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To this the apostle adds : *According to the prince of the powers of the air.* This clause contains a most fearful truth,—one which is the least thought of, or the most indignantly spurned by the lovers of the world. To follow the course of this world, is to live in full accord with Satan the arch enemy of Christ. He is repeatedly called the god and the prince of this world, in whom all things lie. He is also the prince and leader of a innumerable host of wicked spirits—demons—to whom he has given “authority,”—and through whom he rules and administers the affairs of the world during the present age. These wicked spirits are here called, “the powers (authorities) of the air,” because they have their abode, not on the earth, but all about it, and fly hither and thither, under the leadership of their prince, of whose will they are made the executors. It is for this reason that the common symbol of these spirits is “the birds of the sky” or “the fowls of the air,” as in the parable of the sower, and elsewhere. The fact that we are living in an age that is under such dominion, and under the influence of such beings explains many phenomena that are otherwise inexplicable.

This, the apostle adds, is *the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.* In Paul’s time—and no less in ours—the ruling spirit of this world is not of God, nor is it of man. Among all the many influences that make up the current of the affairs of this age, the one predominating spirit is that of which he is speaking. He does not say it is one of the influences, but “the spirit that now worketh.” The spirit that now has undisputed sway “in the children of disobedience,” is the “prince of the powers of the air.” When we came to the closing