

Spirit Warfare: NOT IGNORANT OF HIS SCHEMES
10 Strategies of Satan Against Churches and Families
Dr. John Carmichael

[2Co 2:11 NASB95] 11 so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

- Spiritual maturity does not blame demons for everything. Spiritual maturity also does not ignore demonic activity when Scripture tells us it is real.

What recurring satanic strategies must believers recognize so that the enemy does not gain an advantage in our churches and families?

Throughout Scripture, we can identify at least ten recurring strategies through which Satan attempts to influence individuals, disrupt families, and weaken the ministry of the church.

I. THE STRATEGY OF FALSEHOOD - The Lying Spirit

- a. [1Ki 22:21-23 NASB95] [Jhn 8:44 NASB95] [1Ti 4:1 NASB95] [2Th 2:9-11 NASB95]
- b. The Believer's Response: We overcome falsehood through truth.

II. THE STRATEGY OF FRIGHT - The Spirit of Fear

- a. [2Ti 1:7 NASB95] [Rom 8:15 NASB95] [1Jo 4:18 NASB95] [Heb 2:14-15 NASB95]
- b. The Believer's Response: We overcome fright through faith. Faith does not deny danger. Faith declares that God is greater than the danger.

III. THE STRATEGY OF FORLORNNESS - The Spirit of Heaviness

- a. [Isa 61:1-3 NASB95] [Psa 42:5 NASB95] [Act 10:38 NASB95]
- b. The Believer's Response: We overcome forlornness through praise, presence, and hope. Praise is not pretending that the pain does not exist. Praise declares that pain does not have the final word.

IV. THE STRATEGY OF INFIRMITY - The Spirit of Infirmary

- a. [Luk 13:10-16 NASB95] [Act 10:38 NASB95] [Mat 8:16-17 NASB95] [Jas 5:14-16 NASB95]
- b. The Believer's Response: We respond with compassionate prayer, spiritual discernment, appropriate care, and faith in Christ. We pray for healing. We resist satanic oppression. We seek wise medical care. We support the suffering.
We refuse condemnation.

V. THE STRATEGY OF SILENCING - The Deaf and Mute Spirit

- a. [Mar 9:14-29 NASB95] [Mar 7:32-37 NASB95] [Mat 12:22 NASB95]
- b. The Believer's Response: We overcome silencing through prayer, listening, truth-telling, and Christ's authority.

VI. THE STRATEGY OF STRIFE - The Patterns of Korah and Absalom

- a. [Num 16:1-35 NASB95] [Jde 1:11 NASB95] [2Sa 15:1-14 NASB95] [Rom 16:17-18 NASB95] [Jas 3:14-18 NASB95]
- b. The Believer's Response: We overcome strife through forgiveness, humility, honor, direct communication, and submission to God.
- c. We honor those in authority (Heb. 13:7, 17) not through gossip, faction-building, or secret campaigns.

VII. THE STRATEGY OF SEDUCTION - The Jezebel Pattern

- a. [1Ki 16:30-33 NASB95] [1Ki 18:4 NASB95] [1Ki 19:1-3 NASB95] [1Ki 21:1-16 NASB95] [Rev 2:18-23 NASB95]
- b. The Believer's Response: We overcome seduction through repentance, purity, truth, courage, and submission to Christ. The answer to control is not counter-control. The answer is the lordship of Jesus.

VIII. THE STRATEGY OF SELF-INTEREST - The Balaam Pattern

- a. Numbers 22-25 [Num 31:16 NASB95] [Jde 1:11 NASB95] [2Pe 2:15 NASB95] [Rev 2:14 NASB95]
- b. The Believer's Response: We overcome self-interest through contentment, generosity, integrity, and stewardship.

IX. THE STRATEGY OF STALLING - Spiritual Resistance and Delay

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- a. [Dan 10:10-14 NASB95] [1Th 2:18 NASB95] [Luk 18:1-8 NASB95] [Eph 6:18 NASB95]
- b. The Believer's Response - We overcome stalling through persistent prayer, patient faith, obedience, and discernment. Delay does not necessarily mean denial.

X. THE STRATEGY OF SUPPLANTING - The Spirit of Antichrist

- a. [1Jo 2:18-23 NASB95] [1Jo 4:1-4 NASB95] [2Jo 1:7 NASB95] [2Th 2:3-4 NASB95]
- b. The Believer's Response: We overcome supplanting by confessing, proclaiming, worshiping, and obeying Jesus Christ as Lord.

XI. Putting the Ten Strategies Together

- a. Satan attempts to gain an advantage through: Falsehood — the lying spirit and deception; Fright — the spirit of fear; Forlornness — the spirit of heaviness; Infirmary — satanic affliction and bondage; Silencing — the deaf and mute spirit; Strife — the patterns of Korah and Absalom; Seduction — the Jezebel pattern; Self-interest — the Balaam pattern; Stalling — spiritual resistance and delay; Supplanting — the spirit of antichrist
- b. We do not study darkness so that we can become fascinated with darkness. We expose darkness so that we can walk in the light.

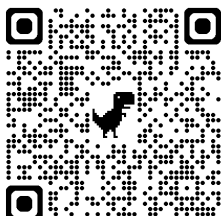
XII. Biblical Safeguards for Spiritual Warfare

- a. Do Not Remove Human Responsibility
- b. Do Not Diagnose People Carelessly
- c. Do Not Blame Every Problem on Demons
- d. Do Not Confront Spiritual Powers Without Submission to God
- e. Do Not Forget Christ's Victory.

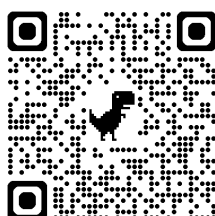
- **Satan gains an advantage when his strategies remain unrecognized, but believers who discern his schemes, submit to God, and stand in Christ's authority can protect their churches and families from his influence.**
- But today we declare:
 - We will not tolerate deception.
 - We will not be controlled by fear.
 - We will not surrender to heaviness.
 - We will not ignore spiritual oppression.
 - We will not allow the enemy to silence our witness.
 - We will not permit offense to divide us.
 - We will not tolerate manipulation or immorality.
 - We will not sell our calling for personal gain.
 - We will not quit because of resistance.
 - We will not allow anything to replace Jesus.
 - We are not ignorant of his schemes.



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