



Spiritual Warfare:
The Spirit of Power and the Demons of Old

Mako A. Nagasawa

Stephen Colbert and Philip Zimbardo

- The Colbert Report, February 11, 2008



<http://thecolbertreport.cc.com/videos/8sjpoa/philip-zimbardo>

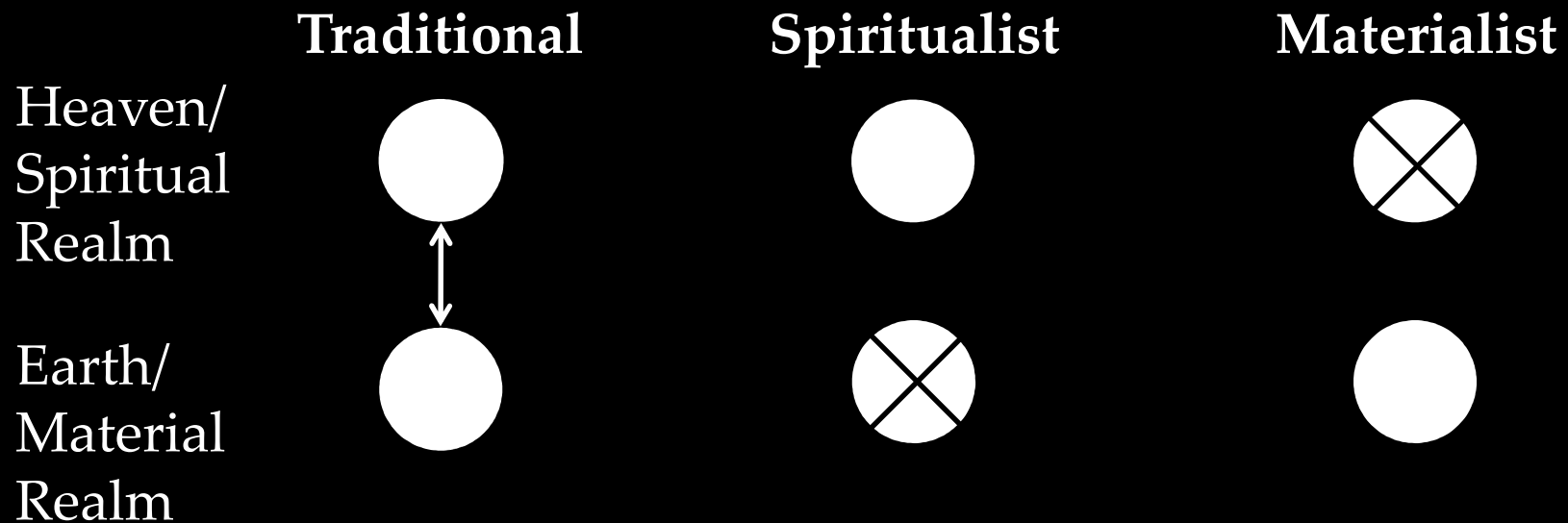
Spiritual Warfare

1. Three Basic Worldviews and the Biblical Story
2. The Enemy and His Strategy
3. Why is the Spirit of Jesus Important?

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1. **Three Basic Worldviews and the Biblical Story**
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Three Basic Worldviews



Marisa Kwiatkowski, *The Dispossession of Latoya Ammons*

Nurse, DCS
case manager
say they saw
boy walk up
wall,
prompting a
series of
exorcisms.
(IndyStar, Jan
25, 2014)



A figure appears in the window of a home on Carolina Street in Gary. Officials say the home was unoccupied at the time the photo was taken. Photo provided by the Hammond Police Department.

Marisa Kwiatkowski, *The Dispossession of Latoya Ammons*

*Medical staff reported that while the children were at their primary doctor's office the medical staff reported they observed *** be lifted and thrown into the wall with nobody touching him.*

State of Indiana, Intake Officer's Report, Apr 24, 2012

(<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/1004899-intake-officers-report.html>)

Marisa Kwiatkowski, *The Dispossession of Latoya Ammons*

**** had the weird grin on his face and began to walk backwards while the grandmother was holding his hand and he walked up the wall backwards while holding the grandmother's hand and he never let go. He flipped over and landed on his feet in front of the grandmother and sat down in the chair. A few minutes later he looked as if he was back to himself.*

State of Indiana, Intake Officer's Report, Apr 24, 2012

(<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/1004899-intake-officers-report.html>)

