1Thess 24

The spiritual forces of wickedness

Open up in Ephesians chapter one today RF.

Thank you all for allowing me day off for some downtime with my son. We enjoyed the Monday night Tampa Bay game, the seats my son bought were phenomenal, 4 rows away from the 30- yard line!

We got to watch the Tom Brady magic in the last 3 minutes of the game.

Probably the last time I will see him play live, up close like that!

Now we are back on track within our study of 1Thessalonians chapter two.

We have been digging deeper into the principles that Satan and his fallen army have much more power and influence world-wide then most Christians realize.

As a recap and reminder…

/Eph 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.*

There is a military order to Satan’s army and the influence and possession they have over mankind.\

We noted the rulers may well point to demonic or fallen angels of great authority and rank.

The powers speak to expert demonic forces and soldiers who have specialties and command on a lower level.

The world forces of darkness, tells us that mankind is being used by demonic influence and even possession to fulfill the mandates and protocol of Satan for the cosmic system.

Since the original garden Satan and his army have not only been busy and on the attack they have held authority in many realms across the world.

Now look at Ephesians chapter one;

The Apostle Paul is telling the Bels at Ephesus that they are chosen children of God, given spiritual blessings.

Having the mystery doctrine available to them if they want the divine knowledge and wisdom that GOD lavishly gave us through our new nature – the Christ-like nature given at salvation.

Without Jesus Christ we have no eternal security and also – we have no combat strength or strategies to fight off the demonic influences all around us.

/Eph 1:18 ***I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened** (*phōtizō*), so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Eyes of the soul – speaks to enlightenment, fully understanding, something become apparently clear.\

FOE-TEEZ-MO is where we get our English word photograph from. Every photographer knows that light is the key element in the art of photography.

Everything outside of the truth of BD is shrouded in darkness and shifting shadows.

To study and accurately accumulate the right knowledge a person has to have a clear mind.

Counterfeits and lies are easy to pull off if a person is walking in darkness or shadows…by that, I mean the eyes of their soul.

Where you gather knowledge where you house your norms and standards, it has to be a place of clarity which means it has to be a place where TLJC is in control. A place of true light!

[Eph 1:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/19/s_1098019) and what is the boundless greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance withthe working of the strength of His might

His strength, His power, His mind, HIS word!

/Eph 1:20 which **He brought about in Christ,** when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places,* **21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion**, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

All power, all answers and all clarity comes from Christ!\

Notice what verse 21 tells us - TLJC is now seated above all those powers.

When Jesus in HIS humanity, sat down upon the throne of heaven at the right hand of God the Father, the mission was complete, the victory was sealed forever.

/Eph 1:21 **far above all rule and authority and power and dominion** (*kyriotēs*), and **every name** that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

*Rule, authority, power, dominion and name* - points us to the chain of command within Satan’s army, including human pawns.\

The Greek noun – CURE-EE-OT-ACE points to power, the root word means LORD or master. One definition that holds true to this noun is, *government*.

A ruling body of leaders.

The term for name speaks to those who have a respected or popular title or name in the cosmic system.

Not only do we have demonic forces and fallen angels pitted against us.

There is a large majority of humanity that is blindly and many willingly, following the ideologies of Satan.

 REPEAT

/Satan does not care what avenue of independence and narcissism you walk. As long as they are avenues that drive you further from the truth of Jesus Christ (Unbel) and further from accurate doctrine (Bel). Any pathway that leads to Satan’s power and throne coming to fruition is an asset for him.\

Many of the problems which disturb Believers are the issues and problems that arise which seem to have no clear answer.

Many problems which appear to have no answer, are actually related to the angelic conflict.

/Many things which cannot be explained in terms of human activity are actually related to angelic activity. For example, the question: Why are we here? Why is man created? The reason we are here is to resolve the angelic conflict. That is a part of glorifying God. The angelic conflict is a revolt against God, and God is going to win it. \

The way He is going to win it is to create something lower than angels, weaker than angels, and use that creation to win it. WE ARE THAT CREATION!

The fact that angels do exist is verified by the Bible, just as the creation of mankind.

/Psa 8:4 What is man that You think of him, And a son of man that **You are concerned about him**? 5 Yet YOU have made him **a little lower than God**,
And You crown him with glory and majesty! (Heb 2:6-8) \

Fallen angels occupied the earth for possibly millions of years. We don’t know how many years before GOD moved over the surface of the earth and began to create something from the original rock we know as the earth (Gen 1:1-2).

