



THE CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING NETWORK

THE **UNSEEN REALM**

ANGELS, DEMONS, AND
SPIRITUAL WARFARE

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INTRODUCTION

For many believers, the spiritual realm feels more like a rumor than reality. It's easy to relinquish the subject to Hollywood, attribute it to superstition, or regard it as irrelevant.

However, Christians who don't understand the unseen world can fall into one of two ditches lining either side of the road. Some people can become overly fascinated, chasing angels or hunting demons. Others can grow dismissive, quietly editing the supernatural out of their Bibles and their lives. Both ditches are hazardous to our faith.

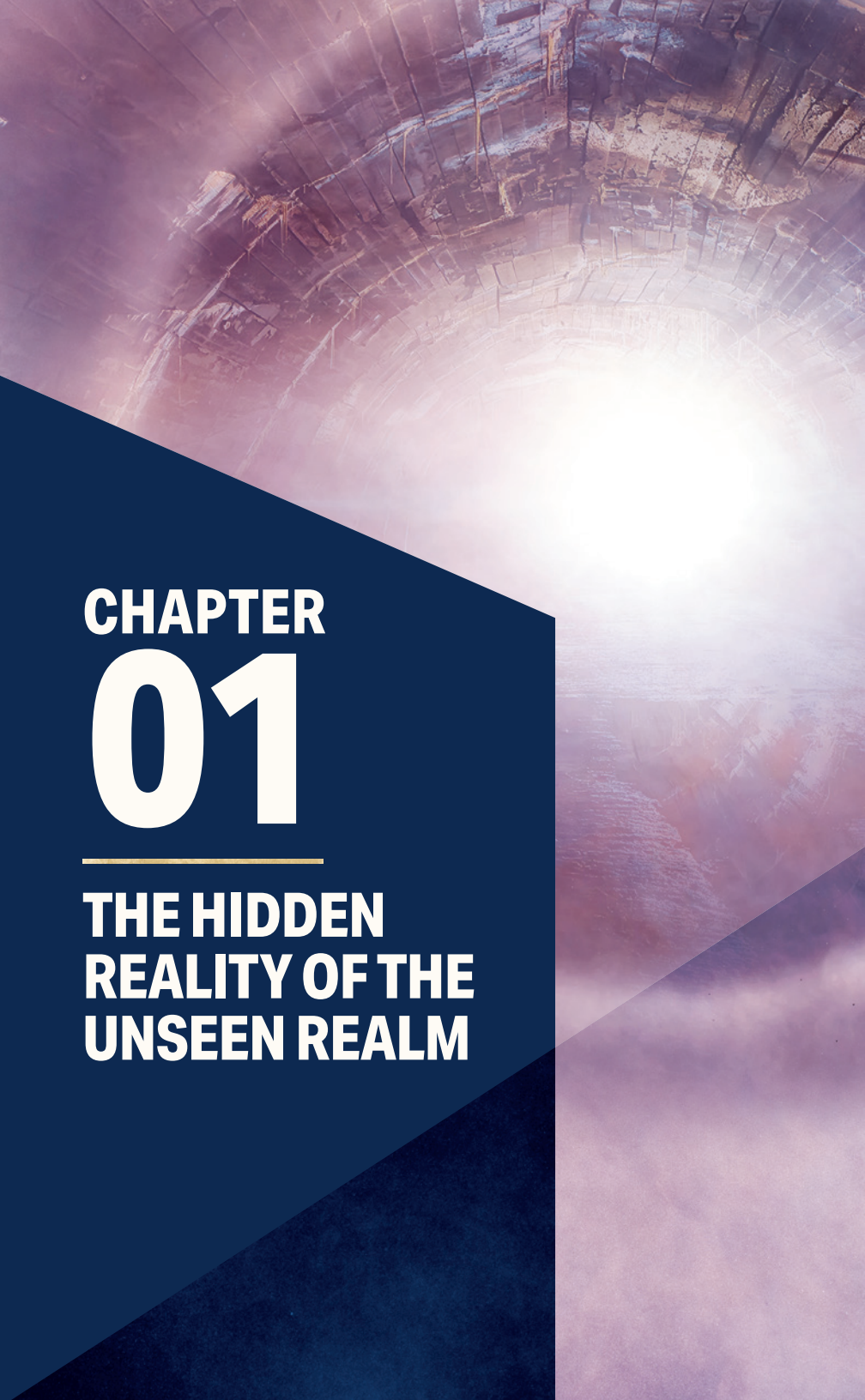
The ultimate authority on the supernatural is the Word of God—which Psalm 119:105 tells us *is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*. And that is the path I want to walk with you here.