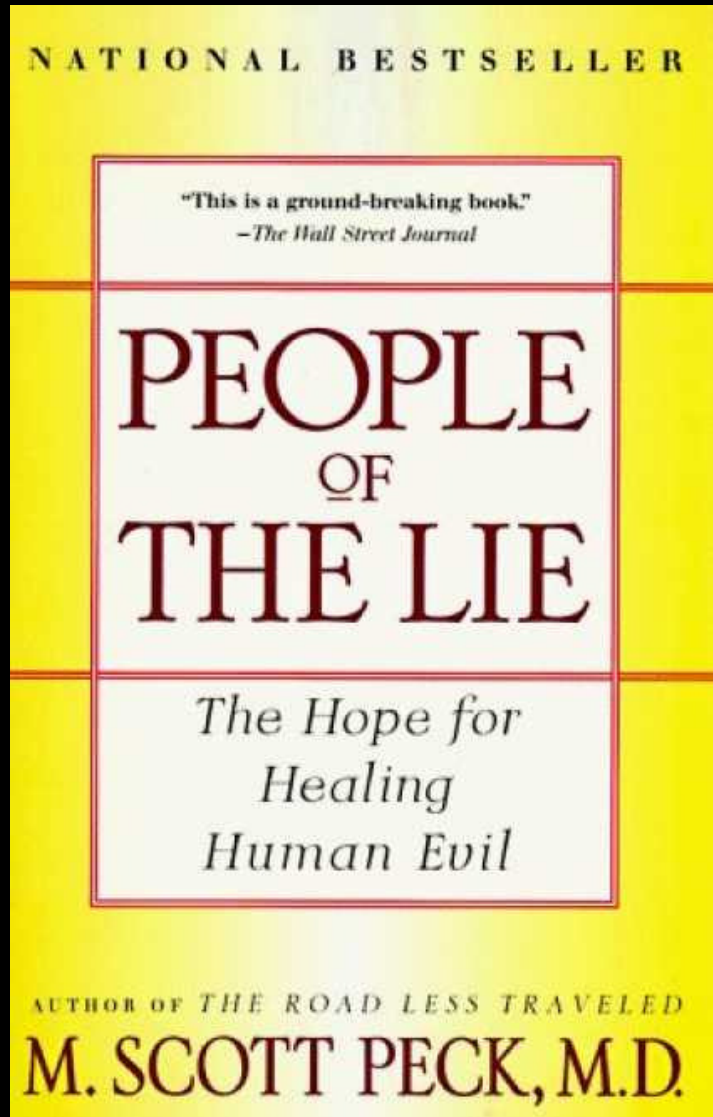
Dr. M. Scott Peck, psychiatrist, *People of the Lie*

Initially, he did not believe the devil existed

as with '99% of psychiatrists and the majority of clergy' (Peck, 1983/1988, p.182)

After studying human evil, he began to consider the possibility of spiritual evil

After seeing two exorcisms, and counseling people who may have been possessed, he concluded that Satan is real.



Concerns from a Materialist Culture

1. Witch hunts?

Concerns from a Materialist Culture

1. Witch hunts?

‘The rise of modern science and the early modern obsession with sorcery were not merely contemporaneous but were two closely allied manifestations of the development of a new post-Christian sense of human mastery over the world... [and the growth of the state]. Magic is essentially a species of materialism.’

David Bentley Hart, p.82



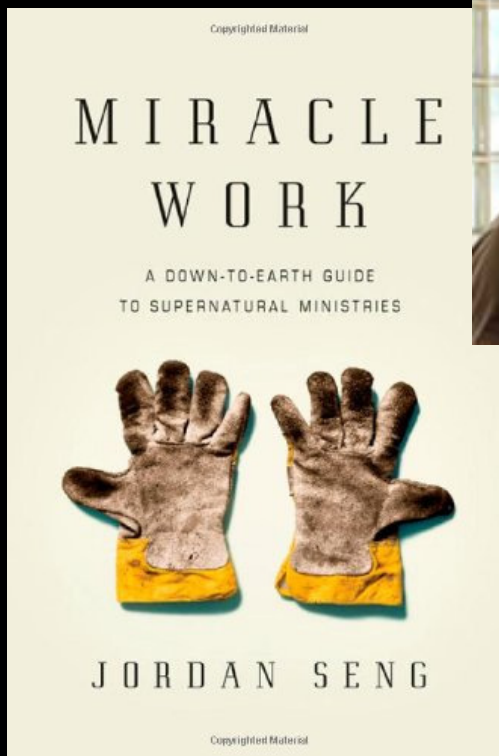
David
Bentley
Hart
**Atheist
Delusions**
The Christian
Revolution
and its
Fashionable
Enemies

