

Spiritual Warfare

1. The fruits of the Spirit are discussed in the context of Spiritual Warfare. *[Lesson 8]*

- a. The Spirit against the flesh, Gal 5:17.
- b. The Holy Spirit empowers our spirit in this civil war.
- c. The “deeds of the flesh” and the “fruits of the Spirit” are the elements of Spiritual Warfare.
- d. A practical, non-mystical battle that must be fought.

2. What are we up against?

- a. Modern demon possession, Satan raging out of control?
 - i. Satan is cast in the abyss, Jn 12:31, Lk 8:31, Rev 9:1f.
 - ii. Satan is bound, Mt 12:29, Rev 20:1f.
- b. The evil one is a very real adversary.
 - i. Prowling lion, 1 Peter 5:8
 - ii. We need armored protection, Eph 6:10f.
 - iii. Not God.
 1. Not omniscient, omnipotent, nor omnipresent.
 2. Must operate by permission only, Job.

3. The Power of Deception.

- a. Choice
 - i. Where there is no choice, there is no culpability.
 - ii. Satan cannot force us, he must deceive us.
- b. Adam and Eve
- c. Judas, Jn 13:27, 2; Mt 26:50.
- d. Peter, Mt 16:23.
- e. Ananias and Sapphira, Acts 5:3.
- f. The man and his Mom, 1 Cor 5:5.

4. Strategy. *[Lesson 9]*

- a. Don't give Satan an opportunity, Eph 4:20-27.
- b. Be aware of the deadly nature of self-interest, Mt 16:22-23.
- c. Face the lion, 1 Peter 5:8 {not lion tamers, not defeat, lion... face him}.
 - i. Be Alert.
 - ii. Resist.

- iii. Don't fear.
- d. Put on the whole armor of God, Eph 6:10-18.
 - i. Fear – flaming arrows
 - ii. Bold, strength.
 - iii. Timidity, Mk 4:40.
- e. Stand!
 - i. Stand firm, Eph 6:11.
 - 1. Fear causes us to panic, to run, to desert.
 - 2. Requires faith, assurance, and strength.
 - 3. Peter in the Garden during the Arrest.
 - 4. 2 Chron 20:39, 12-13, 15, 17, 19, 22.
 - ii. To stand is to be accepted, judged as worthy, Romans 14:10, 4.
- f. The Promise if we Resist, James 4:7 – Give the Spirit a chance to intervene.
- g. Works of the flesh
- h. Fruits of the Spirit, Gal 5:13f.
 - i. Freedom, 5:13.
 - ii. Walk by the Spirit, 5:16.
 - iii. Led by the Spirit, 5:17.
 - iv. Live by the Spirit, 5:25.