

JFN Empower – Module 4 P4
Lesson 4 (2): The art of Spiritual Warfare

Demons and Their Origin

According to **Dr. F. P. Möller**, demons are angels who rebelled against God together with Satan are referred to as *demons*. Scripture describes these fallen beings using several terms: *evil spirits* (Luke 7:21), *unclean spirits* (Matthew 10:1), and *messengers of Satan* (2 Corinthians 12:7). The Bible also indicates that their number is vast. In Mark 5:9 (cf. Mark 9 in popular reference), a demon-possessed man identified himself as *Legion*, implying many spirits.

Scripture reveals that demons are conscious and active beings. They fear judgment (Luke 8:31), can speak (Matthew 8:28–29), express desires (Matthew 8:31), display unusual strength (Mark 5:3–4), act aggressively (Matthew 8:28), inhabit the bodies of humans and animals (Matthew 12:43–45; Mark 5:12–13), and even attempt to afflict believers (2 Corinthians 12:7). (Dr. F. P. Möller, *The Wonder of Creation and the Enigma of Spiritual Beings*, 1997, p. 107).

Another view suggests that demons may be the disembodied spirits of the Nephilim—giants described in Genesis 6 who existed before the flood. However, it is important to note that this interpretation is **not explicitly confirmed in Scripture** and therefore remains speculative.

What Scripture makes absolutely clear is that Satan and his forces are active, deceptive, and destructive—yet ultimately defeated through Christ. They possess no lasting authority over believers who stand firmly in Christ (Colossians 2:15).

Satan's Agenda

Sin originated with the devil, and his character is expressed in terms of the king of Babylon:

“For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High” – Isaiah 14:13.

According to Möller, Satan's aim and policy is to prevent people from believing in and serving God. He also tries to undermine the faith of those who already serve the Lord and to lead them into apostasy. Satan wants his own counter-kingdom. (The wonder of creation and the enigma of spiritual beings, 1997, p. 108)

The devil's agenda is unmistakable: to oppose God and destroy His creation by drawing humanity away from God and toward sin and spiritual death. Jesus describes this clearly: *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy"* (John 10:10).

Satan's work aims to bring chaos—disrupting order, unity, and peace so that God's people are weakened. He **steals** by stripping people of vision, identity, and purpose. A clear example of this is found in Matthew 4:1–11, where Satan repeatedly attempted to distort Jesus' identity and mission.

He **kills** by leading people into spiritual death and separation from God (Romans 6:23), and he **destroys** by sowing fear, torment, lies, and oppressive burdens.

Jesus called him *"the father of lies"* (John 8:44), showing that deception is Satan's primary weapon. The root of his rebellion is pride (Isaiah 14:12–15), and pride remains the cornerstone of his strategy against humanity.

Ultimately, Satan seeks the destruction of souls. To achieve this, he must entice people into sin (*hamartia*—missing the mark of God's will). Peter warns believers: *"Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour"* (1 Peter 5:8). Yet Scripture also assures us that he cannot prevail against those who remain firm in Christ (James 4:7).

In summary: **Satan's agenda is destruction through sin; his method is deception; his motive is hatred for God and His people.** In Christ, however, believers stand in truth, authority, and victory.

How Satan Works

To accomplish his agenda, Satan employs strategies, systems, and collaborators. His methods include temptation, deception, strategic attacks, love for worldly things (1 John 2:15–16), lies, lust of the eyes, greed, power, and manipulation—as seen again in his temptation of Jesus.

He seeks a *foothold* (Ephesians 4:27). When given access, he establishes *strongholds*—patterns of thinking or behavior that allow him influence in a person's life. Some individuals open doors knowingly or unknowingly; once opened, Satan uses them to establish strongholds:

Stronghold, a Bible definition

2 Cor. 10: 4-5, *'We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.'* NLT

Ochuróma – Castle, argument. The term *ochuróma* (ochurōma) refers to a stronghold or fortress—a place of security and defense. In the New Testament, it is used metaphorically to describe mental or spiritual strongholds: patterns of thought or belief that resist the truth of God. This points to distorted thinking that leads to faulty reasoning, misguided arguments, and deceptive philosophies and can have the following **negative outcomes**:

1. Limitations and Hindrances

It can limit believers from receiving all that God has in store for them. Jericho (Joshua 6) illustrates how a physical castle prevented Israel from enjoying the experience of all that the promised land had in store for them. Israel could not fully possess what God had promised until the walls of Jericho were conquered and destroyed. Likewise, demonic strongholds can limit believers from experiencing the fullness of God's promises.

