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“WAKE-UP TO WARFARE”
(Ephesians 6:10-20)

INTRODUCTION:

1. We are *engaged* in a spiritual battle.
2. We need a basic and *balanced perspective* on spiritual warfare.
3. We need to know spiritual warfare to: dispel ignorance (2 Cor. 2:11); eliminate fear (2 Tim. 1:7); know the truth (John 8:32); exalt the person and power of God (1 John 4:4); and to encourage personal holiness (Eph. 4:27).

I. THE WARFARE

A. The TRUTH of it

1. *Biblical revelation* says, “yes.”
 - a. The whole Bible speaks of a warfare between God and Satan. Seven (7) Old Testament books speak to it (Gen. 3:1-5, 14-15; 1 Chron. 21:1; Job 1-2; Psalms, Isaiah, Ezek. 28; Zech. 3:1). Every New Testament writer affirms the reality of Satan and demons. There are 300 more references to Satan and demons than to holy angels in the Bible.
 - b. Jesus said Satan existed (Matt. 4:1-11; John 8:44; 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). There are 29 references to Satan in the Gospels, 25 are by Christ.

- c. Paul knew about it (Acts 13:4-12; 16:11-18; 19:11-20; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 2:2; 4:27; 6:10-20; 1 Tim.1:18; 6:12; 2 Tim. 2:3, 25)
 - d. John, as well, believed in Satan (1 John 3:8; 4:4; 5:18-19)
 - e. Hebrews 2:14-15
 - f. James did, too (James 4:7)
 - g. By Peter, also (1 Peter 5:8)
 - h. Jude 9
2. *Human Experience* says, “yes.” God would never war against Himself. Satan has greatly manifested himself in our day. Occultic practices and satanic devotees are out-of-the closet.
3. *Conclusion*: To deny Satan is to deny Christ as well. To say you believe in Christ but don’t believe in the devil is to make a mockery out of what Christ came to do (1 John 3:8).

B. The TRAITS of it (Eph. 6:11-12)

- 1. Invisible – supernatural (2 Cor. 10:3-5)
- 2. Organized – ability, function, and power
- 3. Intense – “wrestle”

4. Individual - “we”
 5. Continual – present tense
- C. The TERRITORY of it is the MIND (2 Cor. 2:11; 10:3-5; 11:3; Proverbs 4:20-23; 23:7)

II. THE WARRIORS

A. SATAN himself (1 Peter 5:8)

1. His *Person*:

- a. has traits of personality; plans (2 Cor. 11:3); communicates (Gen. 3 and Matt. 4); will
- b. is spirit being (Luke 4:36; 8:2; Ezek. 28: 11-19; Isa. 14:12-15) not omnipresent, can materialize, never dies
- c. fallen angel (Ezek. 28:11-19; Isa. 14:12-15)

2. His *Personality* is revealed in his names:

- a. Satan (Zech. 3:1; Rev. 12:9) – adversary or opposer
- b. Devil (Matt. 25:41; Luke 4:2) – slanderer
- c. Old Serpent (Gen. 3:1ff; Rev. 12:9) – subtle, crafty

- d. Great Dragon (Rev. 12:3, 7, 9) – destructive power
- e. Roaring Lion (1 Peter 5:8) - capture and engulf
- f. The Evil One (Matt. 13:19; John 17:15)
- g. The Tempter (Matt. 4:3; 1 Thess. 3:5) – entices to evil
- h. The Accuser (Rev. 12:10) – cp. Job 1:9-11; 2:4-5
- i. A Murderer (John 8:44a) – cp. 1 John 3:12
- j. A Liar (John 8:44b) – deceives (Rev. 12:9; 20:3; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; cp. Gen. 3:1-4; Job 1:6-22; Matt. 4:3-4)
- k. the god of this age (2 Cor. 4:4; John 16:11)
- l. the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2)

B. DEMONIC hosts (Eph. 6:11-12)

- 1. Their *Reality* – According to:
 - a. Jesus Himself (Matt. 12:22-29; 15:22-28; 17:14-20; Mk. 5:1-16; Luke 10:17)

- b. rest of the New Testament – Every New Testament writer (except Hebrews) mentions demons for a total of over 100 references.
- c. the Old Testament (Deut. 32:17; Psa. 106:37; Lev. 17:7; 2 Chron. 11:15; Isa. 13:21; 34:14)

