

The Invisible War: Spiritual Warfare Prayer – Pt 2

Series: Life Changing Prayer Transforms Lives

Ephesians 6:12

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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.

Two Spiritual Forces

GOD

Three Godly Influences

1. The Word (Heb 4:12)
2. The Holy Spirit (2 Cor 10:3-4)
3. Jesus Christ (James 4:7)

SATAN

Three Worldly Influences (Eph 2:1-3)

1. The World (1 Jn 2:15-17)
2. The Flesh (Gal 5:17)
3. Satan (1 Pet 5:8)

Two Natures

SIN NATURE

1. Corrupt at birth (Ps 51:5, Rom 5:12, 19)
2. Desire worldly things and refuses to submit to God (Rom 7:5, 8:7-8)
3. It remains with us after we receive Christ (Rom 7:22-25)
4. Under Satan's influence (Eph 2:2)

NEW NATURE

1. Receive it at salvation (2 Cor 5:17, Eph 4:24)
2. Controlled by the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18, Rom 8:4)
3. Access to the Father in prayer (Rom 5:1-3, Heb 10:9-22)
4. I have a desire to obey and follow God (1 Jn 2:3-6, Jn 15:16)

TWO ENTRY POINTS

1. Spiritual warfare occurs in our minds (Rom 8:5-7, Col 3:2)
2. Spiritual warfare occurs in our hearts (Luke 6:45)

Satan's Strategy

SATAN'S WORK IN NON-BELIEVERS

"The devil who rules this world HAS BLINDED THE MINDS of those who do not believe. They cannot see the light of the Good news—the Good news about the glory of Christ, who is exactly like God." ~ 2 Cor 4:4 (NCV)

SATAN'S WORK IN CHRIST FOLLOWERS (James 1:5-15)

1. Distract Christ followers away from God by appealing to their desire for things
2. Dilute and destroy the truth of God's Word cause Christ followers to doubt God
Four reasons Satan wants to dilute and destroy the truth of the Bible:
 - (1) He wants to keep non-believers from the truth of the Gospel so they will not experience salvation
 - (2) He wants to destroy a Christ follower's life by causing doubt and leading believers to focus on themselves rather than the Lord. This process begins with deception, which leads to doubt, which leads to pride, which leads to pleasure, which leads to power, which leads to pain, which leads to punishment (Gen 3:1-23)
 - (3) He wants to destroy every Christian home by causing division, discouragement, and divorce
 - (4) He wants to destroy every Christian church by eroding its ministry, discrediting its leaders, and crippling its desire to reach people for Christ
3. Division in the home and the church
 - a. Satan seeks to divide husband and wife and parents and children. He is doing this by getting husbands and wives to focus on possessions, careers, etc. Children are left to parent themselves and decide who they want to be.
 - b. Satan divides the body of Christ by getting them to focus on their own sinful desires, pride, favoritism, and apathy towards other Christians.
Characteristics of a divide church include: without the Holy Spirit's guidance (Jude 1:16-19), do not follow Christ's teachings (2 Jn 1:9-11), members live in the flesh (spiritual immaturity) (1 Cor 3:1-9), a negative witness to the world (1 Cor 3:1-9), grieves the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30), put out the Spirit's fire (1 Thess 4:19).
4. Destroy a Christ follower's witness
 - a. As a Christ follower, you are either a witness for Christ or a witness against Him with your beliefs, words, actions, and lives
 - b. As a Christ follower, your life is a testimony to the world
5. Disappear leaving Christ followers discouraged and defeated

As a Christ follower, are you a witness for Christ or against Him? Examine your mind and heart and look at your words, your actions, and your lives