Concerns from a Materialist Culture

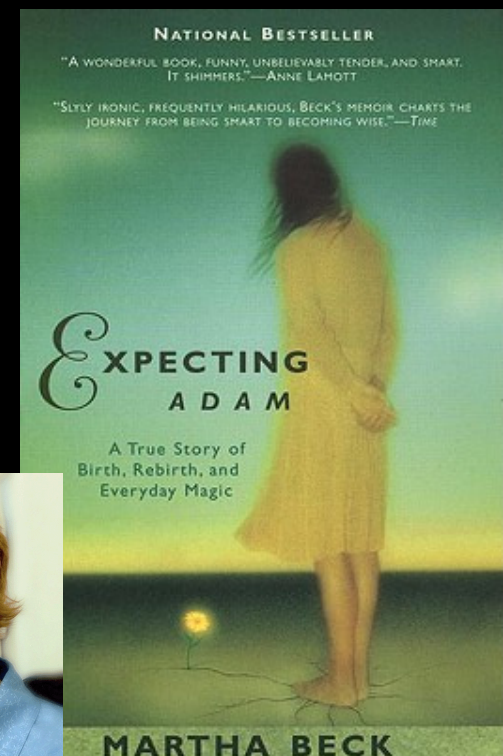
1. Witch hunts?
2. Anti-scientific? Anti-intellectual?

Concerns from a Materialist Culture

1. Witch hunts?
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Ph.D. Political Science



Professor of Sociology

Concerns from a Materialist Culture

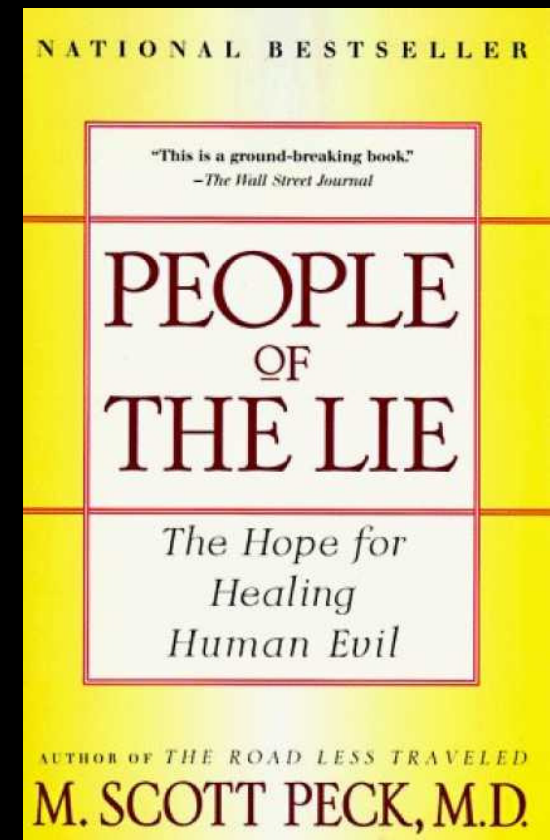
1. Witch hunts?
2. Anti-scientific?
3. Denial of personal responsibility?

Concerns from a Materialist Culture

1. Witch hunts?
2. Anti-scientific?
3. Denial of personal responsibility?

There is a relationship between Satan and human evil, but its exact nature is uncertain; so possessed people are perpetrators of evil and also victims of evil, but not evil themselves