2. Their *Personality*:

- a. numberless, fallen spirit beings who rebelled with Satan (Matt. 12:24-26; 25:41; Rev. 12:3-4, 7-9).
- b. intelligent – “daimon” is “knowing ones”; knew who the Lord was (Mark 1:23-24); knew their doom (Matt. 8:29); know the plan of salvation but refuse to accept it (James 2:19); promote false doctrines (1 Tim. 4:1-3); highly organized (Eph. 6:11-12)
- c. emotions (Luke 8:28; James 2:19)
- d. will (make choices) – Luke 8:32
- e. unclean (Matt. 10:1; Luke 4:33; 7:21; 8:2; 11:24)
- f. travel at will (Luke 11:24-26)
- g. can communicate (Luke 11:24-26)
- h. varying degrees of evil (Luke 11:26)

- i. can consolidate (Luke 11:26)
- j. seek rest in body (Luke 11:24)
- k. great strength (Mark 5:3-4)
- l. can cause physical and mental illness (Matt. 9:32-33; 12:22; 17:15-18; Mark 5:2, 3, 5; 9:22)

Note: Bible is careful to distinguish natural illness from demonic (Matt. 4:24; Mark 1:32, 34; Luke 7:21; 9:1).

- m. do limited miracles (2 Thess. 2:9)

3. Their *Locality*:

- a. Some confined:

(1) permanently in “Tartarus” (Gen. 6:1-4; 2 Pet. 2:4-5; Jude 6-7; 1 Peter 3:18) – these are the ones who intermarried with human women to corrupt the seed of woman and thwart the redemptive plan of God, awaiting Great White Throne Judgment

(2) temporarily in “Abyss” (Luke 8:31; Rev. 9:1, 3, 11, 13-21) – loosed for specific judgments during Tribulation

b. Some free (Eph. 6:12)

4. Their *Activity* on believers

- a. “looking” (1 Peter 5:8) for believers, who have given ground (Eph. 4:27), because of disobedience
- b. “devour” (1 Peter 5:8) harass and intimidate (1 Thess. 2:18; Rom. 15:22)
- c. divide believers (Matt. 13:38-39; 2 Cor. 2:10-11)
- d. deceive minds (2 Cor. 2:11; 10:3-5; 11:3) through:
 - (1) ignorance or unbelief - blinds minds (2 Cor. 4:4)
 - (2) doctrinal error (1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Cor. 11:13-15)
 - (3) love of sin
- e. develop strongholds (2 Cor. 10:3-5) – unholy habits
- f. God can use demons for His purposes (Psalms 78:49; 1 Cor. 5:5; 1 Tim. 1:20)
- g. Most common sins that become strongholds:

- (1) unsubmitive spirit (1 Pet. 5; 1 Sam. 15:23)
- (2) unforgiving attitude (2 Cor. 2:9-11; Heb. 12:15)
- (3) wrongful anger (Eph. 4:26-27)
- (4) abnormal fears (2 Tim. 1:7)
- (5) emotional extremes (1 Peter 5:8; 1 Cor. 15:58)
- (6) complaining (Eph. 4:29; Phil. 2:14; Col. 4:6)
- (7) wrongful worship (1 Cor. 10:14-22)
- (8) immoral behavior (1 Cor. 5:1:ff)
- (9) occultic involvement (Deut. 18:9-14; Isa. 8:19)

Note: Watch out for anything that would feed the flesh in these areas (Rom. 13:14; Matt. 11:6). For example: drugs, some TV, some movies, some music, some cartoons, some toys, etc.

- h. Symptoms of demonization (see page 13).

5. Their *Intensity* – “How much control can a demon have on a believer?”
“Possession” is not a biblical term. The biblical term is “to be demonized,” which is found about 20 times in the New Testament. (e.g., Matt. 4:24; 8:16, 28, 33; 9:32; 12:22; 15:22; Mark 1:25-26; 9:25; John 10:21; Acts 5:16; 8:7; 16:16-18; 19:12). Unbelievers come under greater control of demons than do believers.