So, keep your Bible open beside this devotional guide. When we study what Scripture says about angels, demons, and the unseen realm, we learn not to fear the darkness. Instead, we discover how to walk boldly in the light, hand in hand with our Savior who died and rose again on our behalf, winning eternal victory over every power, dominion, and authority.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Robertson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Gordon Robertson
President and CEO, CBN



CHAPTER 01

THE HIDDEN REALITY OF THE UNSEEN REALM

Most people sense that there is more to reality than what we can see or science can reveal. The Scriptures waste no time on the issue. From the very first verse, the Bible describes a universe far larger than what our senses can measure. Genesis 1:1 declares, *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

The Apostle Paul explains, *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him* (Colossians 1:16).

God exists beyond the physical universe. Angels serve Him. Demonic powers oppose Him. And you and I live, every single day, at the intersection of the material and the spiritual.

This is not mythology or fantasy. It is part of the created order, as surely as gravity and starlight. The Bible records many occasions when the curtain between the seen and the unseen is briefly pulled back.

We read in 2 Kings 6:17 how the Prophet Elisha was surrounded by an enemy army. His terrified servant saw only the threat in front of him—until Elisha prayed, *“Open his eyes that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

Daniel encountered angelic messengers who told him of unseen conflicts in the heavenly places (Daniel 10:12-13). The shepherds outside Bethlehem heard the night sky erupt with a host of angels heralding the birth of Christ (Luke 2:13-14).

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Colossians 1:16

In each case, the unseen realm was not created in the moment; it was simply revealed. It had been there all along.