M. Scott Peck, M.D., paraphrase

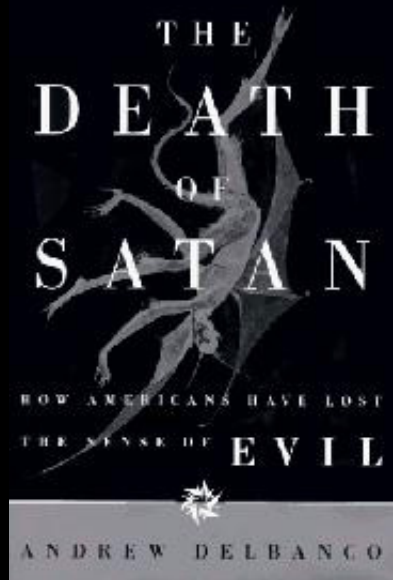


Concerns from a Materialist Culture

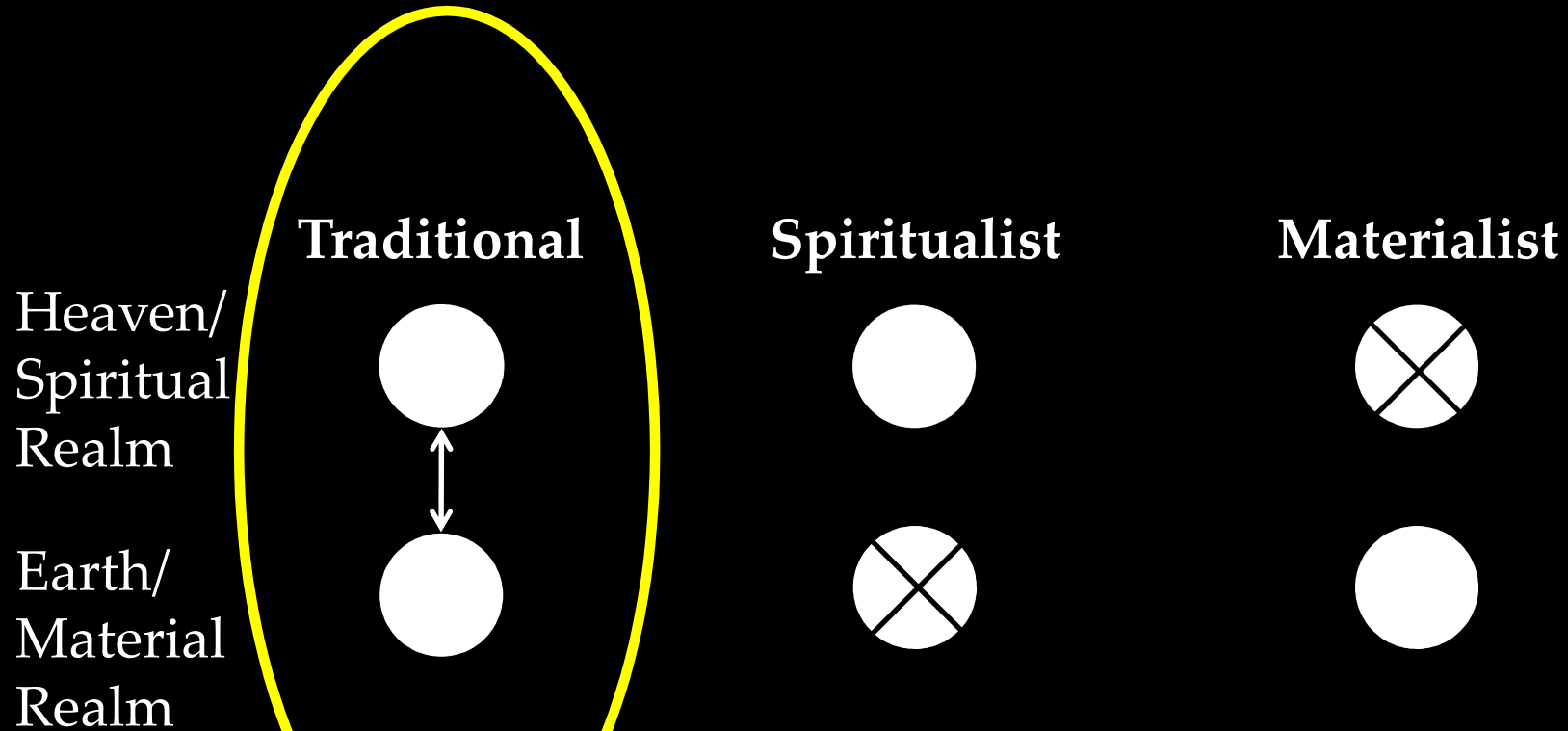
1. Witch hunts?
2. Anti-scientific?
3. Denial of personal responsibility?

‘As Lincoln knew and said, no American was uncontaminated by the racist history of the Republic. This was an extraordinary way to talk – this self-affiliation with the enemy – in the midst of a war. He always spoke without rancor about Southerners... Yet somehow Lincoln managed to sustain both his moral criticism and his war.’