“How can a Christian, who is indwelled by the Holy Spirit, be influenced by demons?” Because a believer’s body and soul (mind, will and emotions) are still being redeemed. We need to know that *all invasion is demonization, the only difference is in the extent of control* – from mild to severe. Does not the Holy Spirit and flesh battle within every believer? (Gal. 5:16-17) If, indeed, the old man has been judged (Rom. 6:6), so has Satan as well (John 12:31), yet, both are still active. So, if the Spirit and flesh can co-exist in a believer, why can’t the Holy Spirit and unholy spirits (demons)? Several passages in Scripture provide examples: 1 Sam. 16:13-14; 18:10-11; 19:9-10; Luke 13:11-16; Acts 5:1-4; 1 Cor. 5:5; 2 Cor. 11:14; 12:7; Eph. 4:27. Yet, neither Satan nor demons can permanently indwell a believer nor ultimately defeat him.

“Can Satan (demons) read our mind?”

Satan is not omniscient. He does not know everything. Nowhere does the Bible indicate Satan can read our thoughts. Because he is an angel, he doesn't have all knowledge (1 Peter 1:11-12). If holy angels don't understand everything, there's no reason to believe a corrupted one would. Probably the only thing Satan can do in the realm of knowledge is predict our behavior based upon his observation of our attitudes and actions.

6. Their *Finality* (God's Major Plan for dealing with demons – see page 15).
 - a. confrontation or casting out (Acts 19: 13-16)
 - b. resist and fight using available weapons (more later) – James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9)

III. THE WEAPONS (Rom. 13:11-14; Eph. 6:10-20)

- A. What we ENJOY (Eph. 6:10-13)
 1. our Position (v. 10a – “in Christ”)
 - a. *Blood* for sins (Rev. 12:11)
 - b. *Cross* for flesh (Rom. 7:18; 13:14; Gal. 2:20)
 - c. *Name* of “Lord Jesus Christ” for enemy Pro. 18:10; Acts 16:18)

d. *Word* to renew mind (Eph. 6:17;
Heb. 4:12)

2. our Power (v. 10b) – (Rom. 8:9, 11;
Eph. 3:20; 5:18; Phil. 4:13; 1 John
4:4) – walk in the Spirit

3. our Protection (Armor) – (vv. 11a, 13a)
- Put on armor

B. What we HAVE (Eph. 6:14-15):

1. Belt of truth (v. 14a) – commitment to fight

2. Breastplate of righteousness (v. 14b) – holiness

3. Shoes (v. 15) – confidence in God

C. What we TAKE UP (Eph. 6:16-17):

1. Shield of faith (v. 16) – believe the Word

2. Helmet of salvation (v. 17a) – hope

3. Sword of the Spirit (v. 17b) – apply Word

D. What we SHOULD DO (Eph. 6:18-20):

1. Pray (v. 18a)

2. Watch (v. 18b) – 1 Peter 5:8

3. Persevere (v. 18c) – 1 Peter 5:8

4. Intercede (v. 18d) – Warfare praying for others

5. Boldly witness (vv. 19-20)

IV. THE WINNERS... STAND!! (Eph. 6:11, 13, 14)

- A. Satan and his demons were defeated at the cross
(Col. 2:13-15; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:8)
 - 1. We are to be overcomers (John 17:15; 1 John 4:4; 5:4-5)
 - 2. We are to be super-conquerors (Rom. 8:31-39)
- B. Satan's ultimate destiny is eternal confinement
(Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20: 7-10). Sentence has
been given — awaiting final execution!

CONCLUSION:

- 1. The Christian life is a battleground not a playground.
- 2. We should be 1 Peter 5:8...

“WAKE-UP TO WARFARE!!!”

SYMPTOMS OF DEMONIZATION

MARK 5:1-20

- unusual physical strength (v. 3)
- fits of rage (v. 4)
- personality disintegration (vv. 6-7)
- resistance to spiritual things (v. 7)
- clairvoyant powers, such as visions and hallucinations (v. 7)
- voice changes (v. 9)
- destructive desires (suicidal) (v. 13)

OTHER SYMPTOMS:

- sudden and unreasonable mood changes
- unnatural attachment to charms, fortune telling, occult
- extreme enslaving habits – sex, perversion, blasphemy, drugs, depression, fear, etc.
- extreme restlessness (insomnia)
- glazed protruding eyes and muttering mouth
- seizures (Mark 9:22)
- scoliosis (Luke 13:11-17)