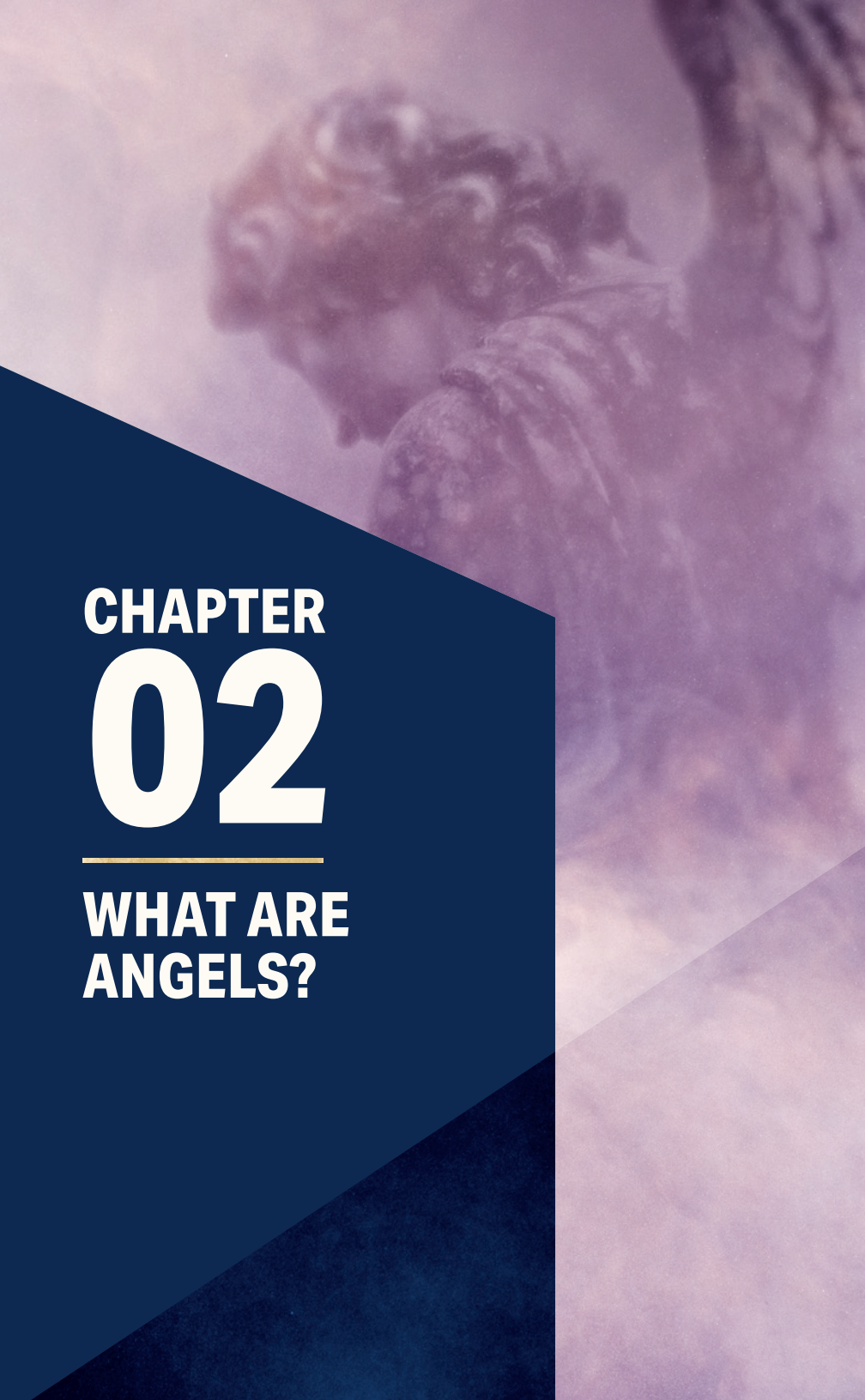
FOR REFLECTION

1. How has the culture around you shaped your assumptions about what is real or unreal?
2. Which Bible passages have strengthened your faith in God's power to intervene in people's lives?
3. Why is it important to build our beliefs on God's Word rather than on speculation or experience alone?



KEY TRUTH

Just because something is unseen does not mean it is unreal.



CHAPTER **02**

WHAT ARE ANGELS?

First, we need to strip away almost everything our culture believes about angels. They are not the souls of departed loved ones. They are not earning their wings. The chubby cherubs on greeting cards and garden statues bear no resemblance to the angels of Scripture. In fact, they are so awesome in appearance that their first words are often telling people not to be afraid.

Angels are a distinct order of beings that God fashioned even before creating the world. We know that because God says in Job 38:4-7: *"I laid the foundations of the earth ... as the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy"* (NLT).

Angels are part of everything created by and for Christ, as Colossians 1:16 declares: *By Him all things were created ..., whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.*

Hebrews 1:14 describes them as *servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation* (NLT).

Exodus 25:18-22 details God's instructions for making gold cherubim with wings covering the ark of the covenant's mercy seat, where He would speak with Moses.

Isaiah 6 mentions angels with six wings called seraphim. Ezekiel 1:5-14 describes living creatures with wings who looked like blazing fire. Psalm 104:4 says that God *makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.*

Throughout Scripture, angels are described as having tremendous strength. Isaiah 37:36 records that God sent a single angel to strike down an entire army in one night to protect Jerusalem.

Yet they cannot be everywhere at once, they do not know everything, and they act only within the authority God grants them. Their power is real, but it is always derived from the Lord and always under His command.

Most don't have names in the Bible, but two—named Gabriel and Michael—played important roles in both the Old and

New Testaments. (See Daniel 9:21, 12:1; Luke 1:19, 26; Jude 9; Revelation 12:7.)

They are without number in heaven (Revelation 5:11) and will return with Jesus (Mark 8:38).

However glorious they may be, angels are never to be prayed to or worshiped. The Bible makes this quite clear in Revelation 19:10, where the Apostle John describes his encounter with an angel in heaven: *I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant Worship God!"*

FOR REFLECTION

1. Where did your earliest ideas about angels come from, and how do they compare with Scripture?
2. What do you feel about the Bible's descriptions of angels, and why?
3. How does knowing that angels are God's servants change the way you think about His care for you?



KEY TRUTH

Angels are real beings created by God to carry out His assignments.



CHAPTER **03**

GOD'S ASSIGNMENTS FOR ANGELS

Angels carry out many types of tasks in the Bible; some general categories are listed below. All of their assignments are for one purpose: to serve the Lord.

Angels worship God. This is their highest occupation. They serve God because they first adore Him.

In Isaiah 6:3, the prophet detailed his vision of the six-winged seraphim surrounding God's throne and calling out, "*Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!*"

The Apostle John described his vision of angels in heaven in Revelation 4:8, *The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"*

I always marvel at how the eyes of Isaiah and John were opened to see such wonders. We should pray that God would open our eyes too—so we can see *the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe*, as Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:19.

Angels deliver God's messages. The very word "angel" means messenger. When God has had something important to say to His people, He has at times entrusted the announcement to an angel.

The angel of the Lord appeared to Abraham (Genesis 22:11, 15), Moses (Exodus 3:2), Gideon (Judges 6:22), Samson's parents (Judges 13:2-24), David (1 Chronicles 21:16), Elijah (1 Kings 19:5-18), and the Prophet Zechariah (Zechariah 1:14).

The angel Gabriel was sent as a messenger to Daniel (Daniel 8:15-26; 9:21-27); to Zechariah, who would become the father of John the Baptist (Luke 1:19); and, most famously, to a young virgin in Nazareth named Mary (Luke 1:28).

Joseph was also visited by an angel (Matthew 1:20-21; 2:13, 19), and multitudes of angels appeared to the shepherds of Bethlehem, praising God for the birth of the Savior (Luke 2:1-20).

