

SERMON: VICTORY IN THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

8-17-25

OPENER:

Ephesians 6: 10-12 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles(scheming) of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

The phrase "*we wrestle not against flesh and blood*" means that the primary battle that we face as Christians is not against other human beings (flesh and blood), but against spiritual forces of evil. Our true enemy is Satan and his demonic forces, who influence and work through people and systems.

OUR PRIMARY BATTLE IS WITH THE UNSEEN SPIRITUAL REALM.

1. WE ARE IN AN UNSEEN BATTLE

What this means is that conflicts with others is often fueled and orchestrated by spiritual forces

These forces have influence over individuals, societies, and even the spiritual atmosphere, leading to temptation, deception, and opposition to God's will.

This scripture lists a hierarchy of spiritual beings..... principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness in high places. This list shows us that there are different levels of authority and influence.

These powers can influence territories, nations, and even cities.

Example of influencing certain physical regions:

(Set up scripture)

In Daniel 10, Daniel is praying for understanding of a vision he received. He had seen a vision concerning his people and their future, and he has sought guidance to comprehend its meaning. He has been in a period of fasting, mourning, and intense prayer for three weeks. Daniel's prayers

were not just for personal understanding, but also for his people and their future. Daniel was troubled by a vision and desired to know its interpretation. But an angel came to him to give him this message.....

Daniel 10:12-13 Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

The chapter reveals that Daniel's prayers were part of a larger spiritual battle between angelic beings and demonic forces, specifically with the "prince of the kingdom of Persia".

YOUR FIRST TACTIC IN WINNING THE BATTLE IS RECOGNIZING THAT YOUR FIGHT IS NOT PHYSICAL BUT SPIRITUAL.

The enemy wants you to focus on the physical. He wants you to focus on that person, that business, the government, that institution who did you wrong and engage in a physical battle. He wants you to focus on that sickness, that disease, that injury.

How do we engage in physical battles?

> We become angry at the person who did us wrong. That's the first step.

That is the first step, if the enemy can get your emotions tied up then he has a better advantage.

> We confront the person, not the spiritual forces behind them.

We seek vengeance, we argue, we call them out, we defend ourselves. we try to prove our right. We also engage in conversation with others about that person.

The second step is the enemy gets your tongue tied up in gossip about the person or the situation instead of confessing God's word.

> Or he gets you repeating the doctors report and thinking about the diagnosis.

When you are doing this, the enemy has you right where he wants you. He has your focus off of him and on the physical.

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

We have to understand the scheming of the enemy. You have to discern spiritual attacks. The enemy attacks your thoughts, and emotions to lead you away from God. Know his tactics. Recognize that the enemy uses deception, temptation, and discouragement to weaken your faith.

**TRUE SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS THE WAR OVER YOUR WILL.
THAT WAR IS OVER YOUR ABILITY TO DENY YOUR FLESH AND SAY YES
TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD.**

SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS A WAR OVER YOUR OBEDIENCE.

We live in victory! But if the enemy can convince you to yield to defeat and bow to his accusation and lies in fear then you will be defeated.

ILLUSTRATION:

We walk around with a banner be waved over our heads. The banner of victory. We walk around with angels ready to work on our behalf. We walk around with a light above, beneath, in front of us and behind us. It is the glory and presence of the Lord. So, when you walk into that situation, when that person confronts you, don't yield in your flesh. Stand and stay in the Spirit. Stay In victory.

2. YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Illustration of Fiery Furnace:

(Set up scripture)

Daniel 3: 16-25 19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. 20 And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace. 21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

22 Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. 23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?"

They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

25 "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE.
THE LORD IS IN THE BATTLE WITH YOU.**

Isaiah 43:1-3 But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.

***2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.***

***When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned,
Nor shall the flame scorch you.***

3 For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;

**JUST BECAUSE YOU ARE BEING ATTACKED BY THE ENEMY DOES NOT
MEAN THAT JESUS HAS ABANDONED YOU.**

John 15:20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.

**DO NOT CHOOSE TO BE ALONE.
DO NOT ISOLATE.
ISOLATION IS THE ENEMY'S PLAYGROUND.**

Connect with other believers for support, encouragement, and accountability.

3. HE FIGHTS - WE ABIDE IN HIM

HE FIGHTS:

1 Samuel 17:45-47 Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD’s, and He will give you into our hands.”

Proverbs 21:31 (ESV) The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the LORD.

Exodus 14:13-14 And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. 14 The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”

Exodus 15:3. The LORD is a man of war; The LORD is His name.

WE ABIDE:

John 15:4-11 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

9 “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. 11 “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

To abide means to “remain in” We abide - we remain in Him.

Acts 17:28..... For in Him we live and move and have our being

How do we do this? Let's go back to our context scripture.....

Ephesians 6:13-18 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.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

How do we abide in Him? We put on our spiritual weapons. We put on the armor of God. He is our armor. We put him on. He is our shield. He is our protection.

Armor: truth, righteousness, gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the Word of God (the sword of the Spirit).

Prayer and Fasting.

Connect with God in daily prayer

Scripture: .

Use the Bible as your sword, memorizing and speaking truth to combat lies and spiritual attacks.

4. DO NOT FEAR - BUT BE JOYFUL

We don't go around challenging high ranking demonic forces. The way you engage in spiritual warfare is by lifting up the highest authority. You lift up Jesus, and you let Jesus fight your battles for you.

We don't have fear in spiritual warfare, We have something to replace it. It's joy!

2 Samuel 6:16-23 Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. 17 So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. 18 And when David had

finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. 19 Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed, everyone to his house.

20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!"

21 So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD. 22 And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor."

23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

Studies show that 22% of Americans are struggling with depression? 22%. How many here are a part of that survey?

They say 320 million people worldwide are struggling with depression. This is not something that is going to just go away. This is demonic!

Nehemiah 8:10 says this.....and do not be grieved for the joy of the Lord is our strength."

There is a war in the spirit over your joy. The enemy knows that if you have the joy of the Lord you will be strong.

JOY DEFINED:

Joy in the Hebrew is the word SiMCHA, which means gladness, an overflow. So it means gladness pouring out.

Another word that is used for joy is SASSAN, which means to exalt or display joy.

Then in the Greek we see CHARA (thsara), which means to delight. So delighting yourself in the Lord is a source of joy. It means to rejoice.

**JOY IS NOT A FEELING.
JOY IS NOT AN EMOTION.**

**JOY IS A SPIRITUAL STATE.
IT'S A RESULT OF ENCOUNTERING GOD AND THE EVIDENCE OF ABIDING
IN HIM.**

JOY IS WHEN YOU LOVE GOD AND YOU KNOW YOU ARE LOVED BY GOD.

1 Peter 1:6-8 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

Can you do that?

Can you express your love to the Lord? Can you express joy in His love for you? Can you rejoice before him because you know no matter what is happening that he is with you and he is fighting for you and and you can trust him because he is faithful.

**Can you shout? Can you dance? Can you sing? Can you jump?
Can you spin around wildly? Can you dance like David danced?
Can you dance like David in the midst of insult and questions and accusations and intimidation and persecution?**

Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

That means heaven is made up of joy. And when heaven touches earth there is joy!

Psalms 118:24. This is the day the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it.

