Beyond The Veil
Fighting Spiritual Battles
Troy Knight

Key Scripture:

Ephesians 6:11–12 (NLT)
11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)
7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

Matthew 10:28 (NLT)
28 "Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Colossians 2:13-15 (NLT)
13 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. 14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. 15 In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

Romans 8:15-16 (NLT)
15 So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." 16 For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.

Ephesians 4:26–27 (NLT)
26 And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

James 4:7 (NLT)
7 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you..

TALK IT OVER

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- When was a time you realized you were pouring all of your energy into fighting the completely wrong problem or battle?

Start sharing. These questions are to help get your group thinking and to create openness.

- **Read Ephesians 6:11-12**. According to Paul, who is the actual enemy operating behind our earthly conflicts? How does recognizing this spiritual reality change the way you approach disagreements with people?

- **Read 2 Timothy 1:7** and **Matthew 10:28.** Why does the Bible identify fear as a spirit rather than just a natural human emotion? What specific fears do you need to surrender to God's sovereignty this week?

- **Read Colossians 2:13-15**. In what specific ways did Jesus' death on the cross disarm the spiritual rulers and authorities? How does fighting from a position of guaranteed victory alter how you handle persistent temptations?

- **Read Romans 8:15-16**. How does the Holy Spirit actively affirm our adoption as children of God? Why is a daily discipline of reading the Bible and praying essential for understanding your spiritual authority?

- **Read Ephesians 4:26-27**. How does holding onto anger literally give the devil a legal foothold in a believer's life? What specific offense do you need to forgive today to shut the door on the enemy?

- **Read James 4:7**. What scriptural truth gives a believer the authority to directly resist and rebuke an evil spirit? In what area of your life do you need to stop acting like a victim and start exercising your spiritual authority?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Identify one open door to the enemy in your life—such as consuming dark media, or harboring unforgiveness—and actively remove it this week.

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Father, thank You for adopting us as Your children and securing our victory through the cross. Give us the spiritual discernment to recognize the true enemy in our conflicts and the boldness to resist his attacks. Help us remove any footholds of anger or fear so we can walk in victory and freedom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Devotional

Disarming the Enemy

In this week's message, Pastor Troy taught that believers have no reason to fear demons because Jesus Christ has already defeated them. While spiritual warfare is a reality, we fight from a position of absolute victory.

The Apostle Paul explains how this victory was secured in Colossians 2:13-15. Using legal imagery, Paul outlines the defeat of the demonic realm.

1. The Canceled Debt Satan's primary weapon against humanity is accusation (Revelation 12:10). He uses God's law to point out our guilt and demand condemnation. However, Paul states that God *"canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross"* (Colossians 2:14). Jesus absorbed the penalty of our sin, wiping our spiritual record clean.

2. Stripped of Weapons Because the debt of sin is paid, demonic authorities have lost their legal right to accuse believers. Colossians 2:15 declares that God *"disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities."* Just as a defeated soldier is stripped of his weapons on the battlefield, Satan has been stripped of the power of death and the weapon of condemnation (Hebrews 2:14).

3. A Secured Victory Rather than fearing the enemy, believers can stand on the finished work of the cross. The enemy relies on deception to make us think he still holds power over our lives. But by disarming the spiritual authorities, Jesus ensured that no charge can ever be brought against God's elect (Romans 8:33). The battle belongs to the Lord, and the victory is already decided.

Reflection: Are you living in fear of the enemy's accusations, or are you resting in the fact that your debt is canceled? How does knowing the demonic realm is disarmed change how you pray against strongholds in your life?

Adapted directly from GotQuestions.org: What does it mean that Jesus disarmed the powers and authorities?