2. Hinder spiritual growth

A stronghold acts like a **filter in the mind**. Even when the truth is heard, it gets misunderstood, resisted, or rejected. In 2 Cor. 4:4 we read that the god of this world (satan) has blinded the minds of people. In this sense, a stronghold often leads to repeated patterns:

- the same struggles (no victory over certain areas)
- the same reactions and behavior
- the same spiritual “plateau” (no spiritual growth)

3. Negative emotional patterns

Strongholds can trap people in fear and pain, which can lead to anger, depression, shame, and destructive behaviour. Strongholds can block a believer's joy and peace and cause them to be easily offended, overreact or deeply hurt by small things.

Who Satan Employs

Satan operates through a hierarchical demonic structure (Ephesians 6:12), but he also uses people. Because he is a spirit, he requires human cooperation to act in the physical realm. Both believers and unbelievers can become instruments if they fail to discern spiritual realities.

Scripture reminds us that our struggle is *not* against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of darkness. Therefore, we must refuse to become unwitting tools of the enemy and instead submit fully to God.

Resisting the Devil—How?

James 4: 7, *‘Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.’* NKJV

The Greek word for *resist* (*anthistēmi*) means to take a complete stand against something, or to adopt a position that is 180 degrees contrary. We must stand firmly against the devil's plans and strategies by boldly declaring our convictions in God and His Word. Spiritual warfare requires us **to forcefully proclaim God's will and renounce the devil's agenda**.

To rest means to stand in the victory that Jesus won for us on the cross and to proclaim that victory.

Col. 2: 13-15, *‘You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ He cancelled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.*

Colossians 2:13–15 teaches that through the cross, Jesus canceled our debt of sin, disarmed spiritual authorities, and publicly triumphed over them. Believers resist from a place of victory—not struggle.

Weapons of Our Warfare

2 Corinthians 10:3–4 reminds us that our weapons are spiritual and powerful, capable of demolishing strongholds and false arguments. Here is a list of weapons in our spiritual warfare:

- **Identity & Authority:** *“Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might”* (Ephesians 6:10). Spiritual authority flows from relationship and identity in Christ. This is why Satan attacked Jesus’ identity in the wilderness and why the sons of Sceva failed (Acts 19:13–16). Authority is relational, not formulaic.
- **Position in God:** *“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe”* (Proverbs 18:10); Psalm 91
- **Praise & Worship:** God brings victory through worship (2 Chronicles 20:22)
- **Prayer & Fasting:** Some resistance yields only through prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:21)
- **The indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit:** Our fellowship with the Holy Spirit builds spiritual strength and alignment, therefore we must pray in the Spirit (1 Corinthians 14:14; Jude 1:20). Jesus cast out demons by the Spirit of God (Luke 11:20)
- **The Blood of Jesus:** *“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb”* (Revelation 12:11)

- **The Word of God:** The Word is the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17). Spiritual warfare requires us to forcefully proclaim God's will and renounce the devil's agenda.
- **Taking Authority:** Jesus rebuked Satan directly (Matthew 4:10). Believers are called to do the same in His name.
- **The Armor of God:** Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Word (Ephesians 6:13–18)

Questions to Ponder

1. Write a short paragraph explaining: What is Satan aiming to accomplish, and what is his agenda?
2. What is Satan's strategy, and how does he operate?
3. What does Ephesians 4:27 mean when it says, "give the devil no foothold"? Do you sometimes allow the enemy access to your life?
4. What is a demonic stronghold? Name and briefly explain three negative effects of strongholds in people's lives.
5. It is clear that Satan does not work alone. Whom does he use or employ?
6. What does it mean to resist the devil?
7. Identify and discuss the weapons of our warfare. Can you think of additional spiritual weapons?

God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles. ¹² When handkerchiefs or aprons that had merely touched his skin were placed on sick people, they were healed of their diseases, and evil spirits were expelled.

¹³ A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, "I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!" ¹⁴ Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. ¹⁵ But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?" ¹⁶ Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered.