

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

I. WE ARE IN A SPIRITUAL WAR

- A. THE WAR IS AGAINST THE REBELLION OF LUCIFER AND HIS ANGELS, Is. 14:12-14, Lk.4:5-6, Rev.12:7-10.
- B. MANKIND BECAME A PART OF THE WAR FROM ADAM & EVE, Rom.5:12, I Jn.3:8.
- C. JESUS CHRIST IS THE VICTOR, Dan.7:13-14, Col.2:13-15, Phil.2:9-11.
- D. THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT:
 - 1. WE ARE VICTORIOUS IN CHRIST, Rom.8:37-39.
 - 2. THE CHURCH WILL HELP DISPOSESS SATAN AND RE-ESTABLISH THE KINGDOM, Mt.16:18, Eph.3:10, Mt.6:10
 - 3. RULING & REIGNING IN THE MILLENNIUM
 - a) Satan will be bound at the beginning, Rev.20:1-3.
 - b) The Saints will rule the world with Christ, Dan.7:18, Rev.20:4, Mt.19:27-28.

II. MANY CHRISTIANS ARE NOT IN THE ARMY OF GOD

- A. THE REASONS:
 - 1. IMMATURE CHRISTIANS ARE NOT IN THE ARMY OF GOD
 - In I Jn.2:12-14 there are 3 levels of Christian growth:
 - a) Little Children- Babes in Christ are too young to join the army, just as natural armies do not enlist children to fight (I Cor.15:46, Ex.13:17). But Heb.5:12-13 and I Cor.3:1 warn us, some Christians do not mature even after many years.
 - b) Young Men- These are maturing Christians who have become strong to fight in the army of God, II Tim.2:1,3-4. This is like armies where young men can enlist if they are strong, & 18 yrs. old.
 - c) Fathers in Christ- These are mature Christians who can lead the army of God.
 - 2. A LACK OF CONSECRATION CAN CAUSE US TO NOT JOIN (OR DESERT) THE ARMY.
 - a) Jud.5:15b-16 The tribe of Reuben was divided and lukewarm- they would not fight.
 - b) Deut.20:8-9 The fearful are not to fight, they are disqualified.
 - c) Ps.78:9-10 The tribe of Ephraim deserted from the battle because of their lack of consecration.
 - d) Judges 5:17 Excuses: the war was far away, too busy earning money, could escape, etc...
- B. THE ANSWERS:
 - 1. THE IMMATURE CHRISTIANS MUST SPIRITUALLY GROW
 - a) Desire the milk of the word (I Pet.2:2) which is faith and love (I Thess.5:8), and mature to eat the spiritual food of adults, Heb.5:12-14.
 - b) Learn to overcome the sins that babes in Christ often struggle with, such as strife & division (I Cor.3:1-4), idolatry (I Jn.5:21), and deception (Eph.4:14).
 - 2. THE MATURING CHRISTIAN MUST LEARN TO:
 - a) Have an undivided heart to serve God, I Chron.12:33, Num.14:22-24, Ps.86:11.
 - b) Learn to have victory over the little enemies before we fight the big enemies, I Sam.17:33-37, Song of Sol.2:15, Ps.139:23-24.
 - c) Begin to enter in and conquer their inheritance, Num.13:30, Josh.18:3. The Israelites were to enter the Promised Land less than 2 years after they left Egypt- we can mature and begin to enter & possess our inheritance, gifts, callings, and rewards- less than 2 years after we are saved.
 - 3. THE FATHERS AND MOTHERS IN CHRIST MUST ARISE TO LEAD THE WARFARE
 - a) Many Christians will not mature to become fathers, I Cor.4:15.
 - b) Deborah arose as a spiritual mother to lead the army, Jud.5:6-8, 4:4-9.
 - c) Paul gave Timothy (his spiritual son) prophecies to help guide him in his spiritual warfare, I Tim.1:18.

