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Introduction

The book “3 Crucial Questions about Spiritual Warfare” by Arnold Clinton, 1997 presents provocative questions regarding spiritual warfare. The author effectively utilizes his exegetical skills and extensive knowledge regarding early Christianity to provide insights for understanding the spiritual realm. In many circumstances, Christians have had flawed beliefs regarding spiritual warfare and diminished understanding regarding evil spirits and territorial spirits. Most perspectives are clouded by frightening superstitions and odd practices that hinder one’s spiritual nourishment from increasing chances of redemption. Therefore, by using provocative questions, Arnold develops a biblical account for understanding spiritual warfare and proceeds to answer the influence of demons on believers. Moreover, he effectively answers the controversial topic of territorial spirits and how Christians can deal with them. The biblical decoding of these questions makes the book significant in the theological context since it clears misunderstandings and provides information that Christians can use to enhance spiritual nourishment and victory in spiritual warfare.

I. Summary

The central claim of the book is concerned with spiritual warfare while shedding light on engaging territorial spirits and the possession of believers by demons. Arnold provides insightful information making biblical references to enhance the understanding of spiritual warfare. He claims it is a core component of the entire Christian experience (Arnold 1997, 14). Based on this aspect, he provides details to enlighten individuals about spiritual warfare and strategies to use to enhance victory. The author gives a broader view of spiritual warfare by answering critical questions about the possession of believers by demons. Under this, he asserts that although Christians cannot be possessed by demons, they can be inhabited by demons, especially if they give them space through sinning. Thus, he continues to describe Christian deliverance from demons and actions they should take to resist the devil (Arnold 1997, 119). Furthermore, he expands the topic about engaging territorial spirits whereby he adequately describes the Strategic-Level Spiritual Warfare approach for dealing with spirits that have inhabited territories. Although Arnold refutes the aspect of “warfare prayer,” suggested by the model he outlines various strategies for responding to territorial spirits, including making an appropriate prayer for the city without exercising authority (Arnold 1997, 171).

The book is logically organized into three parts with subsections relevant to the question being answered. The first section, “What is Spiritual Warfare?” contains arguments for understanding spiritual warfare. The second section, “Can a Christian be Demon-Possessed?” answers the question of Christian possession in a thoughtful and detailed manner. The last part of the book answers the question, “Are We Called to Engage Territorial Spirits?” by expounding on Christian roles and actions in addressing territorial spirits. The arguments unfold in a manner that enlightens readers about spiritual warfare before expounding on complex aspects of demon

possession and territorial spirits. The book is specifically directed at Christians seeking to have a holistic understanding of spiritual warfare.

II. Critique

The author does well in developing reliable arguments about the three questions relating to the thesis. He effectively supports the concept of spiritual warfare using biblical references and evidence from other theologians. For example, he references Ephesians 6:12 to demonstrate that Christian's struggle is against the spiritual forces of evil: the devil and his thrones, powers, unclean spirits, and demons (Arnold 1997, 18). Similarly, in light of Christian possession by demons, the authors use evidence to show how Christians have given the devil space to dwell in their lives. For instance, he uses evidence from Charles Kraft to show how Christians maintain dual allegiance by praying to receive Christ while remaining loyal to traditional religious beliefs and practices linked with evil (Arnold 1997, 127). This teaches that Christians should make an informed decision to devote themselves to Christ and completely detach from ungodly involvements. The other aspect that the author elaborates on effectively with reliable evidence and examples relate to Satan's mission to create spiritual arrogance and dissension. The authors reference Silvano's contentions that Satan capitalizes on disunity among churches to fulfill his mission. Therefore, confession and forgiveness are necessary to promote unity for the successful fulfillment of the Great Commission (Arnold 1997, 205). The only aspect missing from the author's argument is the in-depth conceptualization of the role of fasting in spiritual warfare.

I believe that the author is convincing in his arguments. This is because he makes extensive references to the Bible and literature by scholars, theologians, and apologists to support arguments. The presence of supporting evidence affirms the reliability of the information.

Moreover, the author's arguments align with events in contemporary society that Christians can relate to.

III. Conclusion

Arnold's book effectively conceptualizes spiritual welfare, including Christian demon possession and territorial spirits. The author has logically arranged the sections and arguments while enhancing the book's readability. He provides reliable evidence from theologians, scholars, apologists, and scripture to support arguments and make them more convincing. The book can teach, improve, and inspire the audience through its supported arguments on spiritual warfare. For instance, it can increase awareness of spiritual warfare and educate Christians on strategies to ensure victory over evil. Further, it allows Christians to evaluate themselves and make appropriate changes for spiritual nourishment. The book can be recommended to Christians ranging from Spiritual leaders, worshippers, and missionaries. Moreover, it is recommended for prospective Christians. This book should not be recommended to non-Christians.

Reference List

Arnold, Clinton E. *3 Crucial Questions about Spiritual Warfare*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997. ISBN: 978-0801057847