



Your Authority as a Believer – Message 2

Warm-up

Now that you're a believer, what were your thoughts about the devil, before you learned the truth?

Overview

When we begin our relationship with Jesus, we not only find a wonderful new life of love, peace, and happiness, we also find ourselves in a WAR!—a war with the enemy, Satan. But the good news is we have an ally in this war and His name is Jesus Christ.

Word and Application

In Message 2 of the series, *Unseen: Demystifying the Spiritual Realm*, we discovered there truly is a devil. Because so many people today do not believe there is an enemy in the spiritual realm, we are going to explore the Bible to better understand who our enemy is and how he works.

Where did Satan come from?

- What are the difficulties you or society at large have when it comes to believing the devil exists?
- **Read Colossians 1:16.** God made the world out of nothing, and so all creatures in heaven, on earth, and under the earth owe their existence to God. Satan is no exception. His knowledge, presence, and power are limited because he is an angelic being created by God for the purpose of glorifying and serving God. Do you think Satan was good before he campaigned against God? Why?
- **Read 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 and John 8:44.** Based on these passages, what can we discern about Satan's character? What do you think it means that Satan disguises himself as an angel of light?
- In Genesis chapter 3, we hear of a serpent who tempted Adam and Eve. This serpent was crafty enough to entice Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit from the tree of good and evil by questioning the motive of God Almighty. Even though Genesis does not use the word Satan, how do we know that the serpent in the garden is, in fact, the devil?

Three Ways Demons Deceive

1. Demons influence the leaders of nations.

- **Read Daniel 10:13.** This passage is an example of demonic forces attempting to oppress and influence an entire region. We learn the angel was sent on behalf of Daniel's prayers but was intercepted by the spiritual Prince of Persia. For twenty-one days the angel wrestled with the

demon that masterminded Persia and kept the angel from coming to Daniel. Did Daniel stop praying? What would have happened if Daniel ceased with his prayers? Why is it so important to pray to God on behalf of world leaders and nations?

2. Demons scheme to lure you away from God.

- **Read 1 Timothy 4:1.** When we as Believers, make a commitment to obey God, demonic spirits will often try to tempt you to disobey through seemingly unrelated things. Examples may be interruptions or distractions. What are some other ways Satan and his demons can tempt you to lure you away from God? What can we do as believers to be proactive to these schemes?

3. Demons seek to paralyze you with fear.

- The world may believe that worry, anxiety, and fear are a part of life. Therefore many, including Christians, are ruled and controlled by their fears. Share a time when you felt overwhelmed by fear.
- **Read 2 Timothy 1:7, Romans 8:15, and 1 John 4:18.** Why do you think the Lord included these passages in the Bible? What current situation can you specifically apply these verses to? How would you encourage someone who is dealing with fear?

How do we fight against the forces of darkness?

1. We never treat our enemy lightly.

- **Read and compare Acts 19:13-16 with Luke 10:1-4 & Luke 10:16-17.** What are the differences between these accounts? Why were the disciples able to cast out demons and the seven sons of Sceva were not?
- **Read Luke 10:19** about the Believer's authority. What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you through this verse?

2. We don't flirt with darkness.

- We sometimes may think of reading horoscopes, seeking mediums as harmless entertainment, but participating in these activities opens the door to demonic influence in our lives. Brainstorm as a group ways to ensure that we are not deceived into flirting with darkness and things that are contrary to the Bible.

3. We don't fight with our power, but with Christ's authority.

- **Read Matthew 11:27, Matthew 28:18-20, Philippians 2:10, and Luke 10:19.** Because Jesus has ascended and rules over all, and because his unparalleled authority has been delegated to us, we who are His people can walk in His spiritual power and victory. Consequently, any Christian has the authority to resist a demon, commanding it to get away from them in Jesus' name. What do you need to do in order to fight the enemy and win in the Spiritual Realm?

Life Challenge

This week as you spend time with God, make a point to pray for the leaders of this country, other nations, and also the leaders at Church of the King.

Prayer

We thank You, Father, that we are redeemed out of the hand of Satan by the blood of Jesus Christ. Father, we believe that Jesus destroyed the works of the devil. We walk in the Kingdom of God, which is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Amen. Pray for the specific needs of the group.