

## "Wicked Spirits"

Rev. W. L. Fernley

The above subject is taken from part of the 12th verse of the 6th chapter of Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians. In this verse we are brought face to face with the reality of the Christian's warfare. "We wrestle . . . against PRINCIPALITIES, against POWERS, against the RULERS of the DARKNESS of this world, against SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES."

When one takes a good look at this verse and thinks upon it, it makes one realize that we wrestle with unseen foes and wily enemies. Our battle is unseen, a spiritual conflict among spirit beings. S. D. Gordon in his book entitled, "Quiet Talks on Prayer," says, "Man is a spirit being; an embodied spirit being. He has a body and a mind. He is a spirit. His real conflicts are of the spirit sort; in the spirit realm, with other spirit beings. Satan is a spirit being; an unembodied spirit being. That is, unembodied, save as in much cunning, with deep, dark purposes he secures embodiment in human beings."

The literal rendering of "spiritual wickedness" in this verse is "wicked spirits." In other words, we wrestle against wicked spirits. Physical force is out of place and order when it comes to defeating wicked spirits. The word tells us, "Not by might nor by power but by my Spirit, saith the Lord." Zech. 4:6. We could apply this text, without distorting its meaning any, to our subject. Our conflict is a spirit conflict and goes on in the realm of spirits. We would do well to remember that the battle or contest is a spirit one and that it is fought in "high places."

Satan is the great general-in-chief of wicked spirits. He is the commander-in-chief of the legions of demons. He directs his forces in heavenly places and seeks to undermine the spirit life of the Christian.

Jesus Christ is the leader of the heavenly hosts. He sends to our aid spirit beings to wrestle with the forces of the evil one. A continual warfare is raging between the forces of evil and the forces of good. This will continue until Jesus Christ Himself comes to finish the battle and to cast into the bottomless pit the devil and his angels.

Wicked spirits in a large measure control the affairs of this present world. They have captivated and bound this human race to such a degree that this world appears to be plunging on to a terrible catastrophe. Men and women whom God made to glorify Him and enjoy Him are taken captive by the forces of the evil one and are being led to a Christless grave and a never-ending hell. How can the power of the wicked spirits be broken? Who can stop the onward rush of satanic forces? Who is able to deliver? We have One who has defeated wicked spirits. We have One who has triumphed openly. We have One who is mighty to deliver. "He came to destroy the works of the devil." As far as He is concerned He has triumphed over the satanic forces, therefore He is the only one who can defeat the purposes of wicked spirits in the realm of our spirit contest today.

Prayer is the battle ground of our warfare. Satan opposes us in the place where sometimes we think he has no emissaries. 90% of our spiritual conflict is at the place of prayer. 90% of our defeats happen there. We must win the battle of prayer, to win the battle

The King's Highway

## "All I Want"

A well-known minister was asked to give a New Year motto. It was for some of his fellow workers the world over.

In response he quoted seven words from Charles Wesley's best-known hymn: They were these: "Thou, O Christ, art all I want."

The succeeding words of the hymn, "More than all in Thee I find," show that the use of the word "want" was in the sense of need.

In Christ, fullness of supply is found. He is sufficient for all and always sufficient. His resources are not exhausted and never can be.

"Thou, O Christ, art all I want." This is blessedly true in the matter of our salvation. His one sacrifice is of ever abiding efficacy. It is enough for our present and eternal blessing. It is the ground on which God righteously blots out our sins. No other offering is needed. No other offering is possible. "The blood of Jesus Christ his (God's) Son cleanseth us from all sin."

"Thou, O Christ, art all I want." Strength for our upward, homeward journey is in Him. All we need until the threshold of our Father's house is crossed is found in Him and in His almightiness. Delighting in the knowledge of this, the Apostle Paul exclaimed, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13).

