



*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." – Ephesians 6:10-18*

## **INTRO TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

*"Family is spiritual warfare. Such language makes some of us uneasy, sounding like the hyper dramatic incantations they have seen in the exorcism services of some Pentecostal sect. In reality though, the unseen subtext of the world around us is intrinsic to the thought of the Bible. And seems only antiquated or outlandish to our secularized Western context." – Russell Moore, The Storm-Tossed family*

*"Avoiding the topic is a profoundly inadequate response. Spiritual warfare is not an isolatable compartment of church ministry or Christian experience. Spiritual warfare is an integral part of the entire Christian experience. It is a fact of life. To think that a Christian could avoid spiritual warfare is like imagining that a gardener could avoid dealing with weeds. Our goal should be rather to gain an accurate and sober-minded understanding of spiritual warfare – not a view of tainted by frightening superstitions and odd practices...Spiritual Warfare is all-encompassing. It touches every area of our lives – our families, our relationships, our church, our neighbourhoods, our communities, our places of employment. There is virtually no part of our existence over which the Evil One does not want to maintain or reassert his unhealthy and perverse influence." – Clinton Arnold, Perspectives on Spiritual Warfare*

## **TWO PITFALLS IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

### **1) \_\_\_\_\_ Perspective**

- Tendency is to be \_\_\_\_\_ by the spiritual realm
- Dangers
  - Only see life from \_\_\_\_\_ perspective
  - Having difficulty making sense of \_\_\_\_\_ realities
  - Prone to make enemies out of \_\_\_\_\_.

### **2) \_\_\_\_\_ Perspective**

- Tendency is to be \_\_\_\_\_ by the spiritual realm
- Dangers
  - Add to \_\_\_\_\_
  - Living in \_\_\_\_\_
  - Give too much \_\_\_\_\_ to the enemy
  - Makes excuses for \_\_\_\_\_ behavior

*"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist or magician with the same delight." – C.S. Lewis*

## **FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

- There are two realms, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

*"When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." – 2 Kings 6:15-17*

**- There are various spiritual beings that inhabit the spiritual realm**

- Triune God (Yahweh) – Gen 1, Isaiah 6:1-6; Matthew 3:13-17
- The Divine Council (Heavenly Host) – Psalm 82
- Cherubim and Angels – Gen 3:22-24; Matt 2; Daniel 10
- Satan and Demons – Mark 1:21-28; Job 1-2; Rev 12:
- Archangels – Daniel 10; Rev 12:7

**- There is a War between two \_\_\_\_\_ and across two realms**

*Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God"*

**– 2 Cor 6:14-13**

*Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." – John 18:36*

**- Jesus has already dealt the decisive \_\_\_\_\_ in this spiritual war**

*"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sin." – Col 1:13-14*

*"And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him." – Col 2:13-15*

**- The Triune God gives his followers \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints" – Eph 6:13-18*

**- Followers of Jesus are called to \_\_\_\_\_ against the enemy who seeks to destroy them**

*"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be soberminded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world." – 1 Peter 5:6-9*

*"Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil." – Eph 4:27*

**THREE ENEMIES IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

*"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience — among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind." - Ephesians 2:1-3*

- The \_\_\_\_\_ - Gal 5:16-23; Rom 6; Col 3:1-10
- The \_\_\_\_\_ - Rom 12:1-2; 1 John 2:14-16; Col 2:20-23
- The \_\_\_\_\_ - Gen 3:1-8; Rev 12:9; John 8:

**PRACTICE OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

**1) A conflict emerges in a relationship**

**2) Do an assessment**

- a. Flesh
  - i. Physical realities
  - ii. Sin
- b. World
- c. Devil (Supernatural)
  - i. Deception
  - ii. Temptation
  - iii. Accusation
  - iv. Oppression

**3) Put on Spiritual Armor**

- a. Remind yourself of the Gospel that brings peace
- b. Know your position and identity in Christ
- c. Trust God with the situation
- d. Grab hold of his Sword

**4) Pray for the other person or persons**

– Luke 22:31-34

**5) Press into Community**

**6) Walk in Obedience to God's word**

**Examples**

- Marriage
- Parenting
- Extended Family
- Church
- Friendship
- Citizens

**- Where do you see the work of our enemies (world, the flesh and the devil) in your relationships right now?**

- Marriage
- Parenting
- Church
- Friendships
- Society

**- How does this inform your response and battle plan in spiritual warfare?**

**- What action can you take this week to “fight the good fight”?**