

TRUE STORIES OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

**WHEN**

AND WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

**DEMONS**



ABOUT CONFRONTING THE DARKNESS

**SURFACE**

**STEVE DABBS**

“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons’ (1 Tim. 4:1 NIV). That is presently happening all over the world, and pastors, disciplers, and counselors are waking up to that reality and learning how to set captives free. Steve Dabbs discovered this when he was a chaplain in the military and shares his learning and experiences in this helpful book that you should read and add to your library.”

**Dr. Neil T. Anderson**, founder and president emeritus  
of Freedom in Christ Ministries

“Steve Dabbs’s new book, *When Demons Surface*, is a very readable introduction to the topic of spiritual warfare. He gives abundant evidence of what the Bible says about Satan and demons and also draws copiously on extrabiblical sources from the ancient world on the subject. Along the way, he shares many encounters with demons from his work in ministry. This book is a worthy contribution to the literature on a biblical calling that the church needs to understand and, when appropriate, engage in.”

**Jeffrey J. Niehaus, PhD**, senior professor of Old Testament,  
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; author of  
numerous books and articles on biblical theology;  
and contributor to *The Kingdom and the Power*

“Steve wrote a much-needed book sharing his incredible experience based on a careful understanding of the biblical reality and danger of demonic forces. His expert analysis of the biblical languages coupled with historical context will challenge and inform modern ideas on the subject as well as open eyes and hearts to the spiritual battle raging in our world today.”

**Hobert K. Farrell, PhD**, professor emeritus of biblical  
studies, LeTourneau University

“This book is a valuable resource and road map on the quest for finding freedom in Christ. The reader will explore gripping stories about demons and delve into meticulous research as Chaplain Dabbs fearlessly exposes the cunning tactics of sinister forces at play. The Christian, clergy, and counselor alike will gain valuable insights into the ancient biblical art of confronting evil spirits in the mighty Name of Jesus.”

**Dr. Anthony L. Wiggins**, chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel,  
US Air Force

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Dedicated to  
**PASTOR BILLY MACK HILL SR.**  
(November 8, 1956–December 18, 2023)  
You gave me my first instruction  
on spiritual warfare.

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# **DART 1**

The text 'DART 1' is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. Below it, the words 'PART 1' are also in a bold, black, sans-serif font, but they are partially obscured by a white, jagged lightning bolt graphic that strikes through the letters.

## **PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS**

**(13 TRUE STORIES)**

# 1

## **THE REALM OF DARKNESS DISPELLED BY THE LIGHT**

**T**he first humans experienced spiritual warfare from the very first book of the Bible, shortly after the start of their very existence (Gen. 3:1). From the Creation to the Judgment, Satan actively wages war against us (Rev. 20:1–10). Christ sanctioned the ministry of confronting demons to establish His kingdom and to provide relief to those suffering in spiritual battle (Luke 10:1–18; 11:20).

In this book, I share over 50 true stories, including instances of demonization and paranormal activities. They also involve cases of physical and mental health issues that shockingly proved to have an evil spirit as their source. I divide the book into three parts:

1. Personal Encounters
2. Biblical Insights
3. Pastoral Experiences

With Scripture as our authority, I ultimately rely on the biblical languages of Hebrew and Greek for an accurate handling of the truth. As the renowned scholar Dr. Gordon D. Fee taught, “The very nature of Scripture demands that the [researcher] have some skills in investigating the historical-cultural background of the [Bible].”<sup>1</sup> Thus, I include ancient Jewish and early church writings originating during or close to the biblical times. In doing so, *I uncover what is old and teach nothing new.*

The Bible warns that the modern age will bring an *increase* in demonic activity as people “abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons” (1 Tim. 4:1 NIV). Therefore, my intent is to expose ways demons strive to infiltrate our lives and to equip believers to successfully combat them.

## **THE INITIAL ENCOUNTER THAT PROMPTED THIS**

It took 10 years before I initially shared this story. I grew up in a Christian home, and I was baptized at the age of eight. As a junior in high school, I was no longer attending church. I bused tables at a restaurant on the weekends.

