

Are you fighting internal battles that seem to be getting the best of you? Have you ever felt like you were under attack? Have you ever felt like all hell was breaking loose in your life?

In Luke 4:31-37, the demonic spirit within a demon-possessed man began to cry out, "Leave us alone!" Satan would rather the church just leave him alone.

The less you understand of Satan's domain, the more he will be able to operate under the cover of _____.

In Acts 16:16, the Bible says that there was a woman who was going around harassing Paul and Silas and she had the demonic "spirit of python" (lit. in the Greek). In Genesis, Satan masquerades himself in the form of a serpent. A snake / serpent is a picture of how Satan wants to operate in our lives. A python doesn't kill with its bite or with its venom. It kills by wrapping itself around the victim and squeezing slowly and tightly. A python is after one thing – *breath*.

I. _____ WHEN YOU ARE UNDER A _____

People today know when they are having a heart attack because they have been educated as to the warning signs. I think a lot of time Christians are blindsided by spiritual attacks because they do not know the warning signs to look for. Jentezen Franklin, in his book *The Spirit of Python*, points out seven warning signs when you may be under attack:

1. **Loss of _____.** The goal is to turn you away from what God wants to do in your life. When you have spiritual desire, your heart is on fire for God! (See Psalm 63:1.) But now, worldly pursuits are far more important and take the place of your pursuit of God. You just don't care about spiritual things any more. When you're under spiritual attack, the enemy seeks to constrict the desire for God in your life.
2. **Physical _____.** We are created beings—spirit, soul, and body. If my body is weak, it allows things to get into my mind (soul), and that allows things to negatively affect my spirit. (See story of Elijah in 1 Kings 19:1-4. Even after that tremendous victory, fatigue left Elijah open for attack and feeling like a failure.) Many times we face our greatest attacks just before a great promotion or just after a great victory. Fatigue in your body wears on your mind.
3. **"_____."** There are times when it seems that all of your resources dry up and/or break down at the same time. The enemy attacks in this way to get you to take your eyes off of God and put your eyes on money. He wants to get you to start worrying rather than worshipping. **Always remember there are two times in your life when you are especially vulnerable to temptation: when you have _____ and when you have _____.** Psalm 37:25, "I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread."
4. **Weak _____.** "Could you not watch with Me one hour?" Jesus asked His disciples. Then He told them, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt. 26:40-41). Just hours after saying this, Peter found himself under attack, and he denied that he even knew the Lord. **In every failure of your life there are always two common denominators: a dusty _____ and a broken-down _____.** Satan wants to squeeze prayer and Bible reading out of your agenda.
5. **Feeling _____ and helpless.** The word *circumstance* comes from two words: *circum* (encircle) and *stance* (stand). Sometimes it feels like you're standing but there is trouble all around you. If the enemy can get you to lose hope, he can get you to stop living by faith.
6. **Old _____ and _____ resurface.** You find that old iniquities begin to resurface in your life. Some consider iniquities to be those old habits that your soul wants to fall back on when things aren't going your way—things that indulge the flesh. When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, every time they encountered a little hardship they complained and wanted to go back – to **SLAVERY!** (Exodus 16:3).
7. **Pulling away from _____ relationships.** There was a time when you were in services every time the doors were opened. Look around. Have you pulled out of relationships with people at church or with people in your small group? Are more and more of your friends worldly-minded rather than spiritually-minded?

*Your friends are a _____ of your future. If you have more in common with people in the world than you do with people who serve Christ, you are not connected to the right people.

Your church is a place of power. Satan's tactic is to divide and conquer. He wants to remove you from the church and from the place of power so that He can gain power over you.

II. _____ TO GIVE SATAN A _____ IN YOUR LIFE

The word "devil" comes from the Greek word *diabolos*. It's a compound word made up of the Greek words *dia* and *ballo*. *Dia* means "through" and it has the idea of "penetrating something all the way through." The devil is looking for some sort of "entry point" to gain access into your life. The second part of that word is *balos*, which means "to throw." The devil, *diabalos*, is one who repetitiously throws accusations at the mind until he ultimately penetrates.

