

“Victory Over the Enemy—Part 1”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Feb. 22, 2025.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled “Victory Over the Enemy—Part 1.” I thanked Wynn Skelton for giving his Bible-study series about angels. (At one point, Wynn talked about giving only a three-part series—but I encouraged him to expand the series, and I was pleased that he gave five parts.)

Weeks ago, I started talking about a related subject while he was continuing his series.

On Saturday, Jan. 25, I gave a presentation titled “The Father and the Son Are Stronger Than the Devil.” I had five points in that presentation, including “Do not underestimate the enemy.”

On Wednesday, Feb. 5, I gave a presentation titled “Don’t Underestimate or Overestimate the Enemy.” I had three points in that presentation, including “Do not underestimate the enemy.”

At last Wednesday’s Bible study, I focused upon it again. (Interestingly enough, I wasn’t able to finish covering all of my intended material.)

Put your mind at ease

As I began the study, I wanted to put the mind of the audience at ease. Since I was going to be giving important warnings about the enemy, I wanted to quickly remind the audience of God’s sovereignty. Although the threat is real, the solution is stronger.

The God of good is much stronger than the enemy who promotes evil.

- Matthew 18:10—Take heed that you do not despise one of the little ones, because their angels in heaven always see the face of the Father in heaven.
- Revelation 20:1-3—When it is time for the devil to be bound in the bottomless pit, the Father and the Son send an angel to complete the task.

As I said, the God of good is much stronger than the enemy who promotes evil.

When I prepared for the Bible study, I organized my material to talk about two main concepts—overt danger and subtle danger.

Overt danger

Since I knew that children could possibly be listening to my presentation, I deliberately refrained from being graphic in describing the scriptures chosen for the topic. Besides, I really wasn't wanting to scare some of our older audience either. I wanted to use the scriptures to warn our listeners without scaring them.

- Luke 11:20—The Son of God mentioned that He could cast out demons with the "finger of God." (I preferred to use the word *devils*, which is accurate and considered by many to be less scary than saying "demons").
- Luke 11:21—When a strong man guards his palace, his property and possessions are protected.
- Luke 11:22—When a stronger man comes and overtakes a man, the stronger man takes the protective armor and his possessions.
- Luke 11:24-26—When an unclean spirit goes out of a person, it often seeks to return to the place where it had been—hoping to bring seven other spirits more wicked than itself.
- Acts 16:16-18—When a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination (who brought her masters much profit) annoyed Paul, he commanded that the spirit come out of her.
- Acts 16:19-24—When her masters saw that the hope of their profit was gone, they dragged Paul to the magistrates to be beaten and thrown into prison.
- Acts 19:11-14—When some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists saw Paul cast evil spirits out of people, they took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus to try the same thing, saying: "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches."
- Acts 19:15—The evil spirits answered: "I know Jesus and I know Paul, but who are you?"
- Acts 19:16—The evil spirit jumped onto them and overpowered them, causing them to run out of the house naked and wounded.
- Acts 19:18—Jews and Greeks heard about it and learned from the experience.
- Acts 19:19—Many (who practiced sorcery) gathered together to burn their books (valued at 50,000 pieces of silver).

Subtle danger

As I was preparing to talk about subtle danger, I realized that I had run out of time. I started to make reference to Genesis 3:1-5, but decided that I should wait until the next study to give the material the time that it deserves.

The solution is stronger

As I was concluding the study, I wanted to again put the mind of the audience at ease. Yes, we just talked about an important warning about the enemy. But I again wanted to remind the audience of God's sovereignty.

The God of good is much stronger than the enemy who promotes evil.

Notice that the devil asked the Son of God if he could "sift" Peter.

- Luke 22:31—The Lord told Peter that Satan had specifically asked to have access to Peter with the goal of sifting him as wheat.

- Luke 22:32—Notice that the Lord prayed for Peter.

Please do not underestimate the enemy. Yes, the threat is real—but the solution is stronger. Please realize how you have the victory over the enemy.