**The Demons and Spiritual Warfare**

**Lutherans in the Mountains**

YMCA Estes Park Center

October 18-19,

**Session 1: The New Testament Teaching on Demons**

1. **The Hidden Battle**

* Four cases
* Child with haunted bedroom
* Young convert: hell breaking loose after baptism
* Middle aged man: addiction to pornography
* Doctor’s haunted surgery: place for abortions
* Resurgence of the occult
* Apostasy in last 50 years
* Sexual revolution and drug taking: breaking down of outer walls
* Spiritual naivety: spiritual = good
* Fascination with occult
  + - Battle between good and evil: Lord of the Rings
    - Spiritual power: Harry Potter
* Embarrassment of church about the devil and demons
* Common confusion: psychological with spiritual things
* Challenge to deal with spiritual things spiritually
* The vision of cosmic war in Rev 12:1-17
* Vision
  + - Pregnant woman: sun, moon and 12 stars
    - Red dragon: eat new born baby
    - Birth of male child: ruler of nations
    - Snatching up of child: God and his throne
    - Escape of woman to safe place in desert
    - Eviction of dragon from heaven: Michael and angels
    - Attack of woman by dragon
    - Gift of wings to the woman
    - Attack on woman’s children
* Meaning of vision in 12:7-13, 17

***And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.***

***Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:***

***“Now have come the victory and power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.***

***Therefore rejoice, you heavens, and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”***

***When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child...The dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring – those who keep God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus****.*

* Woman: Mary and the church
* Dragon: Satan
* Male child: Jesus
* Woman’s offspring: Christians
* Spiritual warfare
  + - Victory: Christ with Michael and the angels
    - Eviction of Satan from heavenly realm
    - Present battlefield: planet earth
    - Enemy: devil and angels
    - Attack: faithful believers who keep God’s commandments
    - Tactic: accusation of Christians
    - Goal: condemnation and destruction of faith
  + Weapons: blood of Christ and confession of faith.
* The hidden battle in the church: Mark 1:21-28
* Revelation of Jesus = revelation of Satan: hidden in the OT
* Presence of the Holy One of God: allusion to his anointing by the Holy Spirit (1:10)
* Holy time and holy place: synagogue on Sabbath
* Hidden work of the devil and his agents
* The involvement of Christ’s disciples in an unseen conflict
  + - * Holy Spirit v Satan
      * Son of God v unclean spirits
      * Jesus v opponents
* Attraction of unclean spirits to Jesus and the church
* Disclosure of evil spirits by teaching of Jesus
* Recognition of Jesus as God's Son by the evil spirits (see Matt 8:29; Mark 3:11; 5:7; Luke 4:41; Acts 16:17)
* Casting out by a word with authority

