

# Salvation & The Gospel

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## Section 1: The Battle Behind the Battle

At **Love Church**, we believe there's more going on in the world than what we can see. Behind the struggles we face—behind fear, anxiety, division, and even temptation—is a spiritual battle.

**Spiritual warfare** is the unseen conflict between the kingdom of God and the forces of evil that oppose Him. It's not a Hollywood storyline. It's real. And it shows up in everyday life more than we realize.

Here's the good news: This battle has already been won. Jesus is victorious. We don't fight for victory, we fight from it.

But we still need to be aware, because we have an enemy—Satan—who doesn't want us to grow closer to God. He wants to distract, discourage, and destroy (John 10:10). And while he's not all-powerful, he is real and active in this world.

**"For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies,  
but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world..."**

**– Ephesians 6:12**

Think of it like this: There's God, who loves you, who created you, who calls you to purpose. And there's the enemy of your soul, who wants to pull you away from that purpose. It's good vs. evil—but we already know how the story ends. Jesus wins.

I've seen it in my own life—especially when I've said yes to God. When we planted **Love Church**, the year leading up to it was one of the hardest of our lives. Opposition was everywhere. But in the middle of the chaos, God was building something powerful. People joined the team. Miracles happened. A new church was born. That's spiritual warfare. Not just random hardship—but resistance because of obedience.

Still, we need balance.

Sometimes we give the enemy too much credit. Not everything hard is a demonic attack—sometimes we just make bad choices. But ignoring the spiritual reality altogether leaves us vulnerable. Paul reminds us to put on the full armor of God so we can stand firm.

Here's what we want you to know: There is an enemy, yes. But there is also a Savior who's already crushed the head of the serpent. If you're in Christ, you are not fighting for victory—you are walking in it.

## Section 2: The Tactics of the Enemy

The enemy can't steal your salvation—but he'll do everything he can to distract, discourage, divide, and destroy. Here are some of the most common tactics he uses:

### 1. Lies

Jesus called Satan “the father of lies” (John 8:44). From the very beginning in the Garden of Eden, his strategy has been to twist God's words and plant seeds of doubt.

He'll whisper things like:

- “You're not really forgiven.”
- “You're not enough.”
- “God isn't really with you.”
- “Your past disqualifies you.”

But the truth is:

**“You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” – John 8:32**

The more rooted you are in God's Word, the quicker you can spot a lie.

### 2. Temptation

Temptation isn't sin—but giving into it is. The enemy will often bait us with things that look good, feel good, or promise quick relief—but lead us further from God's best.

**“Each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.”  
– James 1:14**

But God always provides a way out (1 Corinthians 10:13). Temptation is real—but so is freedom.

### 3. Isolation

One of Satan's oldest tricks is to make you think you're the only one. He'll whisper, “Don't tell anyone what you're going through.” Or “They'll judge you,” and “You're all alone.” But isolation is dangerous. We heal in community. We grow through connection.

The enemy isolates you to destroy you. God invites you into community to restore you.

### 4. Offense & Unforgiveness

Bitterness is a trap that slowly poisons the soul. One of Satan's most subtle weapons is offense—when we get hurt, hold onto it, and refuse to forgive.

**“One of Satan's most deceptive and insidious kinds of bait is something every Christian has encountered — offense.”**

**– John Bevere, The Bait of Satan**

Unforgiveness keeps you chained to the pain of your past. Jesus invites you to forgive as you've been forgiven—not just for their freedom, but for yours.

## 5. Fear

Fear paralyzes us. It keeps us from taking bold steps of faith, from loving people freely, from obeying God's voice.

**But God hasn't given us a spirit of fear. He's given us power, love, and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).**

Fear is a liar. The love of God drives it out.

## 6. Division

The enemy loves to divide—friends, families, churches, and even your thoughts. Wherever there's gossip, jealousy, and confusion—he's at work. But Jesus prayed for unity.

The Church is strongest when it's united under one name: Jesus.

## 7. Shame

When we fall short, the enemy shouts, "You're a failure." But the Holy Spirit gently says, "Come back to the Father." Shame drives us away. Grace draws us near.

