

The Spiritual Realm - Lesson 17: Spiritual Warfare Part 2

Gateways the Enemy Uses

- Satan often seeks access through areas of compromise, deception, and woundedness. Scripture emphasizes vigilance because the enemy looks for opportunities.
- Possible gateways may include: occult involvement, drug use, persistent sinful habits, unresolved trauma, abuse, false doctrine, bitterness, emotional bondage, idolatry, worldliness, and fleshly surrender.
- This is why spiritual warfare is tied closely to repentance, holiness, truth, and submission to God.
- Believers who knowingly give themselves to the flesh, to falsehood, or to darkness are inviting confusion and defeat.
- Satan's power is limited. He has no rightful authority over the believer. But he can exploit what the believer yields to him.

Waging War from the Three-dimensional World

Romans 12:2 *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Conformed: molded into a pattern of the world's thinking, living, decision-making

Transformed: the Greek word is translated "transfigured" when Jesus is transformed into His glorified self

- Paul is teaching that believers are to renew their minds and thoughts by conforming to God's truth, which is transformation.

Colossians 3:9-10 *Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*

1. Renew our minds with God's Word

Acts 19:19 *And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver.*

Ephesians 6:13-20 *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 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, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.*

We are to stand firm "having done all, to stand firm"

1 Peter 5:8-9 *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*

2. Realize there is an enemy that wants us to fall

Truth *“having fastened on the belt of truth”*

John 8:44 *You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

- To combat against the lies and deceit, the believer must know and believe the truth.
- As believers look at themselves, their situation, and the world around them, everything must be interpreted and seen in light of the truth of God's Word.

3. Truth is our first tool of warfare

Righteousness *“having put on the breastplate of righteousness”*

- Jesus' righteousness, applied to believers from the spiritual realm, is the ultimate protection against spiritual attack.

1 Corinthians 5:21 *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

4. Our relationship with God is our ultimate protection

Peace *“as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace”*

- Believers can have a peace that only God can give, through Jesus Christ.
- This peace gives believers the faith that God is in control and that all things will work according to His plan, even though everything is in chaos at the moment.

Faith *“In all circumstances take up the shield of faith”*

- Faith is believing God is telling the truth. Faith is taking God at His word.
- It is by faith that believers enact the truth of God's Word to work on their behalf.

Salvation *“take the helmet of salvation”*

- To discourage us he points to our failures, our sins, our unresolved problems, our poor health, or to whatever else seems negative in our lives in order to make us lose confidence in the love and care of our heavenly Father.
- Since the battle is in the mind and spiritual realm, the believer's assurance of salvation protects the mind from being wounded.

5. Spiritual growth builds our faith and gives us assurance of our salvation

The Word of God *“the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”*

- The truth contained in the Word of God is the believer's weapon to reach into the spiritual realm and do battle.
- The Word of God is where the power lies for the believer doing battle in the spiritual realm.
- “Every time God's Word is used to lead a person to salvation, it gives witness to its power to cut a swath through Satan's dominion of darkness and bring the light of life to a lost soul.”

Prayer *“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication”*

- Prayer is our entrance into the spiritual realm
- Prayer is our communication to headquarters during warfare
- Prayer shows we believe God and believe the armor of God