

Spiritual Warfare

I. Biblical and cultural foundations

Who are these powers against whom we struggle?

1. They were _____ by and for _____...Col. 1:16
2. Their prince is _____ and their work results in _____... Eph. 2:1-2
3. Their wisdom which rules this world is antithetical to the _____, but is _____
_____...I Cor. 2:6
4. In ignorance of God's eternal plan they _____ Christ...I Cor. 2:8
5. Christ _____ them by His _____ and _____...Col. 2:15
6. God _____ the powers to Christ through His _____...I Peter 3:22
7. Though _____ to Him, they are not now in _____ to Him ...Heb. 2:8
8. They are unable to _____ us from God's love...Rom. 8:38-39
9. Declaring the _____ to the nations makes known God's eternal _____ to them...Eph. 3:8-10
10. Christ will _____ them when He returns...I Cor. 15:24-25

What about the angels?

1. Involved in _____ the sons of the kingdom at the _____.... Matt 13:39
2. _____ the little ones...Matthew 18:10
3. Rejoice in our _____ victories...Luke 15:10
4. _____ to propriety in worship...I Cor. 11:10
5. _____ of our walk for Him...I Tim. 5:21
6. Sent to serve the _____...Heb. 1:14
7. Show up _____ at our door...Heb. 13:2

Animism

- Animism is the belief that the world is ruled by spiritual beings and/or impersonal forces.
- The goal of daily life is to appease, manipulate, or gain power from these forces, primarily through rituals and incantations.
- Animists are primarily concerned with getting what they want in the here and now.
- This is probably the most popular worldview today.
- This is the practical worldview of a majority of the people in the world today.

Biblical Worldview

- God is creator and sustainer of all things.
- Angels and demons interact with humans.
- God is concerned and involved in our lives.
- Physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual elements of our lives are all intertwined.
- God cannot be manipulated or ultimately ignored.
- Satan is our enemy, but God is greater.

II. Satan's Work and Christ's Victory

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.” Ephesians 6:10-11

Satan's purpose...

- An adversary who wants to _____ us. John 8:44
- An enemy who wants to _____ us. I Peter 5:8
- A destroyer who wants to _____ us. Rev. 9:11
- Satan is a sadistic _____ whose desire is to destroy as many people as possible.

Satan's mode of operation...

- He _____, is the father of lies, and speaks lies as his mother tongue. John 8:44
- He _____ the minds of unbelievers against the light of the gospel. II Cor. 4:4
- He _____ with counterfeit signs and other evils those who refuse the truth.
II Thess. 2:9-12
- Evil is essentially a lie. Wrong action derives from wrong thinking. This is why the mind is the major battlefield.

Satan's strategy...

- In order to carry out his purpose to destroy as many people as possible, and through the use of his modus operandi of speaking lies, Satan attacks us with **at least 5 strategies**:

1..._____ us

- The serpent _____ me, and I ate. Gen. 3:13
- The _____ came to Him and said, 'If you are the son of God..' Matt. 4:3
- Lead us not into _____, and deliver us from the evil one. Matt. 6:13

2..._____ us

- "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to _____ him." Zechariah 3:1
- "For the _____ of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down." Rev. 12:12

3..._____ us

- "If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household! So do not be _____ of them. This is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed..." Matt. 10:25-26
- _____ is often the most dominant emotion in an animist's life. People live in constant fear of the spirits and what they might do to them.

4..._____ us

- He _____ the angels who come as an answer to our prayers. Daniel 10:13
- He _____ us from doing ministry that we want to do. I Thess. 2:18
- He _____ us to prevent us from running a good race. Hebrews 12:1

5..._____ us

- Satan brings difficulties and loss into our lives in hopes of disproving our faith _____ . Job 1-2
- Satan sifts us through _____ of the soul to undermine our usefulness to Christ. Luke 22:31
- Satan stirs up _____ to unsettle us in hopes of destroying our faith. I Thess. 3:2-5

Christ the Victor

We usually see Jesus as a loving Savior...and He is. Both the Scripture and the early church placed more emphasis on His victory and power.

“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” I John 4: 4

Victory over Satan’s purpose...