At **Love Church**, we believe that **shame doesn't win. Grace does.**

# Section 3: Authority, Armor, and Victory in Christ

Here's the truth: You're not helpless in the face of spiritual warfare. If you belong to Jesus, you have authority—because of Him, not because of you. Jesus has already conquered the enemy. On the cross, He defeated sin, death, and every spiritual power that opposes God's kingdom (Colossians 2:15). Now, through Him, we walk in victory.

| **“The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” – 1 John 4:4**

So how do we stand firm when we feel under spiritual attack?

## | 1. Know Your Authority

You don't fight with fear—you fight with truth. You're not a victim, you're a child of God with authority to resist the enemy.

| **“Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” – James 4:7**

The enemy has no power over a surrendered life. That's why the first step is always surrender—not striving. Walk closely with Jesus, and you'll walk in His power.

## | 2. Put on the Armor of God

Paul gives us a powerful picture in Ephesians 6:10–18 of what it means to be spiritually equipped. You're not just going into battle—you've been given armor to wear:

- **Belt of Truth** – Ground your life in God's Word, not opinions or emotions.
- **Breastplate of Righteousness** – You're made right with God through Jesus, not by your own works.
- **Shoes of Peace** – Walk with calm and courage, even in chaos.
- **Shield of Faith** – Block the lies and fiery darts of the enemy by trusting God's promises.
- **Helmet of Salvation** – Protect your mind with the confidence that you are saved, loved, and secure.
- **Sword of the Spirit** – Use the Word of God as your weapon. Speak it. Declare it. Pray it.

You don't need to be afraid—you just need to be ready.

## | 3. Pray with Boldness

Prayer isn't a last resort. It's your first response. It's how you fight your battles. You can pray prayers of spiritual authority. Speak life over your home, your family, your mind. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal lies, heal wounds, and strengthen your heart.

“The prayers of a righteous person are powerful and effective.” – James 5:16

#### **4. Live in Surrender, Not Striving**

This isn't about being a spiritual warrior who yells at demons all day. It's about closeness to Jesus. Sometimes the most powerful act of spiritual warfare is choosing joy. Or worshipping in the storm. Or forgiving someone who hurt you. Or saying, "God, I trust You," when life feels out of control.

You were made to live free.

#### **Misunderstandings About Spiritual Warfare**

Spiritual warfare can be confusing—especially for people who didn't grow up in church or have seen it taught in unhealthy ways. Here are a few common misunderstandings:

##### **"Everything bad that happens is a spiritual attack."**

Not every flat tire is the devil. Not every bad day is demonic. Sometimes we just live in a broken world. Sometimes it's our own decisions. Spiritual warfare is real, but it's not everything. We need discernment and wisdom to know what's spiritual and what's circumstantial.

##### **"If I do everything right, I won't be attacked."**

Obedience to God doesn't mean comfort. In fact, following Jesus more closely may invite more opposition. But here's the good news: you're not alone. When you walk in obedience, God gives you strength, peace, and victory—even in the middle of a fight.

##### **"Spiritual warfare is loud and dramatic."**

Sometimes it is. But most of the time, it's subtle. It looks like:

- **Discouragement when you try to pray.**
- **Distraction when you want to read your Bible.**
- **Division in your relationships.**
- **Doubt creeping into your heart.**

That's why consistency in the small things—prayer, Scripture, community—matters so much.

##### **"I'm powerless against the enemy."**

If you belong to Jesus, the enemy has already been defeated. You are not powerless—you're protected. You don't need to be afraid. You need to be aware. And armed with God's truth.

## | Resources to Go Deeper

Want to grow in your understanding of spiritual warfare in a healthy, biblical way?

Here are a few resources we recommend:

- **“Victory in Spiritual Warfare”** by Tony Evans – Clear, biblical, and practical.
- **“The Screwtape Letters”** by C.S. Lewis – A creative look at spiritual deception and human struggle.
- **“The Bondage Breaker”** by Neil Anderson – Focuses on freedom in Christ and spiritual authority.
- **“The Bait of Satan”** by John Bevere – Powerfully addresses offense, bitterness, and spiritual strongholds that keep people stuck.
- **“Live No Lies”** by John Mark Comer – A modern look at resisting the lies of the enemy, the flesh, and the world.