

Disc 107 - Spiritual Warfare - Eph 6:12

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Like our msg last week - Word-By-Mail has quite a few msg's on Spiritual Warfare

So - like last wk - if the Holy Spirit is convicting you in this area ASK US for all the msg's (& notes) on this subject - & dive in

Because guys - there IS a War going on

The War is really between God & Satan

It started w/ Satan's fall - & it ends with his final judgment

& YOU became part of that War - by accepting Jesus Christ

By your sin nature you were once on Satan's side

But NOW - by your faith in Christ - you are on God's side

The only place you cannot be – is in the middle

as Jesus says in Mat 12:30 - ***He who is not with Me is against Me***

So - The Christian life is not like a war – **IT IS A WAR !**

& as long as we're in it

we need to understand how to fight it & how to win it

Let's Pray

Your Spiritual Enemy has **TWO objectives** regarding you

- 1) **To Destroy your life**
- 2) **To Use you to Damage other lives**

Now - If Jesus Christ is your **Lord & Savior**
then your Eternal Life is **secure, & guaranteed**

But that does not make you off-limits to the enemy's **attacks**

Have you ever seen **a Christian** whose life has been
absolutely destroyed - **even tho** they're going to **heaven** ?

& have you ever seen **a Christian** - radically Damaging other lives
even tho they're going to heaven?

That's why we have the **Strong Exhortation** in **1Pet 5:8-11**

1Pet 5:8-9 - ESV

8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

THAT is a description of the Spiritual War **EVERY** Christian is in

& so - since **you** are **IN** that War - it **would be very wise**
for you to know **The Battle Plans** of your enemy

What **WEAKNESS** is the **Enemy** looking to **Capitalize** on?

What **AREA** of your life is the **Enemy** looking to **Attack** you in?

If we will understand some basic facts about our Enemy then it will be easier to see his Battle Plan - to try to destroy us

In Isa 14:12 ff & in Eze 28:12 ff - We learn that Satan was beautiful & powerful, until he became filled with PRIDE

& FIVE TIMES in Isa 14 - he proclaimed I WILL Exerting his own will over God's

& in his rebellion he was thrown out of heaven

& then - he began his greatest & most successful tactic in the Garden of Eden

He DECEIVED Adam & Eve into SIN & DESTRUCTION

& DECEIVING God's children into SIN has worked so well for Satan - HE STUCK WITH IT

& He's Primarily used that same tactic of DECEIT & TEMPTATION to bring DESTRUCTION - ever since the Garden

The War is Spiritual - But the enemy's tactics are primarily focused on your FLESH & the WORLD

Because these are your Natural WEAKNESSES

(again) Your enemy has TWO objectives

1) Destroy your life

2) Use you to Damage other lives

& your own FLESH - & your desire for the things of this WORLD are the easiest ways for him to accomplish those objectives

Listen to this quote from the Discipleship Workbook
taken from the classic commentary - BARNE'S NOTES

Albert Barnes - (1798 - 1870)

“...Satan does not carry on an open warfare. He does not meet the Christian soldier face to face. He advances covertly; makes his approaches in darkness; employs cunning rather than power, and seeks rather to delude and betray than to vanquish by mere force...Satan does not openly appear. He approaches us not in repulsive forms, but comes to...lay before us some temptation that shall not immediately repel us. He presents the world in an alluring aspect; invites us to pleasures that seem to be harmless, and leads us in indulgence until we have gone so far that we cannot retreat.”

So - Since this is true - Today we are going to focus
on the enemy's TWO Primary areas of ATTACK

- 1) The Flesh - which takes most of us out
 - 2) The World - which takes most of the rest of us out
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#1 - the Spiritual War with the FLESH

(as we read) your enemy is

Seeking whom he may devour (1Pet 5:8)

& the easiest way for him to devour you
is to destroy your life - thru Habitual SIN

Conscious Habitual Sin swings the Door Wide open
giving the enemy an EASY Foothold for destruction

Jas 1:14-15 - ESV

14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

The **highest percentage** of Christians - are defeated **right here** which is **why** your enemy **concentrates** so much here

Jay Adams calls this War with the Flesh – “**The War Within**”

& the **vast majority** of Christians are taken out **right here** in the War with **their own Flesh**

Gal 5:19-21 - ESV

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,

20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity (hostility), strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries (selfish ambition), dissensions, divisions,

21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do (LIT - Continually Practice) such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Which means - **Your enemy wins** - You are **devoured so easily** by your enemy just **feeding** your own **Sin Nature**

He doesn't even have to **work that hard** - to **devour** most of us

He uses **Deception** & **Temptation** to **feed** our own Flesh & then - **WE** simply **Destroy Ourselves**

#1 Primary Attack - Spiritual War with the FLESH

#2 Primary Attack - Spiritual War with the World

The other thing that occurred at the FALL in the Garden is Satan gained control of this World

2 Cor 4:4 calls hm - *the god of this world*

& now he offers the temptations of this world
in a subtle attempt to DEVOUR as many as he can

That's why 1Jn 2:15-16 says - ESV

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world.