Andrew Delbanco, Prof. of Humanities @ Columbia, p.134



Three Basic Worldviews



The biblical story is in the category of the traditional worldview

Humans Made in the Image of God

In Heaven
God above the powers



On Earth
Humans above the beasts



God Above the Powers



- God is surrounded by 4 angels
 - Ezekiel 1:1 – 10
 - Ezekiel 10:8 – 13
- Each angel has 4 faces
 - Lion
 - Ox
 - Eagle
 - Man

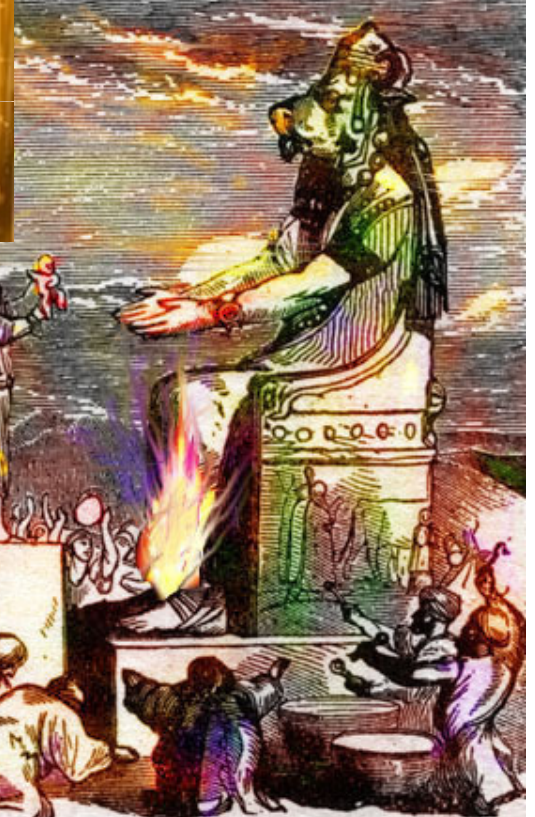
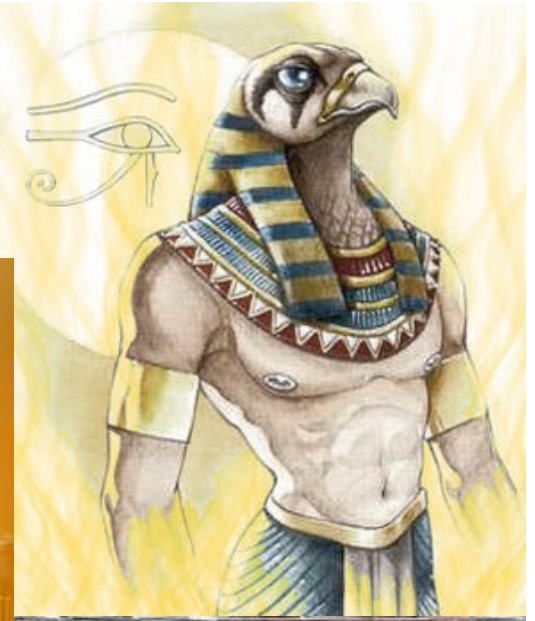
Humans Above the Beasts

- Humans are surrounded by the beasts, and are above them
 - Gen.1:26 – 31
 - Gen.2:19 – 20



The Fallen Order: The Powers Above Humanity

- The Choice: to love and serve humans
 - Rev.12:9
 - Ps.91:11
 - 1 Cor.6:3
- The Result: authority on earth through humans



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Who is the Enemy?



- ‘The Satan’: a title meaning ‘the accuser’
- Originally good, called to grow by serving humans, as God Himself did (*imitatio dei*)
 - Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God... You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you.’ (Ezekiel 28:12 – 15; cf. Isa.14:12 – 21)

Who is the Enemy?



- ‘The Satan’ and God share a short term goal
 - To convict human beings of sin
 - Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand **to accuse him**. (Zech.3:1; cf. Job 1:9 – 11)
 - I have decided to deliver such a one **to Satan for the destruction of his flesh**, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (1 Cor.5:5)
 - And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to **the torturers** until he should repay all that was owed him. My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart. (Mt.18:34 – 35)

Who is the Enemy?



- They have very different long term goals
 - God wants us to:
 - Embrace the truth
 - Confess our sin
 - Reconcile with Him
 - Be healed through Him
 - ‘The Satan’ wants:
 - Embrace a lie
 - Continue in self-deception
 - Feel isolated
 - Feel hopeless
- Practical Application: Feelings of guilt – a crossroads

Who is the Enemy?



“To us a human is primarily food; our aim is the absorption of its will into ours, the increase of our own area of selfhood at its expense. But the obedience which the Enemy demands of men is quite a different thing. One must face the fact that all the talk about His love for men, and His service being perfect freedom, is not (as one would gladly believe) mere propaganda, but an appalling truth. He really does want to fill the universe with a lot of loathsome little replicas of Himself – creatures whose life, on its miniature scale, will be qualitatively like His own, not because he has absorbed them but because their wills freely conform to His.



