

Spiritual Warfare

We are involved in an invisible war. This cosmic conflict has eternal implications; lives are at stake. The enemy's strategies affect us every day.

- When was the last time you honestly considered that some struggle or relational conflict was rooted in satanic opposition?
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 2 Kings 6:15-19; Daniel 10

First, you need to identify something as spiritual attack.

"I forgive...so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes." 2 Corinthians 2:10-11

- **Pray for discernment from the Holy Spirit**
 - 1 Corinthians 12:3 & 10; 2 Kings 6:17
- **The names and descriptions of Satan reveal his plans and strategies.**
2 Corinthians 2:11 - "for we are not ignorant of his schemes."
 - Satan – adversary – Job 1:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 2:18
 - Devil – slanderer – 1 Peter 5:8
 - Roaring lion – 1 Peter 5:8
 - Lucifer – son of the morning – Isaiah 14:12
 - Father of lies – John 8:44
 - Beelzebub – lord of the flies – Matthew 12:24
 - Belial – a name of a false god – 2 Corinthians 6:15
 - The evil one – absolute corruption – 1 John 5:19
 - The tempter – 1 Thessalonians 3:5
 - The prince of this world – John 12:31
 - The accuser of the brethren – Revelation 12:10

Second, you need to prepare for battle.

"Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." Ephesians 6:11

- **The names and descriptions of Jesus encourage us and prepare us for who is sending us into battle. Our commander is the one with all the power. He is the authentic original.**
 - Jesus – The Lord Saves – Matthew 1:21
 - The first & last, beginning & end – Revelation 22:13
 - The Word of God – John 1:1; 1 John 1:1
 - Life-giving spirit, the last Adam – 1 Corinthians 15:45
 - The root – Revelation 22:16
 - The bright Morning Star – Revelation 22:16
 - The rising sun – Luke 1:78
 - The Living One – Revelation 1:18
 - The true light – John 1:9
 - The Righteous One – Acts 3:14
 - The Lion of Judah – Revelation 5:5
 - The king of the Jews – Matthew 2:2
 - The bread of life – John 6:35
 - The light of the world – John 8:12
 - The gate – John 10:7-10
 - The good shepherd – John 10:11-14
 - The resurrection and the life – John 11:25
 - The way, the truth and the life – John 14:6
 - The true vine – John 15:1-5
 - Immanuel – Matthew 1:23
 - The faithful witness – Revelation 1:5
 - The chief cornerstone – Matthew 21:42
 - Prince and Savior – Acts 5:31
 - Mediator – 1 Timothy 2:5
 - Deliverer and Redeemer – Romans 11:26
 - Rabbi or Teacher – John 1:38, 49
 - The head of the church – Ephesians 1:22-23
 - The Bridegroom – Matthew 9:15 and others
 - Wonderful Counselor – Isaiah 9:6
 - Mighty God – Isaiah 9:6
 - Eternal Father – Isaiah 9:6
 - Prince of Peace – Isaiah 9:6
- **We put on the full Armor of God – Ephesians 6:10-17**
 - Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might – vs. 10
 - Put on the full armor of God – vs. 11
 - Our struggle is not against flesh and blood – vs. 12
- **Preventive and Preparatory Prayers – see them listed in Digging Deeper**

Third, you need to step into the battle and fight.

"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints." Ephesians 6:18

- **Remember your identity. What's not in the armor of God?**
- **Know your authority.**
 - Jude 9 – The Lord Rebuke You
 - 1 John 4:4 – Greater is He that is in me than He that is in the world.
 - All of these words are just words unless we approach them with the authority of God. Your tone, posture and authority is more important than the exact words you speak.
- **Pray in the name of Jesus. But this is not a magic spell with total guarantees.**
 - Mark 5:8 – Jesus commanded more than once
 - Mark 9:14-29 – disciples failed and Jesus said it took prayer
- **Three kinds of battles**
 1. An attack on yourself
 - The enemy will take these thoughts and try to amplify them:
 - Shame
 - Financial stress
 - Desire to hurt or kill yourself
 - Self-sabotaging relationships
 - Consumed by guilt
 - Unable to overcome sin
 - Consistent doubts about God
 - Participating in practices of the occult
 - Taken captive by sin or wrong belief
 2. An attack on someone you know
 - Someone displaying any of the above
 - Someone taken captive by sin or wrong belief – make sure this isn't just disagreeing with you on a non-essential
 - Someone manifesting a demonic presence
 - Mark 16:17 – In My name they will cast out demons
 - Here's a guideline or example of what to do in this situation:
 - Recognize that it's demonic.
 - Call it out. Just call out what you see. It doesn't have to be a name. It's a name of what is being manifested – doubt, confusion, fear, shame, apathy, sleepiness, bondage, a sin, etc.
 - Just because you sense demonic influence does not mean the person is demon possessed. This could just be that they are being affected in some way by the demon.
 - 1 John 4:2-3
 - Pray – in the name of Jesus. Pray for as long as it takes. Pray repeatedly. Pray with authority while retaining your personality.
 - Mark 16:17; Luke 10:17; John 14:13; Acts 4:30; Philippians 2:9-11
 3. An attack on ministry efforts
 - You will hear thoughts of:
 - You're not enough
 - Who do you think you are?
 - You can't do anything about this
 - It's not for now
 - The enemy knows your gifts and your wiring and tries to exploit them. We must shift from believing the enemy's lies about our wiring to abiding with the Lord.
- **We do not fight for victory; we fight from victory.**
 - 1 John 4:4; 1 John 5:4-5; Revelation 12:11; James 4:7
 - Truths to remember
 - Satan is a defeated foe – John 12:31
 - Jesus destroyed the works of the devil – Colossians 2:14-15
 - We are victors in Christ – 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