My best friend, Allen Gill, had an annoying habit of asking me on Saturday nights if I would attend church with him on Sunday. I couldn’t avoid him because he was my ride home from work. I turned him down every week—until he told me, “Man, my church is where many of the high school girls go.”

I replied, “Why didn’t you tell me that earlier? Pick me up in the morning!”

1. Gordon D. Fee, *New Testament Exegesis*, rev. ed. (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1993), 114. The words in brackets are to clarify “researcher” instead of “exegete” and “Bible” instead of “NT text.” The same rules of hermeneutics apply to the Old Testament.

After several weeks of attending church, God started softly tugging at my heart. I knew God loved me, but I had no holy fear of Him—respect, yes, but fear, no. The conviction to rededicate my life to Christ became a nuisance. Instead of wooing me, God angered me.

## **MY HELLFIRE EXPERIENCE**

One Saturday afternoon before heading to work, I decided it was high time to call a meeting with God. I walked swiftly into my bedroom, shut the door, pointed my hand in a commanding way toward heaven, and told God, “Here’s the deal!” And I went on to tell Him that if He wanted my soul, I was willing to give up particular sins of no interest to me, but “I reserve the right to ‘chase girls.’” Then I rushed out of the room, slammed the door behind me, and left God in my room to think about it.

I came home from work around 11 p.m., took a shower, arranged my clothes for church, then climbed into bed. Around 3 a.m. that Sunday, God answered me in a supernatural vision. In the vision, I was having sex with a beautiful girl. Then all of a sudden, the girl disappeared, the bed disappeared, the entire floor opened up like a trapdoor, and I fell into a lake of fire. I was awakened by my tormented screams.

God’s reply was dramatic and clear—“No deal!”

The next morning, Allen came to pick me up for church. When he walked into my bedroom, he was speechless as he watched me shoving pornographic magazines along with numerous letters and pictures from high school girls into a huge black trash bag. He reached for one of the magazines, and I slapped his hand, snatched it from him, and shoved it

back into the trash bag. As we walked to his car, I dropped the double-tied trash bag at the curb for Monday's garbage pickup, and we were silent the whole drive to church. I didn't dare tell Allen about the vision, but he knew something had happened to me.

## HOW FEAR AND LOVE ARE RELATED

King Solomon instructs, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge" (Prov. 1:7). Jesus teaches, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matt. 22:37 NIV).<sup>2</sup> The Apostle Paul commands believers to "continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12 NIV). The Apostle John teaches, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18a NASB). So which one is it, love or fear? It's both. The Bible declares, "Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in his kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off" (Rom. 11:22 NLT).

Regarding 1 John 4:18a, the Apostle John is discussing Christian assurance. He finishes the verse with "fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love" (4:18b NASB). For clarity, he states earlier in the same book, "Whoever keeps [God's] word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected"<sup>3</sup> (1 John 2:5 NASB). Jesus Himself con-

2. Jesus also taught, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10:28 NKJV).

3. Greek: τέλειος (*teleios*), "mature, complete, fulfilled, or perfect," per Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian*

firms this when He insists, “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15 NKJV). In other words, the Apostle John assures believers that if they have perfected their love for God by living an obedient life, then they have no need to fear being punished by Him.<sup>4</sup> Putting it all together, the fear of being punished by God should lead the disobedient to repent and the obedient to *remain* repentant.<sup>5</sup>

As for me, I experienced that fearful vision because I was on the wrong side of God. Yet He loved me enough to give me a wake-up call. Again, I always knew God loved me, but I did not reciprocate that love until I comprehended the Gospel—that God the Father hates sin so much He sent His Son to die in the place of sinners to satisfy His own wrath, and it was His love for humanity that motivated Him to do so (Rom. 5:6–11).

