

TEACHING SERVICE

May 27, 2018

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

THE INVISIBLE WAR

- GUIDING TEXT.
- IN THIS SESSION WE WILL LOOK AT THE FOLLOWING
- Defining Spiritual Warfare
- The Origin and Nature of the Battle
- Satan's Influence
- Satan's Headquarters

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

THE INVISIBLE WAR

- IN THIS SESSION WE WILL LOOK AT THE FOLLOWING
- Territorial Spirits
- The Battleground
- Weapons Available to Us
- Openings which enable us to be exposed to invasion by the enemy
- Discussion Questions

DEFINING SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- Every person on earth is involved in a war. It is Spiritual Warfare, and it is much more critical than a battle between the super powers with nuclear weapons.
- This war which seeks to conquer and destroy the souls, spirits and bodies of all persons, and is unlike earthly warfare, although earthly wars may be part of it.
- Our warfare is in the realm of the supernatural, and although invisible to human eyes, our enemy is real. The conflict is taking place between the forces of and powers of God and the lesser forces and power of Satan.
- We must understand the nature of this war and learn how to fight effectively against the foe, because many lives – including our own – are at stake.

THE ORIGIN AND NATURE OF THE BATTLE

- This battle began before time began. Satan was once an angel in heaven called Lucifer and was in charge of worship. However, he became arrogant and tried to exalt himself over God.
- Ezekiel 28:12-17 tells us about his beginning and his fall.

THE ORIGIN AND NATURE OF THE BATTLE

- ¹⁴ With an anointed cherub as guardian I placed you;^[e] you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked among the stones of fire.
- ¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day that you were created, until iniquity was found in you. ¹⁶ In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and the guardian cherub drove you out from among the stones of fire.
- ¹⁷ Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you.

THE ORIGIN AND NATURE OF THE BATTLE

- Isaiah 14:12-15
- How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! ¹³ You said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit on the mount of assembly on the heights of Zaphon;^[c] ¹⁴ I will ascend to the tops of the clouds, I will make myself like the Most High.” ¹⁵ But you are brought down to Sheol, o the depths of the Pit.

THE ORIGIN AND NATURE OF THE BATTLE

- Although Lucifer was a magnificent angel in heaven, he was not content.
- He aspired to supremacy. He coveted the honour and glory that belong to God alone.
- He and the angels under him rebelled against God and were kicked out of heaven.
- He was no longer Lucifer, which means “Morning Star”, or “a shining one”. He became instead Satan, the “accuser” or ‘the adversary”.
- The angels who rebelled with Satan were thrown out of heaven as well and became demons, evil spirits, or unclean spirits.

SATAN'S INFLUENCE

- Satan is powerful, but not omnipotent, only God is.
- Satan is not omnipresent and can only be in one place at any time.
- Satan and his evil spirits can assume visible forms, such as when he appeared as a serpent in the Garden of Eden

SATAN'S INFLUENCE

- During His ministry on earth, the Lord Jesu came up against evil spirits and their activities on many occasions.
- Demons can cause blindness and muteness (Matthew 12:22)
- Convulsions and Seizures (Mark 9:17-20)
- They can cause self-destruction (Luke 8:27-29)
- They can also perform signs and wonders (Exodus 7:11-12 and Matthew 24:24).

SATAN'S HEADQUARTERS

- Ephesians 6:10-12
- Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our^[b] struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

SATAN'S HEADQUARTERS

- In the text , Paul makes it very clear that Christians are involved in a life and death struggle with a highly organized kingdom inhabited by evil, rebellious spirit beings, and that the headquarters are in the heavenly places.
- The phrase “heavenly realm, or places, raises a particular problem in the minds of many.
- If Satan was cast out of heaven before time began, how then can he still occupy a place in the heavenly realm or heavenly places?

SATAN'S HEADQUARTERS

- The Bible teaches that there is more than one heaven. In Genesis 1:1, we are told “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”.
- There are three heavens. The first heaven is the visible and natural heaven, with the sun, moon and stars.
- The third heaven is mentioned in 2 Corinthians 12:2, where Paul mentions a man (perhaps himself) who was caught up to the third heaven, which is God’s dwelling place, or paradise, the place of rest for the departed righteous. I believe that the second or intermediate heaven, is where Satan’s headquarters is located.