III. THE ENEMY

- A. THE ENEMY: THE ARMY OF SATAN, Eph.6:12 Our battles are not against people & circumstances
1. THERE ARE LEVELS OF AUTHORITY IN SPIRITUAL GOVERNMENTS:
 - a) A person- can be governed by an angel (Mat.18:10) by a demon (Mk.9:17-27), or both.
 - b) A family or house- can be protected by angels (Gen.19:10-16) or controlled by demons, Acts 5:1-10.
 - c) A church- can be governed by a good angel (Rev.1:20), by fallen spirits (II Cor.11:4,13-15)- or both.
 - d) A city- can be controlled by an angel (I Chron.21:15-16) or by a fallen angel. In Acts 19:23-35 we see the works of a fallen angel that controlled Ephesus.
 - e) A nation- can be governed by an angel (Michael, the prince of Israel, Dan.12:1) or a fallen angel (the prince of Persia, Dan.10:13, the king of Tyrus, Ez.28:12-14).
 2. THE CHURCH IS TO FIGHT AGAINST AND DISPOSSESS THE KINGDOM & ARMY OF SATAN
 - a) We have been given authority over the enemy, I Jn.4:4, Eph.1:19-23, Mk.16:17-18.
 - b) We are to use the authority given to us to destroy the works of the enemy and bring the kingdom of God, Eph.3:10, Ps.149:8-9, Mat.18:18, Rom.16:20.
 - c) A caution: we must discern by the Spirit what levels of authority we have entered into, and not fight against the powers that we are not equipped to overcome, Acts 19:13-16, Rev.13:7, Ecc.7:16, II Chron.35:20-24.

IV. KEYS TO VICTORY:

- A. HUMILITY**, Jam.4:7-10. The 1st sin that brought rebellion against God was pride (the pride of Lucifer, Ezek.28:17, Is.14:13-14. If we are proud, then Satan can control us, I Tim.3:6, Job 41:34. Our defence is to be the opposite- humble, Mt.11:29, Mt.5:5.
- B. HOLINESS**, Job 22:30. The enemy attacks us at our weak spots- the areas of sin. If we are holy, he cannot gain an opening into our life, Jn.14:30, Is.35:8-9. Many times the enemy is attacking us- with God's permission- because of sin in our lives. Until we submit to God, we will not obtain God's favor and His grace to overcome the enemy attacks. The book of Judges repeats this lesson many times.
- C. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD**, Eph.6:11-17. We need all the armor for victory.
1. LOINS GIRT ABOUT WITH TRUTH- The Roman soldier first used his belt to secure his entire armor. We need to gird up the loins of our mind (I Pet.1:13) with truth- with the word of God (Jn.17:17) to have victory, Jn.8:31-32.
 2. BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS- To protect our heart from sin, I Jn.2:15, Heb.1:9.
 3. SHOES OF THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL- To protect our walk (Deut.33:24-25) and prepare us to be messengers of the gospel, Is.52:7.
 4. SHIELD OF FAITH- Must be anointed to help deflect the darts, Is.21:5.
 5. HELMET OF SALVATION- This is to protect our head, or our mind & thoughts. Hope will guard our thoughts, I Thess.5:8.
 6. SWORD OF THE SPIRIT- This is our offensive weapon to attack with, the *rhema* word spoken by God. It is a two-edged sword (Rev.1:16) because truth is two-sided, to be balanced. We must learn how to skillfully use the word of God (II Tim.2:15) as Jesus used it during His temptation. Study "it is written" (Lk.4:4), "it is written" (Lk.4:8), "it is written" (Lk.4:10), "it is said" (the *rhema* sword, Lk.4:12).
- D. THE BLOOD OF JESUS**, Rev.12:11. The blood can cleanse us from every sin (I Jn.1:7) and shut the mouth of the Accuser and his principalities, Is.52:14-15, Eph.3:10.
- E. BEWARE OF SPIRITUAL DECEPTION**
1. WE ARE WARNED of great deception in the Last Days:
 - by JESUS- Mat.24:11,24-25 false Christs & false prophets will deceive.
 - by PAUL- II Thess.2:1-3, 2:8-12 first there is a falling away (Greek "apostasia" or apostasy).
 2. KINDS OF DECEPTION:
 - a) In Doctrine
 - immature Christians can easily be deceived, Eph.4:14, Eph.2:2