After the angels rebelled with Satan, God allowed them the freedom to have the earth and come to repent and have salvation from final judgement.

These are details we will learn about someday and I believe you will find all angels fell from grace at some point.

When the earth was re-molded their opportunity for salvation was done.

They witnessed a new creation that was going to take the authority of the earth away from them.

/Psa 148:2 Praise Him, **all His angels**;
Praise Him, all **His *heavenly* armies**! 3 Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him,
all stars of light! 4 Praise Him, highest heavens, And the waters that are above the heavens! 5 They are to praise the name of the LORD,
For **He commanded and they were created.**

 (2Pet 2:11) \

Many Christians have no idea about why we were created and the spiritual battle we are called to fight.

I believe a deeper study like that which I have been diving into - really opens up answers for many people, if they are humble enough to study this.

You can jump ahead to Ephesians chapter 6.

The last group we will note is the Spiritual Forces of Wickedness in heavenly places. This group resides in the atmosphere which surround the earth, the stellar universe and even in the presence of God, representing Satan.

/*This group of spirit forces of evil are the demons who are currently operational. These are the rank-and-file demons under the command of Satan. They perform numerous functions, some indwell people to perform sickness, some control the vocal cords of people, some manufacture pressure situations against Believers who have positive volition toward doctrine. They also promote human good, evil, and sin.*

 *Pastor Robert McLaughlin* \

[EPH 6:12](http://www.bibleserver.com/text/NIV/Ephesians6%3A12%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) reads this way, if you now understand the original context of the scripture.

/Eph 6:12 Because our struggle is not against blood (people's souls) and flesh (their old sin nature), but against the rulers, (leaders like, Apollyon and Beelzebub), against the powers, (demon special ops & forces), against the world forces of this darkness, (demonic influence and possession of humans), against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places (spiritual forces of evil in the atmosphere and universe with ability to go in the presence of God).\

Eph 6:13 “Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."

The Apostle Paul gives us great look at the enemy. Then he shows us the strategy which is not to run out and clean up the devil’s world or look for a fight.

*Having done everything* – which means growing up spiritually, reaching and then holding mature ground.

*Stand firm*- means you have to get to ground which is strong, spiritual maturity and while you stand strong in BD you become an example and leader for others in your periphery.

To stand firm points to a balanced life.

Spiritual forces of wickedness, points us to demonic and fallen angels with supernatural ability to travel through the atmosphere and toward the heavens. Which also means they travel from one end of the earth to another with ease.

A demonic leader or fallen angel can be overseeing or manipulating a person or a whole country one day and simply transport or fly to another country as quickly as we drive to the corner store for a gallon of milk.

As the ruler of this world Satan has to have a strategy regarding the nations.

He cannot come to the pinnacle of power without a strong battle plan. This is why Satan has his fallen army manipulating and communicating with governments and ideologies world-wide.

 REPEAT

Satan is anti-nationalism; he despises nationalism.

/Nationalism frustrates the plan of power and rulership for Satan. Nationalism is a part of the 4 divine establishments to preserve human freedom in the devil’s world — the two greatest enemies of Satan in ruling the world are Bible doctrine and the laws of divine establishment.\

Satan has learned to counterattack Christianity with religion. Religion is designed to neutralize Bible doctrine.

/Satan counterattacks BD with religion. Satan counterattacks God’s divine establishments with rebellion, revolution and lies. Rebellion geared toward becoming independent from God in any realm. Revolution points to the spirit of bucking against authority. Lies related to God’s grand design for marriage, family and fulfilling the plan of God for our life.\

That is why all true revolutionists in their doctrine are internationalists and anti-nationalism.

/Internationalism (globalism) has always been a core belief of most revolutions. They rely upon the false doctrine of making the world a better place and saving the less fortunate to sell the revolution. It always has a one world dominance (elite at the top) at the end of the achievement, even if that wasn’t the initial desire.\

Nationalism frustrates Satan’s function on the earth. Nationalism is a part of the laws of divine establishment.

