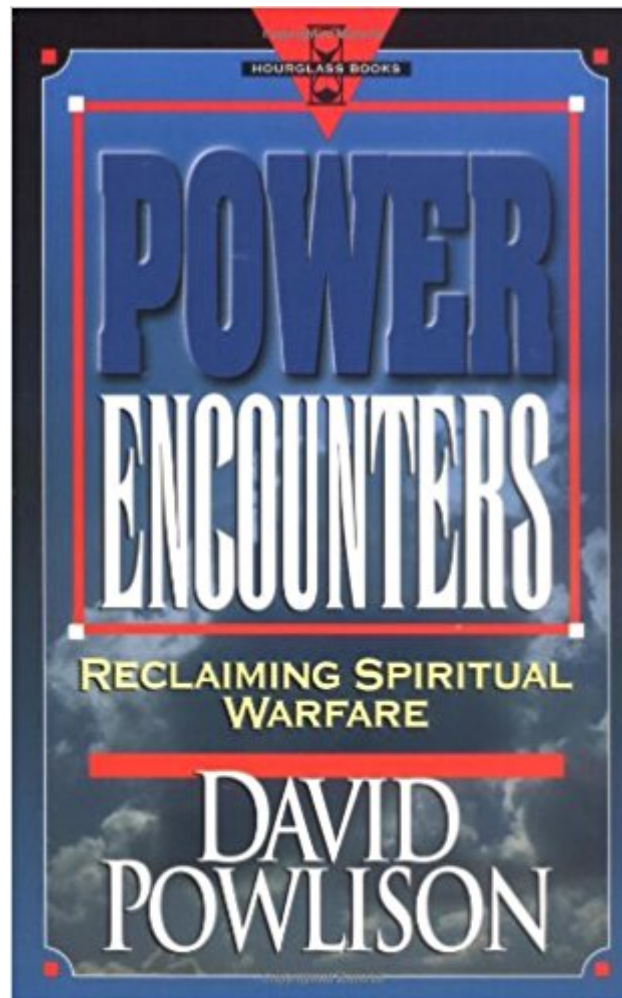




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Power Encounters: Reclaiming Spiritual Warfare (Hourglass Books)



Synopsis

David Powlison brings biblical realism to the often sensationalized subject of demonic deliverance. He gives clear, balance, biblical and insightful help on spiritual warfare.

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Baker Books (November 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0801071380

ISBN-13: 978-0801071386

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 5.5 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #563,916 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Catholicism > Theology](#) #1110 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Pentecostal & Charismatic](#) #6402 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Occult & Paranormal](#)

Customer Reviews

David Powlison brings biblical realism to the often sensationalized subject of demonic deliverance. He gives clear, balance, biblical and insightful help on spiritual warfare.

David Powlison's *Power Encounters* is without a doubt the best book on spiritual warfare that I have ever read. When I say "spiritual warfare," I am specifically pointing to our understanding of the activity of the devil and the demonic as it affects our Christian lives. Powlison, with scholarship and charity points out that many who have embraced a model of deliverance from demons have missed the Scripture's solution to problems that many chalk up to spiritual battles. As a popular speaker and biblical counselor, it makes sense that Powlison would address this topic, and he does so extremely well. Positives Powlison demonstrates by a thorough walk through Scripture that many of the issues that people blame on demons are actually issues of basic human sin. The author argues that Scripture never blames demons for human attitudes and behaviors. When demons are addressed, the Scripture most often depicts evil spirits as causes of evil on the same level of sicknesses or natural disasters; however, the Scriptures never say that a demon causes a man's lust, greed, or pride. Thus, in problems of human hearts or behaviors, a more classic type of spiritual warfare,

repentance and discipline, is what the Bible calls for. Powlison, as he makes this sound case, is very much charitable toward those with whom he disagrees. Powlison does not caricature. He is not writing the book as a way to score easy points against his debate opponents. Instead, with love, Powlison both points out the positive things that those who disagree with him bring to the table while showing the dangers and weaknesses in their view. It is refreshing to see a book that is both polemical and gracious.

Negatives The two weaknesses that I see in this book are not Powlison's fault. First, this book is too short. Powlison's argument is so excellent that the reader is left wanting to see more. The influence of the charismatic view of angels and demons is so wide-spread that more questions abound than could be answered. This book could easily have been another hundred pages longer without at all being a problem. Secondly, this book is not in print. This fact is the greatest weakness the book has. Why this book is not in print is not something I have been able to find easily, though my understanding is that this work was to be a part of a larger series that the publisher never got together. Sadly, to get your hands on a copy of this excellent resource will cost you probably triple the cost of the average trade paperback (I generally see it in the \$40 range on). Thus, you cannot get a handful of copies of this work to use in a small group study.

Conclusion I said it in the introduction, and I will say it again, this book is the best work on spiritual warfare that I have ever read. Powlison relies on Scripture, not experience. He argues wisely, strongly, and graciously. His conclusions are practical and greatly useful for a counseling setting. If you have questions about what we ought think about the demonic today, Powlison's work is worth the effort to get hold of and read.

Wow! Graciously critical, clearly written, simply expressed, and, most importantly, biblically faithful. Oh, how I wish Baker (or some other publisher) would reprint this excellent book. I want this in my church library; I want every pastor I know to read this. Powlison carefully summarizes what the Bible says about spiritual warfare, while gently critiquing some excesses and aberrations that have become widespread and popular among Bible teachers and Christians. His most helpful reminder, perhaps, comes by simply pointing out our tendency to allow our experiences to govern our understanding of Scripture, rather than doing the harder work of allowing the Scriptures to govern our understanding of our experiences, especially whenever we're seeking to interpret spiritual aspects of our experiences. Such a quick read, this book proves to be comprehensive and effectively the best coverage of a huge topic vital to everyday Christian living. It was worth the price I paid, but I do hope it becomes available less expensively and more widespread someday soon.

A helpful book about the traditional view on spiritual warfare

Carefully written book that explores various thoughts on spiritual warfare. This is a very balanced well explained book all rooted in scripture. Highly recommend to anyone seeking truth on this subject. This author can always be counted upon for well researched and documented books.

Despite the exotic and interesting topic, this is not an obviously exciting read. Powlison is not a particularly sharp or polished writer. Basically humorless, sometimes ponderous, nevertheless this is a truly exceptional book. Powlison (Ivy League Ph.D., ex-missionary, full-time counsellor) has thought deeply about his subject and he makes an unanswerable case. His critique is compassionate, balanced, and generous. Honestly, this is the most important book I have read all year.

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