

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Part 2: The Strategy of Satan

Each of us, facing the world in which we live, is given the mop of truth and told to use it. But we can only help in this world if we have the wisdom to first turn off the darkness that is pouring into our own hearts from the god of this age.

DIRECT ASSAULT – THE ROARING LION (1 PETER 5:8)

- Revelation 9:11 “They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon.”
 - Greek: Apollyon means _____. One who lays waste, ruins, makes desolate.
 - Hebrew: Abaddon means _____ angel.
- Jesus said, Luke 10:18 “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”
- Isaiah 14:12-15
 - I _____ ascend to the heavens;
 - I _____ raise my throne above the stars of God;
 - I _____ sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the mount;
 - I _____ ascend above the tops of the clouds;
 - I _____ make myself like the Most High.
- The Bible makes a clear distinction between Mental Illness and Demon Possession (Matthew 4:24).
- There are a number of aspects regarding demonic possession that set it apart from mental illness. (Dr. Richard Gallagher)

INDIRECT SUBVERSION – THE ANGEL OF LIGHT (2 CORINTHIANS 11:14)

- Satan seeks to twist God’s creation to his own purpose.
 - Flesh = Human nature _____ from God’s influence.
 - World = the corporate expression of all _____ - _____ individuals, i.e., the human race.

APPEAL TO THE FLESH

- Spiritual warfare is not just about what is happening in the world around us, but the personal attacks we can experience – even as Christians.

- We should ask ourselves, “What Does Satan Want?”

- The Bible says that each human being is made up of three parts ... body, soul and spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23).
 - Body - How we _____ with this world. Our senses.
 - Soul - How we _____ how we will use our body.
 - Spirit - That which influences our soul in its _____-making. (The natural man or the spiritual man.)

- It is the body that ties all three together.
 - If Satan can appeal to the flesh, he can gain access the whole person ... both access to our decision-making and even twisting our conscience if possible.
 - Galatians 5:17 “For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other...”

Food For Thought:

“There is no neutral ground in the universe; every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counter-claimed by Satan.”
C. S. Lewis

1. Do you live your life as if there was a supernatural battle going on around you? If not, why not? If so, what does that look like?

2. Read Ephesians 6:12. We see plenty of good vs. evil down here on Earth. But have you ever stopped to think that what stirs-up the good vs. evil experience on Earth is actually fueled by what happens in the “heavenly realm?” How might this affect how you judge and talk to others who share your faith in Christ, or who don’t know Christ as Savior?

3. Our culture mocks the idea of Satan, using him in cartoons, commercials, and as a Halloween costume. Yet, he is mentioned 54 times in the Bible and his influence is seen throughout the world where evil abounds in too many ways to list. Knowing what you do from this Spiritual Warfare series, how seriously do you need to take notice of Satan’s manipulation within our culture, and in your life?

4. Rather than focus all of our attention on the devil’s schemes, we should focus on John 10:10, where Jesus says, “I have come that you might have life, and have it to the fullest.” If we let Jesus live in us, we will experience supernatural and spiritual life. We will walk in light, and the darkness will flee before us. Looking at John 10:10, which of the two parts of this verse best describes how you are living?

5. Read Romans 8:37, Revelation 2:11 and 2 Kings 6:16-17. As followers of Christ we DO NOT live in fear, but rather we are called to stand firm. All this talk of spiritual warfare may make some doubt about who will win it all. The Bible is clear that we fight from victory, not for victory. Jesus has already prevailed over sin, Satan, and evil on the cross. While we walk this earth, it is our mission to be faithful to let Jesus live in us and rescue all we can. Take some time to prayerfully listen to the Holy Spirit speak to you. What is God saying to you about how you should respond to what you have learned?