1. **The ministry of deliverance from demons by Jesus**

* Integral part of his ministry
* Five stories of deliverance
* Man on Sabbath in the synagogue at Capernaum (Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37)
* Man with a legion of demons in Gerasa (Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39)
* Epileptic son (Matt 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-29)
* Daughter of Phoenician woman (Matt 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30)
* Woman with disabling spirit on the Sabbath in a synagogue (Luke 13:10-17)
* Significant features of these five stories
* No common symptoms
* Defiant speech against Jesus (Mark 1:27; Luke 4:34)
* Speechlessness (Mark 9:32; Luke 11:14)
* Speechlessness with fits (Mark 9:17-18)
* Blindness and speechlessness (Matt 12:22)
* Crippled back (Luke 13:11)
* Violence and self-harm (Mark 5:3-6)
* No single procedure
* Emphasis on the word and teaching with authority
* Attraction to Jesus and recognition of him as the holy Son of God (Mark 1:24; 5:7; cf. 3:11)
* Liturgical context of three cases
* Sabbath: holy time
* Synagogue: holy place
* Two ‘unclean’ locations in pagan territory
* Connection between impurity from idolatry
* Tyre and Gerasa
* The role of prayer in three cases
* Father bringing his son to Jesus with teaching in Mark 9:29: **This kind can come out only by prayer**.
* Intercession by Phoenician woman
* Approach of Jesus by Gerasene demoniac
* Names
* ‘Spirits’ (eg. Matt 8:16), ‘evil spirits’ (eg. Mark 9:25), ‘unclean spirits’ (eg. Mark 1:26)
* Demons (eg. Matt 7:22), ‘unclean demons’ (eg. Luke 4:3 3),
* Terms for their hold on people
* A person with a spirit (Mark 1:23)
* Having a spirit (Mark 3:30; Luke 4:33; 7:26; Acts 8:7; 16:16)
* Having a demon (Matt 11:18; Luke 4:23; 7:3)
* Being demonized (Matt 4:24; 8:16,28,33; 9:32; 12:22; 15:22; Mark 1:32; 5:15-16; Luke 8:35)
* Being troubled/vexed by a demon: Luke 6:18; Acts 5:16
* Distinction in the New Testament of demonisation from other forms of physical and mental sickness (e.g. Matt 4:24)
* Possession of occult powers by demonized people, such as clairvoyance (e.g. Acts 16:16-18) and the ability to perform miracles (Rev 16:13-14; cf. Matt 7:22; Mark 13:22; 2 Thess. 2:9-10).
* The use by Jesus of his performative word to cast out demons
* Summary in Matt 8:16: **When evening came, many who were demonised were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.**
* Reaction of the people to case in Capernaum
* Mark 1:27: **What is this! A new teaching - and with authority! He rebukes the unclean spirits and they listen to him.**
* Luke 4:32: **They were amazed at his teaching, for his word was with authority.**
* Luke 4:36: **What is this word, for with authority and power he rebukes the unclean spirits and they come out.**
* Verbs used to describe these performative words
* Rebuke/ silence by putting back into place = *epitassein* (Mark 1:22// Luke 4:35; Mark 1:27; Mark 9:25// Matt 17:18//Luke 9:42)
* T*axis* = order
* *Tassein* = put into an order, assign the right place, give a command to take the right place
* *Epitassein* = put back into place, command to go back into place
* Luther in LW 40:147: **the devil, the enemy of God’s order.**
* *Charge*: Luke 8:29; Acts 16:18
* Words and phrases used by Jesus and Paul to cast out demons
* ***Depart*** (Matt 8:32; see also 4:10; 16:23).
* ***Be silent, and come out of him*** (Mark 1:22//Luke 4:35)***.***
* **Come out of this man, you unclean spirit** (Mark 5:8).
* ***The demon has gone out from your daughter* (**Mark 7:29).
* ***You dumb and deaf spirit, I myself rebuke you! Come from him and never enter again***(Mark 9:25)
* ***You are free from your infirmity* (**Luke 13:12)***.***
* ***I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her* (**Acts 16: 18)***.***
* Connection between casting out demons and preaching as two sides to the same coin (Mark 1:39; 3:14; 6:12-13; cf. Matt 10:7-8; Luke 9:1-2)
* Connection between casting out demons and healing (Matt 4:24; 8:16-17; 10:1; Luke 6:17-18; 7:21; 8:2; 9:1)
* Reliance on the Holy Spirit by Jesus to cast out demons with the coming of God’s kingdom: Matt 12:28
* Connection between God’s Word and His Spirit
* Ministry of deliverance by the Word with the Spirit
* Ministry of deliverance in every performance of the divine service

**Session 2. The Ministry of Deliverance**

1. **The Call and Authority as Pastors and Christians in the Spiritual Battle**
   * The authority and power of Jesus over demons (Matt 12:28; Mark 1:27; Luke 4:36)
   * His commission of the apostles with his own authority and power to work with him in casting out demons (Matt 10:1; Mark 3:15; 6:7; Luke 9:1)

* Association with preaching (Mark 1:39; 3:15; Luke 9:2)
* Connection with healing (Matt 10:1; Mark 1:32-34; Luke 9:1-2)
* His gift of authority to the 70 evangelists to trample down demons and

to overcome all the power of the enemy Satan (Luke 10:19)

* Ministry of deliverance in the early church: see the promise in Mark 16:17: ***In my name they (believers) will cast out demons***.
* Healing by Peter from unclean spirits in Jerusalem (Acts 5:16)
* Expulsion of unclean spirits by Philip in Samaria (Acts 8:4-8)
* Expulsion of spirit of divination by Paul in Philippi (Acts 16:16-

18)

* Healing from evil spirits by Paul in Ephesus (Acts 19:11-20)
* The authority given with the office of the keys in Matt 16:18-19
* Binding Satan and the demons (Matt 12:29)
* Loosing from them (Luke 13:16; see also Mark 7:35)
* Our protection by God’s promises (Luke 10:19; Rom 8:37-40; 1 John

4:4; 5:18)

