

E. M. BOUNDS

GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL
WARFARE



WHITAKER
HOUSE

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the *King James Version* (KJV) of the Bible.

Scripture quotations marked (RV) are taken from the *Revised Version* of the Holy Bible.

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE

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FOREWORD¹

If you had lived during the early years of the twentieth century, you could have visited a small town and witnessed a most unusual sight. You could have seen Dr. Bounds walking the streets carrying his manuscripts. They would have been written on the backs of old, used envelopes and tied with twine string. He was looking for someone who would undertake to prepare them for publication. Dr. Bounds was continually asking his friends to pray that God would raise up a man who would put his writings into print.

Claudius Lysias Chilton, a scholarly friend of Dr. Bounds, said, "There is no man on earth today except the present editor who would have accepted this mass of matter and devoted the time to give it to the world—a world that will not begin to realize the magnitude and expanse of the work until editor, compiler, and reviewers have been in eternity many ages."

1. This foreword is from the first edition of the book, published in 1922.

We take this occasion to offer our heartfelt thanks to the friends who have helped to compile, revise, rewrite, and edit the printed and unprinted works of Dr. Bounds. We thank the Reverend Robert O. Smith of Gainesville, Georgia, for introducing him to us in 1905 and insisting that we needed this apostolic man to teach us to pray and preach the Word.

I here submit a few brief statements from Dr. Bounds' letters to me just before he died. These show his views of Satan before he was taken out of the Enemy's reach forever.

I am trying to give myself more and more to prayer. Our only hope is in God. I do sympathize with you and pray for you and hold you in loving affection. Rejoice that you are well situated. God save you from your buffeting devil. The Devil is a great help heavenward. The worse agents he has the better we will get on.

Pray more and more; keep at the 4:00 A.M. hour. God will be for it, the Devil against it. Press on; you can't pray too much; you may pray too little. The Devil will compromise with you to pray as the common standard, on going to bed, and a little prayer in the morning. Hell will be full if we don't do better for God than that. Pray, pray, pray, pray always, rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks.

I hope that many souls will be edified and made holier and more devout by the reading of this book. I pray that God will receive additional glory when Bounds' complete works have been given to a needy world.

Homer W. Hodge
Brooklyn, New York

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WHO IS THE INVISIBLE ENEMY?

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

—Isaiah 14:12–15

The Bible does not give us any direct statements concerning the genesis of the Devil. It gives us no indication of his birth and no description of his creation. The Bible is concerned with the Devil only as he has part in the great crises of man's history.

There are only occasional glimpses of him in his work of ruin and death. These glimpses put his acts in striking contrast and opposition to the works and aims of Christ. These inferences indicate an original purity, a high relationship to God, and a heavenly character and conduct. He was and is the head of the angels who left their first estate.

Peter presented the angels' fall as one of the events that illustrate God's justice, its certainty and fearfulness. He said, "*God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment*" (2 Peter 2:4). Jude spoke about the same order of God's inflexible wrath when he told us that "*the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day*" (Jude 6).

The Revelation of John adds its testimony to this fact:

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Revelation 12:7-9)

UNVEILING THE ENEMY

We can approach the Word of God with the assurance that we will find traces of the Devil's steps and the unfolding of his conduct. God's Word tells us of his evil schemes that have

eclipsed so much of earth's brightness and spoiled so much of its promise and hope.

We must have a childlike spirit of trust, and lay aside "*all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word*" (James 1:21). Then we will find satisfaction and illumination of the truth. We will not satisfy our curiosity or find illumination in the fine points of philosophy, but we will find satisfaction and illumination in all things that pertain to the highest truth for the thoughtful, trustful, and prayerful mind.