Who is the Enemy?



‘We want cattle who can finally become food; He wants servants who can finally become sons. We want to suck in, He wants to give out. We are empty and would be filled; He is full and flows over. Our war aim is a world in which Our Father Below has drawn all other beings into himself: the Enemy wants a world full of beings united to Him but still distinct.’

C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*, letter 8





What is the Enemy's Strategy?

- To twist our sense of identity and path of growth:
 - To be 'like God'
 - From creation, intended (Gen.1:26 – 31)
 - To define good and evil ourselves
 - From the fall, not intended (Gen.2:9; 3:1 – 7)

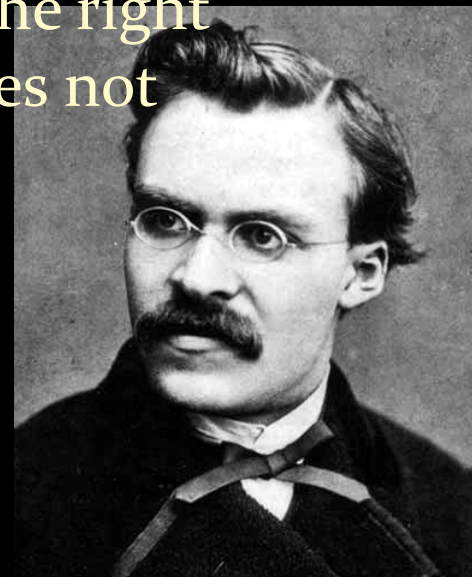


What is the Enemy's Strategy?

- To twist our sense of identity and path of growth:

e.g. Friedrich Nietzsche:

- “There cannot be a God because if there were one, I could not believe that I was not He.”
- “You have your way. I have my way. As for the right way, the correct way, and the only way, it does not exist.”





What is the Enemy's Strategy?

- Lies, for Your Mind (Gen.3:1 – 7; Mt.4:1 – 11)
 - God's path of growth is bad for you
 - God's definition of good is evil
 - God's character is evil





What is the Enemy's Strategy?

‘There is going to be some benevolence, as well as some malice, in your patient’s soul. The great thing is to direct the malice to his immediate neighbors whom he meets every day and to thrust his benevolence out to the remote circumference, to people he does not know. The malice thus becomes wholly real and the benevolence largely imaginary.’

C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*, letter 6, p.30





What is the Enemy's Strategy?

- Powers, to Reinforce Your Negative Emotions
 - Jealousy, Fear
 - Adam & Eve (Gen.3)
 - Saul (1 Sam.28)
 - Bitterness
 - 'Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for **the devil**.' (Eph.4:26 – 27)



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- Demonic powers
 - To curse or affect other people
 - Pharaoh's magicians (Ex.5 – 10)
 - Balaam the magician(Num.21 – 24)
 - To desecrate objects
 - Animals (Gen.3; Mt.8:31 – 32; Mk.5:11 – 13; Lk.8:32 – 33)
 - Land & Locations (Ex.5 – 10; Lev.18:25, 27; 20:3; Num.35:34; Dt.21:23)



What is the Enemy's Strategy?

- A story from close friends



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Why Is the Spirit of Jesus Important?

From what does Jesus save us?

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Wrath of God / Forgiveness | Protestant Ev |
| • Devil / Deliverance | Pentecostals |
| • Corruption / Healing | Orthodox &
Catholic |

Recall from *Holy Spirit: Introduction* that different emphases / theologies need to be integrated

Why Is the Spirit of Jesus Important?

Because We Have a Vulnerability, an Emptiness

^{12:28} But if **I cast out demons by the Spirit of God**, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can anyone enter the **strong man's house** and carry off his property, unless he first **binds the strong man**? And then he will plunder his **house**... ⁴³ Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find it. ⁴⁴ Then it says, 'I will return to my **house** from which I came'; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order. ⁴⁵ Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. (Matthew 12:28 – 45)

Why Is the Spirit of Jesus Important?

Because the Spirit Shares Jesus' New Humanity With Us

^{3:16} After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the **Spirit of God** descending as a dove and lighting on him, ¹⁷ and behold, *a voice out of the heavens said, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.'*

^{4:1} Then Jesus was led up **by the Spirit** into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil... ³ And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.' ⁴ But he answered and said, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, *but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.*' (Matthew 3:16 – 4:4)