- “I have come that they may have _____.” John 10:10
- “The reason that the Son of God appeared was to _____ the devil’s work.
I John 3:8

Victory over Satan’s modus operandi...

- “The true light that gives _____ to every man was coming into the world.” John 1:4-5, 9
- “We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may _____ what God has freely given us.” I Cor. 2:12

1. Victory over _____...

- “No _____ has seized you except what is common to man.
- And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.
- But when you are _____, he will provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” I Cor. 10:13

2. Victory over _____...

- When we sin, Jesus Christ speaks in our defense against Satan’s _____.
I John 2:1
- We have victory at the throne because of His _____ and our _____.
Rev. 12:10-11
- We have victory when our hearts _____ us, because of the fruit of His life in us and because we know He knows all things. I John 3:19-20

3. Victory over _____...

- “For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to _____, but you received the Spirit of sonship.” Romans 8:15
- “There is no _____ in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.” I John 4:18
- God brings us into a love relationship with Him that drives fear out of our lives.

4. Victory over _____...

- “But thanks be unto God, who always leads us in triumphal _____ in Christ, and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him.” II Cor. 2:14
- “I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to _____ the gospel.” Phil. 1:12-14

5. Victory in _____...

- The trials we suffer _____ our faith and prove our faith genuine, resulting in more glory to God I Peter 1:6-7
- Our difficulties remind us of our _____ and place us in a position to trust more completely in God’s power II Cor. 12:7-10

“We know that anyone born of God does not continue in sin; the One who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot touch him. We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true. And we are in Him who is true--even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.” I John 5:18-20

III. Defensive Warfare

“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.” Ephesians 6:13-15

Critical issues regarding armor...

- Spiritual armor is provided by God, but must be worn to be helpful.
- Spiritual armor must put it on before we are in the thick of battle.
- Spiritual armor is most effective if it is complete.
- Spiritual armor is of no use if we are not facing the enemy.
- Spiritual armor has both defensive and offensive components.

Our minds – the battlefield

- "...that Satan might not _____ us. For we are not unaware of his 'noema'."
II Cor. 2:11 (schemes)
- "For their 'noema' were made _____, for to this day the same veil remains..."
II Cor. 3:14-16 (minds)
- "The god of this age has blinded the 'noema' of _____..."
II Cor. 4:4 (minds)
- "we take _____ every 'noema' to make it obedient to Christ."
II Cor. 10:5 (thought)
- "I was afraid that as Eve was _____..., your 'noema' might be led astray."
II Cor. 11:3 (minds)

Defensive battle strategies...

1. Transforming our thinking from Satan's lies to God's truth
2. Developing sensitivity and constant submission to the leading of the Holy Spirit
3. Ongoing suppression of our earthly nature and old way of life
4. Intentional focus of our minds on those things which are good

Transforming our thinking from Satan's lies to God's truth....

- Breaking free from worldly patterns requires a total _____ of our minds
Rom. 12:2
- We tear down _____, take captive the enemy's lies, and make every thought obedient to Christ II Cor. 10:4-5
- Practical applications: spend lots of time in God's word and join the Spirit in digging out long-accepted lies

Developing sensitivity and constant submission to the leading of the Holy Spirit...

- Set your mind on things the Spirit _____ Romans 8:5-8
- Be _____ filled with the Spirit Eph. 5:18
- Bear the _____ of the Spirit in your life Gal. 5:22-23
- Don't put out the Spirit's _____ or break his heart I Thess. 5:19, Eph. 4:30

Ongoing suppression of our earthly nature and old way of life...

- Take off the _____ self, put on the _____ self Eph. 4:22-24
- Consider your old life buried with _____ Rom. 6:5-11, Gal. 2:20
- Don't _____ the bad dog Gal. 5:16-17
- Don't offer yourself to serve _____ Rom. 6:13

Intentional focus of our minds on those things which are good...

- Think about what is _____, noble, right, pure Phil. 4:8
- Set your heart and mind on things _____ Col. 3:1-2
- Speak the _____ in love, that which benefits others Eph. 4:15, 29
- Avoid _____ speech and chit-chat about unrighteousness Eph. 5:4, 12

Trouble signs...