Digging Deeper:

Preventive and Preparatory Prayers: The intent is not for these prayers to be read verbatim. They are a guideline to help you know how to pray. Your tone and posture is to come from the powerful authority of God. These can and should be repeated often, even daily.

Morning before the Day

"In the name and authority of Jesus Christ, I claim protection over my children as they are at school, against any lies, condemnation and ridicule, and against any harm or loss of any kind. Demons: if you intend to mess with my family, you will have to go through Jesus, His angels and myself, and we are not going to allow that to happen. I also proclaim a blessing over them: of comfort, connection, alertness, and acceptance. Amen."

Home/Domain

"In the name and authority of Jesus Christ, I claim protection over my home, my property, and my domain, against any attacks or infiltration by demons. (Feel free to get specific here) I claim protection over my pets, over our pool man as he works on our property; I claim protection over my office and all my client interactions today, and I proclaim a blessing of peace and fruitfulness over all of it. Amen."

Night before Bed

"I claim protection over my home, my family, and my domain against any loss, break-ins or infiltration, direct or indirect, in the name and authority of Jesus Christ. Heavenly Father, would you please post your angels all around our property—above, below and on all sides—please do not give the enemy any permission here. Protect our minds, our emotions and our bodies, and speak to us in our dreams. Amen."

Release/Free

"In the name and authority of Jesus Christ, and in obedience to Him, I forgive the historic sins of the past relating to (person's name). I forgive (name the sins, if unknown, ask God to reveal) the sin of _____, in agreement with the words of Jesus Christ, that every sin we forgive is forgiven and completely pardoned. Additionally, any authority or agreement that was given to demons through this sin, I revoke in the authority of Jesus Christ. You have no permission here any longer—leave now and never come back. Heavenly Father, would you please fill the emptiness that has been left with your peace and love and goodness. I now proclaim a blessing of freedom over (person's name). Amen."

Cleansing a Space

"In the name and authority of Jesus Christ, I forgive all the sins that have previously occurred in this object/room/space/place. I specifically call out (ask God to reveal which sins to forgive) _____ and I pardon and absolve it as Jesus Christ directed His followers to do. I claim new ownership over it (if praying on behalf of someone else, have them assert new ownership) and claim full authority over it, and I dedicate it to the service of Jesus Christ Almighty. I release any baggage, rights, agreements or authority that was formerly in place, as I claim ownership of this and establish a new agreement here, right now, with Jesus Christ. Heavenly Father, please sanctify this as I now officially claim ownership/responsibility over it. I proclaim a blessing of comfort and peace over it in the name and authority of Jesus Christ. Amen"

Moments of Ministry

"In the name and authority of Jesus Christ, I claim protection over this meeting/conversation/outreach against any and all participation by the enemy. I forbid you any access to distract, to lie, to harm or otherwise impact this time. Heavenly Father, would you please post your angels all around us, above us, below us, and on all sides. Would you please fill this space with Your presence, and fill your children with your Holy Spirit as we gather in Your name and Your purpose? If anyone arrives who is being distracted or influenced by the enemy, would you please clamp down on those rights and agreements, and shut out the enemy from entering this space? Demons, you are to be blind, deaf and dumb for the entire duration of this gathering. Finally, I proclaim a blessing over each of the resources we are now using (laptops, electronics, musical instruments, microphones, etc.) – a blessing of proper health and function, and protection against any devious attempts by the enemy to thwart the work of the Lord. Amen"

Aaronic Benediction

"May the Lord bless you, and keep you; may the Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; may the Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26

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. **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.
 - Utilize the Preventive and Preparatory Prayers found in the Digging Deeper.
3. **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).

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. What has been your experience with spiritual warfare and how can we hold you up in prayer for where you are at now?
2. When was the last time you honestly considered that some struggle or relational conflict was rooted in satanic opposition?
3. Read Ephesians 6:10-12. What do you believe are the schemes of the devil in your life and in the lives of people you know? How can we stand firm together in this battle?
4. Read John 12:31; Colossians 2:14-15 and 1 Corinthians 15:55-57. How do these verses encourage you as you experience the struggles of spiritual warfare?