He in whom all power and might reside has said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5). Responsive, we may say, and say boldly, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

"Thou, O Christ, art all I want." This is true for Christian service for the glory of His Name on earth. Has He not said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore . . . and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world (age)" (Matt. 28: 18-20)? All power for all the day and all ways. It is for us to draw upon His illimitable abundance, and say, "I will go in the strength of the Lord God" (Ps. 71:16). Doing this, we may work and witness for Him as we await His return.

"Thou, O Christ, art all I want." Supply for every circumstance is in Him. It is told of a child who was asked to repeat the first verse of the Twenty-third Psalm that she misquoted the opening words. In the mistake she gave the true meaning of the passage "The Lord is my shepherd," she said, and hesitated. Then she added, "That's all I want." If we can in truth say, "The Lord is my Shepherd," then we may add, "I shall want for nothing." In that Psalm He is shown in His sufficiency for all conditions and circumstances—in green pastures and by still waters, in restoring our souls and in leading in paths of righteousness, for our goings in the dark gloomy vale or the presence of our enemies, for the filling of the cup of present mercies, for the future of our journey on earth, and for the glorious eternity which awaits the believer. In all He is enough.

"Thou, O Christ, art all I want." Take the joyful words with you as a motto for your life. Let them sing their sweet song in the very depths of your spiritual being—"Help and Food".

over the wicked spirits. We can win if we persistently and patiently hammer at the forces of the evil one. Let us continue to defeat wicked spirits by slaying them through prayer.

## The World's Best Seller

By E. Tipson

If you go to the British Museum in London, ask to see the room where the ancient manuscripts are kept; there you will be shown a copy of the world's most amazing Book, a Book which cost the British Nation £100,000 to purchase.

### Its Incalculable Worth

No other book in the world would fetch anything like that figure, and this fact alone makes it the world's most amazing Book. However, it is not only this, but other facts substantiate it as such.

Now this Book is a selection of sixty-six books, written during a period of about 1,500 years, written by all sorts of men, learned and unlearned, rich and poor, men from many different walks of life, fishermen and kings, poets and shepherds. Yet when this Book is studied, it is found that a unity pervades the whole, thus showing that the writers were but instruments in the hands of the One behind the Book, for it was impossible for Moses to tell what Matthew, Mark, and John were going to write, and David certainly did not know what Peter would pen.

### Its Divine Compilation

As Bishop Westcott once said: "If the books combined to form a perfect whole then this completeness is due not to any conscious co-operation of the authors, but to the will of Him by Whose power they wrote."

Appearing originally in the tongue of two of the smallest countries in the world, it has become a universal volume. Produced by a people who are not known as book-makers, it has become the chief piece of literature in millions of homes. When the first part of this Book was 1,500 years old, our Lord Himself used it in the successful battle He waged with the Tempter; and to-day, though it is over 3,000 years old myriads can testify that this same amazing Book has the same power in their lives.

### Its Amazing Circulation

Most books last a few months, some for a year or two; fewer last a decade, and very few a century. Yet here is a Book which goes on from century to century, and not even decreasing in sales, but the very opposite. Take figures of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The American Bible Society and the other Bible Societies also sold in millions, and on top of all this, it must be remembered that bookshops all over the world sold huge quantities outside of the Bible Societies' sales. Again, remember that a Book which is reckoned good enough to translate into another language is considered to be of outstanding worth. Yet this Book has been translated into over 1,000 different languages, and every month sees part of this Book translated into a new tongue, into which neither it, nor any other book, has ever been translated before.

### Its Longevity

Many of the best sellers do not live long; but here is a Book that, although thousands of years old, stands up in this highly scientific age to a place amongst other books, the best seller of all! It is read in the snow igloos of the Eskimos, in the bamboo huts of the Tropics, in the skin tents of the Bedouins, in the boat homes of the river people of China.

Here is a Book which took about 1,500 years to write, has been in existence for over another 1,500 years, and yet is as virile to-day as ever. Do you know anyone to-day who reads any book

(Page 8, Column 3)