In the Bible we have the facts and history of man's redemption. Other worlds and other beings are brought into prominence in light of redemption's purposes and plans. These revealed facts, whether incidental or essential, are to our faith what the facts of nature are to the biology student. They must shape theories and settle opinions. They must not be set aside. Reason must not ignore or reject them, but must lay them as the solid foundations of all investigation, the basis of every hypothesis. These Bible facts demand our faith, though we may not be able to reach out into the unknown regions where harmony reigns.

The Word of God brings clearly to light the unseen world: its persons, places, facts, and history. These are revealed not in minute detail, but with enough information to provoke thought and inspire faith.

THE DEVIL REVEALED

The Bible does not enter into an argument to prove the being and person of God. It assumes His being and reveals His

person and character. Without preface or introduction, the Bible brings God before us in all His majesty and omnipotence. God was at the world's beginning, and He created the beginning of all things. "*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth*" (Genesis 1:1). How sublime and inspiring is our first glimpse of God! God is revealed not by argument but by work. We learn what He is from what He does.

The revelation of the Devil is the same. He is presented without introduction or ceremony as the Evil One, a graduate of the school of deception and evil. The curtain is drawn, and the chief actor is in full dress. A world is at stake; man is to be seduced; Eden is to be corrupted. No light is shed upon his past history. No knowledge is given of the school where he learned his evil trade. He was before earthly life. Eden does not date his birth. The temptation in the Garden is not the first chapter of his history or the first test of his hellish art.

We have no access to the archives of the past. Eden bounds our horizon, and the Devil is there. Since that time, his history has run parallel with the human race's. Man is the object of his schemes, his destructive devices, and his ambition. Earth is the favorite scene of his exploits. He is at the cradle of every baby, and he has much to do in shaping each person's character and determining his destiny.

The Bible is a revelation, not a philosophy or a poem, not a science. It reveals things and persons as they are, living and acting outside the range of earthly vision or natural discovery.

Biblical revelations are not against reason but above reason. They require the exercise of faith, man's highest faculty. The powers of reason are not able to discover these biblical facts. Yet

these facts are for reason's use—its light, strength, and higher elevation. But most essentially, they are to form, nourish, and perfect faith.

THE DEVIL IS A REAL PERSON

The Bible reveals the Devil as a person—not a mere figure, not simply an influence. He is not only a personification, but also a real person. In the eighth chapter of John, Christ was accusing the Jews for their cruelty, falsehood, deceit, and hypocrisy. Jesus said, *“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him”* (John 8:44).

Many myths have gathered around the person of the Devil throughout the ages. Much poetry, tradition, and even our fears have caricatured his person, exaggerated his character, and colored his conduct. But there is truth in regard to him, naked and simple truth.

There is much truth that needs to be learned about the Devil, and no age needs the plain, unvarnished truth about him more than this generation. We need the light of that truth as a warning, as an incentive to vigilance, and as an inspiration to effort. We need the knowledge about the Enemy—his character, presence, and power—in order to rouse men to action. This knowledge is vital to victory.

Many people deny the existence of Satan and his influence in our lives. Would Christ have used such plain and solemn words repeatedly before His disciples and the Jews to encourage a lying superstition? To deny the reality of demon possession as recorded in the Gospels is simply inconceivable.

THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS

When the Devil fell, others fell with him. This is what God's Word teaches us. We have no record of the number of these fallen spirits. In Ephesians these unseen foes are spoken of as "*spiritual hosts*" (Ephesians 6:12 RV), an uncounted, uncountable number.

How innumerable they are, we cannot tell. The demoniac of Gadara was named "*Legion: because many devils were entered into him*" (Luke 8:30). A legion was somewhat less than six thousand. The total number of fallen spirits must be great, because they were able to permit so many demons to possess one man, or to allow seven to control one woman, as was the case with Mary Magdalene.

There is a statement in Revelation that the "*great red dragon...[with] his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth*" (Revelation 12:3-4). This may be a reference to the fall of the angels and their number.

The Bible clearly states that the Devil has a host of fallen angelic followers who are ready and eager in their efforts to hurt man and defeat God's kingdom on earth.