SATAN'S HEADQUARTERS

- Derek Prince in his book “Spiritual Warfare” states that our prayers to God, and His answers to us have to pass through this realm and can be blocked or delayed by Satan’s fallen angels. The book of Daniel gives an example of this aspect of Spiritual Warfare. Daniel prayed and sought God’s revelation on a matter concerning his people, Israel. For three weeks, he devoted himself with special intensity to prayer and waiting on God. After three weeks, an angel from heaven came to Daniel with the answer. He also told Daniel, that from the first day that Daniel began his three weeks prayer vigil, he (the angel) was sent with the answer. This angel was delayed by one of Satan’s angels., as he passed through Satan’s headquarters (Daniel 10).

TERRITORIAL SPIRITS

- Satan is not omnipotent, or all powerful. Neither is he omnipresent, or present everywhere.
- He can be present in only one place at any one time. Under his authority there is a vast horde of spirit-beings, who perform his evil will.
- It appears as though they have a hierarchical structure, very much as how an army or the police force is structured. The writer of Ephesians speaks of rulers, authorities, cosmic powers and spiritual forces of evil (Ephesians 6:12).

TERRITORIAL SPIRITS

- Some commentators believe in what has been called “Territorial Spirits”.
- Some believe that there are powerful spirit beings assigned to geographical areas, who report to Satan, through their lines of command, or their superior commanders. To put it another way, under Satan is a powerful spirit being who is in charge of a large area of the globe, who reports directly to Satan. Each of these commanders would have a number of less powerful spirits, each of which is responsible for a country.
- Each country is divided into states or counties. Each county into districts, and districts into towns and villages. Over each sub=division is a spirit- being, who is responsible for making mischief and creating evil.

TERRITORIAL SPIRITS

- Mark 5:1-20 tells of a man who was inhabited by legions of unclean spirits. This demon-possessed man behaved like a madman and had super-human strength. Jesus was able to exorcise the evil spirits, enabling the man to regain his right mind.
- Evil spirits still afflict us today, although it is not very fashionable to talk about demon-possession.
- The abuse of illicit drugs, has exposed many of our young people to be possessed by these evil beings.

THE BATTLEGROUND

- Let us look at the battleground on which this war is fought. Paul writing at 2 Corinthians 10:3-4, reveals that though we are living in the flesh, our war is not in the realm of flesh.
- We must understand the battleground is in the realm of the mind. Satan is waging an all-out war to captivate the minds of humanity. He is building strongholds and fortresses in people's minds. It is in this area that we must use our spiritual weapons to break down these strongholds, to liberate the minds of persons and then bring them into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

THE BATTLEGROUND

- Satan deliberately and systematically builds strongholds in our minds. These strongholds and fortresses resist the truth of the Gospel and the Word of God and prevent people from being able to receive the message of the Gospel. These strongholds relate to prejudices and preconceptions. One of the prejudices relates to a formula that goes like this: “If I know nothing about it, it is sure to be wrong”. “If I am not the first to think about it, then it is dangerous and must be resisted”. As a result we resist and fight against new things, and view them with intense fear and suspicion .

THE WEAPONS AVAILABLE TO US

- The apostle Paul, as he wrote to the Church at Ephesus, informs us about the weapons we can use as we battle against these formidable foes which are arrayed against us (Ephesians 6:13-17).
- These weapons fall into two categories - the offensive or attacking ones - and the defensive ones.
- Paul speaks of “the Armour of God”. He uses the image of a Roman Soldier, in battle array, to illustrate the kind of preparation the Christian must undertake in order to be successful in this ongoing battle.

THE WEAPONS AVAILABLE TO US

- **DEFENSIVE WEAPONS**

- **THE BELT OF TRUTH:** This refers to honesty, openness and sincerity in all things with God and with others. The devil thrives on deception.
- He told Eve “You will not die. You will be like God” (Genesis 3-1-4). After Adam and Eve were deceived, they hid from God, denied that they had disobeyed and were involved in blame-shifting. Things have not changed since then.
- David put on the Belt of Truth, when confronted by Nathan, over his affair with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah. He repented and confessed his sins before God (Psalm 51:1-4).

THE WEAPONS AVAILABLE TO US

- **DEFENSIVE WEAPONS**
- **THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS:** For the Roman soldier, this protected the heart and other vital organs. Righteousness refers to right living and integrity in one's lifestyle and character. It is submitting, to the lordship of Christ, which really means putting into practice what we know is right.
- We fail to put on the breastplate of righteousness whenever we rebel against the truth which God has shown us. Whenever we rebel against the truth, we open ourselves to demonic attacks. We rebel against the truth whenever we refuse God's will, or are disobedient to His Word, or as it revealed to us.