Many Christians are defeated
by the Spiritual Warfare with the World

in fact – this is where Satan even tried
to tempt Jesus in the Wilderness

& when Satan offered Jesus ALL the things of this World
Jesus NEVER SAID Satan didn't have the right to offer them

DON'T be fooled into thinking that God
wants to give you ALL the things of THIS WORLD

That my friends - is a lie - designed by the god of this World
who's intent is to destroy your life

Remember - The WAR is Spiritual, But the Primary Battles involve Our FLESH & This WORLD

Because your Enemy knows - the easiest way to destroy your life is by focusing on your Natural Weaknesses

The good news is - 1Jn 4:4 says (KJV)
4 . . . greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Jesus Christ has already WON this victory

But we still need to count the cost of battle - & be ready to make sure we don't become an easy target for our enemy

So - How do we stand against his attacks
his conniving & deceiving - attempting to destroy your life

FIRST - we MUST know THIS

2Cor 10:4-5 says - ESV

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

Our Weapons have DIVINE POWER
to destroy the Strongholds - of our FLESH & of this WORLD

& BY THEM - we destroy every ARGUMENT raised against God
& BY THEM - we take every THOUGHT captive to obey Christ

BUT - This battle **CANNOT** be fought - in our **own strength**

Our **DIVINE POWER** comes from **the Holy Spirit**
overflowing in our lives

Since **lesson FOUR** in this **series**,
we've **talked** about the **DIRE NEED** we have

to be FILLED with the **Power** of the **Holy Spirit**
in order **to live** the Christian life

To live the Victorious Christian Life
We must be **CONTINUALLY ASKING** God
for **the Power** of the Holy Spirit

If you try to fight **THIS Battle** in your **own strength**
you are taking a **BB GUN** - to a **NUCLEAR WAR**

Please **CONTINUALLY ASK GOD**
To be **CONTINUALLY FILLED** with the Holy Spirit

& So - **WITH** the **DIVINE POWER** of the Holy Spirit

What BATTLE PLANS do we see in Scripture
for VICTORY in the Spiritual War

I have **TWO Favorites**

*The first one is in **REV CH 12***

The setting in **Rev 12** is - **Heaven Rejoicing** over the **Devil** & his angels being **thrown out** - **FOR GOOD**

& in **v.11** is a reference specifically to the **Martyrs of the Tribulation**

But in it is a great **3-step Battle Plan** for Victory in our **Own** Spiritual **Warfare**

Rev 12:11 - ESV

11 And they have conquered him [1] by the blood of the Lamb and [2] by the word of their testimony, [3] for they loved not their lives even unto death.

The **Martyrs** of the Tribulation **conquered** the enemy with the same **3-Step battle Plan** you & I can use today

- 1)** by the **Blood of the Lamb** - (Salvation in Jesus Christ)
 - 2)** by the **word of their testimony** - (Living their Faith)
 - 3)** by **not loving this life** - (Even unto death)
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So - **Let's apply** this 3-step **battle plan** - to *our own lives*

#1) Get Saved - Commit your life to Jesus Christ
be covered by the Blood of the Lamb

Honestly - Until you are **Saved** & "In Christ" there's **not even** any **Battle**

because you are in essence - on **the Devils side** & **headed** for **destruction** already

So - if you've never truly Committed your life - to FOLLOW Jesus

come up front TODAY

& make that commitment to Follow Jesus (*make Him your Lord*)

Now - Once you're saved (& *in Christ*)

#2) Start Living the word of your testimony

which means start living Your FAITH! (*become a disciple*)

In order to be victorious in the Spiritual War

we've got to actually LIVE OUT our faith

Just SAYING we believe, or SAYING we prayed the salvation prayer
once in church - *honestly, just doesn't cut it*

We have to begin actually LIVING for Jesus

We've got to DAILY give ourselves to GOD

& NOT give ourselves to the SIN that's destroying us

Look at how Rom 6:12-13 puts it - NLT

12 Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires.

