

Victory in Spiritual Warfare

There is a War against Christians. Ephesians 6:10-12; II Corinthians 10:3-8

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

Schemes: methodia =

John 14:6

Satan can use overt warfare

- To spread disease, pain and suffering.
 - Inability to speak. Matthew 9:32-33
 - Blindness. Matthew 12:22
 - Deformity. Luke 13:11-17
 - Epilepsy. Matthew 17:15-18
 - Insanity. Luke 8:27-29
 - Suicidal. Mark 9:22
 - Drive to injury. Mark 5:5
 - Destroy life. Revelation 9:13-21
- Physical attack and possession.
- They know Christian leaders and can overpower an unprepared person. Acts 19:7-11
- They can seek to possess and control people and animals. Matthew 8:28-32

We most likely will experience Satan's covert warfare

- Poor stewardship and materialistic desires.
 - Greed. Acts 5:1-11
“But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land?’”
 - Love of things more than Christ. I John 2:15, 16; 5:19
“Do not love the world nor the things in the world... the whole world lies in the power of the evil one”

Fight back with I Timothy 6:6-12, 17-19

- Direct temptations to sin.
 - In marital weakness. I Corinthians 7:5
“Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again lest Satan tempt you because of your lack of self-control”
 - In physical and emotional weakness. Matthew 4:1-11
“Jesus...tempted by the devil. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights...”

Fight back with James 1:13-16; 4:7-8

- Poor attitude of the heart.
 - In my anger. Ephesians 4:26-27
“...do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.”
Proverbs 29:22; Genesis 4:5-7

Fight back with Proverbs 17:14; 22:24,25; 29:9; Proverbs 28:13; Psalm 4:4, 5; Romans 12:17-21

- In my anxiety. I Peter 5:7-9
“...casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour”

Fight back with James 3:14-18; I Peter 5:7-9

- **Conflicts in relationships with an unforgiving spirit.** II Corinthians 2:10-11
"I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes."
Fight back with II Corinthians 2:5-9; Ephesians 4:31, 32; II Timothy 2:24-26
- **Create counterfeits to deceive us and diminish God's Truth.** II Corinthians 11:3, 13-15
"Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds"
 - **Deception in I Timothy 4:1-5**
 - False doctrine/teaching/ truth
 - Marriage/ love
 - Identity
 - Sin**Fight back with II Timothy 3:12-17**
- **Other covert acts:** Prevent nonbelievers from hearing the gospel (II Corinthians 4:4). Hinder our prayers (Daniel 10). Steal God's truth from us (Luke 8:11-12). Doubt God's love and truth (Genesis 3:1-6). Unresolved guilt and shame (Revelation 12:10).

Steps for victory in warfare:

- **Confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.** Acts 26:18; Ephesians 6:10-20
 - Jesus has judged Satan on the cross and rendered him powerless. John 12:31-33; 16:11; Hebrews 2:14
 - Jesus is greater than the evil spirit world. I John 4:4
 - Jesus has publicly displayed His power over the spirit world. Colossians 2:15
 - Jesus' resurrection will cause all to bow before Him. Philippians 2:9-11
- **Live in the power of the Holy Spirit.** Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 3:3; 5:16-26; Matthew 12:43-45
- **Confess and turn from any attachments to occult or evil spirit world.** Acts 19:17-20
- **Grow in your knowledge of the Bible to live obedient to Christ.** II Corinthians 10:3-5
- **Test and discern false doctrine.** I John 4:1-3
- **Pray the words of Ephesians 1:18-23.**
- **Connect with growing Christians to grow your faith.** Hebrews 10:23-25

Next Steps:

1. **Read 'The Invisible War' by Chip Ingram to learn more about Satan, demons, and spiritual warfare.**
This book is available in Calvary's Corner Bookstore.
2. **Attend the Spiritual Warfare Workshop** led by Brandon and Desiree Elrod today from 1:30 - 3:30 pm in W-209 (upstairs in the Worship Center).
3. **Opportunities to Pray:**
 - Visit the art installation in the Lobby to take a prayer canvas home, and pray for that person's request over the next week.
 - Participate in the National Day of Prayer to pray for our church, schools, community, families, missionaries, and government leaders. The Chapel will be open from 7:00 am - 6:00 pm this Thursday, May 7 as a simple, sacred space dedicated to prayer.

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Which of the "covert" areas of attack is the most challenging for you? Read the "fight back" scripture. What do you learn on how should you respond?
2. Which of the "covert" areas of attack can you claim victory in?
3. Have you experienced any of the "overt" areas of attack? If so, which one and how did you respond?
4. We can be protected from demonic attack. Which of the areas for victory in warfare do you need to focus on? Why?