Small Group Study Guide
Series: **NOT ANOTHER RELIGION**
Sermon 21: THE WAR YOU CANNOT SEE
UNSEEN | Spiritual Warfare
November 8, 2026 | CrossPointe Church
Tracy “PT” Pounders, Pastor

◆ INTRODUCTION

Spiritual warfare reaches into the conversations we hide, the anger we defend, and the prayers we are tempted to abandon. In Acts 20, Paul warns that deception will draw people away from Jesus; Ephesians 6 shows us how to stand in God’s strength. The enemy seeks our allegiance, but Jesus has defeated the powers of darkness through the cross. We respond by testing what we hear, confessing what we hide, obeying what God has said, and praying beyond what we can see. The battle is real, and our homes, relationships, and everyday choices are places where faith must stand.

◆ KEY SCRIPTURES

- **Ephesians 6:10–18 —** God equips us to stand against spiritual darkness through His strength, the whole armor of God, and persevering prayer.
- **Acts 20:28–32 —** Paul warns that deception will draw disciples away from Jesus. He calls believers to watchfulness and entrusts them to God.
- **Daniel 10:12–14, 20–21 —** God hears Daniel from the first day, though unseen resistance delays the messenger. Waiting does not mean God has not heard.
- **Ephesians 4:26–27 —** Anger must not become sin or give the devil an opportunity. Real hurt does not excuse a destructive response.
- **2 Corinthians 10:3–5 —** God’s weapons pull down strongholds of lies and proud arguments, bringing our thoughts into obedience to Christ.
- **1 John 1:9 —** God forgives and cleanses those who confess their sins. Shame must not keep us from returning honestly to Him.

◆ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who have you been treating as the enemy—a spouse, coworker, church member, or political opponent—and how would your response change if you took spiritual warfare as seriously as your need to win the argument? *(Ephesians 6:12; 4:26–27)*
2. What relationship, habit, or private choice are you calling “innocent” that you would scramble to explain if it came into the light, and what obedience are you postponing by blaming the devil? *(James 1:14–15; Ephesians 6:14)*
3. PT said, “A lie doesn’t become LIGHT because somebody preaches it with a Bible in their hand.” Which voice earns your trust by agreeing with you, and how would you respond if Scripture exposed its message as deception? *(Acts 20:29–31; 2 Corinthians 11:13–15)*
4. PT said, “Your hurt can be REAL, and what you do with it can still be WRONG.” What wrong done to you have you turned into permission to sin, and what would surrendering that excuse cost you this week? *(Ephesians 4:26–27; 2 Corinthians 10:3–5)*
5. PT said, “The enemy is after ALLEGIANCE.” What do you defend more fiercely than your obedience to Jesus—your politics, reputation, comfort, or right to be right—and where is that loyalty pulling you away from Him? *(Acts 20:29–30; 26:18)*

6. What past failure are you allowing to overrule God's promise of forgiveness, and what would honest confession and repentance look like if you stopped letting shame decide how close you can come to Jesus? *(1 John 1:9)*
7. "Before Daniel ever heard from heaven, heaven had already heard from Daniel." Which unanswered prayer have you begun treating as proof that God has not heard you, and how has that belief changed the way you pray or treat the person you're praying for? *(Daniel 10:12–13; Ephesians 6:18)*
8. PT said, "Spiritual warfare reaches the words we choose after church is over." If nothing about your hardest situation changes by tomorrow, what will standing in God's strength look like in your very next conversation or decision? *(Ephesians 6:10–18)*

◆ PT's BEST QUOTES

- *"The enemy may be UNSEEN, but God has not left His people UNARMED."*
- *"Satan can oppose the PURPOSES of God. He can't overthrow the THRONE of God."*
- *"The most dangerous LIE may be the one that teaches you to feel HOLY while you are walking away FROM JESUS."*
- *"The battle is bigger than changing how somebody behaves. The Gospel changes who they belong to."*
- *"If you've gotta hide the conversation to protect your marriage, the conversation is already threatening your marriage."*
- *"When you pray, you are speaking to God who sees the part of the battle you cannot see."*
- *"The devil has a deadline, and Jesus has a kingdom that will never end."*
- *"Don't let what is against you make you forget Who is for you!"*

◆ ACTION PROMPTS

- **STOP DEFENDING IT. START SURRENDERING IT:** Name one lie, secret, or excuse you have been protecting. Write beside it a Scripture from this study that confronts it. Within 24 hours, take one concrete step of obedience: end the secret conversation, make an honest apology, or ask a trusted believer for help with the habit. Arrange a check-in this week.
- **PRAY BEYOND WHAT YOU CAN SEE:** For the next seven days, bring one person or unresolved situation to God by name. Ask Him to expose lies, send truth through someone they will hear, and keep your own hurt from making you harsh. Read Ephesians 6:10–18 daily and practice one response shaped by that armor before the day ends.

◆ CLOSING PRAYER

Father, in the name of Jesus, we surrender ourselves to You. Forgive the sin we have hidden, the anger we have defended, and the lies we have believed. By Your mighty power, pull down every stronghold raised against Your truth. Break the grip of bitterness, fear, and secret sin. Bring our thoughts into obedience to Christ. We resist the devil and reject the shame that keeps us from Your mercy.

Clothe us in Your armor and strengthen us to stand. Reach the hearts our words cannot reach. Draw our children to Jesus, restore faithfulness in our marriages, and bring peace to our homes. Send help where we cannot go, and keep us praying while we wait. Give us courage to obey You in our next conversation and decision. The battle is real. The victory belongs to You. And we belong to You! In Jesus' mighty name, amen.

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