



Sermon Title: You Asked For It, Part 4

Sermon Title: How Should I Approach Spiritual Warfare?

Date: 7/16/2023

Ephesians 6:10-17

In the book of Ephesians, the apostle Paul wrote a letter which revealed that we're in a very real battle against Satan and his fallen angels. Paul explains that God gives us the necessary weapons to stand up against the attacks of Satan and his fallen angels.

Big Idea: Use the weapon God gave you

The sword of the spirit is an offensive weapon that allows us to strike back rather than just stand there and take the hits. We must know who we are fighting against. So let's take a look at three truths about our enemy - Satan.

OUR ENEMY IS ACTIVE IN THE WORLD

1st Peter 5:8

Satan and his rebellious angels attack us at different times in our lives, and they bring devastation to our lives through catastrophic life altering circumstances. He can bring doubt, take advantage of depression, and set up temptation. Although Satan is not behind every temptation (James 1:14), his nature is to try to magnify our desires and minimize godly convictions.

But! when we put on the full armor of God, the armor allows us to be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power and to stand firm when Satan comes at us and tries to tear our lives and our family's lives apart.

OUR ENEMY IS BOLD AND PERSISTENT

Satan is not shy about who he tempts. In fact, Satan even tried to get Jesus to sin when he tempted Him – not once, but at least 3 times!

Satan casts doubt on the word of God by twisting it's meaning. **Matthew 4:1-3.** He can change one word in a verse which changes the meaning of what is really written, and when he does that, people end up basing entire belief systems around a verse that isn't even in the Bible.

When Satan tempted Jesus and quoted a verse to Him, he took it out of context and he only quoted it partially so that it fit his agenda. **Matthew 4:3-7**

If Satan is bold enough to attack Jesus he is bold enough to attack you! Jesus used the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God to drive Satan away, and that's why we need to learn how to use the sword of the Spirit.

OUR ENEMY KNOWS WHEN TO FLEE

When Satan tempted Jesus, Jesus responded out loud by verbally quoting scripture. There is power when God's word is verbally spoken. It's more than just knowing in your mind what His word says, it is speaking it out loud where Satan hears it and flees. Every time Jesus responded by verbally quoting scripture. **Matthew 4:7, Matthew 4:10-11**

Satan left Him because he knows that he couldn't counter God's word spoken in truth. We need to be familiar with how to use the sword of the Spirit, because it's clearly the right weapon to defeat Satan.

Our battle with Satan is a personal up close battle where you use a weapon that precisely hits the point of the attack. When Jesus was tempted He used verses that directly targeted Satan's attack. That's what we need to do. In the area where we are constantly being tempted we need to have verses that directly target that attack. We use the Sword of the Spirit to hit our target by being prepared and knowing what the Bible says, especially about the issues that we know that are an attack point for the enemy.

We need to focus on the areas where the enemy is trying to get at us and have verses prepared and learned ahead of time so that we can say them, sing them, yell them, repeat them over and over again, write them – whatever you need to do to use them to stand your ground.

For example, Gossip. You could start out with Proverbs 11:13

Take an inventory of your life and see if you are applying what the Bible says. Whatever areas are vulnerable for you, find specific verses that target that area. When we know how to use the sword of the Spirit by knowing what's in it and applying it to our lives we will be able to stand as a warrior against the attacks of Satan.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Describe some of Satan's main tactics in drawing people away from the Lord/keeping people from pursuing God.**
- **What does "spiritual warfare" mean, and what are the weapons that the Lord gives us for engaging in spiritual battle?**
- **Why is speaking scripture so powerful?**
- **Describe a time when you knew you were under spiritual attack**
- **What specific verses do you use to combat temptation and sin? What others can you use?**