

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE 2 LESSON 1 What is This Warfare For?

Knowing about spiritual warfare is critical for Christians to be victorious in this life. So, what is spiritual warfare really about? What does the enemy seek to gain through battling Christians?

- **And he will go forth to deceive and seduce and lead astray the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth-Gog and Magog-to muster them for war; their number is like the sand of the sea.**

**Revelation 20:8 AMP**

The enemy seeks to deceive, seduce, and lead astray to add to his army and pervert the things as well as the people of God to weaken God's army. God's army must be wise, bold, and true warriors that do not give up, back down or allow defeat. When the enemy attacks the main goal is to create a departure from God and deceive God's people to join the opposing team (**James 4:4**). In the last days, many Christians will depart from the faith falling for the attack or deception of the enemy.

- **Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.**

**1 Timothy 4:1-2 KJV**

When a person is born again this does not ensure an eternity of security with God but that person must continue and endure until the end.

- **Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.**

**Hebrews 3:12 KJV**

- **But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**

**Matthew 24:13 KJV**

Believers must endure as good soldiers (**2 Timothy 2:3**). This requires spiritual warfare to battle and declare victory through endurance and power in overcoming the enemy. Anything less than victory is walking away from the faith. Notice the key element to victory is enduring to the end. Victory is given to whoever is faithful to Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and God the Father. Christians cannot give up!

- **Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.**

**Hebrews 10:38-39 KJV**

The writer of Hebrews describes that a Christian can drawback or return to a life of sin but this is not the plan for the life of a believer. Believers are to live by faith and have their souls saved through salvation. Salvation (made of three parts: justification, sanctification, and glorification) is completed when glorification is achieved in heaven as a person receives a glorified body. This solidifies the person's accomplishment of salvation to the end. Having this goal should be the mission of every soldier of God.

The enemy knows this should be the goal of every Christian so he works hard to distract and divert every believer from this goal. The battle for every Christian to fulfill their life according to God's plan is spiritual warfare. If the enemy has a person on their side there is no fight or struggle. This is the reason God gives His people armor to stand and fight against these attacks of the enemy to achieve the victory God designed His people to obtain.

- **But I will continue doing what I have always done. This will undercut those who are looking for an opportunity to boast that their work is just like ours. These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. In the end they will get the punishment their wicked deeds deserve.**

**2 Corinthians 11:12-15 NLT**

The subtleness the enemy uses against the army of God is the best weapon they have in spiritual warfare. Knowing that a full-frontal attack cannot be won when the soldier is ready for a battle another method must be sought to sneak into the camp of that Christian believer. To the enemy, a Christian leader has the best camp to attempt this maneuver on due to the influence that leader has in the lives of other believers. The seeker-friendly movement has been one of those methods that has given the false sense of doing good for God while leaving God out of the process.

Seeker-friendly churches endeavor to reach as many people as possible without offending anyone while simultaneously assisting those that attend such a gathering comfortable for the duration of the event. This does not sound like true Christianity but the local entertainment venue that seeks customers to purchase the item being sold. The true Messiah, Jesus Christ, cannot be sold as a piece of merchandise but should be honored, loved, and obeyed as the Son of the Most High God.

- **Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.**

**Matthew 10:34-35 KJV**

- **And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.**

**Matthew 10:38 KJV**

- **And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.**

**1 Peter 2:8 KJV**

Jesus declares in these verses that He came to bring offense and make others uncomfortable (by His believers carrying their cross). Why do the ministers of God think their ministry is higher than the ministry of Jesus Christ's to bring comfort and convenience? This is part of the deception of the enemy to lull the soldiers of God asleep while on duty for Jesus Christ and slowly move them away from the safety and security of God's camp.

Confronting the sinful nature (the trojan horse of the enemy within all of mankind) is confrontational and is sometimes an all-out war for a believer fighting to stay holy and pure for God. This effort to sanctify oneself unto God defines the spiritual warfare for every believer. Spiritual warfare can come in seasons much like natural wars come and go, but if a Christian does not experience warfare on a somewhat normal routine of time (ie. expecting each season within a calendar year) it should cause a pause to see which side of the warfare one is truly on.

