

“ADJ - Spiritual Warfare Part 3” (8-21-22)

Review Last 2: Our Enemy (destruction & deceit) / **Our Savior** (taught, lived, & shared spiritual victory)

Introduction: Spiritual Warfare part 3 - Our Role

1) Our Battle ground

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (ESV)

(3) For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. (4) For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. (5) We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ

Verse 3

2 Corinthians 10:3 (ESV)

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.

- **We are dealing with flesh** (God cares about people & wants to bring victory & freedom in & through us)
Consider: personal, church, culture/community (it's all about people - individually & collectively)
- **But the real fight is on a different level** (see: Colossians 2:8 & Ephesians 6:12)

Colossians 2:8 (ESV)

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Ephesians 6:11-12 (ESV)

. . . stand against the **schemes of the devil**. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

- We are fighting against ideas, concepts, philosophy which at their source are devilish & destructive!

Verse 4

2 Corinthians 10:4 (ESV)

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

- **Strong Holds (Thayer Definition):**
 - 1) a castle, stronghold, fortress, fastness
 - 2) anything on which one relies
- **What do you rely upon?** Read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), & ask the Holy Spirit to reveal!

Matthew 6:19-21, 24 (ESV)

(19) “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, (20) but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. (21) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. . .

(24) “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Note: A strong hold - that which we rely upon. These are battleground areas, there is no middle ground

- What do I rely upon other than Christ?
- Do I have anger, lust, broken relationships , anxiety - these are revealing!

Verse 5

2 Corinthians 10:5 (ESV)

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ

- **arguments** (logismos): the reasoning, calculation, logic that precedes & determines conduct
- **lofty opinion** (high thing): Height. Something made high, elevated, a high place, height, elevation.
Figuratively of a proud adversary, a lofty tower or fortress built up proudly by the enemy
- **raised** (exalted): to elevate, hoist (like a sail), life up the voice, to exalt one's self

***Something towering - intimidating, powerful, overwhelming** (think small David facing Goliath!)

How do we topple a stronghold? Let's see Paul's prayer for the Ephesians . . .

Ephesians 3:16-19 (ESV)

(16) that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, (17) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, (18) may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, (19) and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Note: Rooted & Grounded in Christ gives both height & depth (something no stronghold has!)

Sermon on the Mount - Jesus ends with the sand/rock analogy (Matthew 7:24-27)

- **Strongholds will fall over eventually anyways - but you can choose to trust in Christ instead!**
- **We don't have to topple a stronghold - it's already primed to fall.**
- **We replace strongholds . . .** (remember the definition of stronghold: anything we rely upon!)

The Ultimate Stronghold . . .

Psalms 18:2 (ESV)

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psalms 37:39-40 (ESV)

(39) The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.

(40) The LORD helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

Psalms 144:1-2 (ESV)

(1) Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; (2) he is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.

- We replace old thought patterns & the behaviors that follow, with a reliance upon Jesus instead!
- Let's learn to run to Him & let Him train our hands for war (Psalm 144) . . .

2) Our weapons

Ephesians 6:10-11, 14-18 (ESV)

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

(14) Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, (15) and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. (16) In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the **evil one**; (17) and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, (18) praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints

Note: Our weapons are not complicated - help us be anchored in Jesus (know His Word & how it impacts us!)

- Truth
- Righteousness
- Gospel (which brings peace)
- Faith (our protection)
- Salvation (guards our minds)
- Scripture (our primary offensive weapon)

Praying Always - this is how we rely on God & learn to use our weapons!

***A note on Prayer & Fasting . . .**

(Matthew 17:14-18) Jesus delivers a father's tormented son whom the disciples could not, then . . .

Matthew 17:19-21 (NKJV)

(19) Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" (20) So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. (21) However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

Note: Disciples had already been sent out in Matthew 10 (they healed & delivered people)

Fasting - an intentional denial in one area, in order to emphasize reliance on God in all areas!

Conclusion: We will face spiritual warfare - the battleground is real, Jesus is our true stronghold, and he wants us to find strength and become acclimated with our weapons!