- Satan tempted Jesus through false doctrine **even using the scriptures**, Lk.4:3-13
- b) In Spiritual Gifts & Ministries
 - deception from people Ezek.13:1-10, I Kgs.13:18
 - deception from evil spirits, Acts 16:16-18, II Chron.18:18-22
 - do not despise spiritual gifts, but dokimazo (prove, test, & discern) all things and keep the good I Thess.5:19-21, I Cor.14:29
- c) in Fellowship
 - wrong friendships, I Cor.15:33, Prov.13:20, Ps.1:1
 - wrong partnerships or alliances, Ezra 4:1-3, II Chron.20:35-37, Josh.9:2-21, I Kgs.11:1-11

F. WE NEED SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

1. DISCERNMENT MATURES THROUGH PRACTICE OR EXERCISE, Heb.5:14- Every Christian needs to exercise his discernment so that it will grow strong & mature, just as an athlete must exercise his muscles to become strong and skilled.

- a) Study and learn to rightly divide the Word, II Tim.2:15, Heb.4:12, II Tim.3:16.
- b) Learn the witness of the Spirit, Jn.16:13, Rom.8:16
- c) Test the spirits-

- 1) by doctrine, I Jn.4:1-3, Is.8:19-20
- 2) by command, Josh.5:13-14, Mk.5:9
- 3) by their fruit, Mat.7:15-20, Gal.5:22-23, Eph.5:9, I Jn.4:6

The Fruit of the Spirit:

- 1)love II Tim.1:7
- 2)joy Rom.14:17
- 3)peace Col.3:15, Eph.4:3
- 4)longsuffering II Pet 1:9
- 5)gentleness Jam.3:17
- 6)goodness Eph.5:9
- 7)faith Jude 20,I Tim.1:19
- 8)meekness Mat.11:29
- 9)self-control I Cor.14:31

The Fruit of Evil Spirits:

- 1)hatred I Sam.18:10-11
- 2)sorrow I Sam.16:14-16
- 3)confusion I Cor.14:33
- 4)short-tempered Lk.4:28-29
- 5)harshness Mat.27:67-68
- 6)evil Jn.10:10
- 7)fear Rom.8:15
- 8)self-assertive Is.14:12-14
- 9)no control Mk.9:20-22, Prov.25:28, Ps.80:12-13

d) Teach spiritual discernment, Ezek.44:23. It is the responsibility of the ministers, to teach the people how to discern spiritual things.

2. SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT COMES THROUGH THE GIFT OF THE DISCERNING OF SPIRITS-

I Cor.12:10. This gift is not given to every Christian (I Cor.12:11), but we are encouraged to covet the gifts, I Cor.12:31. Pray for this gift!

a. Spirits to be discerned-

- 1) The Spirit of God (in His various manifestations & anointings), Jn.1:32-33, Acts 2:1-18, Zech.12:10, Eph.1:17, Is.11:2, II Kgs.2:15, Lk.1:17, Lk.5:17, I Kgs.22:24-25
- 2) Angels (of different ranks and ministries), Mt.1:20, I Chron.21:16, Lk.22:43, Dan.10:4-14, Rev.12:7.
- 3) The human spirit (different attitudes and reasonings), Mk.2:6-8, Acts 8:22-3; 14:8-9; 26:27, Col.2:5, Hag.1:14, Rom.11:8.
- 4) Evil spirits (of various kinds), Mk.9:25, Lk.13:11, Hos.5:4, Rev.16:13.

b. Revealed through-

- 1) A word or impression to your spirit, Acts 16:18
- 2) Your 5 senses, as they are anointed by the Spirit of God
- 3) A dream, Mat.2:13, Gen.28:12.
- 4) A vision, Dan.10:4-7, Lk.24:23.