All four Gospels describe angels at Jesus' empty tomb,

attesting to His resurrection (Matthew 28:5-7; Mark 16:4-7; Luke 24:4-7; John 20:10-14).

After Jesus rose up to heaven, two men in white robes suddenly appeared, assuring the disciples that He would return in the same way (Acts 1:9-11).

An angel guided Philip the evangelist to the Ethiopian official riding in his chariot (Acts 8:26).

An angel told a Roman centurion to meet with Peter—resulting in the revelation that the Gospel is not just for Jews, but for all people (Acts 10).

Angels protect and minister to people. In the Old Testament, Jacob was strengthened by a dream of angels ascending a ladder to God in heaven (Genesis 28:12). The angel of God protected the Israelites from Pharaoh's army (Exodus 14:19). An angel saved Daniel's life by shutting the lions' mouths (Daniel 6:22).

Angels ministered to Jesus in the wilderness after He withstood the devil's temptations (Matthew 4:11). In Gethsemane, an angel strengthened Him as He agonized in prayer (Luke 22:43).

An angel delivered the apostles from prison (Acts 5:19) and later set Peter free again (Acts 5:17-42; 12:7-10). Before a shipwreck, an angel strengthened Paul (Acts 27:23).

Angels execute God's judgment. This is the dimension we are least comfortable with, and yet it is unmistakable. Angels are agents of God's justice as well as His mercy.

Two angels warned Lot to flee Sodom (Genesis 19:15). They are featured prominently in the judgments throughout the book of Revelation. Their work reminds us that God is both infinitely loving and perfectly holy.

Angels rejoice in heaven. Jesus tells us in Luke 15:10: *"Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*

God wants to take care of you. My mother had an incredible miracle when her favorite charm bracelet was lost. After searching everywhere, she prayed—and quite oddly, it appeared in her jewelry box. So, she thought, “God sent an angel to pick it up from wherever it was and put it back where it belonged.”

While we shouldn’t build an entire doctrine on our own dramatic experiences, neither should we ignore the promise of Psalm 91:11, *He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.*

FOR REFLECTION

1. Which of the works of angels was most new or surprising to you, and why?
2. Have you ever had an experience in which you wondered if an angel had intervened to protect you?
3. Can you trust God’s care for you even when you don’t see a dramatic sign of it?



KEY TRUTH

In every assignment angels carry out, the focus is not on the messenger but on God, who sends them.



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CHAPTER **04**

COMMON MYTHS ABOUT ANGELS

Few subjects in Scripture have collected as much folklore as the angels. Let's examine four of the most common myths with the Bible as our guide.

MYTH 1: People become angels when they die.

This is perhaps the most widespread of all. It may be a comforting thought, but it is not biblical. Human beings and angels are distinct creations. When believers die, 2 Corinthians 5:8 says they are present with the Lord. They do not become a different species. However, they will be similar in one way. Jesus said, *"For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven"* (Matthew 22:30 NLT).

*The angel of the LORD
encamps all around
those who fear Him,
and delivers them.*

Psalm 34:7

Our destiny is resurrection and glorification as redeemed human beings, which is a far greater hope than becoming an angel could ever be.

MYTH 2: Angels are always gentle and harmless.

The reason angels often began by saying, "Do not be afraid" is that their appearance was genuinely overwhelming. These are the same beings who serve as warriors in God's heavenly armies. Their gentleness toward us, when it comes, is a kindness, not a description of their nature.

MYTH 3: Everyone has a guardian angel who follows the person's commands.

Psalm 34:7 promises, *The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them*—and that is a precious truth. But it stops well short of the popular notion of a personal servant awaiting our instructions. Jesus seems to imply that children have angels when He says in Matthew 18:10, *"For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of my heavenly Father"* (NLT). However, He's not indicating that each individual child has his or her own angel.

MYTH 4: We can summon, command, or contact angels.

Scripture never invites us to seek out angels, conjure them, or pray to them. God initiates angelic assignments in the Bible—not humans. The angels answer to God, not to us. Their protection (see Psalm 91:11) is a gift of His providence, not a tool at our disposal.

FOR REFLECTION

1. Had you absorbed any of these myths without realizing it?
2. Why do you think our culture is so drawn to angels yet so indifferent to God?
3. How can a right understanding of angels actually deepen your worship of Christ?



KEY TRUTH

Myths about angels focus on the creature rather than the Creator. Scripture always reverses that.



CHAPTER **05**

HOW TO MINISTER WITH ANGELS

The focus of heaven has always been Jesus Christ. The ministry of angels is to magnify Him, accomplish His will, and serve those who inherit salvation.

When Paul sent Timothy advice about being a good pastor, he added: *I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things* (1 Timothy 5:21).

