

## **EYES WIDE OPEN**

### **Ephesians 6:10-12**

MESSAGE THEME: *“You are to prevail in a world of spiritual warfare.”*

Intro.

*Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 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.*

- Many of us have built Satan up in our minds to be this unstoppable, menacing, all-powerful being who is out to destroy us. That is partly true.
  - While he is menacing and out to destroy us, he is not unstoppable or all-powerful!
- Some are so fearful of drawing his attention that they won't speak of him by name nor seek to learn of him and his ways.
- Some in the Church feel it is safer to put their head in the sand regarding the reality of the demonic.

#### **THE REALITIES OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

- Jesus' ministry marked by spiritual warfare
- The Early Church marked by spiritual warfare
- Christians actively living for Jesus and His kingdom are marked by spiritual warfare

#### **It is an Ongoing Spiritual War**

*1 John 5:19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.*

*1 Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

#### **Satan is Defeated**

*1 John 3:8 (ESV) Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.*

*Colossians 2:13–15 (ESV) 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, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*

*Revelation 20:10 (ESV) and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

### **Satan is Still Active**

- Satan while defeated is active and powerful.
  - The war's outcome is determined! And we live in the leverage of that triumph!
  - Yet Satan is still active and the world is under the control of the evil one.
  - Then add to that the reality that Satan knows his time is running short where his eternal judgment is irrevocable...and his fury is increased!!

*Revelation 12:12 (ESV) Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"*

### **The Issue of Jurisdiction**

- Satan primarily operates according to jurisdiction and authority—which we provide.

*Ephesians 4:27 (ESV) and give no opportunity to the devil.*

## **THE CHRISTIAN'S AUTHORITY**

### **You Have Authority**

- When we were in Ephesians 2 we saw that in salvation, we not only are forgiven our sins, we are given Christ's authority.
- That authority is greater than all the power of the Enemy.

*Ephesians 2:4–6 (ESV) But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

- Know that no one walks in authority by following a formula; it is about realizing and believing with conviction who the enemy is and knowing who you are and what you have been given in Christ.

*1 John 4:4 (ESV) Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

- Jesus previewed His authority operating in believers in Luke 10.

*Luke 10:17–19 (ESV) The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” 18 And he said to them, . . . 19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.*

### **You’re to Assert Your Authority Confidently**

- In knowing who you are in Christ, what has been done for you in Christ, and what is yours in Christ, then exercise your authority in Christ!

*Matthew 12:29 (ESV) Or how can someone enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.*

*Matthew 16:16–19 (ESV) Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*

- “To bind” means to tie, chain, forbid, limit, lock, or close.
- “To loose” means to free from bonds, to open, to permit.
- With these keys of the Kingdom of heaven we exercise Christ’s authority in us..
- However, we cannot bind and loose anything we want; we must be in accord with God’s will. God does not have to bind what we bind.
- We bind or loose on earth what God has already bound or loosed in heaven.

## **THE BATTLEFRONTS**

### **Christians Face Three Battlefronts**

*Ephesians 2:1-3 (ESV) 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.*

## Christians Confronted by Four Schemes

1. Temptation
  - The *world, flesh,* and *Satan* have a diabolical relationship in attacking or influencing the believer.
2. Deception
  - Satan is called the *Great Deceiver* in Revelation 12:9.
3. Opposition (Assault)
  - Opposition can come in the form of attacks like making someone sick, accidents, impediments, injustices, etc.
  - Demonic beings used the magician Elymas opposing Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:6-10), the slave girl to distract and oppose Paul preaching in Ephesus (Acts 16:16-18), and Peter to try to derail the mission of Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:21-23).
4. Demonization
  - Satan and demons may also attack Christians physically, mentally, emotionally, and volitionally.
  - The New Testament word *demonizomai* is more accurately understood by such words as *influence, afflicted, or tormented in some way by demonic power.*
  - A more biblical question is “Can a believer be demonised?” The answer would be “yes,” believers and non-believers can be demonised.
  - A POINT OF ACCESS IS NEEDED.

## Entry Points for the Demonic

1. Human Composition
  - A Christian is a three-part being according to verses like 1 Thessalonians 5:23. While a Christian is regenerated in spirit and is the realm in which the Holy Spirit dwells, he or she is still vulnerable to demonic attack in the soul (mind, emotions and will), as well as body.
2. Sin (personal and generational)
3. Strongholds (personal and generational)
  - Strongholds are mind-sets, worldviews, belief systems and philosophies that oppose God and His truth.
4. Occult Activity (personal and generational)
  - Involvement with *occultic influence*, no matter how seemingly benign such influence might appear.
5. Unforgiveness (injustices)
6. Curses
7. Soul-bonds

## APPLICATION

1. Address Jurisdiction(s) (if any)
2. Repent, Rebuke, Replace Receive
  - Personal Life*
  - Marriage/Family*
  - Kids*
  - Ministry*
  - Work/Career*
  - Finances*
3. Exercise Authority
  - Bind fear—Loose courage.
  - Bind poverty—Loose provision.
  - Bind division—Loose unity.
  - Bind sickness—Loose health.
  - Bind deception—Loose truth.
  - Bind darkness—Loose light.
  - Bind poverty—Loose abundance.
  - Bind bondage—Loose freedom.
  - Bind confusion—Loose clarity.
  - Bind foolishness—Loose wisdom.
  - Bind unbelief—Loose faith.
  - Bind selfishness—Loose love.
  - Bind unforgiveness—Loose forgiveness.
  - Bind tension—Loose peace

