SPIRITUAL WARFARE — "ABIDING VICTORY - ABIDING" (Pt. 3) "THE BATTLE WITHIN" [2 Cor. 10:3-5; Rom. 7:14-20]

(2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

"3 For though we walk in the flesh [as mortal men], we are not carrying on our [spiritual] warfare according to the flesh and using the weapons of man.

4 The weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood]. Our weapons are divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses...

5 ...We are destroying sophisticated arguments and every exalted and proud thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought and purpose captive to the obedience of Christ..." Amp

(Romans 7:14-20)

(Romans 7:14-20), "¹⁴ We know that the Law is spiritual, but I am a creature of the flesh [worldly, self-reliant—carnal and unspiritual], sold into slavery to sin [and serving under its control].

¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions [I am baffled and bewildered by them]. I do not practice what I want to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate [and yielding to my human nature, my worldliness—my sinful capacity]...

SPIRITUAL WARFARE - "ABIDING VICTORY - ABIDING"[2 Cor. 10:3-5a; Eph. 6:10-12]

¹⁶ Now if I habitually do what I do not want to do, [that means] I agree with the Law, confessing that it is good (morally excellent).

¹⁷ So now [if that is the case, then] it is no longer I who do it [the disobedient thing which I despise], but the sin [nature] which lives in me...

¹⁸ For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh [my human nature, my worldliness—my sinful capacity]. For the willingness [to do good] is present in me, but the doing of good is not.

¹⁹ For the good that I want to do, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want....

²⁰ But if I am doing the very thing I do not want to do, I am no longer the one doing it [that is, it is not me that acts], but the sin [nature] which lives in me."

Examining three main areas where spiritual battles are fought:

- 1) The Spirit Realm Battle, "Abiding Victory
 - Abiding"
- 2) The Worldly Battle, and
- 3) The Battle Within

We are spiritual beings, living in physical bodies - (Gen. 2:7)

"Then the LORD God formed [that is, created the body of] man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath(spirit) of life; and the man became a living being [an individual complete in body, soul, and spirit]." Amp

The Bible contains God's diagnosis of the human dilemma:

(Ps. 51:5), "I was brought forth in [a state of] wickedness; In sin my mother conceived me [and from my beginning I, too, was sinful]."

Amp

(1 Cor. 15:53-57)

For this perishable [part of us] must put on the imperishable [nature], and this mortal [part of us that is capable of dying] must put on immortality [which is freedom from death].

⁵⁴ And when this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then the Scripture will be fulfilled that says, "Death is swallowed up in victory (vanguished forever)...

⁵⁵ O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin [by which it brings death] is the law;

⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory [as conquerors] through our Lord Jesus Christ."

SEVEN REALITIES OF OUR TEXT THAT EVERY BELIEVER/FOLLOWER OF CHRIST EXPERIENCES:

- I. Sin is a Perplexing Mystery
- **II.** Sin is a Total Contradiction To The New Nature
- III. Sin is a Legal Offense Against The Word of God
- IV. Sin is an Indwelling Force
- V. Sin is a Contrary Power To The New Nature
- VI. Sin is a Competing Evil
- VII. Sin is a Remaining Reality

I. Sin is a Perplexing Mystery (7:15a)

"For I do not understand my own actions [I am baffled and bewildered by them]."

II. Sin is a Total Contradiction (7:15b)

"I do not practice what I want to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate [and yielding to my human nature, my worldliness—my sinful capacity]."

- A. There is both a negative and a positive aspect to this inverted dilemma.
- B. Know Yourself With the knowledge of God comes the knowledge of self.....

III. Sin is a Legal Offense - against God and His word.... (7:16)

"Now if I habitually do what I do not want to do, [that means] I agree with the Law, confessing that it is good (morally excellent)."

SPIRITUAL WARFARE – "ABIDING VICTORY - ABIDING" (Pt. 3) "THE BATTLE WITHIN"

[Rom. 7:24,25] "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

²⁵ I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." Amp