

# **Strike Back**

*How to Recognize a Spiritual Attack  
and Turn It Back on the Enemy*

Michael Faherty

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# **Dedication**

This book is dedicated to anyone who has experienced a spiritual attack, felt overwhelmed by the situation and left unsure of what to do. This book was written for you. Those days are officially over.

# Introduction

The concept of a spiritual attack is almost universally understood by believers, yet we often struggle to find the words to describe the pressure we are under. While every battle is unique, the symptoms of these seasons are remarkably consistent. You may feel disoriented, blindsided, angry, or hurt. You might even feel paralyzed or drained by the weight of the struggle.

While many books explore the broad theory of spiritual warfare, few provide a practical roadmap for what to do in the heat of a spiritual attack. The good news is that this book is designed to unwind the tentacles of the enemy and completely shift the tide in your favor. Just one of the truths contained in these pages has the power to set you totally free and overturn situations that have persisted for years. This is meant to be a resource you return to over and over; with each reading, you will discover a new angle of victory for your life.

While writing this book, my family and I came under a severe spiritual attack, the kind that leaves you completely blindsided and off-balance. We practiced the principles contained in the book and pushed back the enemy's advance. In the end, the enemy overplayed his hand. His attack backfired, exposing critical tools that were missing from the book's original manuscript.

Our struggle actually served as a catalyst, leading to the addition of a **bonus chapter** for your benefit. This book would not have been complete without the hard-won insights found in these added pages

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## CHAPTER 1

# Spiritual Attacks Are Real

Ephesians 6:16 NIV reads: *“In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”*

In epic war movies and period pieces, you’ll often see scenes of archers shoot flaming arrows into the air at their enemies. The Bible says that the devil does the same thing. The devil shoots flaming arrows at you in the spirit. Sometimes, the things we are wrestling with are not just natural problems - they are what I would call a spiritual attack.

When under spiritual attack, some don't realize they're facing a demonic assignment from the enemy. Let's look at the job description of the devil. In First Peter 5:8, it says, *“Be alert and be sober-minded. **Your enemy, the devil...**”*

See how it says that: "your enemy." Did you know that you have an enemy? You might think, 'I'm just a peaceful Christian; I don't want trouble with anyone.' You may even be exceptionally kind, like my wife, who one cold February day, while sitting in the car, she noticed a tiny ladybug on her jacket. Instead of

brushing it away, she took it off her coat and ran back into the house just to find a warm place for it to stay safe.

But the reality is, it does not matter how many insects you save or how peaceful you are, there is someone who hates you - and that someone is the devil and your enemy is throwing flaming arrows at you, whether you like it or not. It goes on to say, "*Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*" That someone is you. Sometimes these flaming arrows are launched at our lives without us even discerning where they are coming from, but the reality is clear: you are the target of the enemy's disdain.

And this spiritual attack can ravage your household. It can ravage your children. It can ravage your marriage. It can ravage you in so many ways. And just dealing with it in the natural doesn't make it go away. We must confront these battles in the spirit, staying mindful that the enemy is relentlessly launching flaming arrows at us.

## **Many Different Forms**

This spiritual attack can take many forms. It might manifest as an unexpected financial squeeze - sudden pressure on your bank account that leaves you wondering where the money went. You feel the weight of that financial burden without knowing the source. Alternatively, you may find that people close to you - your friends, family, or fellow church members -

suddenly turn against you for no apparent reason. It feels as though everyone is suddenly agitated and has a problem with you.

It could manifest as a health battle - a physical ailment that suddenly rises up, forcing you to confront a challenge in your own body and leaving you feeling overwhelmed.

It could be rebellion rearing up its head with your children. These wonderful children in your house suddenly act like demon-possessed monsters.

It could manifest as a major conflict with your spouse. Suddenly, tension grips your marriage, and before you know it, the 'D-word', divorce, is being thrown around. As a married Christian couple, that is a word that should be completely erased from your vocabulary. But when you are under spiritual attack, that becomes a valid option, exactly what the devil wanted you to do. He is taking shots at you with flaming arrows.

## CHAPTER 2

# The Objective Behind the Attack

Now, in each of these attacks, the devil has a targeted objective from the outset, and we need to discern it. When you face financial pressure and your resources are under attack, the devil's aim is to pressure you into withholding your tithes and offerings to your local church. That is the intended outcome of his strategy; if he succeeds, he effectively cuts off support for God's Kingdom while blocking the very steps meant to lead to financial blessing in your own life.

When everyone starts to turn on you and you're finding conflict with your church friends and family, you'll start to say, "Maybe I should leave my church. Maybe I don't belong here anymore." That's the devil's intent. That's his intended outcome for that spiritual attack.

When you get into a health battle, you say, "God is punishing me. I must have done something wrong." That's what the devil wants you to believe.

When rebellion begins to take root in your children, you might think, "Maybe I should just back off and let

them do whatever they want to keep the peace.” This is exactly what the devil wants you to do. His goal is to convince you to abandon your parental responsibility of teaching them the difference between right and wrong so that they eventually begin to follow him instead of God.

Or consider conflict with your spouse. You might find yourself thinking, 'You know what? Maybe we do need a divorce. We just aren't seeing eye to eye anymore, and things aren't getting any better'. This is the enemy's exact intent; it is precisely what he hopes to achieve through that spiritual attack.

## **Two Options, Both Are Wrong**

When these challenges arise, most Christians tend to do one of two things. Often, they fail to discern that they are facing a spiritual attack and attempt to fix the problem using only natural means. Because they are trying to solve a spiritual issue with natural solutions, the situation never truly clears up. In fact, it often gets worse - dragging on for weeks, months, or even years - simply because they are fighting a spiritual battle with the wrong tools.

Or number two: they moan and complain that the devil is after them, falling right into a victim mentality, essentially laying down and submitting to his will. They adopt a "woe is me" attitude, crying, "Poor me, the devil is shooting me with flaming arrows," while they passively surrender. Both responses are incorrect.



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## CHAPTER 3

# The Vision

One day, while driving my Calvary Blue Toyota Tacoma along the snowy backroads of New England, I was meditating on the scripture regarding the enemy's fiery arrows. Suddenly, in my mind's eye, I saw myself reach up and snatch one of those flaming arrows right out of the air. In one fluid motion, I threw the arrow up and twisted it around 180 degrees and as it fell back into my hand, I grabbed it tightly and violently thrust it into the devil's eye socket. There he stood, with a flaming arrow lodged deep in his skull.

Something leapt inside of me. This wasn't a passive scene; it was a violent revolt against being shot at by the enemy. I was going to make him pay. It all happened so fast, but I sensed the intensity of the Holy Spirit as the scene played repeatedly in my imagination.

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## **The Impression Left by That Scene**

The impression left in my spirit by that vision was one of righteous anger - a firm realization that God never intended for you to be pushed around by the devil. A graphic illustration of victim to victor; your transition from the tormented to the one who torments the enemy.

You need to make the enemy pay every time he takes a shot at you. Make Hell regret that it ever sent an assignment against you. You want demons fleeing back to the pit, crying, 'Why did you send me to that believer's house?'

The original working title of this book captured that intensity: "Thrust a Flaming Arrow into the Devil's Eye Socket."

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