## **NOT ALL SINS ARE THE SAME**

I didn’t realize I was doing anything really wrong compared to everyone else. Well, I knew premarital sex was a sin, but aren’t all sins the same? After that terrifying vision, I started reading my Bible for the first time. It all made sense when I came across these three Scriptures:

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*Literature*, ed. Frederick W. Danker, 3rd ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), entry 6336; hereafter DANK.

4. Additionally, this view is confirmed by the Apostle John stating earlier that obedience is evidence of “how we know we are [abiding] in him” (1 John 2:5 NIV), combined with the emphasis in 1 John 4:17 on abiding in God as evidence of “how love is made complete [perfect] among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment” (NIV).

5. Greek: μετανοέω (*metanoēō*), “have a serious change of mind and heart about a previous point of view or course of behavior” (DANK, 4210). It’s a compound verb from *meta* (change) and *noeō* (thinking).

1. “Do not be deceived! Neither sexually immoral people, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor passive homosexual partners,<sup>6</sup> nor dominant homosexual partners,<sup>7</sup> nor thieves, nor greedy persons, not drunkards, not [verbally] abusive persons,<sup>8</sup> not swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Cor. 6:9–10 LEB).
2. “The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:19–21 NIV).
3. “But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death” (Rev. 21:8 NIV).

Why does the Bible warn us, “Do not be deceived” (1 Cor. 6:9)? It’s because many people are deceived into thinking they can make a lifestyle of these sins and still go to heaven. Galatians 5:21 even adds the phrase “and the like” (NIV) to cover other behaviors from which people must repent.

6. Greek: μαλακός (*malakos*), the effeminate participant in same-sex intercourse (DANK, 4071).

7. Greek: ἀρσενοκοίτης (*arsenokoitēs*), the dominant participant in same-sex intercourse (DANK, 931).

8. Greek: λοιδορός (*loidoros*), “one who abuses another with speech,” per Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon to the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000), entry 17453; hereafter Friberg.

The forbidden behaviors in the scriptural lists above are known as “Second Death Sins.”<sup>9</sup> This category is derived by combining the Apostle John’s teachings where he refers to:

1. Sins leading to death versus sins not leading to death (1 John 5:16–17); and
2. Sins leading to the “second death” (Rev. 21:8).

Also, Jesus declared that Judas was “guilty of a greater sin” (John 19:11 NIV), further validating there are lesser sins too.

Now take another glance at the New Testament lists of Second Death Sins. Notice that idolatry and sexual immorality are the only two sins repeated. This is because they’re inextricably linked throughout the Bible. The Old Testament records them as two major sins that pollute the land (Lev. 18:24–27; Jer. 3:1–2, 9).<sup>10</sup> Many practices of idolatry included ritual sex (1 Kings 14:24; 2 Kings 23:7; Hosea 4:14). Additionally, the Greek construction of Colossians 3:5 defines all sexual sins—including acts of defilement, lust, evil desire, and

9. Some Christian traditions use the term *mortal sins*, meaning “deadly sins.”

10. Dr. Jeffrey J. Niehaus notes the Old Testament teaches that the land is polluted by three main sins—idolatry, sexual immorality, and murder. (See his *Biblical Theology*, vol. 1 [Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014], 213–14.) Regarding murder, Moses teaches, “Bloodshed pollutes the land” (Num. 35:33 NIV). Likewise, when Cain killed Abel, his younger brother, God declared, “The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground” (Gen. 4:10).

Although two of the New Testament lists on Second Death Sins written by the Apostle Paul do not include “murder” (1 Cor. 6:9–10; Gal. 5:19–21), that sin can be implied by (1) his phrase “and the like” (Gal. 5:21 NIV); and (2) the New Testament’s allusions to these Old Testament prohibitions.

Moreover, Dr. Niehaus adds, “If we consider that the three major categories of sin connected with pollution of the land/world are sexual sins, idolatry, and murder, we see that the eschatological indictment that ‘the earth lies polluted under its inhabitants’ is foreshadowed and has indeed been earned by every society that has ever existed after the Fall” (214).



insatiability—as idolatry. Moreover, Romans 1:18–32 traces how a society devolves from idol worship to full-blown sexual deviancy.