THE WEAPONS AVAILABLE TO US

- **DEFENSIVE WEAPONS**
- **THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS:**
- Wearing the breastplate of righteousness enables us to know the right and to practice it. David has been described as a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14). A heart which is linked to God's heart is protected by a breastplate which cannot be penetrated by the arrows and darts of the evil one. His wicked strategies cannot harm or fatally wound such hearts.

THE WEAPONS AVAILABLE TO US

- **DEFENSIVE WEAPONS**
- **FEET SHOD WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE:**
- **THE SHIELD OF FAITH:** This quenches the enemy's flaming arrows, before they can become destructive.
- **THE HELMET OF SALVATION:** The helmet protects the brain. The mind is located in the brain. Most of the battle is in our minds.

THE WEAPONS AVAILABLE TO US

- **ATTACKING WEAPONS**
- **THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT:** The Christian's sword is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17).
- **WARFARE PRAYER:** Paul tells us at Ephesians 6: 18 “Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication”. This is a prayer of attack.

THE WEAPONS AVAILABLE TO US

- **ATTACKING WEAPONS**
- **WARFARE PRAYER:** In 2 Corinthians 10:4, “for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human,^[d] but they have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments” Paul speaks of the destruction of “strongholds”. “Strongholds” here refers to Satan’s fortresses.
- Warfare Prayer is perhaps the most powerful of all the weapons that God has given us.
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THE WEAPONS AVAILABLE TO US

- **ATTACKING WEAPONS**
- **WARFARE PRAYER:** An example of warfare prayer is found in Acts 12:1-6. Peter was in a maximum security jail. Earlier James was executed and the followers were aware that Peter was in real danger, so the Church went into serious and prolonged prayer, which occurred day and night. God answered their prayers and Peter was released. The Church today needs to go into serious warfare prayer as we come against the many problems which confront our society.

THE WEAPONS AVAILABLE TO US

- **ATTACKING WEAPONS**
- **THE NAME AND BLOOD OF JESUS**
- **THE AUTHORITY OF THE NAME OF JESUS**
- The effectiveness of spiritual warfare depends on authority and power. Jesus Christ has overwhelming authority and power over Satan.
- The authority of Jesus comes from His deity, His sinless humanity, and the honour given to Him by God because of His perfect obedience and sacrifice. Jesus has given believers this power and authority over Satan and his demons.
- We have power and authority over Satan and his demons, let us use what God has given us to use in Spiritual Warfare.
- Mark 16:17

THE WEAPONS AVAILABLE TO US

- **ATTACKING WEAPONS**
- **THE POWER OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS**
- “Pleading the blood of Jesus” is more than just a catchphrase. It is in a sense, a legal term. It means to invoke what Christ has done on the cross. A blood covering is provided through faith in God, and prayer, and belief in the covenant of God.
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THE WEAPONS AVAILABLE TO US

- **ATTACKING WEAPONS**
- **THE POWER OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS**
- When we say that we cover others with the precious blood of Christ, this means that we claim the blood that He shed, which enabled us to enter into the new covenant with God. It also means that our God will look from heaven and watch over us and protect us. We can also pray over our children and cover them with the covenant blood of Jesus. Demons tremble at the name of Jesus, and they flee at the blood of the Lamb.

THE WEAPONS AVAILABLE TO US

- **ATTACKING WEAPONS**
- **THE POWER OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS**
- We can plead the blood for ourselves when the devil tries to torment us with the memory of past sins that have already been forgiven and forgotten by God. Doing this reminds us and the devil that God has forgotten our sins, because of Christ's sacrifice and His blood. When we plead the blood, we acknowledge and testify to the overcoming power of the sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. The blood of Jesus is powerful.

OPENINGS WHICH ENABLE US TO BE EXPOSED TO INVASION BY THE ENEMY

- **God has built a hedge around His people** to protect them from the enemy (Job 1:10).
- At times because of our behaviour or lack of faith, a breach or opening appears in the hedge. Whenever we get involved in activities such as reading the horoscopes, the use of illicit drugs, promiscuous sexual activity, obeah/voodoo, getting involved with black magic or the occult, or show fear, to name a few, our God constructed hedge is breached, and satanic/demonic forces can enter our space. This can also happen when we bring certain types pictures, images and items into our homes. So when we visit foreign countries, be careful what you buy, or what you accept as gifts.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE THE INVISIBLE WAR

- **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Is it possible that a Christian can be possessed by demons?
- Can demons be exorcised by anyone?
- In an exorcism, why must the prayer of deliverance be spoken aloud?

SPIRITUAL WARFARE THE INVISIBLE WAR

- The End