

The Invisible War: Spiritual Warfare Prayer – Pt 3

Series: Life Changing Prayer Transforms Lives

James 1:12-15

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United Community Church

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Spiritual warfare occurs in our lives all the time. It exists in two realms: the spiritual realm and the natural realm. The key is maintaining your walk with God so you can fight and win your spiritual battles.

Satan's Strategy

Distract you from God ⇒ Dilute the truth ⇒ Divide the home & church ⇒ Destroy your witness ⇒ Disappear leaving you defeated & discouraged

How Satan Entangles Christ Followers in Sin

Satan knows if he can weaken your relationship with God and lead you to allow sin in your life, he has not only gained an advantage over you, but he has limited the power of God in you and the Holy Spirit's work through you.

1. Satan constantly bombards Christ followers with lies (Jn 8:44, 1 Jn 3:8-10)
2. Satan appeals to your sin nature to gain a foothold (Eph 4:27)
3. Satan gains a stronghold when you allow sin to continue in your life (2 Cor 10:3-4)

How Strongholds Develop in your life

1. Satan tempts with a thought where you are weak. Every temptation is tailored to your sin nature. Remember that temptation is NOT sin. It becomes sin when you yield to temptation. You have the power to resist temptation (1 Cor 10:13).

Counterattack: (1) Don't listen to Satan's lies and take that your thoughts captive. (2) Speak the Truth in your mind. (3) Submit your mind and heart to Christ.

2. When you yield to that temptation the first time, you give Satan a foothold (Eph 4:27). He now has the power to work in your life to make that sin a stronghold. The more you yield to temptation and sin, the harder it becomes to resist it.

Counterattack: (1) Confess your sin immediately to God and ask for cleansing (1 Jn 1:9). (2) Don't listen to Satan's lies by justifying your sin or believe that you are powerless to resist sin (1 Jn 4:1-6). (3) Walk in the Spirit and allow Him to influence your life (Gal 5:16).

3. When you commit the same sin again and again, it becomes a stronghold. You become a slave to that sin. You experience guilt and shame over that sin but Satan leads you to believe you cannot be set free from it.

Counterattack: (1) Submit to God and resist the Devil and he will run (James 4:7). (2) Remember God's grace is sufficient to forgive and cleanse you from your sin so you will not continue in it (Rom 6:1-13). (3) Strongholds are harder to break but can be broken as you acknowledge and submit to the divine power in you to break that stronghold (2 Cor 10:3-7).