- hysteria / incoherency
- deafness (especially as Bible is read)
- facial changes / body contortions
- inability to focus, especially on spiritual things

GOD’S MAJOR PLAN FOR DEALING WITH DEMONS

I. THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST IN MY LIFE THROUGH MY:

1. confession of sin — blood
2. death of flesh (no rights) — cross
3. obedience to Word (willing) — Word
4. submission / surrender to Christ

“Is He Lord over every area?” A case of
“mind over matter” (Phil. 4:6; Matt. 11:6)

Then,

II. THE (DELEGATED) AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER IS PRACTICALLY MINE:

1. by virtue of my positional union with Christ
2. “I am a priest” (Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 1 Peter 2:5)

*When I allow Him to be Lord, then I have
authority and can rightfully assume my
priestly role.

Now,

III. ENJOY THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST TO FIGHT IN MY BEHALF

He’ll fight for me and protect me.

**“SHATTERING DEMONIC
STRONGHOLDS”
(Getting Free)
(2 Cor. 10:3-5)**

What is a “stronghold?” This is a military term for a fortress or castle of resistance. It is a place of bondage or slavery. It is a power-base of the enemy in my life, either by attitude, action or habit.

How can I tell if I have a stronghold? Is there any area where you keep confessing but it keeps returning and defeating you? Any sin you keep justifying or rationalizing is a stronghold – habitual, besetting sins are strongholds (Pro. 5:22).

How do I shatter strongholds? How can I get free of bondage that paralyzes my effectiveness? 10 Steps: 2 Cor. 10:3-5 –

1. **RECEIVE** Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord (2 Cor. 10:3-5 “we” six times). Only in Him can freedom come (1 John 4:4) – Assurance brings security and confidence.
2. **REALIZE** that your struggle is spiritual and must be faced with spiritual weapons. Be honest – call what it is – refuse to justify/excuse it because of circumstances, or background, etc. (2 Cor. 10:5a excuses).

3. RECOGNIZE your specific stronghold. Name it specifically (bitterness, anger, insecurity, fear, pride, deceit...). How and where did it begin?
4. REMOVE legal ground through confession and repentance – (1 John 1:7, 9). Use the weapon of the Blood for our sins (Prayer of Renunciation – see page 24).
5. RENOUNCE flesh and self and its “rights.” Die to self through the Lordship of Christ. Your weapon here is the Cross (Rom. 13:14; Gal. 2:20).
6. REBUKE vocally and specifically this demonic influence. You have authority in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:18; Luke 10:17-20; Pro. 18:10) – Speak aloud something like this:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
I forbid any demon to control my mind
or harm me in any way. I command the
demonic stronghold of (X) to breathe
your way out of me and go to the pit.
You were defeated at the cross and on
that basis you have to go! Now go,
demons!

7. REPLACE the void with the Word of God (our final weapon) Luke 11:24-26; Psalm 119:11 – (control mind input and renew your mind).

8. ROBE yourself daily in the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10-20) – see prayer on page 22.
9. REMAIN moment by moment under the Lordship of Christ – Spirit-filled and surrendered to obey (2 Cor. 10:5) – in the Word, under authority, short accounts of sin.
10. REJOICE in Him to be your Stronghold (Psalms 9:9; 59:9, 17).

**“DIVINELY POWERFUL WEAPONS”
FOR DAILY SPIRITUAL WARFARE
(Staying Free)**

RECOGNIZE these Scriptural truths about your position:

- that you are in a spiritual conflict (Eph. 6:12; 2 Cor. 10:3)... primarily waged in the mind. You must face the enemy.
- that the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ has already (positionally) defeated the enemy (Col. 1:13; 2:15; 1 John 3:8; Heb. 2:14-15).
- that the same power that defeated Satan dwells in you by virtue of your union with Christ (1 John 4:4, 17; 5:18; Rom. 6:1-11; 8:11; Eph. 2:6).
- that as a child of God you have been given authority over the enemy (John 1:12; Luke 10:17-20).

REPENT:

- Confess and repent of every sin (be specific) giving no ground to the enemy (Eph. 4:27; 1 John 1:7, 9). “Take Back Ground” (see page 26).
- Avoid all temptation to evil (2 Tim. 2:22).
- Make no provision for the flesh (Rom. 13:14).

