

To the Reader

Welcome to what I hope will be an adventure of discovery for you. You hold in your hand a basic guidebook to the entire supernatural realm, as the Bible reveals it. What lies ahead is designed to strengthen and fortify you in your Christian life.

Here is a book for the believer who needs solid, basic, and biblically accurate knowledge of the supernatural. It starts with a broad overview of the subject in its whole sweep, and it gets down to some practical particulars. It is especially suited for the young or new believer in Christ, who needs to know the great core facts about the supernatural.

Please note that the title of this book is not "*Everything that Every Christian Needs to Know About the Supernatural.*" Some need to know more than others, especially ministers who deal with victims of the evil supernatural. This is a handbook for the general believer, not for the specialist.

A book of this kind would have been of immense help to me in the earlier part of my Christian walk. After hearing a message in the old Arlington Presbyterian Church in Baltimore on being "willing to go anywhere in the world and do anything that Jesus Christ has for you to do—with no holds barred," I fully and formally gave my life to the Lord, to direct as He desired.

The Lord soon led me to New York City and into daily newspaper reporting, where I found myself in a starkly unbelieving atmo-

sphere. I came into it knowing nothing about the facts of spiritual opposition and buffeting. As I openly bore testimony to Jesus Christ, I found that I was, indeed, “wrestling” with something mysterious and quite powerful, but it was “not against flesh and blood,” as Ephesians 6:12 says.

Had I known much sooner what I came to know, I would have been spared years of baffling trouble. It is the keen memory of that early experience that motivated me to write this book.

Christians are told, in 1 Peter 5:8, that “your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” The following verse tells us what to do about it: “Resist him, standing firm in the faith . . .”

The first law of intelligent spiritual warfare and effective resistance to evil is—*know your enemy*. Know who he is, what he is about, how he works, and how he can be overcome.

To use a crude but clear illustration, believers do not need to fear the supernatural any more than they would fear electricity, but they do need to understand it, respect it, and approach it lawfully.

Electricity confers vast benefits, but ignore or break the rules governing it and it can be harmful and deadly dangerous. The same is true of the supernatural.

Christians cannot afford to be naive or ill-informed about this aspect of reality. From the Scriptures we can learn the open secrets of becoming, as we are told to do, as “wise as serpents, and harmless as doves” (Matthew 10:16, KJV).

I hope you enjoy reading the chapters ahead and gain definite help in your life with Christ, for yourself and for those you love, as you turn these pages.

McCandlish Phillips