G. WE NEED A PROPER COVERING OF SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY-

1. The rebellious will have a covering that is not of God's Spirit, and will be deceived by wrong counsel, Is.30:1. Absalom rebelled against the authority of his father & king, and was deceived by the wrong

counsel of Hushai (II Sam.15:31-34; 17:1-14) to his destruction. Members of the Corinthian church fell into deception when they strayed from the apostolic ministry & covering of their founder, II Cor.11:4; 13-15.

2. Women need a covering on their head to be protected from the fallen angels, I Cor.11:10. Not necessarily a natural covering, but a spiritual covering (Greek "exousia"= authority or power). Eve was deceived by Satan (I Tim.2:14) because she did not obey the Word of the Lord that her husband Adam had been given, Gen.2:16-18, Gen.3:1-6. Ruth chose a good covering (Ruth 3:9) and joined the lineage of Christ, Mat.1:5.

3. A natural illustration, Num.19:14-15. When there is spiritual death and uncleanness in a house (or church), any Christian who is not properly covered will become polluted & spiritually unclean.

H. THE WALLS OF SALVATION (OUR SPIRITUAL DEFENSES)- God gives spiritual defenses around a person or group of people. These defenses can be broken down or removed because of sin. Intercession is then needed to protect these people from the judgment of God and the attacks of Satan until their defenses are rebuilt or restored.

1. **GOD GIVES US SPIRITUAL DEFENSES.** These are often called a wall or a hedge, Is.26:1, Is.60:18. These defenses can be for a person or for different groups of people, such as:

a. **A PERSON-** in Jer. 15:20, God made Jeremiah to be a wall that could not be

overcome. In Job 1:10, God had put a hedge around Job. A person can be protected in 3 areas:

1) Spirit- If we cannot control our spirit, we are like a city that has no walls, Prov.25:28. We need to be able to guard our spirit, just as the Bride in the Song of Solomon 4:12-14.

2) Soul- Our minds (II Cor.10:4-5, Phil.4:8) and emotions (S. of Sol.8:8-9) must also be protected and under our control.

3) Body- God took away the hedge and Job was physically afflicted (Job 1:10, Job 2:5-7). God allowed a messenger of Satan to be a thorn in the flesh, to buffet the apostle Paul, II Cor.12:7-10.

b. **A FAMILY-** In Job 1:4-5 we see how Job kept a hedge around his family, Job.1:10. Abraham's hedge was large enough to protect his nephew Lot, Gen.14:14-16, 19:29.

c. **A CITY-** God declared that He will become a wall of fire to protect Jerusalem, Zech.2:4-5.

d. **A NATION-** Israel was given a hedge, Is.5:2,7.

2. **THESE DEFENSES CAN BE BROKEN DOWN OR REMOVED BECAUSE OF SIN-** examples:

a. **A PERSON:** -Paul, II Cor.12:7 (This was to keep him from the sin of pride).

-The Lazy Man, Prov.24:30-34.

b. **A FAMILY-** David's sin had broken down the protection upon his family. David's sin had been forgiven years before, but there had never been a full restoration II Sam.12:9-14, Gal.6:7-8.

c. **A CITY-** King David's sin had broken down the spiritual protection around his city, Ps.51:18, II Sam.15:14.

d. **A NATION-** ISRAEL, Is.5:4-7, Ez.13:3-6; As God is arising to shake the earth with His judgments before the 2nd coming of Christ (Hag.2:6-7) the nations are being judged for their sins.

3. **THEN THE MINISTRIES OF INTERCESSION AND RESTORATION ARE NEEDED-**

a. **INTERCESSORS STAND IN THE GAP TO PROTECT THE WEAK DEFENSES:**

1) Moses stood in the gap to protect the nation, Ps.106:23, Ex.32:7-14.

2) Queen Esther interceded to save the Jews, Est.5:1-3; 7:2-6; 8:3-8, Heb.4:16.

3) God can send judgment when no intercessor is found, Ez.22:30-31.

