

Sunday Sermon Recap

PROPER EXPECTATIONS :

Mistaken Identity

Spiritual Wickedness



How **often** do you try to solve spiritual issues by physical means?

12 For our **struggle** is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], **but** against the *rulers*, against the *powers*, against the *world forces of this [present] darkness*, against the **spiritual forces** of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) places.

↑
Forgetting about spiritual wickedness
causes us to neglect intentional time with
Christ in the midst of spiritual warfare

Ephesians 6: 12

Confused Identity:

*A **wrong** identification of a person or thing leading to chaos and confusion*

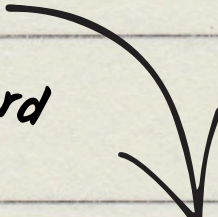
In Ephesians 6

- Paul is **warning** the church of Ephesus of satan's *craftiness* regarding the temples dedicated to Greek gods and goddesses
- While it is easy for the church to be *distracted* with the physical temples, Paul calls the church to **recognize** the demonic forces **behind** this idol worship
- The true wrestle is not against what is in front of you, but the spiritual wickedness influencing this world

Do you know **what** you are waring against?

1 Corinthians 9: 24-27

*Passively engaging with the Lord
is complacency and laziness*



1. Maintaining trust in God is an intentional daily choice...
2. We must find a balance in knowing and understanding both flesh and spiritual
3. We are called to discipline our bodies

*Do you tell your body what to do OR
are you led by your flesh?*

Is the way you live and act disqualifying you for
the upward prize of Christ Jesus?

13 When **Jesus** came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “*Who do people say the Son of Man is?*”

14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “But ~~what about you?~~” he asked.

“*Who do you say I am?*”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

Matthew 16: 13-17

Matthew 16: 13-17

*Insight based in the physical
(flesh and blood)*

“Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

*Spiritual Insight
(looking beyond people)*

Vs

“Who do YOU say I am?”

These things were revealed to Peter **THROUGH** God

*What is your spiritual insight
(discernment) like?*

We *deepen* our spiritual insight once we learn to
bypass our flesh

*You have to learn how to humbly
yourself and surrender yourself fully
to Christ*

21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his
disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer
many things at the hands of the elders, the chief
priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must
be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

22 Peter took him [Jesus] aside and began to **rebuke**
him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never
happen to you!”

23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me,
Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not
have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human
concerns.”

Matthew 16: 21-23

There is a fine line of spiritual insight being
good and bad

*As Peter shifted his focus on his
flesh, he began receiving messages
from the satan...no longer having in
mind the concerns of God*

**But his heart was in the
right place...right?**

Peter was trying to tell God what to do

The Lord is not obligated to do anything for
YOU

Peter was walking in PRIDE---and that is a
door that opens directly to the devil

Key Facts to Know When Struggling Against Flesh and Blood

- 1.** The struggle is spiritual NOT physical
- 2.** Recognizing the flesh as a symbol of human weakness
- 3.** Calls for spiritual preparation
- 4.** Shifts our focus from retaliation to spiritual solutions
- 5.** Our conflicts between each other point to larger spiritual realities

*What are you
wrestling with?*