

**Pastor Jason**

**8/31/2025**

## **Teaching Notes:**

**Title: A Spiritual Battlefield**

**Big Idea: We need to be aware of & armed for spiritual battles.**

4:1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, **2** that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

Peter says, “arm yourselves” this is a military term, it means you have weapons, so you are ready to attack or defend against an enemy.

### **1. We have an adversary.**

He seeks to steal, kill, & destroy.

He will lie, tempt, & condemn.

He wants to stop or hinder God’s work & God’s will in this world.

The Christian life is not a playground; it is a battlefield.

Judges 6:7 And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to the Lord because of the Midianites, 8 that the Lord sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage; 9 and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. 10 Also I said to you, “I *am* the Lord your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell.” But you have not obeyed My voice.’”

4:1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, **2** that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

### **2. Your mindset is a weapon.**

Christ’s mind was set on doing God’s will & God’s will was for Him to go to the cross.

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name, which is above every name,

### **3. Humble obedience is required.**

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

What might this look like?

Gideon made an offering to the Lord & he tore down his father's idols.

Idols are cheap counterfeits of God's character & glory.

Idols can seem spiritual & can be good things but when we make a good thing a god thing that we worship & sacrifice for we have made an idol.

Idols opens the door for Satan & when an idol grows stronger, Satan builds a stronghold.

2 Cor. 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Strongholds are places where Satan is strong.

His lies are strong, our flesh is weak, & obedience is rare.

Every lie must be torn down & replaced with actionable truth.

We do not deal lightly w/our sin.

### **4. Spiritual victories matter.**

When Satan gets one, He gains access to many.

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#### **Sermon Recap**

Have you ever wondered if there's an unseen battle raging beneath the surface of our daily lives? Pastor Jason reveals practical weapons for this battlefield, including the power of a Christ-like mindset. This miss message will equip you to recognize and overcome the enemy's tactics in your life and community.

#### **Discussion Questions**

Pastor Jason compares spiritual warfare to the Cold War, with its covert operations and propaganda. How does this analogy help us understand the hidden nature of spiritual battles in our daily lives?

- The sermon discusses how like the Cold War, there are spiritual spies, double agents, and covert operations happening beneath the surface that we need to be aware of.

- What are some subtle ways you've experienced spiritual warfare in your own life that you didn't recognize at first?

Based on 1 Peter 4:1-2, how does 'arming ourselves with the same mind as Christ' serve as a weapon in spiritual warfare?

- The sermon explains that our mindset is a weapon, and we need to use it against our enemy rather than against ourselves or others.
- In what specific areas of your life do you need to align your thinking more with Christ's mindset of humble obedience?

The sermon discusses how idols can be 'cheap counterfeits of God's character and glory.' What are some modern-day idols that might not look obviously sinful but can become strongholds in our lives?

- Pastor Jason explains that idols can seem spiritual and can be good things, but when we make a good thing a 'god thing,' it becomes an idol.
- What good things in your life might be at risk of becoming idols?

How does the story of Gideon tearing down his father's idols at night demonstrate both fear and faith in spiritual warfare?

- The sermon points out that although Gideon was afraid and did it at night, he still took action against idolatry, showing that courage isn't the absence of fear.
- What spiritual steps of obedience might God be calling you to take, even if you feel afraid?

The sermon emphasizes that our spiritual battles affect more than just ourselves. How does one person's spiritual victory or defeat impact their community?

- Pastor Jason explains that when Satan gets one person, he gains access to many - affecting churches, small groups, friends, families, and communities.
- How might your spiritual choices be influencing those around you, either positively or negatively?

### **Prayer Prompts**

- Ask God to give you awareness of spiritual battles in your daily life.
- Pray for the strength to arm yourself with a mindset like Christ's.
- Seek humility and obedience to counter the enemy's influences.
- Request guidance in identifying and removing any idols in life.

## **5 Day Devotional**

This five-day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. Focused on the spiritual battles we face, we will explore how to arm ourselves with the mindset of Christ, resist the enemy, and advance God's kingdom in our lives.

### **Day 1**

#### *1 Peter 4:1-2*

In the spiritual battle we are engaged in, understanding our identity in Christ and the victory He has achieved is crucial. As we immerse ourselves in this revelation, we become equipped to stand firm against the schemes of the enemy. Christ has already won the victory, yet the war rages on under the surface with skirmishes and spiritual operations. Our task is to recognize this reality and prepare ourselves with the same mindset Christ exhibited—one of humble obedience and commitment to God's will.

