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## SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND EVANGELISM

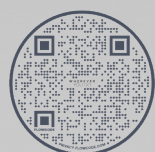
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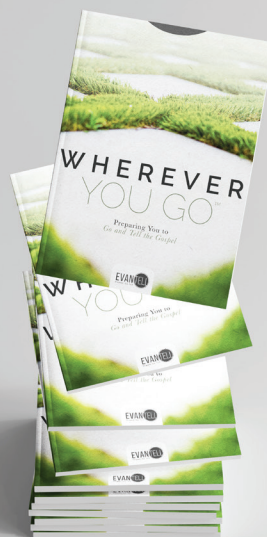
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# TOOLBOX

EVANTELL'S

SPRING 2022

## Spiritual Warfare IN EVANGELISM

3 Ways Satan Hinders Evangelistic Efforts in Churches  
BY DR. LARRY MOYER

*Satan is a master of subtlety, and some of his most subtle attacks are toward the church. Here are three ways he keeps churches so tied up pursuing pointless endeavors, until they end up neglecting the great commission, which was his goal all along.*

### Lack of passion for unbelievers

This seems blatant, but it isn't. No church would proclaim that "reaching others just isn't a priority for us." However, as passions run high for various programs and processes in the church, passion for reaching non-Christians can quietly slip out of the room. Not only churches, but pastors themselves often face this dilemma. A survey taken among evangelical pastors asked, "How long has it been since you presented the gospel to a non-Christian?" The average length of time was five years! What plan does your church have in place for reaching those around you? How can you become a part of it or help start it?

### Lack of unity in the church

As I speak at leadership conventions, leaders tell me that one of their biggest problems in creating more opportunities for outreach is that they are dealing with a myriad of problems within the assembly. These may be people who disagree with a certain direction the

church is going, believers who have unresolved conflicts, disagreements on minor issues, and more. Soon, any time that would have been dedicated to outreach is dedicated solely to inreach. We must remember that as long as the church is full of imperfect people, there will always be an element of disunity. How can you help free up time for someone in leadership by taking the initiative to start or lead an already existing outreach effort?

### Lack of encouragement

This has to be one of Satan's favorite tools. It works when everything else seems to fail.

The church may engage in a very well-prepared outreach for non-Christians. But although the unbelievers are there, sometimes they are just not prepared at that time to receive the good news of the gospel. It often takes longer from the time an unbeliever hears the gospel to when he responds in faith than it used to. Some studies today say that someone may need to hear the gospel as often as fifteen times before making a decision. If a church likes to see more immediate results, this can be discouraging. I often have to remind church leaders that non-Christians will come to Christ, but they might not come as quickly as leaders would like. Don't get discouraged! Trust that Jesus is the Lord of the Harvest and He will use your efforts for His glory! Our job is contact – conversion is His territory.



# SATAN’S STRATEGIES: HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND

by DAVID SOUTHER

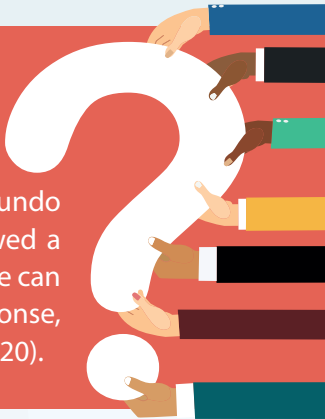
Evangelism is not easy. We face supernatural opposition from Satan. (Ephesians 6:12). Here are a few the “schemes” (Ephesians 6:11) that he uses to derail our conversations about Christ and how to respond.

**TRIGGERING OUR EMOTIONS.** Have you ever heard someone make inflammatory statements about Christ, Christianity, or your own walk with the Lord? It can be tempting to respond with anger and defensiveness. Paul exhorts us to “Walk by the Spirit” in Galatians 5:16 which means to depend on and yield to the Holy Spirit on a continual basis. God then empowers us to respond with truth wrapped in the “fruit of the Spirit”, including love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, etc. (5:22-23).

**DISRUPTION THROUGH DISTRACTION.** Life is full of frustrating distractions. While we cannot always control distractions from happening during our conversations, we can control our response to them. Put it in God’s hands in prayer and ask the Lord to “mute” it, but also for wisdom in how to navigate it if He does not.