**b. The Strategy of the Devil**

* His disguise as an angel of light (2 Cor 11:12)
* Luther: the angelic doctor, the super-theologian
* Misuse of God’s Word
* His name and titles
* ***Satan***: the ***adversary*** (1 Pet 5:8) and***accuser*** of God’s people (Rev 12:10)
* ***The devil*** who slanders God and us
* ***The evil one*** who perverts God’s good order
* ***The enemy*** who hates those who belong to God
* ***The liar*** who deceives the whole world (John 8: 44; Rev 11:9)

by misapplying God’s word: law to condemn believers and gospel to justify sin

* ***The murderer* (**John 8:44) who enslaves people by the fear of

death (Heb 2:14-15)

* ***The tempter***
* The temptation to sin as the initial attack: ourselves against others or others against us
* The second attack: accusation and condemnation of believers
* Front door: destruction of faith in Jesus by condemnation for sin
* Back door: destruction of love for fellow Christians by condemnation of them for abuse
* Vulnerability from violation of the Ten Commandments by sinning or being sinned against (abuse)
* Goal of these attacks: three kinds of servitude as taught by some medieval theologians
* Obsession: addiction to something evil such as pornography or drugs
* Oppression: sense of moral helplessness or spiritual paralysis
* Possession: domination/occupation of a person’s body or mind by an evil spirit
* Demonisation in seven main ways
* Involvement with occult and satanic activities, such as divination, magic, and spiritism
* Acts of sacrilege and defilement, such as abuse of holy things and ritual sexual intercourse
* Idol worship
* Ritual self-commitment to Satan
* Sins of violence, such as abortion, rape, and homosexuality
* Abuse from another spiritually, parentally, physically, sexually abuse and emotionally
* The use of hallucinogenic drugs

1. **The Ministry of Deliverance**

* The exposure of darkness by the light
* The rat principle
* Two approaches to rats in compost heap
* Trapping/poisoning
* Removal of garbage
  + - Connection between sin and impurity
    - Digging up of ‘dirt’ by Satan to destroy faith and love
    - Disclosure of spiritual problems by the attack
    - Deliverance from darkness by removal of impurity
    - Christ as the garbage collector
* Abolition of darkness by light by Christ in Eph 5:2, 8, 10-13: ***But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints...for once you were darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light...Have nothing to do with the fruitless works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible,* *for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,***

***Awake, o sleeper, and arise from the dead,***

***and Christ will shine on you.”***

* Christ as life-giving light
* Fruitless works of darkness: sinful thoughts, words and

deeds

* Removal of the unclean darkness by exposure to the light
* Conviction of sin and Satan’s defeat by the Holy Spirit: see

John 16:8-10

* Awakening by the light of Christ
* Dead ghosts living in darkness ► awake people of the day
* Purpose of exposure
* Confession of sin or abuse
* Renunciation of the devil and all his works and ways
* Absolution or proclamation of deliverance
* Broken fence from sin: three walls
* Just order of government
* Moral order of family
* Spiritual order of church
* Four main areas: Ten Commandments as a diagnostic instrument
* First table: desecration of God’s holiness
* Sins against God: forbidden worship, idolatry,

witchcraft, misuse of God’s word

* Ritual abuse with holy things: greatest spiritual

damage

* Second table: spiritual impurity
* Sins against others: rebellion, abortion, adultery, stealing, slander
* Abuse by others: parental, physical, sexual,

proprietary, verbal

* Teaching in 1 John 1:9: ***If we confess our sins, he who is faithful***

***and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all injustice.***

* Forgiveness of sins as release from Satan
* Satan’s use of abuse and its defilement
* Cleansing from anger and shame at abuse and hurt as

release from Satan

* Deliverance by God the Father through Christ in Col 1:13-14: ***He***

***has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred***

***us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have***

***redemption, the forgiveness (release/remission) of sins.***

**Session 3. Our Holy Weapons in the Ministry of Deliverance**

* Dependence on our God-given spiritual resources rather than our knowledge and expertise: working in the dark
* See 2 Cor 10:3-4: ***Though we live in the world we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.*** ***We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of Christ, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.***
* Divine weapons: God’s word and prayer in the name of Jesus
* ***Strongholds***: inner mental fortresses that are built to oppose Christ and his word
* Fortresses made from self-justifying ***arguments*** and self-promoting ***pretensions*** about ourselves as our own gods
* Irony: fortress against Christ = spiritual prison run by the devil
* Strongholds as human ways of thinking and acting rather than geographical locations
* Goal: demolition of strongholds that stop people from knowing and obeying Christ
* The armor of light in Rom 13:12-14: ***The night is nearly over; the day is***

***almost here.* *So put aside the works of darkness* *and put on the armor of light…Clothe yourselves in the Lord Jesus Christ…***

