

We started this this little **Mini-Series** by studying **Dan Ch 10**
Where we **saw Daniel** get some **INSIGHT** into the **Spiritual Battle**

& I thought, **MAN** – **WE** need some **INSIGHT** into the **Spiritual Battle** -
& so . . . **Here we ARE** – *in a Mini-Series on The Spiritual Battle*

We **DID** Get **Some Insight** into the **Spiritual Battle** in **Dan Ch 10**

& then **Lst Msg** we **started looking** at what I **consider** to be a **KEY**
“FOUNDATIONAL” Understanding For **The Spiritual Battle**

<u>Your Spiritual Enemy Wants to INFLUENCE Your MIND</u>

Because if the **enemy** can **INFLUENCE** Your **MIND**
(meaning **CHANGE** the way you **think** & **feel**)

Then he can **Influence** you **toward Damage** (& even **Destruction**)
In **YOUR** Life – **AND** in the lives of **those** around you

Which is his **ONLY GOAL** - for **YOU** & those **AROUND** you -
To **Steal** – **Kill** – & **Destroy** – **THAT is all he DOES**

& so **today** – we want to **CONTINUE** our **PREPARATION**
so we can **HAVE** some **VICTORY** in this Battle - *sound good?*

Let's Pray

Over the yrs – I've read a LOT on this subject
& I've read some new material these past 2 weeks

Credit to Tony Evans book – Victory in Spiritual Warfare

He & I might not see exactly "Eye-to-Eye" on everything
but I've got to give him credit

because he helped me FRAME some things
that I Really wanted to get across to you today

So – Here Again is the "Shocker Statement"
that many Christians have Never Heard – or Don't Understand

Our Spiritual Enemy Desires (& has the Ability)
TO INFLUENCE our MINDS –

& BY Influencing our MINDS – He can Influence our CHOICES
Toward - Destruction

So we Need to UNDERSTAND his TACTICS More
AND How to STAND FIRM Against those Tactics

Eph Ch 6 is Prob the Central HUB of Spiritual Warfare in the N.T.
So – Let's START THERE

Ephesians 6:10–12 (NLT)

10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Let's stop right there - & make one thing CLEAR:

WHERE is our Strength?

WHERE is our ONLY Power?

11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

The **END GOAL** here
is to **STAND FIRM** against the strategies of the devil

The **ARMOR** is **NOT** the **Ultimate goal** – The **Ultimate GOAL** is
Standing Firm against the **PLOYS** of the **devil**

12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Let's Pause - & **Look** at that **first line in v.12**
For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies

EVERY TIME a **church** conflict **Rises Up** here
I HAVE A "Truth" that I **try to repeat** to myself over & over again

The Enemy has NO Face – The Enemy has NO Face

LOOK at the **Person NEXT to YOU** - -
Do THEY have a face? – Then **THEY** are **NOT** the Enemy

We've got to learn to **SEE PAST** – **ANY "Face"** involved
& **SEE THRU** to the **Strategy** of the devil

When the **Enemy** Launches a **SCHEME** (strategy) against us

That **Scheme** (strategy) – is **very often** – Launched **THRU**
Another Person in our lives (*often who the Enemy has Influenced*)

& the **Enemy HIDES behind** that **FACE**
& so we **THINK** that **FACE** is actually the **ENEMY**

But **the enemy** is only **USING** that **FACE** – to **GET to YOU**

The **Spiritual Battle** is **NEVER against** another **person!** – **WHY?**
Because we Do not Fight against Flesh & Blood

The Enemy has NO Face

The **Enemy** is **NEVER** that **Person**

It is the **Enemy's Ability** to **INFLUENCE** that person –
to **Get Them** – to do something - to **Influence Me**

So that the **enemy** can **INFLUENCE ME** –
to **get me** to **REACT** in a way that will **INFLUENCE THEM**

So that the **devil** can **Ultimately** bring **Damage**
into **BOTH** of **our lives** - & the **Lives** of **those** around us

Your **Spiritual Enemy** **KNOWS**
how to Spin a **Complex WEB** of **Influence** . . .

In order to Bring **DAMAGE** - & Even **DESTRUCTION**
Into our Lives

& The **FIRST STEP** to Recognizing this Common **TACTIC**
of the **Enemy** - Is to **Fully Believe** - - **The Enemy has NO Face**

Again – Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)

12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

WHERE is the **Battle** for the **INFLUENCE** of our **MINDS**
Taking Place ??

In the **UNSEEN World**
In the **DARK World**
in the **HEAVENLY PLACES**

THAT is Where the Battle for the **Influence over your life**
is **TAKING PLACE**

I want you to Think about "**Cause & Effect**" Right now . . .