/Strong law enforcement and an organized military establishment to protect the freedom of the nation is a key foundation to God’s divine establishment. This is why patriotism and serving the country is part of Christianity. Freedom and liberty do not survive under government corruption or tyranny. The right to privacy, freedom, protection of self, family or financial freedom is God given. Which means there are standards that need to be upheld for success.\

Freedom isn’t free, there is always a cost for liberty and freedom.

 America was founded on Christian principles related to God’s word.

We were then attacked while establishing a Client Nation unto God.

So, the term American revolution was really not about revolution as we know it. It was a battle for the freedom of a new country.

The early pilgrims left British control they didn’t rebel against it.

*/"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with* ***certain unalienable Rights****, that among these are* ***Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness****."*

 *1776 Declaration of Independence*\

We are all guaranteed to have a pursuit of happiness…no one was guaranteed happiness. Actually, God approves of a merit-based system in a free society.

 Anything the government does to interfere in freedom and the pursuit of happiness is against the founding concepts of America.

As long as one person’s freedom and happiness does not infringe on another person’s freedom and happiness, there is no need for government interference.

 REPEAT

/Satan has developed many strategies to undermine America’s founding documents which by all accounts are the true authority of the land. Even a president is beholden to the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. The 4 divine establishments were the foundations of the nation which brought forth our founding documents.\

Satan has many strategies and for BD he developed religion and man-made systems of spirituality.

Religion is man’s efforts seeking to gain the approbation of God.

It is working, man’s plans, man’s talents, superimposed upon God.

The devil is the author of religion, the author of rebellion, the author of internationalism, it is all a part of his strategy as the ruler of the world.

/ 2Cor 4:3 And even if **our gospel is veiled**, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case **the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving** so that they will not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Everyone is born into the world as an Unbeliever (spiritually dead) we are born citizens of Satan’s kingdom.\

Spiritual death is the legal document of citizenship in the cosmic system.

Therefore, the devil has to have a strategy with regard to all people. He has to do everything possible to keep people Unbels. It is the devil’s objective that no one believe in Jesus Christ. Yet if they do become BELS, he then has to shift the strategy to distractions and propaganda.

/Col 2:8 See to it that there is no one who **takes you captive through philosophy** and **empty deception** in accordance with human tradition, in accordance with the **elementary principles of the world**, rather than in **accordance with Christ**.

For the Bel they need to be alert as to what they believe, practice and study because the counterfeits and distractions are everywhere.\

When a person believes in Christ, Satan doesn’t give up on them. They are members of the Royal family of God and in God’s plan and totally separated from Satan’s plan. So, the devil has to have strategies regarding Bels.

Satan and his army have to keep them off the right path toward SM.

Let me close this series out with basic principles all Bels should know related to satanic strategies.

/Religion promotes guilt and shame as much as it does works and rituals. Hyper focus on sin and works programs keeps a person dwelling in shame and guilt, not freedom! Emotions related to fear, worry, guilt or shame are no different than seeking spiritual growth in music, healings, miracles or tongues. Emotions can not think, they interfere with clear thinking and accurate application.\

Satan makes accusations about the sins of Bels to God the Father, don’t become an advocate for Satan.

God the Son is seated at the right hand of the Father, He acts as the Bel’s defense attorney immediately and presents the case that every sin that the devil mentions had already been judged.

The cross slaps Satan in the face in the divine courtroom of heaven over and over again.

/1Jhn 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you **so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ** the righteous; 2 and **He Himself is the propitiation for our sins**; and not for ours only, but also for ***the sins of* the whole world**.\

All your sins are paid for!

You are on the winning team – Satan and his army can not snatch you from the hands of GOD.

/Satan’s other objective is to sponsor reversionism in a Bel’s. To push a positive Bel away from God, especially being a growing Bel, to have that type of Bel go backward is a success for the devil. Mentally, and emotionally frustrate a Bel is also a key strategy of the kingdom of darkness. Anything that will cause doubt toward GOD is a satanic weapon.\

Doubt for a Bel will eventually open a doorway to frustration and anxiety over the issues of life.

Rejoice in the fact that you are a child of GOD! The only thing Satan can do is distract and force you to lose out on blessings.

/2Sam 24:14 Then David said to Gad, “I am in great distress. Let us now fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into human hands.”

Psa 23:6 Certainly goodness and faithfulness will follow me all the days of my life, And my dwelling *will be* in the house of the LORD forever.\

/Eph 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Satan can never remove the work upon the cross. Your salvation is always secure!\