

FIGHTING WHAT WE CANNOT SEE, PT2

ser4086 Spiritual Warfare, Pt 4

October 24, 2021 E & L

I. (HOOK & BOOK) POINT OF INTRIGUE & TEXT



A. There are only two kinds of angels in the world—good and evil.

NOTE: There are no neutral angles.

1. There was no neutral angel in the Garden of Eden when Eve bought Satan's lie.

2. There was no neutral angel at the temptation of Christ. There was Jesus, Satan, and the holy angels who ministered to Jesus, strengthening Him after 40 days.

B. You have heard it. I have heard it. People often say, “*We have three options when faced with choices: God’s, the Devil’s, and mine.*”

Is that correct or incorrect?

1. Should I go to church today or stay home and get caught up on yard work?

2. Should I release that person of the debt they owe me or hold them accountable?
3. Should I get high tonight or go to Chain Breakers and stay sober?
4. Should I vote for candidate A or B?
5. Should I go to Youth Group or stay home and play in the Fortnight tournament?
6. Should I marry Mary Jane or Bruce Joseph? (LOL!)
7. Should I have another drink or stop at this one?
8. Should I give God the ten percent He asks of me, or keep it to pay bills?
9. Should I hold on to Ms A's/Mr A's offense or let it go?
10. Should I give my kid an old-fashioned spanking or "time out?"
11. Should I give the waitress, who had a bad attitude, and never came back to our table one time, a 20% tip, 10% tip or no tip at all?
12. Should I share the GOSPEL with Ms A/Mr A, now, or not?
13. Should I stop and help the person who is broken down along the side of the road or keep going?
14. Should I go to College A or College B?

15. Should I go see that movie or not?
16. Should I listen to that kind of music?
17. Should I say what's on my mind or keep my mouth shut?
18. Should I return that person's phone call or ignore it?
19. Should I buy that outfit or "that" outfit?
20. Should I divorce or not?
21. Should I transgender or not?
22. Should I take that job or "that" job?
23. Should I care for my elderly parent at home or put him/her in a nursing home?
24. Should I have a second piece of Nancy Spuler's coconut pound cake?

Should I ... and the list goes on. Hundreds upon hundreds of choices ...

C. Back to the statement: *"We have three options when faced with choices: God's, the Devil's, and mine."*

Is that correct or incorrect? It is INCORRECT. There are ONLY two forces in the world—God's and Satan's, good and evil. **Our choice is either to follow God by walking in the Spirit or to follow Satan by yielding to**

the flesh. Jesus taught us to pray, “deliver us from evil.” Your will is submissive to God or Satan. There is no “neutral” will.

When you and I make a choice we’re either following Christ or we’re following Satan. We’re either walking in the Spirit or following the flesh.

(LOOK) Let’s look at it!

Galatians 5: 16-25

¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ...

¹⁹ Now the ***works of the flesh*** are evident, which are: ^[d]adultery, ^[e]fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, ^[f]murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; ...

²² But the ***fruit of the Spirit*** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

²³ ^[g]gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those *who are* Christ’s have crucified the

flesh with its passions and desires.²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

D. It's important to remember that because you made a choice that didn't turn out the way you thought it should, doesn't mean you were following the flesh rather than God.

Let's look at some examples:

1. God chose King Saul to be Israel's first king. But King Saul made a number of wrong choices, and God took the kingdom from Saul and gave it to David.

Does that mean God made a wrong choice? No, for God cannot do wrong. What it means is that Saul chose to yield to the flesh and Satan, walked in *disobedience*, and therefore, lost the kingdom.

1 Samuel 13:13

"You have acted foolishly," Samuel declared. "You have not kept the command that the LORD your God gave you; if you had, the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.

2. Let's look at another example. "Should I marry Mary Jane or Bruce Joseph?" You believe with all your heart that you married the right person. But your marriage fell apart and today you're divorced or remarried.

Because your marriage ended in divorce DOES NOT mean you made the wrong choice. You very well may

have made the right choice and probably did. What it means is that during the marriage someone, or both of you, made wrong choices. One, or both of you, walked after the flesh rather than the Spirit, and that is why the marriage was lost.

