

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Cosmic Clash” Ephesians 6:12 Nov 3, 2018

Getting Started

“There is no neutral ground in the universe; every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counter-claimed by Satan.”

Christian author: C.S. Lewis

Do you live your life as if there was a supernatural battle going on around you? If not, why not? If so, what does that look like?

Going Deeper

1. The Battle Realized:

- a. The Appeal: *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood” (Eph. 6:12)*
- b. The Arrangement: (A ranking and networking system of hierarchy)
 - i. Rulers: *“but against the rulers” (Vs. 12)*
 - ii. Authorities: *“against the authorities” (Vs. 12)*
 - iii. Powers: *“against the cosmic powers” (Vs. 12)*
 - iv. Spiritual Forces: *“against the spiritual forces” (Vs. 12)*
- c. The Arena: *(in) the heavenly places (Vs. 12)*

Key Verse: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places”. Ephesians 1:3

We see plenty of good vs. evil down here on the ground, but have you ever stopped to realize that what animates the good vs. evil competition down here is actually fueled by what happens up there? As Christians, we have the Holy Spirit living in us, prompting us and enabling us to choose good and righteous things when we submit ourselves to His leading. At the same time, all those who have not

trusted in Jesus as Savior and received the gift of the Holy Spirit are being influenced by their father, the Devil (see John 8:44). The Devil provides the fuel for the fires of sin to burn and destroy lives (see James 3:6). How does knowing who is animating people change how you see them? How might this affect how you judge and talk to others who share your faith in Christ, or who don't know Christ as Savior?

2. The Enemy Clarified:

- a. Daystar-Lucifer (Is.14:12) /Satan (18x O.T. & 36x N.T.)
 - i. Origination: *"You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God...from the day you were created"* Ezekiel 28:14-15
 - ii. Degradation: *"I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High"* Isaiah 14:14
 - iii. Identification: *"And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light"* 2 Cor. 11:14
 - iv. Limitation: *"Then the devil (Satan) left him"* Matthew 4:11
- b. Demons (1/3): *"Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him"* Revelation 12:9

From these verses, we see that Satan was a very special and powerful angel who pridefully wanted to be God, and was cast out of heaven, along with 1/3 of the angels who followed him in his rebellion against God. He disguises himself to fool gullible humans, starting with Adam and Eve, and continuing on throughout time. But he is limited in his power.

Our culture mocks the idea of Satan, using him in cartoons, commercials, and as a Halloween costume. Yet, he is mentioned 54 times in the Bible and his influence is seen throughout the world where evil abounds in too many ways to list. Knowing what you do from the above verses, how seriously do you need to take notice of Satan's presence and power on our culture, and in your life?

3. The Fight Personalized: *“But the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?” Acts 19:15*

a. Satan can't Stand you: *“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion”*
Genesis 1:26

b. Satan can't Separate you: *“nor rulers...nor powers...will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*
Romans 8:38-39

c. Satan can't Subject you: *“Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!”* Luke 10:17

Key Verse: “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” James 4:7

If demons know your name, and the devil knows your name, you need to realize that you walk through life with a target on your back. John 10:10 reminds us that the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. In that passage, the thief is referring to religious leaders who are pulling people away from the true God, and who do we think would be behind that kind of deception? Satan, of course.

Rather than focus all of our attention on when the devil might attack, we should focus on the rest of John 10:10, where Jesus says, ‘I have come that you might have life, and have it to the fullest.’ If we let Jesus live in us, we will experience supernatural, significant, and spiritual life. We will walk in light, and the darkness will flee before us. Looking at John 10:10, which of the two parts of this verse best describes how you are living?

4. The Victory Clarified: *“We are more than conquerors through him who loved us”* Romans 8:37

a. You are an Overcomer: *“And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb”* Revelation 12:11

b. You are not Outnumbered: *“Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them..open his eyes that he may see...So 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” 2 Kings 6:16-17*

Take Away: As believers we DO NOT live in fear, but instead we are called to stand firm.

All this talk of spiritual warfare may make some doubt about who will win it all. The Bible is clear that we fight from victory, not for victory. Jesus has already prevailed over sin, satan, and evil on the cross. While we walk this earth, it is our mission to be faithful to let Jesus live in us and rescue all we can from the destruction awaiting them if they don't turn to Jesus as Savior. (See Philippians 3:17-21) Take some time to prayerfully listen to the Holy Spirit speak to you. What is God saying to you about how you should respond to what you have learned?

Prayer Requests