

## Discussion Questions Set #1

“Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (Ephesians 6:12)

1. Do you see an increasing fascination with spiritual evil in the world around us? What examples can you think of that point to a growing cultural captivation in this regard? Why do you think we might see this as an increasing focus in our world?
2. In sermon, it was suggested that it is important to be aware of the spiritual world around us as followers of Jesus. Do you think that followers of Jesus are as aware of the “spiritual forces of evil” as they ought to be?
3. What happens to the follower of Jesus if too much attention is paid to spiritual evil? What happens when Satan is seen behind “every rock”? What happens to the follower of Jesus if too little attention is paid to spiritual evil?
4. If it is true that “when Jesus walked into a room, evil found a back door exit pretty quickly”, what does this suggest about our need for fear of evil in the presence of Jesus? How might fear of spiritual evil hurt our ability to witness well in the world?

## Discussion Questions Set #2

“All the people were amazed and said to each other, “What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!” (Luke 4:36)

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

“Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” (Luke 10:20)

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things”. (Philippians 4:8)

In sermon, we acknowledged Jesus’ confidence in His approach to spiritual evil – both towards Satan and the evil spirits He encountered in His ministry. In fact, the power and authority He spoke with shocked the crowds who followed Him. In sermon, it was suggested that this confidence came from Christ’s understanding that He was speaking to an already (or soon to be) defeated enemy.

1. How does recognizing that the outcome of the spiritual battle between good and evil has already been decided affect the way we interact in the world around us? How does recognizing Christ’s victory over evil lend us confidence as we seek to live invitationally, relationally, and restoratively in a world deeply impacted by evil?
2. In sermon, it was stated that part of a correct approach to spiritual evil is to not just avoid evil, but to engage truth. How does actively engaging truth assist us in overcoming spiritual evil?
3. Discuss the following two ways of engaging truth. How do they better equip us to engage the world around us?
  - a. Consuming (eating) scripture
  - b. Ensuring right focus
4. In sermon, an action plan for addressing spiritual evil was presented. Discuss how each of the following three steps helps to equip us to overcome the evil in our world.
  - a. ENGAGE GOD’S WORD TO HANDLE IT WELL: “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)
  - b. BE OPEN TO TRUTHFUL INSTRUCTION: “Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.” (2 Timothy 2:24-26)
  - c. SUBMIT AND RESIST: Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)