

November 16th, 2025
Pastor Josh McPherson
"The Art Of War"



"Wake Up To The War"

Why A Series On Spiritual Warfare?

- Because it appears only one side is fighting:

"The modern Christian has been lulled into a false peace. He thinks that because he has prayed a prayer and attends church, the war is over. Nothing could be further from the truth. The moment a soul is regenerated, the enemy marks him for destruction. Satan does not waste ammunition on the dead; he aims at the living. The believer now possesses something the devil hates—union with Christ, the indwelling Spirit, the hope of glory. These are treasures he will assault with every weapon in his arsenal: doubt, fear, lust, pride, distraction. But God has not left us defenseless. He has given us the whole armor—truth to gird the loins, righteousness to guard the heart, the gospel of peace to steady the feet, faith to quench the fiery darts, salvation to protect the mind, and the Word of God as a sword. The tragedy is not that the enemy is strong—he is—but that so many Christians refuse to fight. They lay down their weapons and wonder why they are defeated." **A.W. Tozer - The Root of the Righteous**

3 Big Ideas:

1. THERE IS A WAR, & YOU'RE IN IT.

"The Christian life is a battlefield, not a bed of roses. From the moment you surrender to Christ, you become a target for the enemy. He will tempt you, accuse you, discourage you, and try to make you doubt your salvation. But remember: you are not fighting alone. The Holy Spirit dwells within you. The Word of God is your sword. Prayer is your communication with headquarters. And Jesus Himself is your Commander-in-Chief. The war is already won. Your job is to stand firm, fight the good fight, and keep the faith until He returns."

Billy Graham - Peace with God

What Is Spiritual Warfare?

Spiritual warfare is the ongoing battle between Satan and the forces of Hell and Jesus and the forces of Heaven for the control of men, women, families, churches, and nations.

2. OUR SPIRITUAL WAR IS A THREE-FOLD FRONT:

The FLESH

"So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

Romans 12:21-24

The WORLD

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." **Romans 12:2**

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father[d] is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever." **1 John 4:15**

The DEVIL

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." **Ephesians 6:10-11**



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"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." **James 4:7**

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith..." **1 Peter 5:8-9**

"Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus..." **Revelation 12:17**

3. SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS A BATTLE YOU CAN WIN.

"Beloved, put on the whole armor of God! You are not going to a picnic—you are going to war. The foe is subtle, the conflict is severe, the stakes are eternal. Satan will not attack you with a cannon when a whisper will do. He will not tempt you with gross sin if a little compromise will suffice. He studies your temperament, your weaknesses, your history. He knows where you are vulnerable. But remember this: he is a liar, and the father of lies. Every accusation he brings against you has already been nailed to the cross. Every condemnation he whispers has been silenced by the blood of Christ. Stand therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made you free. Resist the devil—not in your own strength, but in the name of Jesus—and he will flee. The victory is not in question. The only question is whether you will fight as a soldier of the cross, or surrender as a prisoner of war."

Charles Spurgeon - Sermon: Spiritual Warfare

3 Ways To Respond:

#1 DENIAL: Pretending the war doesn't exist, or that it's already over.

- Ignoring demonic oppression as "mental health issues" without discernment.
- Never praying Scripture-based prayers of resistance because "that's too charismatic."
- Treating church as a social club, not a forward operating base.

Result: *Unarmed believers become POWs without realizing they've been captured.*

#2 APPEASEMENT: Trying to negotiate a cease-fire with an enemy who has already declared total war.

- Compromising with sin
- Tolerating occult influences (horoscopes, "white" witchcraft, etc)
- Watering down doctrine so unbelievers or demons won't be "offended."
- Praying weak, vague prayers
- Living a "quiet Christian life" that never confronts darkness in prayer, culture, or personal habits.

Result: *The enemy doesn't honor treaties. He takes ground inch by inch.*

#3 DECLARATION OF WAR: Alert and awake to the reality of spiritual warfare, and ready to take action.

- Becoming alert to the schemes of the enemy
- Increased hunger for the gift, and gifts, of the Spirit
- Bold action against sin and the schemes of the devil, wherever we find it: our lives, marriages, families, our church
- Fearless in the face of the enemy.

Result: *More faith, more obedience, more of His Word, more provision, more faithfulness, more sacrifice, more worship.*



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Discussion Questions:

Getting to Know Me

1. As we look forward to the holidays, how are you and your family planning to make Jesus the center of your holiday season?
2. Why do you think it is important to talk about and preach on spiritual warfare?

Into the Bible/Sermon

1. Josh read a quote that said, "we fight from victory, not for victory". What does this mean? How does Scripture support this?
2. Read the following verses: Romans 7:21-25, James 4:1, 1 Peter 2:11, Galatians 5:17, 1 John 2:15, Ephesians 2:1-2, Revelation 12:7, 19:11. Are you surprised by how often the Bible talks about war?
3. What does this teach us about the type of war we are fighting?

Application

1. What examples of spiritual warfare do you see in your life?
2. Josh said "We cannot separate spiritual warfare from the body of Christ." Why does a Christian need to live in community in order to be a better threat to the enemy?
3. Where are you too comfortable in the world? Where do you need to change to make yourself more effective for the Kingdom?
4. Josh specified three responses to spiritual warfare: **denial**, **appeasement**, or **declaration of war**. What has your response been? How will you personally move toward a declaration of war response?