- Unwillingness to _____ II Cor. 2:9-11
- _____ that persists Eph. 4:26-27
- _____ Phil. 4:6-7, I Peter 5:7
- _____ Mark 11:23, James 1:6-7
- _____ James 3:13-15, 4:6-7
- Lack of _____ for others I Peter 3:7
- Loss of _____, complaining Phil 2:14-16

Final practical advice...“and after you have done everything...”

- Separate yourself from _____ of sin Matt. 5:29-30
- Distance yourself from those who _____ you I Cor. 15:33-34
- Don't nibble around the _____ of sin James 1:13-15
- Take _____ to Him; accept forgiveness I John 1:8-9

IV. Offensive Strategies

“In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:16-18

Offensive strategies...

1. Prayer for advancing the gospel
2. Proclaiming the truth of the gospel
3. Attacking the strongholds in the minds of other people
4. Freeing people from oppression
5. Power evangelism including healing, exorcism, meeting needs, dreams
6. Truth encounters to change lives

Prayer...

- Persistent, Spirit-led prayer of all kinds asking that God will give the right words to make the gospel known and that the message will be declared _____. Eph. 6:18-20
- Joining in the struggle by praying that witnesses will be _____ and their service be acceptable to believers. Rom. 15:30-31
- Persistently asking God to open a door to _____ the gospel clearly although the consequences may be costly. Col. 4:2-4
- Praying that the message of the Lord will spread _____ and be honored by the hearers and that those spreading the message will be delivered from opposition.
II Thess. 3:1-2

Proclamation of the truth...

- “We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, _____ with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.” Col 1:28-29
- “The Lord stood at my side and gave me _____, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion’s mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom.” II Tim. 4:17-18

Attacking strongholds...

- We have _____ empowered by God to tear down strongholds of Satan's lies. Strongholds identify a place for concentrated ministry. II Cor. 10:4-5
- When we identify a stronghold of Satan's lies we marshal _____ weapons against it and pull it down stone by stone.
- We use our spiritual weapons to tear apart every supporting argument of the _____.
- We use our weapons to take captive every thought to make it _____ to Christ.
- Proclamation of the truth that is targeted at specific strongholds is the result of adequate knowledge of the people's hearts, the leading of the Holy Spirit to formulate the message, and a trust in God's _____ to break through.
- Prayer can be _____ against the strongholds that hold out the truth within the hearts of specific persons as well as all who are held in collective captivity.

Freeing others from oppression...

- "I am sending you to them to _____ their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God." Acts 26:17
- Whether in building relationships, sharing the gospel, discipling, or counseling we must seek to _____ how people are spiritually oppressed
- _____ may be related to destructive habits, disturbed emotions, and occult or cultic involvement
- Ministry may involve prayer, teaching, casting away of _____ items, and power encounter

Power encounters...

- "If I drive out _____ by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils." Luke 11:20-22
- Be sensitive to the Spirit's leadership for you to pray for healing, cast out a demon, pray for a physical need, or pray for a dream

Truth encounters...

- One weakness of an “casting out” ministry, is that an _____ house can be an invitation for demons to return in greater numbers Luke 11:24-26
- Gentle instruction can be used by God to lead someone to _____ and allow them to escape Satan’s trap II Tim. 2:25-26
- Through the ministry of the word and prayer, a person can be led to seek _____ for themselves from demonic deception and oppression and to renounce gateways to demonic activity.

Remember that God expects us to be on the offensive....

“Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prove stronger than it.” Matt. 16:17-18

Group Work

- In what ways do you see evidence for spiritual warfare happening around you?
- Have you encountered a demonized person? What did you do?
- In what ways are you engaging in the defensive side of the battle?
- In what ways are you engaging in the offensive side of the battle?
- Do you emphasize Christ as Victor in your witness? If so, how?

Why is spiritual warfare vital?

- Nothing eternally significant is accomplished without His power displayed in spiritual battle.
- Those who enter new territory usually experience intense attack from the enemy.
- It is possible to pull back, do maintenance, stay busy, and rarely engage the enemy.
- You may have already experienced attacks in ways that you never knew before.