* Gift of armor supplied in baptism and put on each day for the battle
* The vestments of the high priest as spiritual armor: task of sentry duty to prevent the desecration of God’s holiness (Lev 8:35; 22:9; Num 18:3-5)
* See the short list in 1 Thess 5:8: faith and love as breastplate and hope of salvation as helmet
* See the long list in Eph 6:13-18: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of gospel, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the word used in prayer
* Dressing up as Jesus and borrowing his armor
* Protection by the light of his holiness
* Promise in 1 John 5:18: ***the evil one does not touch anyone who is born of God.***
* The name of Jesus: see the report of the 70 in Luke 10:17:  ***Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.***
* Use of the name of Jesus against Satan and evil spirits by Paul in Acts 16:18: ***I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.***
* See the curious case of its use by Jewish exorcists in Acts 19:13-16
* Reliance on Jesus as our champion by calling on him
* Use of the name of Jesus in renunciation of the devil and confession of faith, prayer and praise, confession and absolution, rebuke and blessing, proclamation of victory and declaration of deliverance
* Every baptism as an ‘exorcism’: see prayer and renunciation
* Luther: ***One little word can fell him****.*
* The Spirit-filled word
* Christ’s use of his word to banish unclean spirits in Matt 8:16:***When evening came, many who were demonised were brought to***

***Jesus, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed the sick****.*

* Operation by the Spirit with the Word
* Strength from God’s Word in us: 1 John 2:14: ***You are strong and the word of God remains in you and you have overcome the evil one.***
* Reliance on His promises such as in 1 John 5:18: ***the evil one does***

***not touch anyone who is born of God.***

* Guidance of Word in intercessory prayer: Eph 6:17: ***take the sword of***

***the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.***

* Banishing demons by preaching and teaching God’s word: Mark 3:14- 15: ***Jesus appointed twelve (whom he named apostles), so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach***

***and have authority to cast out demons.***

* Every service as a kind of “exorcism” with ministry of deliverance
* Individual and corporate prayer to God the Father in the name of Jesus
* Prayer of Jesus in John 17:11-15: ***Holy Father, protect them by the***

***power of your name – the name you gave me –so that they may be one as we are one…My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.***

* Christ’s assurance to Peter of his intercession for him in Luke 22:31- 32: ***Simon, Simon, Satan has demanded to sift all of you like***

***wheat, but I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may***

***not fail.***

* Use of *Lord’s Prayer* and prayer in the name of Jesus to join with him

in his intercession for our deliverance and protection (John 17:15)

* + - Coupling of prayer with fasting (Mark 9:29) and abstinence from

Sleep (Matt 26:41: ***watch and pray***)*.*

* + - Luther: calling in the champion when attacked
    - Working in the dark without expertise
    - Operation by the power of the Holy Spirit in prayer with God’s Word
  + Confession of faith
    - Resistance of Satan by exercise of faith: 1 Pet 5:9:***Be sober and stay***

***awake, because your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith****…*

* Resistance rather than offensive confrontation
* The faith = what we believe ► summary in the Creed
  + - Conquest by confession of faith in Jesus: Rev 12:11: ***They have***

***overcome Satan by… the word of their testimony.***

* Luther’s use of the creed in spiritual conflict
* Confession of faith in praise (Ps 149:5-9)
  + The blood of Jesus: Rev 12:11: ***They have overcome Satan by the blood***

***of the Lamb.***

* Ransom by Christ's blood (1 Pet 1:18)
* Use of the Lord's Supper for protection: words of dismissal in LSB
* Use of Christ’s body and blood: cleansing and holiness (Heb 9:14; 10:10; 13:12; 1 John 1:7)
  + My seven basic rules for ministry to people under spiritual attack
* Beware of deception
* No conversation or debate with the spirit
* Ministry under authority in station and vocation
* React to what is manifested: no personal agenda
* Listen in order to pray and pray while listening
* Rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit with God’s word
* End with blessing

**Session 4. On Sentry Duty: Guarding Holy Ground**

* Task of priests to do sentry duty at the sanctuary (Lev 8:35; 22:9; Num 18:3-5)
* Danger from defilement
* Prevention of desecration
* The call to sentry duty in Ephesians 6:10-20:

***Finally, be made strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.***

***Put on the full armor of God so that you may have the strength to stand against the devil’s schemes,***

***For our battle 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.***

*Therefore take the full armor of God, so that when the evil day comes, you may have the strength to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.*

***Stand then, having buckled the belt of truth around your waist, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having fitted your feet with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace, and, in addition to all this, having taken the shield of faith, with which you have the strength to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one;***