Your life will always move in the _____ of the dominant images you allow to reside in your mind. Those images become thoughts that will eventually become actions.

Read Ephesians 4:22-27. Paul says that we are to FIRST *put off the old way of life*. SECOND, *renew your mind and put on your new self*. THIRD, "*Do not give the devil a foothold*" (vs. 27).

ILLUS: Mountain climbing. A foothold doesn't have to be very big – just big enough to latch onto. A "stronghold" or a "foothold" of Satan is anything that is associated with your old self that acts as a placement for the devil to gain ground, gain access, and gain power in your life.

When the disciples asked Jesus why they were unable to cast the evil spirit out of the child, Jesus said, "*This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting*" (Matt. 17:21). The Bible speaks of...

- _____ or **Vexing Spirits** – they oppose your mind and body and bring depression, fear, and excessive worry. The enemy whispers "You just need to give up."
- _____ **Spirits** – these are evil spirits that are responsible for wrong teaching, false teaching, and wrong thought patterns (See 1 Tim. 4:1).
- _____ **Spirits** – there are higher-level territorial principalities that try to control certain areas. (See Daniel 10). There are concentrations of demonic spirits across America where cities have become drug strongholds, sex-trafficking strongholds, etc.

If demons are left alone – they will continue to operate unhindered in the lives of people. According to Ephesians 6:12, demons are identified as "*the rulers of the darkness of this world*." Rulership has the idea of authority. **A demon's level of authority is based upon the _____ in a person's life.** The more darkness, the more authority they have. The light of God's Word dispels that darkness and that power is broken.

III. _____ GOD'S POWER TO _____ YOUR STRONGHOLD

Satan has a threefold plan for you: 1.) **CHOK**E out your prayer life, 2.) **CON**STRIC T your faith, and 3.) **CON**FLIC T your relationships.

Carrie Park quote: "**Prayer is the battle, Faith is the key, Love is the antidote to make Satan flee.**"

- _____ **is the Battle.** There are two things that are vital to a successful prayer life: a *time* of prayer and a *place* of prayer. In Acts 16, when Paul and Silas were going into the temple to pray – that is when the woman with the Spirit of Python came to harass them. Satan wants to choke your prayer life. **One of the greatest tragedies of prayerlessness is the _____ of angels.** When you don't pray, the spiritual battle that is going on in the unseen world begins to turn in your enemies favor. (Read Matthew 18:18). **When you don't pray on a regular basis – it's like you're not _____.**
- _____ **is the Key.** When it comes to faith – Satan wants to **CON**STRIC T. It was when Paul and Silas were going out on their first missionary journey. That was when they encountered this woman who had this demonic spirit of python. When you're trying to go further and expand your influence for the Lord, Satan will try to limit you by constricting your faith and vision. You feel like there's this invisible force around your business or around your ministry.
- _____ **is the Antidote to make Satan Flee.** Satan wants to cause conflict. 1 John 4:18 says, "*Perfect love drives out fear.*" The way you love others whom you have a conflict with will drive the work of Satan out of your life. The words that you use can give power to the devil. Your words spoken in anger can be used as tools of Satan to destroy your relationships. Proverbs 18:21, "*Death and life are in the power of the tongue.*" An atmosphere in the home where this is constant bickering, fussing, and feuding empowers the wrong kingdom.

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I. Recognize WHEN YOU ARE UNDER A Spiritual Attack

People today know when they are having a heart attack because they have been educated as to the warning signs. I think a lot of time Christians are blindsided by spiritual attacks because they do not know the warning signs to look for. Jentezen Franklin, in his book *The Spirit of Python*, points out seven warning signs when you may be under attack:

1. **Loss of spiritual desire**. The goal is to turn you away from what God wants to do in your life. When you have spiritual desire, your heart is on fire for God! (See Psalm 63:1.) But now, worldly pursuits are far more important and take the place of your pursuit of God. You just don't care about spiritual things any more. When you're under spiritual attack, the enemy seeks to constrict the desire for God in your life.
2. **Physical fatigue**. We are created beings—spirit, soul, and body. If my body is weak, it allows things to get into my mind (soul), and that allows things to negatively affect my spirit. (See story of Elijah in 1 Kings 19:1-4. Even after that tremendous victory, fatigue left Elijah open for attack and feeling like a failure.) Many times we face our greatest attacks just before a great promotion or just after a great victory. Fatigue in your body wears on your mind.
3. **"Lack Attack."** There are times when it seems that all of your resources dry up and/or break down at the same time. The enemy attacks in this way to get you to take your eyes off of God and put your eyes on money. He wants to get you to start worrying rather than worshipping. **Always remember there are two times in your life when you are especially vulnerable to temptation: when you have nothing and when you have everything**. Psalm 37:25, "I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread."
4. **Weak prayer life**. "Could you not watch with Me one hour?" Jesus asked His disciples. Then He told them, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt. 26:40-41). Just hours after saying this, Peter found himself under attack, and he denied that he even knew the Lord. **In every failure of your life there are always two common denominators: a dusty Bible and a broken-down altar**. Satan wants to squeeze prayer and Bible reading out of your agenda.
5. **Feeling overwhelmed and helpless**. The word *circumstance* comes from two words: *circum* (encircle) and *stance* (stand). Sometimes it feels like you're standing but there is trouble all around you. If the enemy can get you to lose hope, he can get you to stop living by faith.
6. **Old habits and lifestyles resurface**. You find that old iniquities begin to resurface in your life. Some consider iniquities to be those old habits that your soul wants to fall back on when things aren't going your way—things that indulge the flesh. When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, every time they encountered a little hardship they complained and wanted to go back – to *SLAVERY!* (Exodus 16:3).
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When the disciples asked Jesus why they were unable to cast the evil spirit out of the child, Jesus said, "*This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting*" (Matt. 17:21). The Bible speaks of...

- Tormenting or Vexing Spirits – they oppose your mind and body and bring depression, fear, and excessive worry. The enemy whispers "You just need to give up."
- Deceiving Spirits – these are evil spirits that are responsible for wrong teaching, false teaching, and wrong thought patterns (See 1 Tim. 4:1).
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III. Release GOD'S POWER TO Overcome YOUR STRONGHOLD

Satan has a threefold plan for you: 1.) **CHOK**E out your prayer life, 2.) **CON**STRICT your faith, and 3.) **CON**FLECT your relationships.

Carrie Park quote: "**Prayer is the battle, Faith is the key, Love is the antidote to make Satan flee.**"

- Prayer is the **Battle**. There are two things that are vital to a successful prayer life: a *time* of prayer and a *place* of prayer. In Acts 16, when Paul and Silas were going into the temple to pray – that is when the woman with the Spirit of Python came to harass them. Satan wants to choke your prayer life. **One of the greatest tragedies of prayerlessness is the unemployment of angels.** When you don't pray, the spiritual battle that is going on in the unseen world begins to turn in your enemies favor. (Read Matthew 18:18). **When you don't pray on a regular basis – it's like you're not breathing**
- Faith is the **Key**. When it comes to faith – Satan wants to **CON**STRICT. It was when Paul and Silas were going out on their first missionary journey. That was when they encountered this woman who had this demonic spirit of python. When you're trying to go further and expand your influence for the Lord, Satan will try to limit you by constricting your faith and vision. You feel like there's this invisible force around your business or around your ministry.
- Love is the **Antidote to make Satan Flee**. Satan wants to cause conflict. 1 John 4:18 says, "*Perfect love drives out fear*." The way you love others whom you have a conflict with will drive the work of Satan out of your life. The words that you use can give power to the devil. Your words spoken in anger can be used as tools of Satan to destroy your relationships. Proverbs 18:21, "*Death and life are in the power of the tongue*." An atmosphere in the home where this is constant bickering, fussing, and feuding empowers the wrong kingdom.