

“DON’T BE IGNORANT” (Part 4)

Wake Up to Warfare (2 Cor. 2:11; 1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12)

INTRO: Spiritual warfare is real. It is neither phony nor funny. We are all engaged in a real spiritual battle. Some of the most helpful information to enjoying an abundant Christian life is in this area. A balanced and biblical understanding of this area will: dispel ignorance on who the enemy is and how he operates, eliminate fear, exalt the person & power of God, and encourage personal holiness. Satan hates teachings like this because he hates exposure.

I. THE WAR

A. The TRUTH of it comes from two sources:

1. *Testimony of Scripture* says, “Yes.” Seven (7) OT books make references beginning in Genesis. Every NT writer (10) affirms the reality of Satan & demons. More than 300 more references to Satan and demons than to holy angels. Over 100 references to demons in NT. There are 48 references to Satan in Gospels, 25 by Jesus. He dealt with demonized people on earth (9 of 17 mentioned). Paul faced it and taught on it (15 times). So did Dr. Luke in Acts (11 times). Includes John, James, Jude, writer of Hebrews & Revelation, too. The first time “church” mentioned it is warfare related (Matt. 16:18).
2. *Human experience* says, “Yes.” Just look around and see obvious ongoing conflict. Satan is no longer in closet. Look at TV, movies, books, etc.

B. The TRAITS - What does war look like? (Eph. 6:10-12)

1. *Supernatural* - spiritual and invisible, not with flesh & blood
2. *Organized* - chain of command, hierarchy according to function and power
3. *Intense* – “wrestle”, will worsen as near the end
4. *Personal*- “we”, every Christian involved
5. *Continual*- ongoing

C. The TERRITORY is in the mind - BRAIN pic - (2 Cor. 2:11; 10:3-5; 11:3; Pro. 4:20-23; 23:7; Phil 4:8)

II. THE ENEMIES-Warfare waged on three fronts

- A. The *Flesh within* us (temptation)-1Cor. 10:13; James 1:13-18; Matt. 4:1-11; Gal. 5:15-26. Our flesh craves.
- B. The *World around* us (Jn. 12:31; 15:18-27; 17:15-19; Rom. 12:1-2; Jam. 4:1-10; 1 Jn. 2:15-17). The world offers Progression of worldliness...
- C. The *Spiritual Forces against* us (1 Pet. 5:8).
 1. ONE SATAN (1 Pet. 5:8) - One adversary, fallen angel named Lucifer (Ezek. 28:11-19; Isa. 14:12-15; Rev. 12:7-9). God made Lucifer who became Satan by rebellion. He has many names. He has a constant adversarial relationship with every believer. Stats . . .
 2. MANY DEMONS (Rev. 12:3-4) – Demons suggest!

- a. Reality - Bible does not attempt to prove their existence any more than it does God's or good angels.
- b. Personality- human like; fell with Lucifer; fallen angelic beings possessed evil mind, rebellious will, and many emotions. All are evil, great strength, restless without bodies, etc.

III. SATAN’S DESIGNS (2 Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:11)

- A. DISCOVER ground – “Seeking” (1 Pet. 5:8) for believers who have given them “opportunity” by unconfessed sins (Eph. 4:27).
- B. DECEIVE minds through lies that God cannot be believed (2 Cor. 2:11; 10:3-5; 11:3) - will use unbelief, ignorance, error, etc.
- C. DEVELOP strongholds (2 Cor. 10:3-5) unholy habits of disobedience; demonically controlled power bases that enslave us (Ex: sexual sins, wrongful anger, abnormal fears, unforgiving spirit, rebellious attitudes, immoral behavior, occultic involvement, etc.) Continuum of sin...
- D. Goal? DESTROY our effectiveness as a Christian (1 Pet. 5:8). He cannot take our salvation, but he can make our walk with Christ ineffective.

IV. THE WEAPONS (2 Cor.10:3-5)

- A. Words of PRAISE (Psa. 149:5-9) - enemy hates our praise; God inhabits.
- B. The WORD of God (Matt. 4:1-11) - sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17b).
- C. CROSS of Christ (Col. 2:13-15)
- D. ANGELS of protection guard us (Psa. 91:11; 34:7) –
- E. HOLY SPIRIT in us empowers (Eph. 6:10; 1 Jn. 4:4)
- F. WHOLE ARMOR from God (Eph. 6:13-17) - Put on!
- G. Warfare PRAYER (Eph. 6:18-20)
- H. NAME of the “Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 16:18)
* RECOGNIZE him - RESPECT him - RESIST him! (1 Pet. 5:8-9)

V. THE WINNERS

- A. The enemy was DEFEATED at the cross (Col. 2:13-15; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 Jn. 3:8) - stripped of his power.
- B. Their ultimate DESTINY is certain eternal confinement (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:7-10) - Sentence has been announced, execution is awaiting!

CONC: Waking up to warfare should bring more consistent victory in your daily Christian walk. We should “be sober and alert, our enemy prowls around...”. We should remember, “We are more than conquerors...” The question is not, “Do you have the victory?” but, “Are you standing in the victory you already have in Christ?”