- **And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?**

**Matthew 12:25-26 KJV**

Christians must not be deceived by the enemy from misunderstanding where they stand on the battlefield. God's soldiers must know with confidence they are on His side because they live by the Word of God and walk by the Spirit.

May we as Christians know that we walk with God and pray we are never deceived by the enemy in any capacity.

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE 2 LESSON 2 Beware of False Allies

Christians should have allies within the army of God. Although many Christians are happy to join with other believers some choose to be false allies aka tares.

- **So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, an enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.**

**Matthew 13:27-30 KJV**

Jesus speaks about a man sowing good seed, which is wheat in his field. Tares are dangerous weeds that can cause issues for the wheat's growth and health. These tares are bearded darnels. Bearded darnels are poisonous grass that is almost indistinguishable from wheat that has black grains on the inside of them. These darnels can be distinguished from the wheat as both begin to mature. The darnels are also known as "false wheat".

False allies can come in many forms. One such form is those that claim to be a Christian but do not hold to God's Word or doctrine. Having the truth of God within a soldier (through the Holy Spirit) as well as knowing the battle guide will display the Commander-in-Chief's heart for every soldier's life.

- **This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, so that [inspired and aided] by them you may fight the good fight [in contending with false teachers]**

**1 Timothy 1:18 AMP**

This equation should hold every soldier accountable for every action. Those that hold to false doctrine must reevaluate how knowledgeable they are to the battle guide and commanders.

- **Having a *form* of *godliness* but *denying* the power thereof: from such turn away.**
- **They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!**

**2 Timothy 3:5 NLT**

There are important words located within this verse that hold a clearer picture of God's meaning for Christians to understand the difference between His soldiers and those that wear the uniform but do not pledge allegiance to Him. *Form* – appearance, fashion, exact image. Although the appearance is an exact image something is missing from this person's heart.

The form of godliness looks good on the outside. *Godliness* – holiness, reverence for God, motivated by the fear of God or caution more than by love for God. This form holds no true love or servitude.

The form of godliness denies God. *Denying* – contradict, renounce, reject, desert the Christian faith, to apostatize (the desertion or departure from one's religion, principles, cause). This contradiction or desertion separates this fake soldier from the true soldier of God.

Having the look of a soldier does not make that person a true soldier. Even in the natural world, some people try to imitate soldiers. This is called stolen valor. This is also illegal. Anyone who imitates in being a soldier of God is committing stolen valor in God's eyes. Christians should be genuine soldiers of God that dedicate their lives to His plan and vision.

- **Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.**

**Galatians 5:24-25 NLT**

God desires His soldiers to have a heart after Him and not just seek His protection when the battles are raging. He desires for His soldiers to be holy not just through action but through a heart seeking after His righteousness. If the heart of a person is aligned with God and His righteousness their actions will reflect that heart as well as having the power of God in their lives to back up the genuine love and obedience for God.

May we as Christians discern who are true comrades and who are false allies within the army of God.

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE 2

### LESSON 3

### Knowing the Method of Attacks – Part 1

Knowing the enemy allows Christians to understand who the enemy is (not flesh and blood but spirits) but it is also important for soldiers of God to know how the enemy attacks. The enemy attacks in two categories of methods; ordinary and extraordinary. Within these two categories, there are various avenues used to attack Christians. As Christians learn how to recognize these methods the attacks should be easier to discern and defend against.

#### **Ordinary Methods:**

These methods are the ordinary things in life that the enemy uses to conduct attacks on the faith, mind, and heart of believers. Christians must perceive these attacks of the enemy and stand against these strategies to obtain victory.

#### **1. Deception**

*Deception* is defined as misleading by a false appearance or statement; to be unfaithful to; falsely persuade others. The enemy is a liar, and the devil is the father of lies.

- **Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.**

**John 8:44 KJV**

The enemy uses this to lead believers into a trap especially when wisdom is not present. One of the tactics of this method is regression to a previous pattern of improper behavior. Christians must not lean on their understanding (**Proverbs 3:4**) but look to wisdom from God to combat the enemy.