Along with invoking God as his witness, Paul mentions the elect angels—faithful angels who stand before God’s throne and carry out His commands. It is a remarkable reminder that the work of the Church is not merely observed from earth. There is a heavenly audience, actively engaged in God’s purposes.

But Paul doesn’t tell Timothy to speak to angels or ask for their assistance. He simply acknowledges their presence and their participation in God’s government.

*I charge you before
God and the Lord
Jesus Christ and the
elect angels that you
observe these things.*

1 Timothy 5:21

That is an important distinction. We need to become “Jesus conscious”—not “angel conscious.”

Angels never seek attention for themselves; they point people toward the Lord and His purposes.

So how do we minister with them? We pray to the Father. Throughout Scripture, that is always the pattern.

Daniel gives us one of the clearest examples. Daniel wasn’t trying to contact an angel. He was seeking God through prayer and humility. That’s when an angel appeared, saying: *“Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words”* (Daniel 10:12).

That is how believers cooperate with the ministry of angels today. God’s people seek Him, and He sends heaven’s resources in response.

We partner with what God is already doing.

Psalms 103:20 explains how angels operate: *Bless the LORD, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word.*

Like the angels, we should do God's Word and carry out His commands. As we proclaim God's promises, pray according to His will, and declare His Word in faith, we are aligning ourselves with heaven's purposes. We are not directing angels—we are agreeing with the God who directs them.

Throughout Scripture, prayer precedes angelic activity.

***Bless the LORD, you
His angels, who excel
in strength, who do
His word, heeding
the voice of His word.***

Psalms 103:20

I've seen this on the mission field many times. You pray, and provision arrives that cannot be explained naturally. Protection comes at exactly the right moment. Doors open that no one could have opened. Sometimes you never know how God accomplished it. You may never see an angel. That isn't the point.

The point is that the Father heard your prayer. He commanded His servants. He sent help.

There is another principle that Scripture teaches. Worship creates an atmosphere where God's presence is welcomed and His purposes advance. It fixes our hearts on Christ, aligns us with God's will, and creates an atmosphere of faith and surrender in which the Lord accomplishes His work. Where Jesus is exalted, heaven rejoices because heaven is always centered on Him.

So pray to the Father. Believe His promises. Fill your heart and your mouth with His Word. Worship Him with all your heart. Walk in obedience. Then trust God to send whatever—and whoever—is needed to accomplish His purposes.

FOR REFLECTION

1. What would it look like for you to become more “Jesus-conscious” in your daily walk with God?
2. What are some ways you can partner with God’s purposes, trusting Him to send the help you need in His way and in His timing?
3. Where have you seen God’s hand at work in your life? How has He answered prayer with unexpected provision, protection, strength, or open doors?



KEY TRUTH

We partner with angels by seeking the Lord, obeying Him, and trusting Him to send the help He sees fit.

CHAPTER
06

**WHAT ARE
DEMONS?**

Demons are not equal and opposite counterparts to God, as if the universe were a battlefield between two matched powers. That is a pagan idea, not a biblical one.

Demons were originally created as angels. But according to Revelation 12:3-4, one-third of them joined Satan in his rebellion against God and were cast out of heaven.

Demons are utterly opposed to God and to everything He loves. The Gospels show demons afflicting, oppressing, deceiving, and in some cases possessing human beings. Their aim is always deception and destruction, for their master is the devil. They are not eternal or infinite. Whatever power they possess is finite and already under sentence.

That's why when demons meet Jesus, they tremble, obey, and flee (e.g. Matthew 8:28-32). The contest is never close, so we should not fear.

"Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!"

Luke 10:17

People sometimes ask whether a Christian can be possessed by a demon. We can certainly be tempted, harassed, or oppressed by the enemy. But as believers, we belong to Christ and His Holy Spirit lives in us. Jesus will not share His dwelling place with the very powers

He defeated through His death and resurrection. Our security rests not in our strength but in His ownership of us.

A key event during Jesus' earthly ministry took place when He sent out 72 disciples in His name and with His authority. Upon their return, Luke 10:17-20 records, *They joyfully reported to him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!" "Yes," he told them, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy ... Nothing will injure you. But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven"* (NLT).

The next verse says, *At that same time Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit.* Why? Not only did Jesus see Satan's downfall, He also saw His followers realize that all things are possible when they minister in His name—and the same is true for us today.

FOR REFLECTION

1. How does the truth that demons are created and finite change the way you regard them?
2. What comfort do you find in the fact that demons tremble before Jesus?
3. How would you exercise your spiritual authority over something evil?



KEY TRUTH

Demons are not God's equals. As believers, we have authority over them in the name of Jesus.



