

FORWARD TO FREEDOM SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The Vulnerability of the Believer

WE ARE ALL POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF HELL'S STRATEGIES

- ❶ We are called to allow the Bible to transform our thinking.
(Romans 12:2)
- ❷ We are called to develop & utilize spiritual discernment. (1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)
- ❸ We are called to be spiritually alert. (1 Peter 5:8)
- ❹ We are called to submit to God & resist the devil.
(James 4:7; 1 John 5:19)
 - ▶ 1 John 5:19 - The whole world is under the control of the evil one.
 - ▶ Options when we are lied to...
 - ❶ Believe it ❷ Argue with it
 - ❸ Pay no attention to it

DEGREES OF VULNERABILITY FOR THE BELIEVER

- ▶ Influenced ▶ Probable (1 Peter 5:8-9)
- ▶ Controlled ▶ Possible (Acts 5:3)
- ▶ Owned ▶ Never (1 Peter 1:18-19)

NOTE: Meaning of "daimonizomai" (Greek) = "demonized" or "under the influence of demons"

THE REALITY & PERSONALITY OF DEMONS (Luke 11:24-26)

- ❶ Demons exist outside & inside of humans; they are dismembered spirits.
- ❷ Demons are able to travel at will; they are not subject to the natural barriers of a 3-dimensional world.
- ❸ Demons seem to find a measure of rest in a body. (They preferred pigs to the pit.)
- ❹ Demons are able to communicate.
- ❺ Demons have individual identities.
- ❻ Demons are able to remember & make plans.
- ❼ Demons are able to evaluate human beings.
- ❽ Demons are able to make decisions.
- ❾ Demons are able to consolidate.
- ❿ Demons vary in degrees of wickedness. (cf. Mark 9:29)

THE LURE OF KNOWLEDGE & POWER (Deuteronomy 18:9-13)

❶ Counterfeit Knowledge

- Genesis 3:4-5; Leviticus 19:31, 20:6, 27; Deuteronomy 13:1-11, 18:8-13; Isaiah 8:19-20

❷ Counterfeit Power (Isaiah 47:8-15)

- Root Problems: ▶ Sensual nature ▶ Prideful heart
 - ▶ Deceived mind

PRINCIPLE: You can be led astray by the enemy's temptations, accusations, lies & deceit.

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The Vulnerability of the Believer

Sermons can be viewed online at creeksideeg.com/sermon

Questions are based on the NIV translation of the Bible

PRAYER

Begin your time together by thanking God that His presence and power in our lives is always greater than any evil power or influence that the kingdom of darkness might seek to bring our way. (1 John 4:4)

MY STORY

Describe a time when you were in danger. How did you handle it? Did you break free of the situation? If so, how?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Thinking back on Sunday's message, was there any new insight into the believer's vulnerability that was a discovery or powerful reminder for you?
2. In 1965, Paul Harvey, a famous news broadcast voice in America (and born-again believer), presented an amazingly insightful program called "IF I WERE THE DEVIL." Please have someone in your LifeGroup read the transcript of that broadcast. Take a few minutes to discuss your reactions to it. (Remember... this was written in 1965!)
3. What do the following verses teach about our spiritual vulnerability as Christians?
 - a. **Romans 12:2**
 - b. **1 John 4:1**
 - c. **1 Thessalonians 5:21-22**
 - d. **1 Peter 5:8**

4. Read **Deuteronomy 18:9-13**. On Sunday we provided you with a program insert with definitions of practices mentioned in this passage which God prohibits. Take time to read through these definitions. Can you think of any modern-day movies or television programs that place any of these activities in a favorable or interesting light?
5. Why would God so strongly command His followers to avoid such practices? (Hint: **Ephesians 4:27**).
6. Only God knows and controls what will happen in the future. So why do you think that knowledge (information) and/or power (intervention) sought after from spiritists and mediums concerning the future are considered both counterfeit and dangerous?

DIGGING EVEN DEEPER

7. Read **Matthew 8:28-34**. What do you think the disciples might have learned from this incident? Why do you think the local towns people asked Jesus to leave their region after such an amazing encounter?
8. Read **Luke 11:24-26**. List a few facts or observations regarding demons that you see in this passage. Which one is most concerning to you?

TAKING IT HOME

9. Based on what you have learned in this sermon series, what changes need to be made in your life regarding spiritual warfare and walking by faith with God? How will you proceed?
10. Our spiritual enemies will utilize any strategy available to influence us toward evil, including our use of technology. So this week, proactively utilize email or the social media of your choice (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, Snapchat, YouTube, etc.) to communicate something that promotes Kingdom values.

PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the needs of your group, and ask God to help you be aware of your spiritual vulnerabilities and to stay clear of any attempts by the forces of evil to influence your life.