

Week 3

3. The Warfare of a Christian – The Flesh vs the Spirit

a. The nature of this warfare – Galatians 5:17; Romans 7:21-25; Matthew 26:41

- We face **THREE** enemies as born-again Bible Believers

1 - The _____ – John 8:23; 17:10, 12-15; James 4:4

2 - The _____ – Romans 7:24

3 - The _____ – 1 Peter 5:8; Luke 22:31-32

NOTE God's Spirit in union with our spirit is in a battle with these 3 enemies:

- All three have already been **DEFEATED!** (Good news!)

1 - The world is defeated by the _____ – 1 John 5:4-5; Romans 10:17

2 - The flesh is defeated by the _____ – Psalm 119:9-11; Romans 12:1-2

3 - The devil is defeated by the _____ – 1 John 2:12-14; Eph. 6:10-17

NOTE They are already defeated in that we already have the completed Word of God!

- Winning or losing this warfare is our **CHOICE!**

NOTE Remember...faith is a choice. Heb 11:25

b. The nature of the flesh

- The flesh is **DEFILED** corrupted and rotten – 2 Peter 2:10-22; Rom 7:18

KEY The real problem is **AUTHORITY**, who is in control God or **SELF?**
Remember the definition of the "Kingdom of God" ...
Jesus **rules** from the inside!

Consider what the Bible says about the flesh...

- It is **WEAK** toward God – Matthew 26:41
- It cannot _____ God – Romans 8:8
- It will **KILL** you – Romans 8:13, 6

NOTE This is true both physically and spiritually (eternally).

- It cannot **INHERIT** God's kingdom – Romans 8:23; I Cor 15:50
- It seeks to **PERSECUTE** the Spirit – Galatians 4:29; 5:17

NOTE Ishmael was the *natural* son of a carnal choice. Isaac was the *supernatural* son of a work completed by God.

c. The works of the flesh

Text – Galatians 5:19-21

- Sins which defile the body:
 - Adultery – being **UNFAITHFUL** to your spouse or spiritual adultery.

NOTE The strange woman...Proverbs 5...Rev 17:5...

- Fornication – **ANY** sexual sin especially outside of the **MARRIAGE** bonds.
- Uncleaness – any **POLLUTION** or impurity of the flesh, letting the flesh **FULFILL** itself.

NOTE Generally, this applies to sexual sin, but it also refers to “dirty”...

- Lasciviousness – lewd and **LOOSE** behavior, uncontrolled **SENSUAL** (alluring; carnal; erotic; lustful; provocative; sexual) desire.
- Communion with Satanic forces:
 - Idolatry – anything _____ me and God.

- Witchcraft – use of **SATANIC** power, occult activity (and rebellion).
1 Sam 15:23

- Pride (ungodly love of self) – the root of **all** sin: (Lucifer's problem: *Isa14; Ezk 28*)
 - Hatred – **INTERNAL** hostile feelings. *1John 3:15*
 - Variance – quarreling, _____. *Prov 13:10*
 - Emulations – **JEALOUSY** and envy of others. *Acts 7:9*
 - Wrath – the active **WORK** of showing forth of hatred. *Pr 14:29; 15:1*
 - Strife – to stimulate **FACTIONS**; causing division; somewhat riotous.
James 3:13-18; Prov 13:14

- Religion and its fruits:
 - Sedition – **DRAWING** away others, sowing _____ *Pr 6:16-19*
 - Heresies – a body of men following their **OWN** tenants. *1Cor 11:19*
 - Envyings – not **SATISFIED**, wanting what _____ have in the way of position, **POWER**, or persons. *2Cor 12:20*
 - Murders – to **KILL** another through literal or verbal means.
James 4:1-3; 1John 3:15

NOTE Verbal includes the breaking of someone's spirit by creating deep, life-long emotional scars...

- General vices:
 - Drunkenness – anything that _____ your life. *Eph 5:18*
 - Revellings – wild **PARTYING**. *1Pet 4:3*
 - Such like – not just the **LAW** but the spirit...

KEY The issue is not **what is wrong** with it ...
... but rather **what is right** about it!