Peter's encouragement to "arm yourselves" with the mind of Christ reveals the importance of our thoughts and attitudes. It is not about seeking suffering but rather about resisting sin through the power of Christ's suffering. As we align our desires with God's will, we break free from the chains of worldly lusts and live in the victory Christ offers. Our mindset in this spiritual battle is a powerful weapon that determines the course of our days.

- Am I aware of the spiritual battles happening around me?
- How can I arm myself with the mind of Christ?
- In what ways am I called to humble obedience?
- Pray for a revelation of the spiritual realm and the battles we face.
- Ask God to renew your mind and align your desires with His will.

## **Day 2**

*Philippians 2:5-9*

The battlefield of the mind is where many spiritual victories and defeats occur. To follow Christ effectively, we must adopt His mindset—one characterized by humility and selflessness. He faced the ultimate sacrifice for us and remained obedient to God's will. In doing so, Christ unlocked spiritual victories that transcend time. Just as He humbled Himself, we too are called to lay down our own desires and pride, and instead, take up humble obedience.

By embracing the mind of Christ, we thwart the strategies of the enemy who aims to deceive and sow division. Our choices, rooted in humble obedience, not only impact our lives but also lead others toward the truth. As Christians, we do not march alone; our actions can draw others closer to the freedom found in God's kingdom.

- What does it mean to have the mind of Christ in daily decisions?
- How can humility change the way I perceive and fight spiritual battles?
- In what areas do I struggle to relinquish control to God?
- Seek God's guidance in making daily, humble decisions.
- Pray for the strength to lead others to Christ through your example.

## **Day 3**

*Galatians 2:20*

Our lives reflect a constant choice between following the desires of the flesh or living by faith in the Son of God. To live victoriously, we must crucify our fleshly desires and align ourselves with the will of God. This is a battle where the power of Christ enables us to overcome the strongholds that the enemy establishes in our lives. These strongholds often stem from idols—false promises that divert us from the abundant life God intends.

Idols are not only physical objects but also misplaced priorities that vie for our devotion and trust. The enemy uses these to ensnare us, keeping us from experiencing the fullness of God's kingdom. Reflect on the areas of your life where strongholds may exist and actively pursue dismantling them through humble obedience and faith.

- Identify potential idols in your life that detract from your relationship with God.
- Reflect on areas where past failures have become strongholds.
- How can you actively resist these strongholds with the help of God's power?
- Pray for discernment to identify and overcome idols.
- Ask for strength to tear down strongholds with humility and faith.

## **Day 4**

*2 Corinthians 10:3-6*

Often, we forget that our warfare is not fought with the weapons of the flesh but with spiritual might in God to tear down strongholds. Our thoughts and beliefs shape the battleground where these spiritual conflicts take place. The challenge is to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, rejecting arguments and pretensions that contradict God's truth.

As Christians, we are equipped with divine weapons—truth, righteousness, faith, and the Word of God. Utilizing these weapons ensures that we not only stand firm in faith but also actively dismantle the lies that the enemy seeks to sow. Reflect on the power of God's truth to transform your life and the lives of others as we engage in this spiritual battle.

- Consider the lies you may believe and how they contradict God's Word.
- What spiritual weapons can you utilize to combat these falsehoods?
- How does God's truth shape your thoughts and actions?
- Pray for the ability to recognize and reject lies in your life.
- Seek God's help to wield His truth as a weapon against spiritual deception.

## **Day 5**

### *Ephesians 6:10-17*

Our spiritual journey is a testament to the armor of God, which guards us against the enemy's strategies. Paul exhorts believers to put on the full armor, including truth, righteousness, faith, and salvation, to stand firm against spiritual adversities. It's a reminder that the spiritual battles we face are not just about personal victories but impact our communities and the advancement of God's kingdom.

When one believer stands firm, it creates a ripple effect that impacts families, communities, and beyond. Every spiritual victory contributes to the collective strength of the church, advancing God's kingdom on Earth and pushing back the force of darkness. Reflect on the role you play in this spiritual struggle and how you can contribute to victories that extend beyond yourself.

- How does wearing the full armor of God equip you in daily life?
- Reflect on your role in God's kingdom and how it impacts others.
- What steps can you take to strengthen your spiritual armor today?
- Pray for endurance to wear God's armor and resist spiritual attacks.
- Ask God to reveal how your victories affect His kingdom's expansion.