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A large, coiled snake with a purple and blue gradient background. The snake's scales are detailed and textured, and its body is coiled in a way that suggests movement. The background is a mix of purple and blue hues, with some lighter areas that look like smoke or mist.

CHAPTER 07

SATAN: THE ADVERSARY

Behind the demonic stands a single figure whose very name, Satan, means “the accuser” or “adversary.” The Bible also refers to him as Lucifer, Beelzebub, Apollyon, or the devil.

God describes Satan’s fall from heaven in Ezekiel 28:12-17, 19:

“You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ... You were the anointed cherub ... till iniquity was found in you. ... You became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor... . You have become a horror, and shall be no more forever. ”

Similarly, Isaiah 14:12-13 says: *“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.’”*

Jesus describes him this way: *“He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies”* (John 8:44 NLT).

And in John 10:10, Jesus contrasts Satan’s purposes with His own: *“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”*

The Apostle Peter warns that our adversary prowls like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8). Peter tells us this not to scare us, but to prepare us to resist him by standing firm in our faith, for the devil is a defeated foe.

Satan’s greatest weapon is not power. It is deception. We first see this in the Garden of Eden, where the serpent deceives Adam and Eve by questioning the truth of God’s words to them (Genesis 3:1-7).

In the same way, the devil tries to tell us today that God cannot be trusted, that His grace is not really for us, and that the unseen world is either nothing to fear or everything to fear. But Revelation 20:10 shows us that he faces a terrible punishment for all eternity because of that deception.

He cannot defeat Christ, who crushed him at the cross, so he settles for lies, accusations, distractions, and counterfeits.

Against all of those we have a settled answer: the finished work of Jesus, who triumphs over all.

Paul explains in Colossians 2:13-15, *You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross (NLT).*

FOR REFLECTION

1. What lies has the enemy whispered into your own life?
2. What are some ways you can resist the devil while refusing to fear him?
3. How does the cross of Christ answer every accusation the adversary can bring?



KEY TRUTH

Satan is a real adversary, but a defeated one. We resist him not by our strength but by standing firm in the victory that Christ won for us.



CHAPTER **08**

SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND THE BELIEVER

Whether we recognize it or not, every believer is engaged in a spiritual battle. The Apostle Paul reminds us, *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places* (Ephesians 6:12).

That truth isn't meant to make us fearful. It's to train us for effective warfare. If we treat people like the enemy because they've hurt or offended us, we're fighting the wrong battle.

Instead, we need to discern any spiritual influences behind the conflict. Satan's goal is to divide families, friendships, churches, communities, and nations while we forget where the real war is actually taking place. We can't win a battle that we don't know we're in.

The good news is that believers don't have to fight for victory. Instead, we fight from the place of victory that Jesus won for us by dying on the cross to cleanse us from all sin, guilt, and shame—then rising from the grave to give us new life that lasts for all eternity.

All authority over the enemy flows from Jesus. As Christians, we are in Him, His Spirit is in us, and He has given us authority, power, and protection in His name. He is the key to our victory over evil. Acts 19:14–16 records how the sons of Sceva learned the hard way not to use Jesus' name like a magic word without knowing Him.

The enemy may tempt us, oppress us, or try to deceive us, but he does not own us; Jesus does. My father, Pat Robertson, recalled a time when he had to exercise his authority in Christ.

One morning ... an awful depression seized me. I felt that everyone was against me, that people around me were failing, and that everything I was doing was falling to pieces. Discouragement overwhelmed me like a cloud. ... I realized I was under demonic attack. I immediately took control over it and said, "Satan, in the name of Jesus, I cast you forth."

The minute I said that, my mind was free and my despair was gone. (From Answers to 200 of Life's Most Probing Questions, by Pat Robertson, p. 120)

Scripture distinguishes between temptation, spiritual oppression, bondage through habitual sin, and demon possession, but our response to all of them begins the same way: *Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you* (James 4:7-8).

Notice the order. Submission comes before resistance. Authority flows out of surrender.

We begin by repenting of all sin, forgiving everyone who has wronged us. Ephesians 4:26-27 gives this stern warning: *"Don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil* (NLT).

We need to close every door we've opened to the enemy knowingly or unknowingly. If we've ever participated in the occult, astrology, false religions, or idolatry, we must renounce it completely in Jesus' name.

I've studied other religions, including Hinduism. In many temples, idols are dedicated through ceremonies that invite spirits to inhabit them. But 1 John 5:21 gives this simple command: *Little children, keep yourselves from idols.* We don't flirt with darkness. We don't participate in practices that invite spiritual deception. We belong to Jesus alone.

Next, it's vital to put on the whole armor of God, detailed in Ephesians 6:10-18. These aren't symbolic ideas—they are daily habits that make us spiritually strong. Armed with what God gave you, you hold your ground.