As an additional insight, God consistently refers to believers as His bride.<sup>11</sup> This is why He metaphorically equates idolatry to adultery.<sup>12</sup> Building on that fact, 1 John 5:18–20 uses specific Greek verbs to describe unbelievers “reclining with”<sup>13</sup> and being “touched by”<sup>14</sup> the evil one, painting a disturbing picture of their “sexual” relationship.<sup>15</sup> Coincidentally, verse 21 abruptly ends the letter commanding believers to “keep yourselves from idols.”

May God forbid that anyone be confused about sexual sins—like I was—because our eternity is at stake. For our well-being, the New Testament provides once-and-for-all clarity on the subject of sexuality. Remember, Jesus entrusted the Apostles with the writing of the New Testament.<sup>16</sup> So the Apostles are the ones who safeguarded the Gospel (Gal.

11. Isa. 54:5–6; Hosea 2:16–20; Eph. 5:25–27; Rev. 19:7–8.

12. Ps. 106:37–39; Isa. 57:7–9; Jer. 3:9; Ezek. 23:37.

13. Greek: *κεῖμαι* (*keimai*), to lie down or be in a set or relaxed position (DANK, 3632).

14. Greek: *ἅπτω* (*haptō*), to touch or to have sexual relations (1 Cor. 7:1) (DANK, 861).

15. See my expanded analysis in chap. 6, “15 Points of Clarity about Expelling Demons,” point 15. Also, notice how the Bible applies the imagery of forbidden human sexuality to believers (God’s bride) worshiping idols:

a. “Why . . . fondle the breasts of a promiscuous woman?” (Prov. 5:20 NLT).

b. “[Samaria and Jerusalem] became prostitutes in Egypt. Even as young girls, they allowed men to fondle their breasts. . . . I married them, and they bore me sons and daughters. Then [Samaria] lusted after other lovers instead of me . . . so she prostituted herself with the most desirable men of Assyria, worshiping their idols and defiling herself. . . . Yet even though [Jerusalem] saw what had happened to [Samaria], her sister, she followed right in her footsteps . . . defiling herself just like her older sister” (Ezek. 23:3–5, 7, 11, 13 NLT).

16. Matt. 28:19–20; John 21:24–25; 2 Pet. 3:15–16.

1:8–9), established the church (Eph. 2:19–20), and developed the rules for Christian living (Acts 2:42). In Acts 15, all the Apostles meet in Jerusalem to hold a council to determine which Old Testament commandments are still required for New Covenant believers. They unanimously agree:

The Holy Spirit has led us to the decision that no burden [besides the teachings of Christ] should be placed on you other than these essentials: refuse food offered to idols, [forbidden matters related to] blood, the meat from strangled animals, and *sexual immorality*. You will do well to *avoid such things*. (Acts 15:28–29 CEB, brackets added for full clarity)

This means Christians must obey all Old Testament commandments related to sexuality, which include avoiding adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, and incest (Lev. 18:1–30; 20:10–23). In short, no one is allowed to have sex except for a married, monogamous, heterosexual couple (Gen. 2:21–24; Matt. 19:3–6; 1 Cor. 7:2).

## **THE DARKNESS SURFACED AFTER I SAW THE LIGHT**

At first I didn't know I was in spiritual darkness—until I had a terrifying vision that led me to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. After that, a dark presence started visiting my bedroom in the middle of the night. I also started experiencing sleep paralysis and being startled out of my sleep by an invisible hand around my throat.

However, who could I tell? My church never taught about these issues. Others led me to believe evil spirits can't bother a Christian in these ways.

When I later entered full-time ministry as a military chaplain, people from every background and walk of life came to me for pastoral care. Periodically, while in the privacy of a counseling session as I was aiding a person through an unresolved issue, a demonic personality would shockingly surface in them. Eventually, I shook off my uncomfortableness with the subject of spiritual warfare and started teaching on it. To my surprise, I met people from teenagers to senior citizens and from junior employees to senior leaders who had similar encounters with demons. This less-spoken-of reality prompted me to write about it.