- **Wise choices will watch over you. Understanding will keep you safe. Wisdom will save you from evil people, from those whose words are twisted.**

**Proverbs 2:11-12 NLT**

Christians must be wise as serpents but gentle as doves to not fall prey to deception.

#### **2. Accusation**

*Accusation* is defined as charging with a fault, offense, or crime; to find fault with or blame. The enemy uses accusations as the accuser of the brethren.

- **And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.**

**Revelation 12:10 KJV**

Satan is the accuser that attacks the soldiers of God's army. He uses this method to throw daggers of fear, doubt, and condemnation to breed discouragement, depression, and defeat. This method can lead to repression which restrains natural expression (a person being unresponsive or having no emotions). The next phase of this method would include suppression which reflects keeping back desires and feelings through not participating in things that were once important. The third stage of this method includes depression that displays a gloomy or sad countenance due to feeling hopelessness. Each of these stages can arise from accusations of the enemy when not properly dealt with through the Word of God and the armor of God.

Christians must use the helmet of salvation and the shield of faith to block these fiery darts of accusations. Keeping salvation on the forefront of the mind of the *justification* (the justified position made available through Jesus Christ), *sanctification* (the holy living and perfecting holiness through purging the desires of the flesh), and *glorification* (the glorified body received for eternity) will build confidence in a believer's relationship with God through Jesus.

- **Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me.**

**Acts 24:13 KJV**

The Apostle Paul gave no grounds for those looking to accuse him to stand on. Christians are not perfect but there should be wisdom and discernment to abstain from the very appearance of evil (**1 Thessalonians 5:22 KJV**). This should be every Christian's goal of conduct.

### 3. Doubt

*Doubt* is defined as distrust; to be uncertain about something; hesitate to believe. Doubt causes cracks to appear in faith, which is the shield of protection in battle.

- **But when he (Peter) saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?**

**Matthew 14:29-30 KJV**

Doubt comes when things or people are heard more prominently in the ears of the believer as opposed to the volume of the Word of God or the voice of God. It is the Christian's responsibility to keep the faith (**2 Timothy 4:7**) and endure as a good soldier of Jesus Christ (**2 Timothy 2:3**).

- **For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.**

**Mark 11:23 KJV**

Jesus declares this power comes when doubt is removed from the heart and when a Christian speaks to the mountain in their life. Doubt can be a powerful tool of the enemy, but faith can overcome doubt with the size of a mustard seed (**Matthew 17:20**).

#### 4. Enticement

*Enticement* is defined as leading on by exciting hope or desire. Enticement creates an attractive distraction that births a desire to obtain usually through illicit means. This differs from deception due to the knowledge of the action being wrong but still desiring and attempting to follow through even though it is sin.

- **If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bossom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers.**

**Deuteronomy 13:6 KJV**

No matter what the method of enticement the heart of this warfare is to have a lack of self-control and walk in the flesh.

- **But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things.**

**Galatians 5:22-23 NLT**

If enticement reflects the direct opposite of the fruit of the Spirit then this confirms the suspicion of a plan of the enemy to pull a believer away from God through choice.

#### 5. Provocation

*Provocation* is defined as stirring up, arousing, making angry, enrage, or vexing. Just as Christians provoke one another to *good* works, the enemy provokes through temptations to *sin* via thoughts or circumstances. The Pharisees tried this same method against Jesus to catch Him through provocation in a circumstance.

- **As Jesus was leaving, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees became hostile and tried to provoke him with many questions. They wanted to trap him into saying something they could use against him.**

**Luke 11:53-54 NLT**

The spiritual enemies attack God's people in inciting thoughts or circumstances as a trap to follow through to the desired outcome. One example of this would be suicide. The enemy cannot force actions within the lives of anyone through ordinary methods so mind games are an important part of the enemy's strategy.