***"Don't sin by letting anger control you."
Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil.***

Ephesians 4:26-27

Fill your mind with God's truth. Stand firm in Christ's righteousness, not your own. Hold up the shield of faith. Keep a firm grip on the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Wear the shoes of peace as you share the Gospel. And never take off the helmet of salvation, which protects your mind from the enemy's cunning lies. If condemnation or fear try to enter your thinking, don't have a conversation with them—rebuke them firmly in Jesus' name.

If unclean spirits are present, command them to leave in Jesus' name. As His followers today, we have the same authority and mission that Christ gave the disciples in Luke 9:1-2: *He ... gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*

One of the greatest weapons in spiritual warfare is praise. When you begin worshiping God, your focus shifts from your problems to His greatness. Despair loses its grip. Fear gives way to faith. Heaven fills your vision. Praise reminds you that God is still on the throne. Invite the Holy Spirit to fill every area of your life. Darkness cannot remain where God's presence is welcomed.

Another weapon in spiritual warfare is fasting. When the disciples asked Jesus why He was able to deliver a boy from a demon when they couldn't, He replied, *"This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting"* (Mark 9:28-29).

The kingdom of darkness is real, but the kingdom of God is infinitely greater. As 1 John 4:4 assures us, *He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

I like to remind people that Satan may have taken a third of the angels, but God's angels outnumber the demons two to one. So instead of wasting our time fretting about a defeated enemy, we should be *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith* (Hebrews 12:2).

Stay rooted in Scripture and connected to a healthy local

church. Live a life of prayer and worship, filled with the Spirit and keeping in step with Him.

The Bible promises, *The Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one* (2 Thessalonians 3:3).

If you find yourself under spiritual attack, don't fight alone. Call CBN's Prayer Center or ask other mature believers to stand with you in the assurance of Christ's authority and victory.

The strongest Christians are those who stay close to Jesus, who declares in John 16:33: *"In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

FOR REFLECTION

1. Have you been fighting flesh and blood when the real struggle was elsewhere?
2. Which piece of God's armor do you most need to take up in this season?
3. How might your ordinary habits of prayer and Scripture be reframed as frontline spiritual warfare?



KEY TRUTH

Spiritual warfare is won by standing firm in Christ, clothed in the armor God Himself supplies.



CHAPTER **09**

THE MODERN FACE OF AN ANCIENT DECEPTION

Throughout history, the enemy has worn various disguises. Ancient cultures looked to idols. Later generations turned to séances and occultism. Today, many people look toward unidentified aerial phenomena, hoping to find answers about humanity's origins or the future. While Scripture doesn't address UFOs, it teaches that Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14).

Whatever unexplained phenomena may exist, Christians should avoid speculation and remain anchored in Christ.

The hunger for contact with something beyond ourselves is not new. It is the latest expression of a longing for God that He Himself has placed in every human heart. It's a longing that the enemy is eager to exploit, but only Christ can satisfy.

For Jesus declares in John 14:6, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

***"I am the way, the truth,
and the life. No one
comes to the Father
except through Me."***

John 14:6

We need to recognize a pattern as old as Eden, where the serpent planted seeds of doubt: *"Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?"* Eve explained they would die if they ate from just one tree. But he answered: *"You won't die! ... You will be like God, knowing both good and evil"* (Genesis 3:1, 4-5 NLT).

The adversary offers a counterfeit experience, a spirituality without the lordship of Christ—attracting many sincere but deceived people. Our calling isn't to chase mysteries but to know the One who holds all authority in heaven and on earth.

For God's Word declares, *Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority* (1 Peter 3:22 NLT).

FOR REFLECTION

1. Where do you see your culture reaching for the supernatural in the wrong places?
2. How does the truth that Satan masquerades as light sharpen your discernment?
3. What is the difference between honest curiosity about the unknown and a spiritually dangerous fascination with it?



KEY TRUTH

His costume may change, but the deceiver does not. Every counterfeit is answered by Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.



Dive deeper. Explore biblical teaching and video content related to this chapter at [CBN.com/UnseenRealm](https://www.CBN.com/UnseenRealm)

CHAPTER
10

**DEVELOPING
DISCERNMENT**

The Apostle John cautions us, *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God* (1 John 4:1).

Spiritual discernment is learning to recognize the difference between what comes from God, what comes from human emotion, and what comes from the enemy. It's allowing the Holy Spirit to help us distinguish between what is true and false as we bring every claim, experience, and teaching back to Scripture.

When you encounter a supernatural claim, the Holy Spirit within you may nudge you and make you wonder if it is true. Three diagnostic questions can serve you well:

First, does it agree with Scripture? God will never contradict His written Word. James 1:16-17 says, *So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God He never changes or casts a shifting shadow* (NLT).

