

SPIRITUAL WARFARE- “THE WORLD, THE FLESH AND THE DEVIL”

BIBLE STUDY BY DR. EVELYN MCCOLLIN JAN 26TH 2021

Hymn 339 Voices in Praise “Stand Up Stand Up for Jesus

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 6:10-18

2 Corinthians 10: 3-5; 2 Corinthians 4:4

Introduction

Spiritual Warfare are the battles we face with the devil, the world and the old sinful nature. Spiritual warfare is the spiritual process by which ground is taken from the enemy and claimed for the Kingdom of God.

In this lesson, we are going to identify three enemies: “**The world, the flesh and the devil.**”

- a. The world (1 John 2: 15-17)
- b. The Flesh or sin nature (1 Peter 2:11)
- c. The devil (1 Peter 5:8)

Part I- The Spiritual Battle

1. There is an invisible world

The invisible world is just as real as the visible world, and both Old and New Testament refer to it often.

- a. 2 Kings 6:15-19: Elisha, surrounded by a hostile army, tells his servant that invisible hosts are protecting them.
- b. Daniel 10: An angel reveals to Daniel the battle he has been waging.

2. Satan’s names reveal his tactics:

- a. Satan (adversary): Job 1; 6-7; 1 Thessalonians 2:18
- b. Devil (slanderer): 1 Peter 5:8
- c. Lucifer (son of the morning): Isaiah 14:12
- d. Evil one: 1 John 5:19
- e. Tempter: 1 Thessalonians 3:5
- f. Accuser of the brethren: Revelation 12: 10

3. Satan attacks God’s program, the church by:

- a. False philosophies: Colossians 2:8
- b. False religions: 1Coribnthians 10:20

- c. False doctrine: 1 John 2:18
- d. False disciples: Matthew 13: 24-30
- e. False morals: 2 Thessalonians 2: 7-12

4. Satan attacks God's people by:

- a. Directing governments: Daniel 10:13
- b. Deceiving people: 2 Corinthians 4:4
- c. Destroying lives: Hebrews 2:14
- d. Persecuting the saints: Revelation 2:10
- e. Preventing service: 1 Thessalonians 2:18
- f. Promoting schisms: 2 Corinthians 2: 10-11
- g. Planting doubt: Genesis 3: 1-5
- h. Producing sects and cults: 1 Timothy 4:1
- i. Provoking sin:
 - Anger: Ephesians 4: 26-27
 - Pride: 1 Timothy 3:6
 - Worry: Matthew 13:22
 - Self-reliance: 1 Chronicles 21:1
 - Discouragement: 1 Peter 5: 6-8
 - Worldiness: 1 John 2:16
 - Lying: Acts 5:3
 - Immorality: 1 Corinthians 5: 1-2

5. *Satan's power is limited*

- a. He is created, therefore not omniscient, or infinite.
- b. He can be resisted by the Christian: James 4:7
- c. God places limitations on him. Job 1:12

6. Explain: *We do not fight for victory; we fight from victory.*

Part II: The Spiritual Battle within Us

Spiritual Warfare and the Flesh (1 Peter 2:11)

1John 2:16 *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

What is meant by the flesh? As Christians, we are constantly battling between what we want to do versus what we know the Lord wants us to do. Every Christian battles with the sin nature or the flesh.

When we walk according to our fleshly lusts we are walking according to the law of sin from which we have been liberated in Christ. Whereas, when we walk according to God's truth we

bear the fruit of God's Spirit (love, peace, joy, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance; against such there is no law, **Gal. 5:23**).

Gal 5:24; Rom 6:6; Gal 5:17; Gal 6:8 ; Gal 5:19-21; John 3:8

1Co 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. What does Satan most often use to tempt you- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life?
2. Compare Jesus' temptations with Eve's and note the responses.
3. How can you make Jesus' responses your own as you resist Satan's attacks?

Part III -The Worldly Battle

We, as believers, are told not to conform to the norms of how others live but to live to please God, who is not of this world. Jesus said in John 17: 14-16, "I have given them your word: and the world has hated them because they are not of the world. ..."

The world represents people, religions, governments, or worldly systems that oppose Christ. The world that rejects the truth of Christ is under the control or deception of the god of this world, which is the devil. The world is the battleground between truth and error or light and darkness and therefore is a place in which we engage in spiritual warfare.

(1 John 2: 15-17)

The apostle John sums it up when he said, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world-the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-is not of the Father but of the world. And the world is passing away, And the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."

1 John 5:4; Romans 12:2; Revelation 12:9; 1 John 4:4

Reflection: How can we live in the world and not be of the world? James 4: 1-4

A little parable about a ship at sea explains this reality.

A ship in the sea is all right.

The sea in the ship is all wrong. What is the application?

The church in the world is all right; the world in the church is all wrong. What happens when the world gets in the church?

If there is time, we will go on to the Power Point Presentation on the Armor of God.