**SHUTTING US DOWN AFTERWARDS.** While there is nothing wrong with evaluating the conversation after it is over, when we obsess on it, we may miss future opportunities. Take those conversations before the Lord asking, “Lord, teach me what I need to know and help me to silence everything else.” God will give you wisdom for ways to improve and strength to ignore the rest.

## WHY IS THERE WARFARE



Satan’s defeat has been sealed. He is powerless to bring an attack against God, and he is powerless to undo the work of the cross. However, because of man’s sin, we live in a fallen world where Satan is allowed a measure of authority for a short time (Eph 2:1-2; 2 Cor 4:4). While his demise is imminent, he will do all he can to hinder Christians and hold onto those who do not yet know Christ (1 Peter 5:7-9; Jude 1:23). In response, we must stand firm in the armor of God and take the gospel of peace wherever we go (Ephesians 6:10-20).

## HOW TO STAND FIRM AGAINST SATAN’S ACCUSATIONS

by BROCK ANDERSON

Satan hates nothing more than the gospel of Jesus Christ. It’s what sealed his fate in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:15), and ceasing its spread and impact are among his utmost priorities. One of the primary ways he tries to accomplish this is to falsely accuse the children of God so that they abandon the idea of sharing their faith.

### A CRITICAL REMINDER

*Satan does not accuse ignorantly. He knows where you struggle; he is aware of where you falter; he is well acquainted with where you harbor doubt – these areas will be the epicenters of his accusations.*

#### FOUR WHISPERS TO WATCH OUT FOR:

- You sinned again? Why would God ever want to use you to reach others?
- Your past sins disqualify you from evangelism.
- Look at how distracted and unorganized you are – God needs someone who “has it together”
- You have no right to share the gospel. Look at your current sin. You are nothing more than a hypocrite!

#### WHEN THESE ACCUSATIONS ARE HURLED OUR WAY, WE CAN STAND FIRM WITH SCRIPTURE:

- “Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect?” (Romans 8:33-34).
- “Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ” (Romans 8:38).
- “We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (Hebrews 10:10).

In short, we can tell Satan, “Yes, I am imperfect, but my Savior’s righteousness is flawless and has been imputed to me.” When we are clear about God’s satisfaction with us because of Jesus, we are freed from guilt, freed from unworthiness, and freed to reach others with the gospel.

# Hope IN THE MIDST OF WARFARE

by RYAN DUNLEAVY



In our world today, reminders of sin’s effects are around every corner.

Despite living in a fractured world marred by sin and evil, we have hope. Hope changes everything. As we see and feel this world, we can grieve the damage caused by Evil. We ought to grieve! But we grieve differently as those with the hope of what is yet to come. (Romans 8:22-23) Our hope is found only in the gospel.

### THE MESSAGE THAT SAVES

Our hope is rooted in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Having no sin of His own, He took the penalty of our sin because of His love for us. We receive His righteousness along with correct standing with God and can commune with Him intimately.

### THE MOTIVE THAT SENDS

Throughout Jesus’ life, He engaged in Spiritual Warfare. Evil not only attacked Jesus but those that followed Him. (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 5:1-20) Although sobering, this is to be expected. If you have trusted in Jesus alone to save you, then you are sent to push back against the darkness.

But make no mistake about it! As you push back the darkness with light, the darkness will push back.

### THE MEANS TO STAND

When Satan accuses, tempts, or persecutes, our response must be truth - truths found in the reality of the gospel.

For example, let’s say the Enemy serves a nasty lie to me: “God might have saved you, but He doesn’t care about you.” Instead of wilting in hopelessness, what if I had considered what Jesus did for me? I could respond with truth: “You’re right, Satan. All of those things happened. But the judgment I deserved was placed on Jesus. He did that willingly because He loves me. He didn’t die to abandon me. He is so close to me!” What a hope that is to hold onto!



### DID YOU KNOW?

The name “Satan” has its origin in Hebrew and is translated as “The Accuser.” He is a liar, he is a thief, he is a tempter toward evil and a murderer from the beginning - and within everything he does there is an accusation: “God is not for you.” We must always be ready to expose this falsehood with the truth of the gospel!