13 Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

This is a choice you must make - Every Day

& Your **Enemy KNOWS** - ALL **he's** got to do
is **just the opposite** of these Vs's **tell US to do**

Get you TO LET SIN control the way you live

Get you TO GIVE IN to sinful desires

Get you LET YOUR BODY become an instrument to serve sin

& then - ***he will WIN*** the Spiritual War in your life

See - God wants your Heart

& ultimately that will transform your Behavior

Satan wants your Behavior

& ultimately that will destroy your Heart

But again - - You **DON'T** have **the Power** in yourself to do this
There's not enough TRY in you

This takes the **Supernatural POWER** that comes from
being **Continually Filled** with the Holy Spirit

So Pls - come up front afterward & ask

for prayer **to be FILLED** with His Power of **The Holy Spirit**

So - the **3-step** Battle Plan of **Rev 12:11**

#1) Get Saved - *(Commit your life to Jesus)*

#2) Start living your Faith - *(become a disciple)*

#3) Do NOT love this life - even unto death

Jas 4:4 - ESV

4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

The Ruler of this world - is Satan

& if **you are chasing** after the things of this **world**
you are **playing right into** his hands

We must Be careful where our **Treasure** is
because **where our Treasure is** - There **our heart is also**

We **CANNOT** love the things of **THIS WORLD**
& **LOVE GOD** at the **same time**

#1) Get Saved - *Commit your life to Jesus*

#2) Start living your Faith - *become a disciple*

#3) Do NOT love this life - *even unto death*

That's **the overall VICTORY PLAN**

Now I want to give you a **DAILY BATTLE-PLAN**

How do we get up **every morning** & **fight** this good fight?

Let's turn over to **Eph CH 6**

Starting In **Eph 6:10** we have possibly
the **greatest call** to Spiritual Warfare **in the Bible**

Eph 6:10-13 - ESV

10 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. [that makes it pretty clear]

13 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.

THIS - is a call to **DAILY Spiritual Warfare**

To **TAKE UP** the whole armor of God
that you **may be able** to **withstand** in the evil day

& Then - **Vs's 14 to 17** list **SIX Character Traits** of Jesus Christ

That we are called to **PUT ON** in our lives
In order to **STAND** against the enemy

This text is **often taught** by describing
a **Roman soldier preparing for battle**

But **really** - This text is about You "**Putting On**" Jesus Christ
every day - **LIKE** you would "**Put On**" Armor

every piece of this armor - is a part of Jesus Christ
that we either "Put On" or "Take Up" - for the Spiritual battle

Eph 6:14A

14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, . . .

We must "Put On" truth Every Day – LIVE IN IT

Eph 6:14B

. . . and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

We must "Put On" righteousness Every Day – LIVE IN IT

Eph 6:15

15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

We must "Walk Ready" to Give the Gospel (good news) of Peace

Eph 6:16

16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

We must TAKE UP FAITH - LIVE IN our Faith Every day
so we can *extinguish* the *Flaming Darts* of the evil one

Eph 6:17A

17 And take the helmet of salvation . . .

We've got to allow our salvation to protect our mind
we must filter everything in our mind - thru our salvation

Eph 6:17B

. . . **and** [take] ***the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God***;

TAKE UP The ***Sword of the Spirit*** - which is the **Word of God**
The **most powerful Weapon**

However - **The MOST Important place** to use the **WORD**
is on **ourselves**

Remember - the enemy's **primary attack**
is to **deceive you** & **tempt you** - appealing to your own sin nature

& so - **using** the **Word of God** on our **own hearts FIRST**
is the **most successful** use of the **ONLY Offensive Weapon** listed

If we will DAILY Put On in our Lives - LIKE ARMOR;

Truth

Righteousness

Peace

Faith

Salvation

The Word

Then we will **DAILY** be ready - to **Walk in Victory**
in the **Spiritual War**

& finally - **Eph 6:18** gives us the **Final Preparation**
for the Battle that's waiting out there for us

Our **Final & Critical Preparation** for this Battle - is **PRAYER**

Eph 6:18 - ESV

18 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,

There is coming a day when Satan's time to **Steal** - **Kill** - & **Destroy** - - will be over !

But **until then**
we've got to **Walk Victorious** in the Spiritual Battle

Because - ***Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour***

Don't let it be you !!

#1) Get Saved - *Commit your life to Jesus*

#2) Start living your Faith - *become a disciple*

#3) Do NOT love this life - *even unto death*

& then - **DAILY** - Put on the **Spiritual Armor**
& **PRAY** at all times - in the Spirit

Let's Pray NOW