

# A Bible Study on Dealing with the Enemy

Introduction: Welcome to this Bible study on dealing with the enemy, a topic of great significance in the Christian journey. The Bible clearly teaches about the existence of spiritual adversaries, and understanding how to engage in spiritual warfare with an enemy is crucial for every believer. In this study, we will explore key scriptures, principles, and practical steps to help navigate and overcome the challenges posed by the enemy.

In Christianity dealing with a subject on the enemy can be a very broad and far-reaching undertaking. However, in approaching this subject it becomes readily apparent that our focus can be quite narrow when we truly understand who and what we are dealing with. It is our responsibility as children of God to know what the battle is; who's involved in the battle; what to do when engaging the enemy in Battle; and ultimately how we can win and have victory against our enemy. Don't be mistaken, the enemy comes in a number of forms. Those forms can include other people, crisis situations, the devil himself, and at times ourselves. As a part of this study, it is our prayer that we will learn how to deal with every form and aspect of the enemy.

Central to our undertaking of dealing with the enemy is the word of the Lord as found in the book of Ephesians. In Ephesians 6:2 we read...

*"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."*

The following exposition from William Burkitt on this one verse, gives us a basis for which we can begin to learn how to deal with our enemy(ies).

A Christian's life is a perpetual warfare, a continual wrestling; but with what, and with whom? The answer! Not with flesh and blood, that is, not only or chiefly with flesh and blood, with human enemies; but we must grapple and contend with angelical powers, with devils, who are principalities and powers. Here note, How the devil and his angels are described:

1. By their prince-like authority and government which they exercise in the world, called therefore principalities and powers, to denote that Satan is a great and mighty prince: a prince that has the heart and knee of all his subjects.
2. By the seat of his empire: he rules in this world, not in the other; the highest the devil can go, is the air; heaven fears him not. And he is a ruler of the darkness of this world: that is, in such sinners as labor under the darkness of sin and ignorance.
3. Satan and his angels are here described by their spiritual nature, called spiritual wickedness, that is, wicked spirits: intimating to us, that the devils are spirits; that they are spirits extremely wicked; and that these wicked spirits do chiefly annoy Christians with, and provoke them to, spiritual wickedness.

4. They are described by their residence or place of abode: in high places; that is, in the air, of which he is called the prince.<sup>1</sup>

From the whole note, How plainly Christ our captain deals with all his soldiers, and the difference between Christ's dealing with his followers, and Satan with his: Satan durst not let sinners know who that God is whom they fight against, but Christ is not afraid to show his saints their enemy in all his power and strength; well he might, because the weakness of God is stronger than the powers of hell.

Concluding remarks on the biblical basis for dealing with the (our) enemy are as follows from the British Family Bible Commentary...<sup>2</sup>

- ❖ For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, That is, not only or chiefly against flesh and blood, against human enemies, but we must grapple and contend with angelical powers.
- ❖ ...but against principalities, against powers, Such as Christ triumphed over, Col. 2:15; "against the rulers of the darkness of this world," that is, those evil spirits, which still rule in those heathen nations which are yet in darkness, Eph. 5:8; 1Thes. 5:5; and "against spiritual wickedness in high places," that is, against those evil spirits, which, have their stations in the regions of the air. The account of the spiritual enemies of mankind, given by the Apostle in this passage, is agreeable to the doctrine of the other inspired writer; particularly St. John, who represents the heathen world, given up to idolatry and wickedness, as lying under the dominion of the devil, 1John 5:19. It was by the suggestions and temptations of evil spirits that mankind were so universally seduced to idolatry. And since the professed design of the Gospel was to destroy these evils, the devil and his angels would undoubtedly oppose its progress, by stirring up their adherents to persecute both the preachers and the believers of the new religion. The combat, which the first Christians were maintaining against the devil and his subjects, was with great propriety ascribed to the Ephesians, as their city was the very throne of idolatry, by means of the worship of Diana (the goddess of fertility).

In remaining sections of this Bible study, we will explore the Christian approach to dealing with enemies, as taught in the Scriptures. The concept of an "**enemy**" can be understood in various contexts: personal adversaries, spiritual evil, or even internal struggles against sin. Our focus will be on how to respond to those who oppose or harm us, and how to understand and confront evil in a manner that aligns with Christian teachings. Here are the remaining topics on how to deal with our enemy that will be taught...

## A. Understanding the Enemy

### 1. Identifying the Enemy

- **Scripture Reading:** Ephesians 6:12 (NIV) - "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."
- **Discussion:** How does this verse shift our understanding of who/what our real enemy is?

---

<sup>1</sup> William Burkett commentary on Ephesians 6:12, #1—4.

<sup>2</sup> British Family Bible Commentary on Ephesians 6:12.

## 2. The Nature of the Enemy

- **Scripture Reading:** 1 Peter 5:8-9 (NIV) - "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith..."
- **Discussion:** What are the characteristics of the enemy, and how are we instructed to respond?

## B. Jesus' Example in Dealing with Enemies

### 1. Love and Forgiveness

- **Scripture Reading:** Matthew 5:43-45 (NIV) - "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."
- **Discussion:** How does Jesus' command to love our enemies challenge conventional responses to conflict and opposition?

### 2. Jesus' Response to Persecution

- **Scripture Reading:** Luke 23:34 (NIV) - Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."
- **Discussion:** How can we apply Jesus' example of forgiveness in our own lives, especially in difficult situations?

## C. Spiritual Warfare

### 1. The Armor of God

- **Scripture Reading:** Ephesians 6:10-17 (NIV) - This passage describes the full armor of God.
- **Discussion:** What are the elements of the armor of God, and how do they equip us to deal with spiritual enemies?

### 2. Prayer and the Spirit

- **Scripture Reading:** Ephesians 6:18 (NIV) - "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests..."
- **Discussion:** How does prayer empower us in our struggle against spiritual forces?

## D. Personal Reflection and Application

- **Reflect:** Think of a situation where you have faced opposition or hostility. How can you apply these Biblical principles in that context?
- **Action Step:** Identify one way you can show love or forgiveness to someone you consider an enemy right now.

## Conclusion

Get ready for one of the most engaging and applicable bible studies that we have ever undertaken. The most important application or matter of substance to be taken away from this bible study series, is that in the end, we have the victory over the enemy.