

## Spiritual Warfare

Spiritual warfare: after more than 30 years of popularity and controversy in evangelical Christian circles, how might we outline a general biblical framework for spiritual warfare? In this workshop, I will look at Ephesians as a primer in spiritual warfare based on evidence both in the epistle and from the account of the Ephesians from Acts chapter 19. I will explore ways that this can be used as a viable biblical model for engaging in spiritual warfare ministry among believers based on Paul's approach to the Ephesians as seen in his epistle to them.

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**Thesis: Paul wrote this epistle to a people whose city was steeped in magic and powers as a foundation to meet their needs as they continued to face spiritual warfare after coming to Christ.**

### I. Framing Ephesians

#### A. General information

#### B. Ephesians through the lens of Acts 19

1. God's extraordinary miracles
2. The Sons of Sceva fail in their attempt at exorcism
3. The church reacts by destroying their spiritual "medicine chest"

### II. Ephesians as a spiritual warfare primer

#### A. Theological framing (Chapters 1 through 3)

1. 1:1-13: God's work on our behalf

2. 1:14-21: Christ is Lord over all
3. 2:1-10: You are alive and seated with Christ
4. 2:11-3:13: Spiritual powers watch and learn
5. 3:14-21: Grasp the extent of God's love

**B. Application (ch. 4 – 6)**

1. 4:1-6: Live a life worthy of your calling (the fruit of the Spirit)
2. 4:7-16: God's equipping leadership gifts
3. 4:17-5:14: Worthy living
4. 5:15-21: Be filled with the Spirit
5. 5:22-6:9: Live in submitted relationships
6. 6:10-24: Put on God's Armor

***Suggested Readings:***

*Ephesians: Power and Magic* (Clinton Arnold; Baker)

*Essentials of Spiritual Warfare* (Moreau; Wipf & Stock)

*Understanding Spiritual Warfare: Four Views* (Bielby and Eddy; Baker)