

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

An Invitation to Follow

PART 11 | CONTINUING | DEALING WITH THE DEMONIC

"We do not fear the demonic — we confront it. And in doing so, we continue the ministry of Jesus."

THE BIG IDEA

The church often avoids this topic - but Jesus didn't. Throughout his ministry he consistently confronted demonic opposition, and every time he did, it had to bow. Then he gave his disciples the same authority. Not just the twelve - us too.

Two things are true at once: not everything is spiritual (sometimes a problem is just a problem), and not everything is natural (there is a spiritual realm, and an enemy who opposes the advancement of God's kingdom). As disciples, we need to be wise enough to know the difference - and bold enough to act when it's the latter.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Luke 10:19

"Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you."

Ephesians 6:10–12

"Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armour so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places."

"The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing the world he doesn't exist."

— Charles Baudelaire

The enemy's greatest advantage is ignorance. He would love for us to remain unaware of the spiritual reality around us - and unaware of the authority we carry. A disciple who knows their identity in Christ is a formidable force against the kingdom of darkness.

TWO KINGDOMS - TWO REALITIES

When you said yes to Jesus, you were rescued out of the kingdom of darkness and brought into the kingdom of light (Colossians 1:13). That transfer changes everything about how you stand:

What the enemy wants

- For you to believe he doesn't exist
- For you to remain ignorant of your authority

What God has given you

- Authority over all the power of the enemy
- The full armour of God

- To distort your identity in Christ
- To keep you passive and restricted
- To prevent you helping others into freedom

- The sword of the Spirit — God's word
- Identity hidden in Christ
- Power that is His, not your own

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE DEMONIC

1

Recognise the Power You Have in God

When you operate against darkness, you are not acting in your own strength - you are acting in God's. Ephesians says: be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. You are hidden in Christ (Colossians 3:3), so when the enemy looks at you, he sees the one who has already defeated him. That is the ground you stand on.

2

Put On the Armour of God

We belong to God, but we are not God - so we need his armour. Paul's military imagery in Ephesians 6 is deliberate: a soldier going into battle without armour is vulnerable. The armour protects your mind, your heart, your peace, and your faith. Put it on - daily, intentionally.

3

Use God's Word as a Weapon

When Jesus was tempted in the desert, he didn't argue with the devil or rely on his own words - he used Scripture. Ephesians 6 calls this the Sword of the Spirit. Know your Bible. When facing spiritual opposition, speak God's word - not your own opinion about the situation.

4

Know and Walk in Your Authority

A person standing in the middle of a motorway in their own authority will get run over. The same person in a police uniform - operating in a greater authority - stops traffic. We don't confront darkness in our own name. We act in the authority Jesus has given us. Speak to the situation. Declare what is true. Take back what the enemy is trying to claim.

THE FULL ARMOUR OF GOD - EPHESIANS 6:14-17

Paul lists six pieces of armour - five defensive, one offensive. Each one addresses a specific area the enemy targets:

Armour Piece	What it protects
Belt of Truth	Stand firm in what is true - God's word grounds you against deception and lies.
Breastplate of Righteousness	Your standing before God is secure in Christ, not in your own performance. This protects your heart.
Feet fitted with the Gospel of Peace	You move forward in readiness - rooted in the peace that comes from knowing you're reconciled to God.
Shield of Faith	Faith extinguishes the enemy's attacks. Trust in God's character and promises is your defence.

Helmet of Salvation	Your mind is protected by the assurance of your salvation. The enemy targets your thinking - guard it.
Sword of the Spirit	God's word is your only offensive weapon. Know Scripture; use it when you face spiritual opposition.

A FINAL THOUGHT

Dealing with the demonic is not about being dramatic or fearful. It is simply a part of continuing the ministry of Jesus - recognising that we live in a world with a spiritual dimension, that an enemy exists who opposes God's kingdom, and that we have been given real authority to push back.

"The gates of hell will not prevail against what God is doing. But that doesn't mean we sit passively. We step in - with the authority Jesus has given us — and we confront the darkness."

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

1. Before today, how much did you think about the spiritual dimension of life and the reality of demonic opposition? Has that changed?
2. What does it mean to you personally that when the enemy looks at you, he sees Christ - the one who has already defeated him?
3. Look at the six pieces of armour. Which do you feel most equipped with right now - and which do you most need to put on more intentionally?
4. Is there an area of your life or someone else's life where you sense spiritual opposition is at work? What would it look like to respond with authority rather than passivity?