### **WHY WE SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

If Christians are exempt from Satan's attacks, why does the Apostle Paul warn us on three separate occasions to put on the full armor of God (Rom. 13:12; Eph. 6:11, 13; 1 Thess. 5:8)? Also, if Jesus has all power, why should we be concerned about spiritual warfare? Here are five more reasons we must prepare to engage in spiritual battles:

1. Satan is defeated but not yet destroyed (Rev. 20:10).
2. Satan and his demons wage war against us (Eph. 6:12).
3. Jesus commands us to pray daily for protection from the evil one (Matt. 6:13).
4. God directs us to know Satan's tactics to avoid being exploited by him (2 Cor. 2:11).
5. God orders us to remain alert against demonic attacks (1 Pet. 5:8).

Regarding the spiritual armor, there are six components (Eph. 6:14–17). Two enable preparation (*belt* of truth and *footwear* of peace), and three offer protection (*breastplate* of righteousness, *shield* of faith, *helmet* of salvation). However, only one is a weapon (the *sword* of God’s Word). This sword is *not* the long one you typically see warriors dueling with in historical movies. The Greek identifies it as a dagger used in hand-to-hand combat.<sup>17</sup>

The dagger metaphor introduces some fascinating theology. We are reminded our battle with the evil one will be up close and personal. It also implies that even a “little” knowledge of the Bible is an effective weapon against the enemy. For example, Jesus replied to Satan’s three temptations with a stab each time using short quotes of Scripture (Matt. 4:1–11).

## **SATAN INTRODUCED THE DARKNESS**

How did humanity fall into the predicament of spiritual darkness? The book of Genesis tells us Adam and Eve were clueless about evil before they disobeyed God. When the devil tempted them, Adam and Eve ate from the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.” Immediately after they ate that forbidden fruit, the whole world became shrouded in spiritual darkness.

God’s kind footsteps were replaced with thunderclaps and His peaceful presence with a foreboding storm.<sup>18</sup> *The*

17. Greek: μάχαιρα (*machaira*), a small sword or dagger; a weapon for close combat; also a large knife for killing and cutting up an animal (Friberg, 17892).

18. Jeffrey J. Niehaus, “In the Wind of the Storm: Another Look at Genesis III 8,” *Vetus Testamentum* 44, no. 2 (1994): 263–67. The traditional and incorrect translation has they “heard the sound of the LORD walking in the cool of the day.”

*Dictionary of Classical Hebrew* accepts the correct translation of Genesis 3:8 as “[Adam and Eve] heard the thunder of Yahweh God as he was going back and forth in the garden in the wind of the storm.”<sup>19</sup> The theological picture is that God took an adversarial stance against Adam and Eve after they disobeyed Him.

We are spiritual beings who live in a physical body. God is the source of spiritual life. Separation from God causes spiritual death. Thus, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, He separated them from His presence, resulting in an instant spiritual death and a countdown to physical death. Since then, all humans are born genetically predisposed to disobey God. We stumble around in spiritual darkness, unsure of where we’re going, hurting ourselves and others along the way, and many times walking past those in pain all around us.<sup>20</sup>

## **JESUS DISPELLED THE DARKNESS**

Before God banished Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden, He promised to send His Son, Jesus, to crush the head of the devil by atoning for the sins of the world.<sup>21</sup>

Until the promised arrival of Jesus, God chose to selectively reveal Himself. He enacted a plan to redeem the world by creating the nation of Israel from the lineage of Abraham.<sup>22</sup> He freed them from Egyptian slavery, brought them to Mount Sinai, and gave them a new set of commandments. Yet He hid His presence in a thunderstorm, as with Adam

19. David J. A. Clines, ed., *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*, vol. 4 (Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998), 185.