HEAR ME, PLEASE! Every day we wrestle against forces we cannot see (*Ephesians 6:12*). Forces in heavenly places woo us to do wrong. Now, the choice is ours to follow the voice of our Lord, or the voice of the flesh, which is Satan. That's the real world in which we live.

We fight what we cannot see, but the choices we make can be seen will eventually be seen. (If you haven't grasped it by now, this is good stuff. LOL! **As they say in Montana . . .**

II. INTERRUPTED – IS IT THE SPIRIT OF GOD OR SATAN?

A. One of the hardest decisions I must make during my day is often relational to the interruptions. Is this interruption of God or of Satan? (Do you get those?) Do I keep building the wall or is God saying, to be the Good Samaritan? Lord, what is your voice? What do I do? We don't think of these interruptions this way, but we are fighting what we cannot not see. We see in the flesh, but God has called us to fight in the Spirit, to hear and obey.

ILLUSTRATION: I remember it quite clearly. I was traveling to the Deptford Mall to do some Christmas shopping. It

began to snow rather heavily. On the way home I saw a car on the side of the road. What do I do? Stop? Keep going? Is this a set up?

(The truth is you never know. When we were in the Theatre a man who played in our orchestra stopped to help a young girl whose car was on the side of the road with the hood up. It was a set up. They couple nearly beat the man to death.)

I stopped. The man had way too much to drink. I offered to drive him home. He lived in Pitman. We sat in my car for nearly an hour talking about life and the Lord. Before he went into his house, he gave his life to Christ. Shortly thereafter he started to come to GCCC. I officiated his wedding. Nearly a decade ago he passed away from health complications. His wife is still coming to Church today.

B. Now, on the surface it would certainly appear that I heard the voice of God, listened, and obeyed, and the man who played in the church orchestra missed it.

But how do we know if his act of kindness may not be the grace that brings that evil couple to Christ? We were all lost in our trespasses and sins at one time. We have all sinned. There is none righteous. God's ways are not our ways nor His thoughts our thoughts.

What do we do? We ***DO RIGHT and give the consequences to God.*** And we trust that no matter what the outcome is to the human eye, because we acted in

faith—and remember “whatever is not of faith is sin” (*Romans 14:23*)—is all in God’s plan.

Why did Jesus spend an entire evening in prayer before picking the twelve disciples? Why did Jesus spend an entire evening in prayer before giving the Sermon on the Mount? He was getting it right? The forces of evil were telling Him one thing and the voice of His Father was telling Him another.

C. (I love this illustration.) Peter gets it right and Peter gets it wrong.

Mark 8:27 - 33 (selected)

²⁷ Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi; and on the road He asked His disciples, saying to them, “Who do men say that I am?”

²⁸ So they answered, “John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.”

²⁹ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Peter answered and said to Him, “You are the Christ.” ...

[Peter gets it right.]

³¹ And Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. ³³ But

when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, “Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not ^[e]mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

[Peter gets it wrong.]

D. Here’s the reality, unless we’re Jesus NO ONE gets it right. Let’s watch!

(The Chosen. Season 2. Episode 5. Selected. 6:48)

Follow me. When we’re desperate we can make wrong choices, like the paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda. But the HOPE of every believer—which he was—is that our God will turn fool’s gold into streets of pure gold and mourning into dancing.

No matter how many bad choices you’ve made, you can make a good choice today.

1. Chose to obey rather than disobey.
2. Chose to walk in the Spirit rather than the flesh.
3. Chose to give to Him what you’re making a mess of; let go of the heathen answers found at the Pool of Bethesda and look to Jesus—He alone is the Answer.
4. And, if you haven’t already, TODAY, make Him your Lord and Saviour.

Here’s how!

III. CLOSING/INVITATION

Admit– your sins have separated you from God.
(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.)
(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

Do it today! (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen.

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(approximately 14.8 minutes + 6:48 video = 22 minutes)