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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

2 Corinthians 10:3-5
Lesson #44
Fake News
06/17/2018



Ephesians 6:12

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this **darkness**, against the spiritual forces of **wickedness** in the heavenly places."

Spiritual "fake news"

"All reality can be reduced to time, space, energy, and matter."

"The world is a morally neutral environment."

Ephesians 6:12

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this **darkness**, against the spiritual forces of **wickedness** in the heavenly places."

- 1. Two dimensions -**
material / spiritual
- 2. Two forces -**
light / dark

Ephesians 6:12

"For our struggle is not against **flesh and blood**, but . . . against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the **heavenly places**."

Spiritual dimension

Material dimension
(secondary causes)

(primary cause)

What are we to stand against
in our spiritual warfare?

★ **The temptation to be one dimensional.**

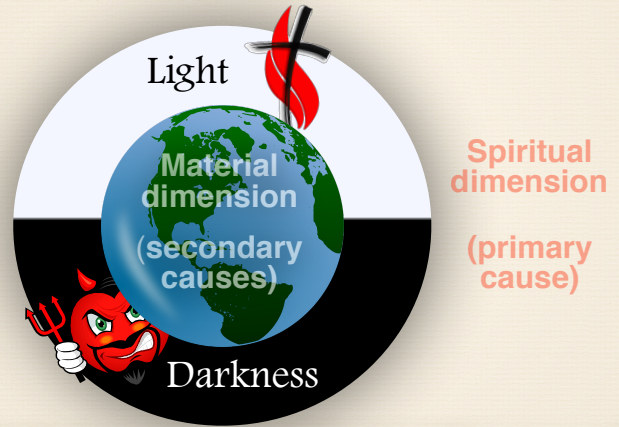
“In the end, dear friend,
it is always between us
and God, not
between us
and them.”

Mother Teresa



6

2. Two forces in the spiritual dimension



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Ephesians 5

“⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them; ⁸ for you were formerly **darkness**, but now you are **light** in the Lord; walk as children of **light** ⁹ (for the fruit of the **light** consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), ¹⁰ trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of **darkness**, but instead even expose them;”

- **Light and darkness are used to describe two spiritual domains that are occupied by spiritual forces that propagate different views of what is real and what is fake.**

Colossians 1:13

“For He rescued us from the domain of **darkness**, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.”

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Ephesians 6

“¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the **rulers**, against the **powers**, against the **world** forces of this **darkness**, against the spiritual forces of **wickedness** in the heavenly places.”

- **Spiritual forces are like winds blowing us in different directions.**
- **These forces are often personified as messengers - angels & demons.**

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The Hebrew and the Greek words for “angel”
mean “**messenger**”.

Hebrews 1:14

“Are they not all **ministering spirits**, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?”

“Angel”

- a spirit being that delivers a message from God.

“Demon”

- (a fallen angel) a spirit being that delivers a message from Satan.

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Light

Christ
Angels
Good
Truth

Darkness

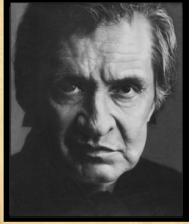
Satan
Demons
Evil
Lie



- **Two contrasting spiritual messengers.**
- **Two contrasting spiritual domains.**

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Johnny Cash



"Sometimes I am two people. Johnny is the nice one. Cash causes all the trouble. They fight and the one that I feed generally wins."

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Satan's playbook

Mark 4

"3 . . . Behold, the sower went out to sow; 4 and it came about that as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up. . . . 15 And these are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately **Satan comes and takes away the word** which has been sown in them."

Play (lie #1)

- **Absolute truth** is an illusion.

Note: The seed is a word - a message.

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Satan's playbook

Matthew 4

"1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to Him, **"If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."** . . . 5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city; and he had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, **"If You are the Son of God throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'He will give His angels charge concerning You'; and 'On their hands they will bear You up, Lest You strike Your foot against a stone.'"** . . . 8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory; 9 and he said to Him, **"All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me."** . . ."

Play (lie #2)

- **This life** (material, temporal) is all there is.

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Satan's playbook

Genesis 3

"1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, **"Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'"** . . . 4 The serpent said to the woman, **"You surely will not die!"** 5 **For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."** 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate."

Play (lie #3)

- **You can't trust** God's heart.

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Satan's playbook

2 Corinthians 2

"6 Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority, 7 so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, lest somehow such a one be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. 8 Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him. . . . 10 . . . if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, 11 **in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes."**

Play (lie #4)

- There is **no hope** for sinners.

NOTE: Satan can take advantage of (us) both the offender and the offended.

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NOTE how these “angels” operated in every episode:

1. They were messengers not surrogates.

- Angels are **messengers** - peddling the light, encouragers of the saints, clarifying the truth.

Ephesians 4:15

“but **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up in all aspects into him who is the head, even Christ,”

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NOTE how these “angels” operated in every episode:

1. They were messengers not surrogates.

- Angels are **messengers** - peddling the light, encouragers of the saints, clarifying the truth.

2. They were life coaches, renewing the minds of people in crisis.

- They countered the darkness with its **evil seeds of deception**.

1. **A distorted view of reality** - only the secondary means are the problem and the solution. (Anger & Anxiety)

2. **A distorted view of redemption** - God has abandoned you and you are alone, unloved, and without hope. (Anger & Anxiety)

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COMMON

MUNDANE

Spiritual forces of darkness

the object of faith

worldview

systems

defilement

possession

All are “demonic”!

DRAMATIC

RARE
20

Satan does not want to take away our faith, hope, and love.

He just wants to control the

object of our faith, hope & love.



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2 Corinthians 10

“3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 We are destroying **speculations** and every lofty thing raised up against the **knowledge** of God, and we are taking every **thought** captive to the obedience of Christ,”

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