***and receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit with all kinds of prayers and requests, and staying awake for this with all persistence in requests for all the saints and on behalf of me, so that a word may be given with the opening of my mouth, to make the mystery of the gospel known with boldness….***

* + Assumptions
* No need to seek out the enemy
* Enemy seeks us out: attraction to the light
* Generation of demonic power from the desecration of what is holy
  + Christians as soldiers on sentry duty rather than spiritual crusaders against the powers of darkness
  + Guard duty for holy territory conquered by Christ
  + Only enemies: the devil and powers of darkness
  + Two tasks
    - Standing guard at our allotted post
    - Staying awake to watch for attack
  + Night vigil: vulnerability during the witching hours
  + Use of Christ’s priestly armor and power
  + Sentry duty by prayer for the saints
* Calling out the champion to defeat attack
* Standing in the breach (Ps 106:23; Ezek 13:5; 20:30)
* Protecting with the blood of Christ
* Pleading for mercy for sinners
* Prayer for fellow pastors and missionaries: opening for gospel
* Prayer for those placed in your care
  + Task of pastor in Heb 13:17-18: *Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch on behalf of your souls, as men who have to give account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to act honourably in all things.*
  + Pastors as intercessors rather than spiritual watch dogs
  + Reason for author’s request for prayer
  + Praying for members: those under attack
  + Use of God’s Spirit-filled word in prayer as only offensive weapon
* Guidance by word and Spirit
* Knowledge on need to minister basis
* Praying the Word: claiming what is promised
* Praying in the Spirit against Satan
  + Watching out for attacks of your spiritual support system
  + Devotional life
  + Marriage
  + Children and grandchildren
  + Wider family
  + Leaders of congregation
  + Presidents
  + Exercising spiritual headship by prayer
    - Husband ►wife
    - Father ► children and grandchildren
    - Pastor ►members of congregation
    - Luther’s morning and evening blessings for daily protection and sanctification
* Invocation with sign of the cross: self-blessing
* Recollection of baptism with the holy name on the body
* Work and sleep done in the name of the triune God
* Sign of the cross: redemption by Christ and belonging to him
* Protection by the holy name that makes and keeps us holy
* Apostles Creed: reaffirmation of baptism with the shield of faith
* Confession of our most holy faith in one God
* Close connection with the baptismal renunciation
* Confession of faith as our shield
* Lord's Prayer as Christ’s prayer
* Praying with Jesus who prays for our protection
* All petitions prayed against the devil
* Undoing of his works in first six petitions
* Deliverance from the evil one in last petition
* Luther’s Morning Prayer
* Thanksgiving for protection during night and petition for

protection from the devil and all evil during the day

* Commendation of body, soul, and belongings to the Father’s holy protection
* Petition for guardian angel as our holy body guard based on Ps 34:7 and 91:11-12
* Luther’s Evening Prayer
* Thanksgiving for gracious protection during the day and petitions for forgiveness and protection during the night
* Petition for guardian angel as a night watchman
* Singing a hymn or another devotional exercise such as reading a passage from the Bible and meditating on it (morning only)
* Purpose of morning and evening prayers
* Daily reception and transmission of God’s blessings
* Protection from spiritual attack by day as we work with God and by night as we rest with him
* Daily sanctification of day or night, work or rest, body and life
* Priestly service in the world by our work and our prayers
  + - Satan’s main goal is to stop us meditating on God’s word and praying
* Goal: spiritual disempowerment by reliance on our own resources
* Reason in 1 Tim 4:5: ***everything is sanctified by the word of God and prayer*.**
* Counterproductive effort: driven to Word and prayer as only resort in the heat of the battle
  + - Saying from Abba Agathon: ***The brothers also asked him, 'Amongst all good works, which is the virtue which requires the greatest effort?' He answered, 'Forgive me, but I think there is no labor greater than that of prayer to God. For every time a man wants to pray, his enemies, the demons, want to prevent him, for they know that it is only by turning him from prayer that they can hinder his journey. Whatever good work a man undertakes, if he perseveres in it he will attain rest. But prayer is warfare to the last breath.***
    - Conclusion: five sayings of Luther
* ***The devil is the best teacher of theology.***
* ***When the Devil harasses us, then we know ourselves to be in good shape!***
* ***The devil is the comforter of the faithful***
* ***No man should be alone when he opposes Satan. The church and the ministry of the Word were instituted for this purpose, that hands may be joined together and help each other. If the prayer of one doesn’t help, then prayer of another will.***
* ***The worst temptation is no temptation.***