4) God is seeking for intercessors to pray until He makes Jerusalem (the Church) a praise in all the earth, Is.62:6-7. Can you hear Him calling to you? (Est.4:14)

b. **THE MINISTRY OF RESTORATION IS NEEDED TO REBUILD OUR DEFENSES:**

1) God judges sin, but **above this** God desires to restore, Is.42:21-43:7, Joel 2:25.

2) Nehemiah rebuilt the walls to protect Jerusalem, Neh.4:6-23; 6:15-16.

3) God is seeking to raise up spiritual leaders with the ministry of restoration, Is.42:22-23; 58:12, Gal.6:1. This will bring us back to righteousness.

c. **INTERCESSION (for forgiveness) AND RESTORATION (for righteousness) TOGETHER:**

1) Saved Nineveh in the day of God's judgment, Jonah 3:5-10.

2) Could have saved Sodom, but did not because:

-Intercession was stopped too soon, Gen.18:20-33.

-Righteousness was lacking. Lot was righteous (II Pet.2:7-8), but he had not restored others to God- or even kept his own family, Gen.19:12-36.

* God is preparing His people to be holy and victorious, Eph.5:25-27, Mat.16:18. To accomplish this He often first judges sin, by removing our spiritual defenses and allowing our enemies to attack. But then through the ministries of intercession & restoration He can bring us back into His fulfilled plan, Hos.6:1-3

I. FASTING, Dan.10:2-3,12-13; Mat.17:21. Jesus was full of the Spirit in Lk.4:1, but after His fasting He had the power of the Spirit, Lk.4:14.

J. OUR WORDS & TESTIMONY, Rev.12:11. Every word that we speak will have a result, Prov.18:21, Mat.12:36-37. The Israelites were judged by their words in Num.13:30-32 which brought them a blessing (Num.14:24) or a curse (Num.14:2,28-29; Prov.6:2).

K. STAY CONTINUALLY FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, Eph.5:18 (be being filled, a continuous action). It is not enough to have been filled once in the past- we need the continuing fullness of the Spirit, Mat.25:1-12. There will be no room for evil spirits, Mat.12:43-45. Yokes (burdens or bondages) will also be broken, Is.10:27.

L. OUR BATTLE PLANS MUST BE REVEALED BY GOD, II Sam.5:17-25. We must not trust in our own wisdom or experience- each battle is different. In Psalm 149:9 we are told that we are to execute the judgment written (in the word of God) against our enemies. But GOD must show us the correct scripture, or judgment, or battle plan, for each situation. Then when we know God's will, we can begin to execute it, Mat.6:10, Mt.18:18.

1. SEEK THE LORD- for revelation from the Word & the Holy Spirit

2. STUDY THE SITUATION- The natural often is a picture of the spiritual realm.

a) Study the history of the situation, and seek for prophetic insight, Is.46:10.

b) Study the geography, I Cor.15:46.

c) Names can be significant, I Sam.25:25.

M. WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE ANGELS- Heb.1:14. They are to minister to us!

1. RECEIVING FROM GODLY ANGELS-

a) Revelation, Acts 27:23-25, Dan.11:10-14

b) Strength, Lk.22:43, I Kngs 19:5-8.

c) Protection, Ps.91:11-12, Mt.18:10.

2. GUIDANCE FROM THE GODLY ANGELS- Acts 8:26, Acts 12:6-11

(WARNING: Some "spiritual" people become unbalanced, seeking for angels instead of Christ, Col.2:18-19. Some "spiritual" people in Christian circles become deceived by fallen "angels of light" and bring wrong anointings and false doctrine into the Church, 2 Cor.11:4 & 14.)

N. UNITY, Mk.3:24-25. If a heart, family, church, or nation is divided, it will not stand in victory. God commands His blessing on the brethren that are united, Ps.133:1,3. It is the united army of God who all keep rank and are of one heart, who will crown Jesus as the King of Kings, I Chron.12:38, Jn.17:21.

