

January 10, 2024

# The Three Battlegrounds by Francis Frangipane

---

## Chapter 23 - Discerning the Nature of the Enemy

*The Lord is uniting His people, raising up an army, equipping them, and preparing them to take their cities.*

### Hitting the Heart of Your Adversary

In the realm of the spirit the name of an entity always corresponds to its nature. You will notice that there are many names given to the Lord in Scripture. Yet, each revealed name was actually a deeper revelation of His nature (see Genesis 22:14; Exodus 3:14). Similarly, the names of the Lord's angels are also self-descriptive.

This principle of consistency between the name and nature of spiritual beings hold true in discerning the activity and purpose of evil spirits. To defeat the rulers of darkness we must know their nature - what to expect, what their tactics are, and how they apply those tactics against our weaknesses.

In the Bible, the term unclean spirit is a generic term used simply to draw a distinction between angelic spirits and evil spirits. But if you want to bring deliverance, you need to know the nature of a specific unclean spirit; that is, whether the unclean spirit is a spirit of fear or sexual lust, etc. You do not need to ask it any more questions once you know its nature.

Consider that the name of the unclean spirit inhabiting the Gerasene demoniac was "Legion..." Why? "For we are many" (Mark 5:6-9). Knowing the name helped Jesus discern its nature, thus facilitating the actual deliverance. When John describes fallen angel in Revelation 9:11 as the "king" over the demons in the bottomless pit, he reveals this ruler's name in Hebrew as "Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon." In English, these names mean "destruction" and "destroyer" respectively. Again, the name and nature match.

Once you know its nature, however, you do not need to know its name. If you were in warfare against Abaddon, you could identify the demon as the spirit of destruction (or destroyer) as readily as using the Hebrew name Abaddon. Or, you could war against it, if God so led you, by simply calling it the spirit of destruction. How do we defeat the enemy? Victory begins with the name of Jesus on our lips; it is consummated by the nature of Jesus in our hearts.

## Follow the Lamb!

We have touched on a few of the enemies of God in this book. It is very important to not charge ahead, attacking principalities and powers in spiritual warfare. The first place you need to secure is your own soul. Then, as God leads, He will give strategies that are unique to your community. He will involve a number of churches and He will not send you out alone.

In Scripture, we have a picture of the proper balance in all warfare: “The armies which are in heaven... were following Him” (see Revelation 19:11-16). In no other dimension of life will we find the phrase, “a little knowledge is a dangerous thing,” more true than in spiritual warfare. If we will be victorious, we must follow Jesus as our Lord and King.

Therefore, let us be very conscious and very careful to be followers of the Lord. From our experiences, it is vital that the people in your church be trained in warfare before laying a large-scale siege against the enemy. Your attack against the strongholds of hell will be in the areas of your knowledge. Satan, on the other hand, will counterattack in the areas of your ignorance.

It is essential we understand the difference between being taught and being trained. Reading this book is being taught; being personally led by the Lord Jesus is being trained. David wrote, “he trains my hands for battle, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze” (Psalm 18:34). This book is meant to inform you of your training and to provide certain insights and guidelines. What you will learn in confrontational warfare and obeying the Lord on the actual battleground will far exceed that which any book will provide. Your confidence must be securely in the Lord, not in this book.

## THE END