

# A Simple Strategy for Spiritual Warfare

November 5, 2017

Wonderful Mercy Church



# Doing Life Together

- Being a part of the faith community at Wonderful Mercy Church must be more than a Sunday thing
- The call to do life together is a reflection of the godhead itself: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—all together, always together
- Made in the image of God, we have neither the capacity nor freedom to go it alone



# Encouragement in the Battle

- This is who Satan is and this is what he does: he comes against every move of God that is focused on life and turns it toward death
- **Jude 1:2** MSG  
“Relax, everything’s going to be all right; rest, everything’s coming together; open your hearts, love is on the way!”



## **Jude 1:9** NKJV

“Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’”



## **Jude 1:9** NLT

“But even Michael, one of the mightiest of the angels, did not dare accuse the devil of blasphemy, but simply said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’ (This took place when Michael was arguing with the devil about Moses’ body.)”



## **Jude 1:9** MSG

“The Archangel Michael, who went to the mat with the Devil as they fought over the body of Moses, wouldn’t have dared level him with a blasphemous curse, but said simply, ‘No you don’t. God will take care of you!’”



# The Archangel Michael vs. Satan

- This event isn't recorded in Scripture
- What is? The death and burial of Moses; cf. Deuteronomy 34:5-6
- Jude gets his information from an ancient text entitled "The Assumption of Moses"



# What Does This Mean for Us?

- Question: why is this passage here and what are we to do with it?
- Another question: is it legitimate to depend on an extrabiblical tale from a dubious source?
- Though “The Assumption of Moses” was rejected as Scripture, this doesn’t mean its history is inaccurate; the tale’s in the Bible now—that makes it reliable!





# Ephesians 6:10-13 TPT

“Now my beloved ones, I have saved these most important truths for last: Be supernaturally infused with strength through your life-union with the Lord Jesus. Stand victorious with the force of his explosive power flowing in and through you. <sup>11</sup> Put on God’s complete set of armor provided for us, so that you will be protected as you fight against the evil strategies of the accuser!



# Ephesians 6:10-13 TPT

<sup>12</sup> Your hand-to-hand combat is not with human beings, but with the highest principalities and authorities operating in rebellion under the heavenly realms. For they are a powerful class of demon-gods and evil spirits that hold this dark world in bondage. <sup>13</sup> Because of this, you must wear all the armor that God provides so you're protected as you confront the slanderer, for you are destined for all things and will rise victorious."



# Let God Handle the Devil

- **Zechariah 3:2** NLT

“And the Lord said to Satan, ‘I, the Lord, reject your accusations, Satan. Yes, the Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebukes you. This man is like a burning stick that has been snatched from the fire.’”

- **2 Peter 2:11** CEV

“Although angels are more powerful than these evil beings, even the angels don’t dare to accuse them to the Lord.”



# Five Dangers in Spiritual Warfare

- Reliance on formulas
- Underestimating the enemy
- Expecting power without prayer
- Glamorizing power (cf. Luke 10:20)
- Ignorance and assumption

[Peter Wagner, *Wrestling with Dark Angels* (Ventura, CA: Regal, ©1990), pp. 86-90]



# Christ is Where Our Focus is to Be

- The most powerful spiritual warfare is in advancing the kingdom through a life of committed discipleship to Christ
- Having his character—freedom from foolish pride and wrong desires that give Satan foothold
- Doing his work—every time the poor are ministered to, the kingdom of God advances; the same with healing, loving, etc.



# A Simple Strategy for Spiritual Warfare

- Exposure: simply talking about it brings freedom and release, robs enemy activity of its power
- **Zechariah 4:6** NASRE  
“Not by might, and not by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts.”
- “This is the hour of the Shire-folk, when they arise from their quiet fields to shake the towers and counsels of the Great.” [J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*, vol. II, book 2, p. 288]



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