Second, does it glorify Jesus? The ministry of the Holy Spirit is always to point people to Christ. If something exalts personalities, mystical experiences, angels, or spiritual power more than it exalts Jesus, something is out of balance. Paul writes, *No one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit* (1 Corinthians 12:3 NLT).

Third, what kind of fruit does it yield? Does it produce humility, love, peace, holiness, and a greater desire to obey God? Or does it produce fear, pride, confusion, division, or obsession? Jesus tells us, *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. ... A bad tree bears bad fruit"* (Matthew 7:15-17).

Satan is a counterfeiter who imitates what is genuine in order to deceive. The answer isn't to become an expert on deception, but to become intimately familiar with the truth. If you fill your heart with God's Word and stay in step with the

Holy Spirit, you'll begin to recognize when something doesn't bear the fingerprints of God.

The goal of discernment is not to make us fearful of the supernatural. God is supernatural. The gifts of the Spirit are real. Miracles still happen today. The goal is to keep us anchored in Christ. As Hebrews 13:8-9 states, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. So do not be attracted by strange, new ideas* (NLT).

We stay close to Jesus as we read His Word, worship, pray, and follow His Spirit. John 16:13 promises, *"He will guide you into all truth."*

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, assures us, *"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me"* (John 10:27-28 NLT).

FOR REFLECTION

1. What are some places in your life where you may need to test the spirits?
2. Think of a debatable claim or experience you've encountered, and evaluate it using the three diagnostic questions.
3. How does deep familiarity with Scripture protect you from the counterfeit?



KEY TRUTH

Discernment is testing everything by its fruit, the unchanging Word of God, and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit within us.



CHAPTER 11

EXERCISING YOUR AUTHORITY IN CHRIST

Everything we have studied so far converges on a single, immovable truth. And that truth is a person: “*Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all*” (Acts 10:36 NLT).

He is the crux of the entire subject. Without Him, the study of angels becomes mere fascination and the study of demons becomes mere fear. But with Him, everything falls into proper place. The unseen realm has a King, and His name is Jesus.

Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church (Ephesians 1:21-22 NLT).

The most important battle in the history of the unseen realm has already been fought, and it was a decisive victory won at Calvary. At the cross, what looked like Jesus’ defeat was in fact the disarming of every hostile power, and His resurrection was heaven’s public confirmation that the verdict was final.

Because of that victory, Philippians 2:9-11 declares, *God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Every angel, demon, power, and authority falls under His feet. There is no rival throne. There is no contested territory. There is only the universal, unchallenged reign of the risen Christ.

And here is the wonderful part. As believers, we are united to Christ, seated with Him in the heavenly places, indwelt by His Spirit, and recipients of His authority. In faith, we can appropriate the triumph that He has eternally secured for us.

As He has told us in Luke 10:19, “*Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy*” (NLT). We have His name, His authority, His power, and His command to do the things He did in Scripture.

And He makes this amazing promise in John 14:12-14 (NLT):
"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!"

FOR REFLECTION

1. Am I living from Christ's victory or still reacting as though the battle has not been won?
2. What would change if I truly believed that Jesus is Lord over every power, every circumstance, and every area of my life?
3. Where in my life should I be actively exercising the authority Jesus has entrusted to me?



KEY TRUTH

The most important battle in the unseen realm is already over. Jesus won it at the cross, and His victory is the ground we stand on.

CHAPTER
12

**LIVING FREE
FROM FEAR**

The fruit of studying the unseen realm is not fear—it's freedom. As 1 John 4:18 says, *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.*

So if you feel even a pang of anxiety, ask Jesus to fill your heart with the realization of His personal love for you. He says in John 15:13, *"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."*

His love led Him to the cross to win the ultimate victory that was confirmed at the empty tomb.

Today, we live in the time between that victory and its final completion, when the defeated enemy is banished forever. So we remain sober and watchful, putting on God's armor as soldiers who serve a victorious King.

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

John 15:13

The Apostle Paul gives us some great advice about how we should live each day: *Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! ... Remember, the Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you*

will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:4-7 NLT).

We stand firm knowing that we are saved by His grace and rooted in His love, having His joy that brings strength, and His peace that passes understanding and guards our hearts. And we are empowered by His Holy Spirit to face any obstacles that may arise as we take the Good News into all the world. God bless you!

FOR REFLECTION

1. What fear or anxiety am I carrying that I need to surrender to Christ's perfect love?
2. Am I living each day as someone who serves a victorious King?
3. How is God calling me to move forward in faith today?



KEY TRUTH

Because Jesus has already won the victory, we can live free from fear, secure in His love, and empowered by His Spirit to be His witnesses in the world.



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