When it comes to **The Spiritual Battle** for the **INFLUENCE** of
your **MIND** - **and** thereby your **CHOICES**

The CAUSE - is in the **UNSEEN WORLD**
The EFFECT - is in the **SEEN WORLD**

The CAUSE - is in the **SPIRITUAL WORLD**
The EFFECT - is in the **PHYSICAL WORLD**

Now - WHICH do we Normally WORK HARDEST to ADDRESS ??

The CAUSE in the **Spiritual World**
The EFFECT in the **Physical World**

Before you **answer** – Think about **MEDICAL TREATMENT**

MEDICALLY Speaking - DO you think we

Focus **MORE** on Treating the **EFFECTS** of our **Medical Issues**
or on **Treating** The Real **CAUSE** of our **Medical Issues** ?

There's NO CONTEST

We spend **FAR MORE** Money & Effort Treating the **EFFECTS**
Than we **ever spend** treating the **CAUSE** of those **Medical Issues**

& in the Spiritual Realm – Do we spend More Focus & Energy

on the **EFFECTS** of the **Spiritual Battle**
or on the **ROOT CAUSE** of the **Spiritual Battle**

There's NO CONTEST

We **Quickly & Aggressively Focus our Energy**

On the **EFFECTS** of the **Enemy's Schemes** in our lives
Often **WITHOUT** ever even **RECOGNIZING** the **CAUSE** !!

We Focus on the EFFECTS of the Spiritual Battle

By **OVER-REACTING**, By **Getting ANGRY**,
By **RASH Decisions**, By **RETALIATION**

Or by **DEPRESSION**, Or by **MEDICATING**,
Or by **DENIAL**, or by **RUNNING AWAY**

& Always **CONVINCING Ourselves** that **WE** are **RIGHT**
& there is **NO NEED** to **Address** any **ROOT CAUSE** of anything !!

& **EVERY ONE** of those **REACTIONS** to the **Enemy's SCHEMES**
IS A WIN for the **Enemy**

If we will just **keep REACTING**
to the **EFFECTS** of the **Enemy's SCHEMES** in our Lives

& **ESPECIALLY** if we **keep REACTING**
in a **Spiritually Dysfunctional Manner**

The enemy will cont to easily **RACK UP** – *WIN after WIN after WIN*
Continuing to sow **DAMAGE** Into our lives

All the While – We just Keep Reacting

to the **EFFECTS** of His **SCHEMES**
& **NEVER** Even **Recognizing** - The **ROOT CAUSE**

We **MUST** Begin – to Look **PAST** the **FACE** (**Past** the **Circumstance**)
& **SEE** the **SOURCE** of the **Enemy's Schemes** in our Lives

Now – **Maybe** you're **saying** to yourself right now
Isn't that going **over-board** Dave?

Aren't you giving the **Spiritual Realm**
TOO MUCH Focus – **TOO MUCH** Credit ?

Or is it possible that we (As Christians)
are **SO Focused** on the **Physical** & **Tangible** . . .

SO Focused on our Own **EMOTIONS** - **DESIRES** - & **PLANS**
That we **complete IGNORE** the **Spiritual Realm**

Giving our Enemy **FREE Reign** to **Totally INFLUENCE** us -
from a **REALM** that we **don't** want to **ADMIT**, Even **EFFECTS** Us

While we go on **attending church** every **Sunday**,
& **Bible study** every **week** . . .

Totally OBLIVIOUS
to the **Influence** of the **Spiritual Battle** on our **Lives**

What does the **BIBLE Say** – about this **FOCUS**
on the **Spiritual Realm** VS'S the **Physical Realm** ?

Let's start in Philippians 3:18–20 (NLT)

18 For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ.

19 They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth.

Among other things - - - the ENEMIES of the Cross of Christ
think only about this life here on earth

20 But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives . . .

WE are Citizens of Heaven – We SHOULDN'T BE thinking ONLY
about things on this Earth

Colossians 3:1–3 (NLT)

1 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand.

2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

Unfortunately – we are Consumed with the things of this Earth
& for the Most Part – IGNORE the things of the Heavenly Realm

& BY doing that – we are Constantly
PLAYING INTO the Enemy's Hand

Let's look at the FOCUS on the Heavenly Realm in Ephesians

Ephesians 1:3 (NLT)

3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.

