to, the physical realm. There are evidences to the spiritual realm intertwined throughout