- **Why are you so angry? The Lord asked Cain. Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then**



**watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.**

**Genesis 4:6-7 NLT**

God tells Cain that he should not fall for this provocation to get angry at his brother. God also warns him that sin is crouching at the door waiting to get control of him, but he must control it. Christians must have a strong and stable mind accompanied with the helmet of salvation to combat these attacks of the enemy.

May we as Christians see these methods of the enemy in our lives and combat them with the power, authority, and the Word of God in our lives.

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE 2

### LESSON 4

### Knowing the Method of Attacks - Part 2

Previously, we discussed the ordinary methods of attack used by the spiritual enemies of our faith, mind, and heart. This lesson is focused on the extraordinary methods the enemy uses against the army of God.

#### **Extraordinary Methods:**

These methods are the manifestations of spiritual enemies.

#### **1. Infestation**

*Infestation* is defined as overrun to an unwanted degree or in a troublesome manner; to be numerous in anything undesirable or troublesome; to harass. This manifestation is usually associated with a particular location or object. Some people ascribe this to ghosts but this is more accurately demonic activity. Christians should have the power and boldness to confront these activities without fear knowing that God is greater.

- **Because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**

**1 John 4:4b KJV**

This verse should be the theme verse for all Christians when participating in spiritual warfare. The manifestations of the enemy can cause people to be afraid, but this is the time for the warriors of Christ to stand and fight the enemy through the manifest power of the Holy Spirit.

#### **2. Oppression**

*Oppression* is defined as the exercise of authority or power in a burdensome, cruel, or unjust manner; heavily burdened, mentally or physically. This method is physical assaults, bodily health, finances, work situation, and family or other social relations.

- **We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair.**

**2 Corinthians 4:8 NLT**

The Apostle Paul declared in this verse that there are times that various attacks of the enemy will come and try to oppress or surround a believer with situations but with God, there is protection and provision. The people of God do not need to give in to oppression but have the power to overcome through God.

#### **3. Obsession**

*Obsession* is defined as the domination of one's thoughts or feelings by a persistent idea, image, or desire; to think about something unceasingly or persistently. This form of attack takes place within the mind through disturbing thoughts as inner torments whether in nightmares or while awake. A lower intensity of this form of attack may include the

consistent thought or feeling that is unhealthy within the mind about something, someone, or desire to act.

- **And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.**

**Philippians 4:8 NLT**

Christians can have a stable and strong mind focusing on the things of God as well as things that are pure, honorable, and right. Allowing the enemy to have an entrance into the mind is treason when the body is designed to be the temple of the living God (**1 Corinthians 6:19**). When a person is obsessed with the things of this world, this age, the flesh, or sin that person is not a focused soldier. An unfocused soldier creates issues for himself and others (*see Spiritual Warfare - Part 1: Lesson 1*).

#### **4. Possession**

Possession is defined as the act or fact of possessing; a territorial dominion; to occupy, dominate, or control from within. Although this may be the most famous activity displayed from Hollywood it is still a real and dangerous method of attack used by demons. When a person is entertained by this type of media a door is being opened for demons to enter that person's life.

- **Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.**

**Ephesians 5:11 ESV**

- **You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons, too. You cannot eat at the Lord's Table and at the table of demons, too.**

**1 Corinthians 10:21 NLT**

These verses display the seriousness of allowing the enemy to have any room in the life of a believer. The enemy is not to be played with, entertained, or treated with kindness. This same enemy seeks to enter and destroy.

- **The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.**

**John 10:10 NLT**

Possession is the highest form of control for the enemy. This type of control in the life of a Christian is a slap in the face of God. It reflects there has been such entrance to that person's life that the enemy has been allowed access to control. There is much debate on whether a Christian can be possessed by a demon but when a person chooses to rebel against the Word of God and His code of conduct the enemy is happy to assist in this entry for demonic activity. God should be the only one given access to control a Christian's life. This is another reason believers need to submit to God and resist the devil (**James 4:7**).

**Fight No Matter the Method**

Christians must choose to fight the spiritual enemies of God no matter how big or small. It can be the little things that lead to big doors.

