

Spiritual Things

Antichrist on Display

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **January 22, 2022**



We've been working on a series about spiritual things, more specifically about the spirit of antichrist, which is on full display these days. We need to understand that we do not want to confuse spiritual activity with holiness because, as we move forward, there will be increasing deception wrapped in religious language within religious activities presented in religious buildings by people with religious pedigrees. The best determination of spiritual maturity is not spiritual activity, but the fruit of the Spirit of God. If we choose to cooperate with the Spirit of God in our lives and put our carnal nature to death, the fruit of the Spirit will be made evident in our lives. We cannot use ignorance about spiritual things as an excuse.

1 Corinthians 12:1 *Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.*

I. ANTICHRIST, ON DISPLAY

1 John 4:3 *This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.*

A. The Assignment

Matthew 5:11–14

¹¹ *“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.”*

Ephesians 6:10–13

¹⁰ *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² 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. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, **so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.***

1. **Where are you seeing a reflection of the spirit of antichrist in the world today?**
2. **How do you identify spiritual attacks in your life? How do you respond and take authority over them?**
3. **Take time to discuss the full armor of God from Ephesians 6. Which are the easiest for you to “put on?” Which are the most difficult?**

B. For Example

Acts 13:6–12

⁶ *They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, ⁷ who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. ⁸ **But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith.** ⁹ Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, ¹⁰ **“You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?***

¹¹ *Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun.” Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. ¹² When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.*

Luke 10:17–20

¹⁷ *The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.” ¹⁸ He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. ²⁰ However, **do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”***

Acts 16:16–40 Paul and Silas in Prison

¹⁶ Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by **a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future**. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” ¹⁸ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her.

¹⁹ When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. ²⁰ They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar ²¹ by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.” ²² The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. ²³ After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴ Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose.

²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!” ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

1 Peter 1:6–7

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

³⁵ When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: “Release those men.” ³⁶ The jailer told Paul, “The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace.” ³⁷ But Paul said to the officers: “They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out.” ³⁸ The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed. ³⁹ They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city. ⁴⁰ After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia’s house, where they met with the brothers and encouraged them. Then they left.

4. When was a time in your life something happened that could only be explained by supernatural intervention? How did the Lord use that situation in your life?
5. Who are some people in your sphere of influence that you can extend the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

PRAYER: Acts 4:27–31 (NIV84[®], emphasis added)

²⁷ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹ **Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.** ³⁰ **Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.** ³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.