**WHERE has God blessed us with EVERY Spiritual Blessing ?
*in the Heavenly Realms !***

Ephesians 1:19–20 (NLT)

***19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. (that's the power we need for the Spiritual Battle) This is the same mighty power
20 that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.***

**WHERE is Jesus "Seated" in the Place of Honor?
*in the Heavenly Realms !***

Eph 2:4-5 says - because of God's Mercy & Love for us

When we were DEAD in our SINS - He RAISED us to New Life
IN Jesus Christ - By his GRACE alone

& then Ephesians 2:6 says (NLT)

6 For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.

From God's Perspective – WHERE are WE Currently SEATED?
In the Heavenly Realms !

Our REAL LIFE – is Hidden with Christ – *In the Heavenly Realms !*

In Eph Ch 3 – Paul is explaining the MYSTERY of God's Plan

& in Ephesians 3:10 (NLT)

10 God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

What is the ULTIMATE Purpose of the Church?

To be a TESTIMONY of God's WISDOM
to the Rulers & Authorities - in the Heavenly places !

& then again Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)

12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Our NEW Life – Our New CITIZENSHIP - Our ACTUAL Life
Is in the Heavenly Places !

THAT is where our TRUE LIFE Actually Exists - &

THAT is where our TRUE BATTLE Actually Exists

& what Happens (or doesn't happen) in the Spiritual Realm

Is the CAUSE . . . For the EFFECT we SEE Happening
in The Physical Realm

So – Should we Really be SO CAUGHT UP (Consumed)
with the PHYSICAL REALM

That we Never Even MAKE THE CONNECTION
To the SPIRITUAL REALM ??

**NO – WE’VE GOT to See the CONNECTION
between the Spiritual Realm & the Physical Realm**

When it comes to the Spiritual Battle . . .

The Spiritual Realm is the CAUSE
The Physical Realm is the EFFECT

It is **NOT** like Las Vegas – What Happens in the Spiritual Realm
DOES NOT STAY in the Spiritual Realm

*& here’s a News Flash for all the NAÏVE people
What Happens in Vegas DOES NOT Stay in Vegas either*

Now - **I’m NOT saying** - Every Runny Nose & Every Stubbed Toe
Is the EFFECT of what’s happening in the Spiritual Realm

But if you – as a Christian – Will Look at the Influence of your Mind
that is bringing DAMAGE into your life

If you – as a Christian – Will Look at the Influence of your Actions
that are bringing DAMAGE into your life

There is a very High Probability
that the ROOT CAUSE of that Influence

STARTED with your Enemy in the Spiritual Realm
who is constantly Working to Steal, Kill, & Destroy in your life

We’re **going** to see More Specifically - HOW the enemy **DOES THIS**
as we Continue in Eph 6 re: the ARMOR

But – **Today** I want you to **see** Very **CLEARLY**
the **TWO GENERAL SIDES** of **INFLUENCE** in the **Spiritual Realm**

Jesus staes them clearly in - John 10:10 (NLT)

10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

The **ENEMY'S Influence** – is to ***steal and kill and destroy***
JESUS' Influence is to ***give you a rich and satisfying (abundant) life***

This is the **Spiritual Battle** – As **SIMPLY Stated** as it **CAN BE**

JESUS Came to give you **ABUNDANT LIFE**

THE ENEMY is constantly **trying** to Influence you
to **steal, kill, & destroy** in your life

But - - **HERE** is the Truth you **MUST HEAR** Today

These two "**Forces**" in the Spiritual Realm – **Are NOT EQUAL**

If you – as a Christian - **Mistakenly SEE** these
Two Forces in the **Spiritual Realm** - **AS EQUALS**

Then the **Enemy's Battle** is already **HALF WON** in **your life**

We ended the **Last Msg** - with This **Absolute Truth**

If you BELONG to Jesus Christ today (thru Salvation)

You are **NOT** fighting **FOR** Victory

You are Fighting **FROM a POSITION** of Victory

& **THAT** Makes **all the Difference** in the **World**

& it **FORCES** the Enemy to **Adopt** a Game Plan
of **DECEPTION** & **MANIPULATION**

I'm **going to show you** what I **mean** by that – Right Now
But I **Really need** you to “Get This” – **so stay with me**

The **Bible** speaks of **FEDERAL HEADSHIP** –
Which has to do with **WHAT AUTHORITY** You are Under

There are only **TWO Federal Heads** over **Mankind**

The **FEDERAL HEADSHIP** of **ADAM** – (Your Old Sin Life)
The **FEDERAL HEADSHIP** of **JESUS CHRIST** (Your New Life)

The **2nd half** of **ROM Ch 5** – Prob **best explains** this – So **READ** it

Now - You were **BORN** under the **Federal Headship of ADAM**

& **God** had originally **Given Adam** - the “**RULE**” of this **World**

Unfortunately - Satan **USURPED that RULE** (*took it by deception*)