- **Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: For our vines have tender grapes.**

**Song of Solomon 2:15 KJV**

No matter what method the enemy desires to use Christians must see the enemy for who they are and what they are trying to accomplish. The little things must not be tolerated, the big things must be overcome, and victory should be declared in the name of Jesus Christ. It is the responsibility of each soldier to remain faithful and battle-ready for any and every attack.

May we as Christians know the tactics of the enemy and combat every scheme with the proper biblical weapon to obtain the victory God has for us.

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE 2 LESSON 5 The Victory of Believers

As Christian believers, there are many victories to obtain. These victories are not just in “the sweet by and by” but also here on earth now. This lesson will look at just some of the victories that can be obtained by Christians through spiritual warfare.

### **Victory in Health**

Victory in health is overcoming sickness and disease that come as attacks from the enemy to discourage or weaken the body and spirit of a Christian.

- **But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.**  
Isaiah 53:5 KJV
  
- **Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.**  
1 Peter 2:24 KJV

Declaring war against this attack with the Sword of the Spirit brings victory. The enemy seeks to bring symptoms and other issues of health into the life of a Christian as a distraction or hindrance. Other times, sickness is natural and not any form of evil, but in either case, victory can be obtained by declaring the Word of God over the body.

### **Victory in Finances and Possessions**

Another area the enemy likes to attack is finances and possessions. Many Christians have the mindset of Job, “God gives and God takes away” (**Job 1:21**). Job lived before the Mosaic Law was given and solely based his thoughts of God on experiences within his own life. As God gave guidelines as well as displayed His heart to His people, the realization began to unfold it is the spiritual enemy that seeks to take.

- **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...**  
John 10:10a

It is not sound doctrine to allow the enemy to steal, kill, or destroy without a spiritual fight. Even though the enemy seeks to do these actions against God’s people the armor of God and promises of God can be used to combat these attacks. One method of fighting against this is tithing.

- **Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. Then I will**

**rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes, says the Lord of hosts.**

**Malachi 3:10-11 NASB**

Another method is to live a holy life for God and look to Him as a refuge.

- **If you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home. For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go.**

**Psalm 91:9-11 NLT**

This is a promise that living for God will bring protection to a person's home (including family within the home), their comings and goings, and upon them. Verses from the Word like these build faith, truth, holiness, and bring salvation to remembrance. Christians must use the armor of God during battle or these victories will not be permitted by the enemy.

### **Victory in Emotions**

I have heard my pastor, Pastor Chris McMichael say, "Christians should be the most stable people on the planet". As believers of the Most High God, there should be a solid foundation that Christians are built upon to make them unwavering. Unkept emotions will create the most unstable people. This leads to offense (through pride), obesity (through insecurity), mental problems (through uncontrolled thoughts), poverty (through uncontrolled spending), fear (through doubt), among many other issues.

- **We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use god's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.**

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NLT**

Christians should control their mind and their emotions. Having emotions is not sin but how emotions are handled can *lead* to sin. Each of these issues can be combatted by using the armor of God to overcome any of these attacks.

### **Victory is Secure Through Endurance**

Without God present within the battle, a loss is inevitable. When a Christian serves and lives for God the Holy Spirit within that Christian brings power and authority.

- **For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**

**2 Timothy 1:7 KJV**

- **Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding**

**in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.**

**Luke 10:19-20 KJV**

Jesus states that it is not the power over the enemy that should make believers happy but the knowledge of having their name written in the Lamb's Book of Life through salvation. This is also another reason it is important to have the helmet of salvation that protects the mind from falling into the trap of pride of control over the enemy.

The power and authority of God within the life of a believer cannot be overtaken by an enemy without the consent of that Christian.

- **But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**

**Matthew 24:13 KJV**

- **For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.**

**Hebrews 10:36 NASB**

Those that endure will be saved and receive the promises of God. That should be all Christians but this process requires combat in spiritual warfare. Anything that God has for His people is worth fighting for, especially eternal salvation by standing against the spiritual enemies that attempt to deceive and seduce.

May we as Christians fight and endure against the enemy through spiritual warfare to declare victory for our lives as well as for our God.