

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning 3-10-24
Christianity 102 – Message 33 Part 6
Understanding spiritual warfare.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

1) We looked at the importance as a believer to:

- a) Know your enemy – we battle against, “principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”
- b) Know whose you are – for the believer the battle is one of influence. For the unbeliever it is a family problem.
- c) Know this battle does not stop – these forces do not rest, do not give up, they are always alert and ready to influence or invade.

b. Taking a look ahead:

1) Last week – what is the ground that the enemy is after in your life?

- a) “ground” – those areas and relationships in your life that the enemy desires to destroy.
- b) Example – your walk with the Lord –
- c) There is also the ground of your marriage, your family, your work, your church, etc.

2. As a believer, know what to do:

a. Be Alert – give no “place” to the devil: Ephesians 4:17-32 (Key is verse 27)

1) This battle has a purpose:

- a) Verse 27 – “Neither give place to the devil.” “place” – “topos”

2) Satan sees you as the enemy.

- a) Guarding the ground in your life is important because –

b. Growing spiritually is like gaining and protecting your ground. Ephesians 4:17-32

1) Verses 17-21 – In Christ there is a big difference.

2) Verse 22 – “Put off” – the old man -

3) Verse 23 – “be renewed” – renew your mind.

4) Verse 24 - “Put on” – who you are now in Christ.

c. Everything has changed and is changing in you and about you.

1) Verse 25 – “put away lying” –

2) Verse 26 – “be ye angry and sin not” –

3) Verse 27 – “Neither give place to the devil.”

3. Believer, you must be sober, you must be vigilant:

a. It is important to recognize that:

- 1) Giving ground is something I do in response to satan's offer. James 1:12
- 2) Temptation is satan's attempt at influencing me to give up ground. James 1:13-14
- 3) Not giving place to the devil means giving place to the Lord. Romans 6:13
- 4) History teaches that he doesn't need much room.

4. This battle for the mind/heart is real:

a. Thoughts can be...

- 1) Thoughts can be embarrassing at times.
- 2) Thoughts can determine actions.
- 3) Thoughts can be deceiving.
- 4) Spiritual warfare is a battle for the mind, and it may be the most important, most critical battle of all.
 - a) Sin begins as a thought, a suggestion, an idea, a tempting possibility.

b. Scripture reveals the different positions of the Mind.

Love of the mind (3)	Right mind (2)	Remembering Mind (4)
Discerning Mind	Doubtful Mind	Readiness of Mind (4)
Humble Mind (2)	Reprobate Mind	Warring Mind
Selfish Mind	Fleshly Mind (4)	Carnal Mind
Spiritual Mind (4)	Renewed Mind (2)	Same Mind (4)
Prideful Mind	Persuaded Mind	One Mind (7)
Fervent Mind	Willing Mind	Forwardness of Mind
Vanity of Mind	Lowliness of Mind	Wicked Mind
Shaken in Mind	Sound Mind	Defiled Mind
Unbelieving Mind	Wise Mind	

c. Contrast of God's desire versus satan's desire for the mind.

<u>God</u>	<u>satan</u>
Love God with the Mind	Doubtful Mind
Right Mind	Reprobate Mind
Remembering Mind	Warring Mind
Discerning Mind	Selfish Mind
Readiness of Mind	Fleshly Mind
Humble Mind	Carnal Mind
Spiritual Mind	Prideful Mind
Renewed Mind	Vanity of Mind
Same Mind	Wicked Mind
One Mind	Shaken in Mind
Fervent Mind	Defiled Mind

Willing Mind
Lowliness of Mind
Sound Mind
Wise Mind

Unbelieving Mind

5. Why is the mind such a strategic place to control?

a. What you believe is critical.

1) satan cannot make a believer do anything so –

2) Proverbs 23:7 –

a) It is impossible for a person to live consistently contrary to their belief system.

3) Proverbs 23:7 – Observations.

6. Today's Take Away:

a. Three commands you cannot ignore concerning spiritual warfare.

1) "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7

2) "Abstain from all appearance of evil" – I Thess. 5:22

3) "Flee fornication." I Corinthians 6:18