O. VICARIOUS SUFFERING- This is where we bear the burdens of the sin of other people, by our suffering in the flesh.

1. CHRIST OUR EXAMPLE, I Pet.2:21 & 24

2. PAUL, II Cor.4:8-12, Col.1:24. The sufferings of Christ are still being fulfilled through His body, the church!

* We must be careful not to confuse this truth with the false doctrine of self-induced affliction, such as is practiced in the Catholic church.

P. CLEANSING THE SINS OF THE LAND

1. A HOUSE, CITY, OR NATION CAN BECOME UNCLEAN AND CURSED BECAUSE OF SIN

- a) A house, Lev.14:33-53, Zech.5:4,Prov.3:33
 - b) A church, II Chron.3:14, Ezek.44:6-7
 - c) A nation can be polluted by:
 - idolatry and human sacrifice, Ps.106:36-38,
 - sexual sins, Lev.18:1-28
 - murder, Deut.21:1-9
 - broken covenants, II Sam.21:1-3
2. CLEANSING CAN TAKE PLACE BY:
- a) Removing all uncleanness
 - in a house, Lev.14:40-42
 - in a church, II Chron.29:15-18, Mt.21:12
 - in a nation, II Chron.31:1, I Kgs.15:12, I Sam.28:3
 - b) Confession of sin, Dan.9:3-19, II Chron.7:14, Lev.16:15-19, 29-30, 34
 - c) Cleansing by blood, Lev.16:15-19, Col.1:20, Is.52:15

Q. CONFRONTING EVIL PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS

1. CHURCH GROWTH AND EVANGELISM IS OFTEN FRUITLESS BECAUSE OF HINDERING PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS, Eph.6:12, Mt.12:29, Is.17:4-6.
2. BE CAREFUL TO NOT FIGHT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS UNLESS YOU ARE LED (AND GIVEN POWER) BY GOD, Acts 19:13-16, II Chron.35:20-24, I Kgs.18:36-40
3. SOMETIMES WE WILL PERSONALLY CONFRONT AN EVIL SPIRIT, Mk.1:13
4. SOMETIMES WE WILL CONFRONT A PERSON WHO IS CONTROLLED BY A PRINCIPALITY OR POWER:
 - a) Paul confronted the ruling spirit who controlled the governor through the sorcerer Elymas, and victory brought salvation to the governor and an open door for the gospel in Cyprus, Acts 13:6-12.
 - b) Jesus confronted the ruling spirit in the Gaderene demoniac, and his deliverance brought revival in the area, Lk.8:26-40.
5. SOMETIMES OUR INTERCESSION WILL EMPOWER THE HOLY ANGELS TO CONFRONT THE PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS, Dan.10:2-13, Rev.12:5-8

R. BREAKING THE SINS AND CURSES OF THE FOREFATHERS

1. GOD'S JUDGEMENTS CAN COME ON THE GENERATIONS BECAUSE OF THE SINS OF THE FOREFATHERS, EX.34:7, ROM.5:12, NUM.14:33.
 - a) Eli's house- I Sam.3:12-14, I Sam.2:31-36.
 - b) God's judgment can include imparting the sin down to future generations, such as the sin of deception from Abraham (Gen.12:11-13) to Isaac (Gen.26:7) to Jacob (Gen.27:18-24) to his sons (Gen.37:31-33).
 - c) Spiritual fathers can also impart their sins (and the judgment of God) to the future generations. Jeroboam (the father of the Northern Kingdom) imparted the sin of idolatry, I Kgs.12:26-28; 15:33-34; 16:18-19; 22:51, II Kgs.10:29; 13:2... II Kgs.17:21-23.
2. THE SINS AND CURSES CAN BE BROKEN, Deut.23:5, Rev.22:3
 - a) Christ broke the curse of Adam, Rom.5:15-19
 - b) The revealing of the sons of God will break the curse on the earth, Rom.8:20-22.
 - c) Jabez broke the curse on his life, I Chron.4:9-10.
 - d) Jacob broke the sin of deception out of his life (but not before it had been imparted to the next generation), Gen.32:26-28.
 - e) Repentance and righteousness can break the iniquity of the forefathers, Ezek.18.14-20, 30-32.