- Reject attitudes of worldliness by submitting to God (James 4:7).

RENEW your mind by:

- daily putting off the old man and putting on the new man (Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:5, 12; Rom. 6:1ff; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 13:14).
- being continually filled with and walking in the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18).
- bringing every thought into obedience to Christ (2 Cor. 10:5; Col. 3:1-2; Phil. 4:8; Rom. 12:2).
- daily put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:14-18) – see page 22.
- REJOICE in the following weapons which can only be used when I've repented, crucified flesh:
- BLOOD provides victory over sin when we repent (Rev. 12:11; 1 John 1:7; Heb. 9:22).
- NAME of "Lord Jesus Christ" provides victory over Satan and demons (Pro. 18:10; Phil. 2:9-11; Acts 3:6; 16:18). Praise is valuable here – speak it out.
- WORD provides victory over the world as my mind is renewed (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12; John 17:17). "It is written..." Basis for all weapons.

REBUKE the enemy daily by (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9):

- vocally commanding demons to leave you alone (see page 17).
- being watchful and alert (Eph. 6:18; 1 Peter 5:8).
- faith and “all” prayer (Mark 11:22; Eph. 6:18-20).

**“MARCH ON TO VICTORY,
SUPER-CONQUEROR!”**

A PRAYER TO PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

Dear Father, I recognize that I am engaged in a spiritual conflict with supernatural forces. I realize that the Christian life is not a playground, but a battleground. I also know that apart from You I am without wisdom and power to overcome the enemy. Lord, I'm so thankful that my position in Christ is already settled and secure – I'm already seated in the heavenlies with You. Father, I am grateful that You have already provided all the resources I need to overcome the enemy in my daily walk – and I take full responsibility for appropriating these resources!

Dear Lord, I thank and praise You for Your great and precious promises that tell me, "Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world," and "At the cross, Christ gave a death blow to Satan."

So, today, Lord, I want to be strong in You and in the strength of Your might and I am putting on the whole armor of God, so I'll be able to stand firm and resist the enemy.

I put on the belt of truthfulness. I am ready and committed to fight the battle by having an attitude of truthfulness today.

Next, I put on the breastplate of righteousness. I want to be holy and pure in my life today. I need my mind and my emotions to be protected by living a godly life.

I shod my feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. I am firmly planted in the truth that God is on my side.

Next, I take up the shield of faith with which I will be able to quench all the fiery darts of temptation from the evil one. I resolve this day to live by faith and to believe God – His power and His promises. I want to consistently apply what the Bible teaches about God to every situation I face today.

I also take up the helmet of salvation. I am thankful for the sure hope of ultimate salvation and victory in Christ.

Finally, I take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. I believe the Word and know it will supply all I need today in the conflict. I pray for wisdom to apply specific Scriptures to specific situations today.

Heavenly Father, thank You for all these provisions. I love You and submit my life this day to the controlling power of Your Holy Spirit.

This is my prayer in the strong name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen!

PRAYER OF RENUNCIATION AND AFFIRMATION*

(None of us knows what works of Satan may have been passed on to him from his ancestors. Therefore, it is wise for every child of God to make the following declaration and to repeat it from time to time. Speak it aloud, inserting your full name in the blank space.)

As a child of God, purchased by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, I, _____, here and now renounce and repudiate all the sins of my ancestors. As one who has been delivered from the power of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of God's dear Son, I cancel out all demonic working that has been passed on to me from my ancestors.

As one who has been crucified with Jesus Christ and raised to walk in newness of life, I cancel every curse that may have been put upon me. I announce to Satan and all his hosts that Christ became a curse for me when He hung upon the Cross. As one who has been crucified and raised with Christ and now sits with Him in heavenly places, I renounce any and every way in which Satan may claim ownership of me. I declare myself to be completely and eternally signed over and committed to the Lord Jesus Christ.

All this I do on the basis of the truths revealed in the Scriptures and in the Name and on the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:7; 2:5-6; Col. 1:13; 1 John 3:8b; Gal. 2:20; 3:13; Rom. 6:4)

*Mark I. Bubeck, *The Adversary* (Moody Press, Chicago, 1975) p. 148