

DEREK PRINCE

**DEFEAT
THE
DEVIL**

DISMANTLING THE ENEMY'S PLAN
TO DESTROY YOUR LIFE



WHITAKER
HOUSE

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DEFEAT THE DEVIL:

Dismantling the Enemy’s Plan to Destroy Your Life

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CONTENTS

Introduction: The Battle We Face.....	5
1. Our Invisible Enemies	9
2. Our Main Foe.....	13
3. The Battle Lines Are Drawn.	21
4. God's Solution.....	31
5. One Sacrifice.....	37
6. The Way Out.....	43
7. What Jesus Accomplished	49
8. Enforcing the Victory.....	57
9. Our Spiritual Weapons.....	65
10. The Climax of the Battle.....	75
11. The Power of the Cross	83
12. The Nature of Witchcraft.....	95

13. Witchcraft's Supernatural Aspect	105
14. How Witchcraft Operates.....	113
15. The Work of the Cross.....	119
16. Deliverance #1: This Present Evil Age	123
17. Deliverance #2: The Law.....	135
18. Deliverance #3: Self	147
19. Deliverance #4: The Flesh.....	157
20. Deliverance #5: The World.....	161
21. Sealing Our Prayer	171
About the Author	173

INTRODUCTION: THE BATTLE WE FACE

It is a very dangerous situation to have powerful and active enemies working against you and not even be aware that you have those enemies. As Christians, the enemies we face are not persons of flesh and blood; they are invisible spirit beings.

The themes we are going to deal with in this book concern matters that are not discerned by human senses. The Bible speaks about a hidden wisdom that “*eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man*” (1 Corinthians 2:9). These realities are invisible and spiritual. They are only understood through the Scriptures by the illumination of the Holy Spirit. There is no other source of reliable information.

THE TRUE REALITY

Many people imagine that what we can see, hear, taste, smell, and touch are the only true realities. Down through the ages, however, a number of philosophers have come to the

conclusion that what we see, hear, taste, smell, and touch are not truly real; they are temporary, and they are very often deceptive. These philosophers have warned us that we cannot rely only on our senses.

And the Bible agrees! Paul says that the things which are seen are fleeting; the things which are not seen are eternal. (See 2 Corinthians 4:18.) In other words, our sensory world is passing away; therefore, it is only partly real because it does not endure. But the spiritual world that we cannot see, that we cannot perceive with our senses, is the true reality. It alone will endure.

WISDOM AND REVELATION

So, when we come to the theme of invisible enemies, we begin by making a mental adjustment. We have to say to ourselves, "I'm not going to limit myself only to the things that I can see and hear and taste and smell and touch; I'm going to open my heart and mind to the revelation that is recorded in Scripture through the Holy Spirit, and to the reality of a different world."

In essence, this book has to do with two opposing kingdoms at war with one another. They are not natural kingdoms, such as Britain or Sweden or the United States. Rather, they are invisible spiritual kingdoms. One is the kingdom of God and the other is the kingdom of Satan. This is the setting of the battle we face.

Paul prayed that God would give the Ephesian Christians a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. (See Ephesians 1:17.) I pray the same for us: that God may grant

us wisdom and revelation as we open our hearts to His Word, because we are addressing matters that are made known only through revelation.

Dear Lord, open our hearts and minds to the reality of the spiritual realm and to the very real battle we face as Your children and citizens of Your kingdom. Show us the way to complete victory through the sacrifice of Your Son Jesus and the power of Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus's name, amen.

ONE

OUR INVISIBLE ENEMIES

*“O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you
should not obey the truth...?”*

—Galatians 3:1

In 1963, the first year I was in the United States, I was invited to become pastor of a Pentecostal congregation in Seattle, Washington. I was a bit naive in those days and unaccustomed to many of the normal practices that occur in American church life. The invitation said that all twelve members of the board had unanimously agreed to invite me. So, my wife Lydia and I packed up our belongings and took the journey from Minneapolis, where we lived at the time, to Seattle.

When we arrived, I discovered that the twelve members of the board were the only people left who still attended on Sundays! Furthermore, after just one month, all of them had

resigned except one. My wife and I found ourselves in the midst of extraordinary circumstances. Not long before, this congregation had been filled with several hundred faithful Pentecostals, all of them baptized in the Holy Spirit. They wanted to do right; they were not a bunch of wicked backsliders. When I met them, they were very respectful toward me. But it was as if they were dazed. It didn't matter what I did or said; there was no genuine response. It was a baffling situation.

Lydia was a tremendous woman of prayer. Together, we prayed, "God, You've got to show us what's wrong with these people." The Lord clearly directed me to Galatians 3:1: "*Who has bewitched you...*?" Reading that passage substantially challenged my theology. I thought, "Pentecostals? Tongues-speaking, water-baptized believers—*bewitched*?" This called for further investigation.

I found out that the wife of the previous pastor had fallen in love with one of the board members, and he with her. They engineered a scheme by which the wife divorced the pastor, and the board member divorced his wife. Then the pastor's wife married the board member. The pastor, now her former husband, moved out of the area and, unfortunately, fell away from the faith. His ex-wife became, in effect, the new pastor of the church—until I arrived. This woman seemed to control the congregation just with her eyes. I was told afterward that every time there was an issue in the church, she would say, "Now, how many of you are for me? Put your hand up." Anyone who didn't raise their hand received one of her penetrating stares. She had them mesmerized.

Once Lydia and I had identified the problem, we immediately knew that we were to enter into prayer. As a result, some

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wonderful results took place in that congregation. But the entire experience opened a whole new dimension of the spirit realm to me in a very personal way. When Paul said, “*Who has bewitched you...?*” he wasn’t just using a figure of speech. Paul was talking about a spiritual reality.