20. Eccles. 7:29; 12:13; Mic. 6:8; Rom. 3:23; 5:12; 6:23.

21. Gen. 3:15; Rom. 5:8; 10:9; 16:20; Col. 2:15.

22. Gen. 17:5; Exod. 32:13; Rom. 4:13.

and Eve.<sup>23</sup> Those who obeyed God were called “the children of light” and assigned to be a ray of hope to the rest of the nations walking in darkness.<sup>24</sup>

Although God chose to dwell among the nation of Israel, He still restricted His presence to a 15-by-15-foot section of a tent—the tabernacle. When they eventually moved worship into the temple, the size of the section doubled to 30 by 30 feet.<sup>25</sup> This small room was the only flicker of true light in a vast world shrouded in spiritual darkness. Moreover, this most holy space could be entered only once a year by one person—the high priest (Heb. 9:6–7).

Centuries later, Jesus, the Light of the World (John 8:12; 9:5; Rev. 22:5), came to dispel the darkness. The moment He atoned for our sins by His death on the cross, history records that the curtain in the temple restricting access to the most holy place was torn in two from top to bottom (Matt. 27:51). Now all who submit to His Lordship can go right into the presence of God.<sup>26</sup>

## **THE CHURCH CONFRONTS THE DARKNESS**

Jesus successfully contended with the army of darkness. “He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross” (Col. 2:15 NLT). Afterward, He ascended back to heaven and will return on the last day.<sup>27</sup> In the meantime, He empowers the

23. Exod. 12:51; 19:17–19; 20:18.

24. See Isa. 49:6 and Qumran Scrolls sections I and III, from Millar Burrows, *The Dead Sea Scrolls* (New York: Viking Press, 1956), 390–92.

25. Exod. 26:16; 40:34–38; 2 Chron. 3:8.

26. Rom. 5:12–21; 10:9–10; Heb. 2:14; 10:22.

27. Acts 1:9–11; 1 Thess. 4:15–17; Heb. 4:14; Rev. 19:11–21; 20:7–15.

“children of light”<sup>28</sup> to advance His kingdom by sharing the Gospel of truth (Eph. 1:13) and freeing all others trapped in the realm of darkness.<sup>29</sup>

Satan still blinds the eyes of those in desperate need of the light of the Gospel (2 Cor. 4:4).<sup>30</sup> As we strive to reach them, the Apostle Paul warns that we’ll inevitably engage in spiritual battle—subtly or overtly:

We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ. (2 Cor. 10:4–5 NLT)

We’re reminded that the battlefield is the mind. Deception remains Satan’s number one tactic, since he’s the “father of lies” (John 8:44). Therefore, most of our spiritual battles will be truth encounters. Here’s one:

- LIE: “They sold their souls to the devil.”
- TRUTH: God claims, “All souls are mine” (Ezek. 18:4)—even Satan’s soul (Rev. 20:10).

True freedom can be obtained only by submitting to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. This is why He Himself declares,

28. Eph. 5:8; 1 Thess. 5:5. See other references to “light” (Matt. 5:14; Col. 1:12; 1 Pet. 2:9). See also Acts 11:26 for the first time Jesus’s followers are called “Christians.”

29. Matt. 28:18–20; Col. 1:13.

30. Ezek. 18:32; Acts 17:26–28; Rom. 10:14–17; Eph. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:9. Also, *Gospel* means “good news,” consisting of Jesus dying for our sins (Good Friday) and rising from the dead three days later (Easter Sunday) (see 1 Cor. 15:3–4).

“the truth will set you free” and “I am . . . the truth” (John 8:32; 14:6).

In conclusion, as the title *When Demons Surface* implies, occasions will arise requiring us to exercise our authority in Christ by confronting evil spirits. But do not fear, because Jesus promises, “I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you” (Luke 10:19 NIV). So, with confidence, let us dispel the darkness with the light of Christ!<sup>31</sup>

31. 2 Cor. 4:4–6; 2 Tim. 1:10.