& so the **RULE of this World** – is **Temporarily** under **Satan**
& **WE** (in our **SIN Nature**) Were **under** the **Rule** of this World

ROM 6 says – **BEFORE** Jesus **Saved** You –
You were a **SLAVE to Sin** – **Under the Rule** of this **Fallen World**

But the Moment you **Put** Your **FAITH** in **Jesus Christ**
He **SAVED YOU** – from your **Slavery to Sin & this World**

& At **THAT** Moment - Your **FEDERAL HEADSHIP** –
AND the **AUTHORITY** over your life – **CHANGED**

You **MOVED** from One **Federal Headship** to Another

You **MOVED** from One **Authority** to Another

You **MOVED** from One **Kingdom** to Another

Rom 6 says – **IN** Jesus Christ (thru our Identification with Him)

We now Live - **A NEW LIFE**

We have a **New Federal Head** – **JESUS**

We are under a **New Authority** – **JESUS**

We belong to a **New Kingdom** – **GOD'S**

We are **NO LONGER** under the **Federal Headship** of **ADAM** –

We are **NO LONGER** – **SLAVES to SIN**

We are **NO LONGER** under the **RULE** of this **Fallen World**

Our **Headship** & our **Authority** – has **CHANGED to Jesus Christ**

WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT to Fully **Grasp**

Because Jesus Christ **WON** a **Total & Complete VICTORY**

Over the Enemy - **On OUR Behalf**

We read this Last Wk - & we're gonna read it again

Colossians 2:15 (NLT)

15 In this way, he disarmed (notice) the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

POSITIONALLY – The Enemy is **DISARMED**

POSITIONALLY – The Enemy has **NO AUTHORITY** over us

POSITIONALLY – The Enemy has been **DEFEATED**

& Now – **Since** he has no **True “Positional” Authority** over us

His **ONLY OPTION** is to **DEFEAT US**
by **DECEPTION** & **MANIPULATION**

Let me REPEAT:

Since the enemy has **NO TRUE AUTHORITY** over us

His **ONLY** Option is to **DEFEAT US**
by **DECEPTION** & **MANIPULATION**

Let me give you an Illustration – But I’m not going to use myself,
cause I don’t want to give anyone any “Ideas”

Say a **person walks up** to you in a Parking Lot – **With a GUN !!**

& He **looks** like the **real deal** – He’s got the **Crazy Eyes goin**
AND He’s got a **gun pointed** in your **face**
with his **finger** on the **trigger**

& he **starts telling** you **WHAT to DO**

Now - **because** of his **DEMEANOR** –
& **the fact** that he’s **got a GUN** pointed in your **FACE**

He’s Probably going to have **Some SUCCESS**
in **INFLUENCING** your **choices** at that moment

BUT – What if **you KNEW Something** about him
that **he didn't THINK** you knew

What if you **KNEW** that his **Gun** had been **DISARMED** (Col 2:15)

What if you **KNEW** - there were actually **NO BULLETS in the GUN**
& **all** of his **Scary Demeanor** was **Mostly AN ACT**

THEN How Much **INFLUENCE**
would he have over your **CHOICES** ?

You would probably tell him – TAKE a HIKE

You're an **IMPOSTER**

You don't have a **REAL WEAPON**

& **You're** Just trying to **INTIMIDATE** me

***& THE ONLY REAL INFLUENCE YOU HAVE OVER ME
IS THE INFLUENCE I GIVE YOU***

Listen Please – *Because this is the WHOLE DEAL*

***Devil – with that GUN in Your Hand - Trying to INFLUENCE ME
THE ONLY INFLUENCE YOU HAVE OVER ME
IS THE INFLUENCE I GIVE YOU***

Because **Jesus Christ** has **CONQUERED YOU** on **My Behalf**

His VICTORY in My Place – Has **DISARMED YOU**

You have **NO AUTHORITY** Over **Me**

& the **ONLY Influence** you have **OVER ME**
Is **the Influence I GIVE YOU**

& So In the NAME of JESUS

I am **NOT** going to **GIVE YOU**
the Influence that you're **Demanding**

You have **been CONQUERED** in **My Life** - by **Jesus Christ**

You **Don't OWN ME**

You **Don't** have **INFLUENCE Over Me**

I Belong to Jesus Christ

I **am Under** the **AUTHORITY of The CROSS**

& I Fight this **Fight** from a **Position of ABSOLUTE VICTORY**

If **THAT'S YOU** – **Say Amen!**

& **COME BACK** Next **Week** - & We'll **learn MORE**
about **How to WALK** in **this VICTORY**

Let's Pray