

The Christian's Situational Awareness

Biblical references provided in the New International Version.



The Wonder of the Eternal Trinity

The central truth for the Christian worldview is that God is an eternal, loving being that exists in three persons: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



John 1:1 says “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing has been made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.” In verse 14, it goes on to say “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

These verses establish that scripture clearly teaches that Jesus is eternal. He also said “I and the Father are one.” (John 10:3). But what’s so difficult for the natural world to accept about Christ’s claims is that He is the only way to the Father. In John 14:6, Jesus

said “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” This exclusivity is difficult to accept, but is easy to see why there is such stubborn refusal to believe this on the part of many when the third—and arguably the most exciting aspect of the Trinity for those of us now living in the Church Era—member of the trinity is ignored—Holy Spirit.



Holy Spirit is uniquely God, eternal, and accomplishes the will of the Father throughout creation and, no doubt is omniscient and omnipresent. He covered the face of the deep in early creation and descended on Jesus as a dove after He was baptized. Prior to the book of Acts, however, it was exceedingly rare for people to experience an interpersonal contact with Holy Spirit.

In Luke Chapter 1, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah and foretold that his, soon-to-be son, John the Baptist, would be filled with the Holy Spirit while still in the womb. It actually happened later, when Elizabeth, pregnant with John, heard Mary’s voice. “...the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit” (Luke 1:41).

He did not live within man and take up His residence in human bodies because of sin. We are not told if this occurred prior to the sin in the garden of Eden, but it would have been possible prior to sin entering mankind. It wasn’t until the washing away of the sin that redeemed Christians could directly commune with the Holy God.

The Beginning of Evil

Angels are entirely different beings than humans. They are so impressive that many throughout the bible were in fear when they encountered one of the Lord’s angels, and some thought they were God himself. They are not made of flesh like we were and humans don’t become angels after they die, but we do get new and different bodies that are *like* the angels (Matthew 22:30).

Perhaps the clearest distinction between mankind and angels is the fact that hell was created for angels—not people (Matthew 25:41). Lucifer was the most beautiful and powerful angel, enjoying access to the entire heavenly kingdom. Lucifer wanted the glory and worship for himself and not for God. The redemption plan is for humans, not angels.

There is some biblical evidence to suggest that Lucifer was in the garden prior to the first sin in all creation, perhaps in a role that involved carrying out the Father’s will among humans. In Ezekiel 28:11-19, we see at face value a lament against the King of Tyre, but there is a double meaning as a message to Satan himself (the fallen angel). It talks about him being “blameless in your ways from the day you

were created until wickedness found you.” This really can be said of no man, for after sin entered the garden of Eden we have all been sinful—quick to be led astray by the evil “powers of the air” (Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 6:12). Because no sin can be in the presence of the Father, he was cast out of heaven though he continues to accuse the believers and leads them astray (Luke 10:18, Revelation 12:9-11).



Satan was present in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve were told not to eat the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. He mixed truth in with his lies when he told Eve that they would be made like God if they were to be of the fruit. This was the same sin that he himself committed—trying to become like God. What Satan may not have known is that the plan for salvation for human kind was already written.

Applying God’s Authority to Overcome

Prior to Jesus, God’s followers did not often deal directly with the evil spiritual forces at work in the world. He proclaimed to his followers in Matthew

28:18 that not only had “...all authority in heaven and on earth...been given to [him]”, but in Luke 10:19 he goes on to explain that He has given *us* “authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy.” There is a passing down of authority that has happened, from the Father to Jesus, and then to us. Though evil abounds at every turn, all of it works together for good for those that love the Lord (Romans 8:28). Obviously, we have been given “authority over all the power of the enemy.” But what kind of authority do we have, and what kind of power has the enemy?

This imagery of treading on snakes and scorpions is one of offensive action, but not all Christians choose to exercise the authority they have been given. Romans 10:13 says “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”, but in Matthew 28 Jesus gives Christians the Great Commission. The difference in this instruction given after He had risen from the dead is that he tells His followers to make disciples of the nations and teach them all of Christ’s lessons. It is in this context that Jesus said all authority in heaven and earth has been given to Him. The significance of this lies in the fact that only disciples, fully cooperating with the Lord’s plan and obedient to His teachings, can exercise God’s authority over the enemy.

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8, Job 1:6-8) When you look at what Satan did to Job, you see his plan. Deaths, physical pain, medical illness, financial and property loss, his wife telling him to curse God and die, and friend’s blaming him for the suffering because of unconfessed sin. Basically, his entire life fell apart – traumatically.

This plan hasn’t changed to this very day. When you look at the things that cause the most amount of anger and turning away from God, childhood adverse events, traumas, upbringing, pain, suffering, and losses lead the list. The influence of sin cannot be understated when you look at the creation of conditions that set up these realities of life on earth

in its fallen state. For example, self-centered, godless parents can turn to alcoholism, domestic abuse and emotional abuse towards their children, culminating in divorce. It's easy to point to the person, however, and say that sin is responsible for all of it when Satan and his demons are playing a vital role in the of process of leading people astray for God.

In fact, we are to "...demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:5) "For 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)

Therefore, we have a situation where Satan is the ruler and power of the air in the spiritual government on earth (Ephesians 2:2). This does not mean that Satan has 100% control, but sin is obviously a priority among mankind indicating the human inclination for idolatry and essentially the worship of Satan. Romans 8:28 says "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." This explains why God allows things to happen in our lives that hurt. But how does Satan use painful experiences to cause our faith to falter?

We get a look at how Satan uses his lies when Jesus was starting to explain what was going to happen to him as he was going to voluntarily turn himself over to the evil authorities. He was going to be tortured, killed, and raised on the third day. Peter's first reaction was to try to prevent it from happening. Now, it makes perfect, human sense to try and prevent harm from coming to someone you love-but not if it goes against the Father's will. When Jesus turned to him and said "get thee behind me Satan", he was not saying that Peter was actually Satan (Matthew 16:23). Only use a few versus earlier (vs. 18) He says that "on this rock I will build my church", referring to Peter. What he was saying is

that any idea, rule, principalities it rises itself up against the knowledge in the will of God is evil.



When Jesus died on across and was raised again he announced to those rumors, principalities, and a ruler's in the heavenly places here on earth (the fall and angels) that he had overcome death with victory. He was announcing that He will win; and that they have lost.

When Christian asks *why* God allows suffering in our lives, a good place to start is in the book of Second Corinthians. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, *so that* we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." (2 Corinthians 1:3-4) His plan is for us to turn towards the Lord during our times of trouble and He will comfort us. To really grasp the next step in His plan, you have to set aside the Western church that centers around "church services", in which parishioners show up once or twice per week to get "fed". What's required to exercise the authority of Christ is to become a disciple that disciple others.

Living Faith

Therefore, discipleship is the focus of the 3000 series courses on Living Faith. We will explore what it means to be a disciple, God's call on all our lives, and spend a lot of time developing personal ministries-both formal and informal in our daily interactions.



An emphasis will be placed on people that want to run their own businesses, lead their own brand of ministry, and get their voice out to the world through books, social media, audio podcasts and a variety of video platforms. A unique, behind-the-scenes approach is used to lead you step-by-step process to harness cutting edge technology to reach the world for Christ. In so doing, you will be a part of the healing of others and, with the help of the Comforter, exercise God's authority to heal completely and overcome all of your habitual sins.