

Spiritual Warfare - II

Midweek Instruction

Reid Temple AME Church

Pastor Washington

Lesson Discussion

- Aspects of Spiritual Warfare
- The Spirit Realm
- Exposing the Enemy
- House Made of Thoughts
- Breaking Strongholds

Some aspects of

Spiritual Warfare



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The Nature of Spiritual Warfare

- Our battle is not against flesh and blood. Our battle is not against our neighbor, spouse, coworker, child. People are simply conduits of the spiritual battle taking place in another realm.
- Our battle is against the rulers, powers, and world forces of wickedness located in heavenly places, spiritual realm.
- If you do not know how to navigate in the spiritual realm you cannot hope to truly overcome in the physical realm.

The Spiritual Impacts the Physical

- We are in a war. This war is like no other war that any of us have ever known or heard about or could even conceive.
- This war is different from other wars because this war is fought in a place we have never seen. Spiritual warfare is the cosmic conflict waged in the invisible, spiritual realm but simultaneously fleshed out in the visible, physical realm.
- The root of the war is something you can't see but the effects of the war are clearly seen and felt because everything physical is influenced or caused by something spiritual.

The Spiritual Realm



Identifying the Powers

- In our godless, soulless world, it is not easy to speak of spiritual things. Materialism outlaws the divine, while organized religion has all too often neglected the soul in its preoccupation with institutional maintenance.
- When we think the world to be godless, and soulless, then we ourselves are then made over into the image of godless and soulless selves.
- Understanding worldviews is key to breaking free from the ways the powers control people's minds

Materialist Worldview

- The materialist worldview claims that there is no heaven, no spiritual world, no God, no soul, nothing but what can be known through the five senses and reason.
- The materialist world is an illusion. There is no higher self; we are mere complexes of matter, and when we die we cease to exist except as the chemicals and atoms that once constituted us.
- There is no right and wrong except what society agrees upon for purposes of survival or tranquility.

Theological Worldview

- In reaction to materialism, theologians created or postulated a supernatural realm. Acknowledging that this higher realm could not be known by senses, they conceded earthly reality to science and preserved a privileged spiritual realm.
- Integral World view: the soul permeates the universe. God is just not within me, but within everything. Spirit is at the heart of everything.
- For us God talks and walks with us. Thus in spiritual warfare we are about to unmask the powers or take away their invisibility.

Heavenly Places

- We usually try to fix things in the physical realm by using methods of this world even though this world is not where problem originates.
- Our battles originate in the spiritual realm heavenly places so the only way to fight them is with weapons that work in that realm.
- Every spiritual blessings is already located in the unseen realm. Every promise God has ever made and plans to fulfill on your behalf, every gift, every hope is deposited in your account in the spiritual realm. Your blessing is already there with your name on it.

Exposing the Enemy



Understanding The Enemy

- The enemy is a murderer from the beginning. There is no truth in him, he is the father of all lies. John 8:44
- The enemy uses different approaches and looks for our weak places. He prowls around like roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:18.
- The enemy is not flesh and blood, but spiritual forces of evil. Ephesians 6:12

Satan's Agenda

- Satan uses deception in order to accomplish his agenda of bringing the world under his influence and control. He also seeks to make Christians ineffective in the spiritual battles waging all around us, thus reducing the glory believer give to God.
- Satan purses his agenda by intentionally penetrating four realms that God work through to manifest his glory; the individual, thee family, the church and society.

The Individual 1 Peter 5

- To put it rather bluntly, "Satan is after you." No matter who you are, what your status is, what your income is, how successful you are, or how well known you happen to be, Satan seeks to overpower you.
- Satan has overpowered many in the areas of drugs, alcohol, relationships, sex, bitterness, hopelessness, discouragement, low self-esteem, depression, arrogance, codependency.
- If Satan can cripple or destroy an individual, he is that much further along in achieving his agenda.

The Family

- We saw this initially when Satan tempted Eve and Eve tempted Adam thus, bringing the entire human family under the authority of hell.
- Why is the family so important to Satan? Because God will use the seed of mankind to bruise Satan in battle. Satan wants to destroy your family even more.
- If Satan can destroy your family, he can do more damage than simply destroying the present generation. By destroying your family, he increases the potential to destroy future generations.

The Church

- Satan seeks to destroy the church by manipulating and exploiting personality weaknesses and preferences in order to promote division.
- Satan attacks the church because he understands God's work and involvement is greatly reduced in a context of disunity. There must be harmony brought about through genuine and authentic humility and biblically defined love in order to witness the fullest manifestation of God's presence and power.

Battleground the Church

- The other churches in our area are not our enemies. We must learn to war against the illusions and strife, the fears and jealousies that are sent from hell to divide us.
- If Jesus is eternally praying for our oneness, then we must recognize that Satan is continually fighting against it. The devil knows that when we become one with Christ and through Him one with another, it is only a matter of time before this Jesus built church will destroy the empire of hell.

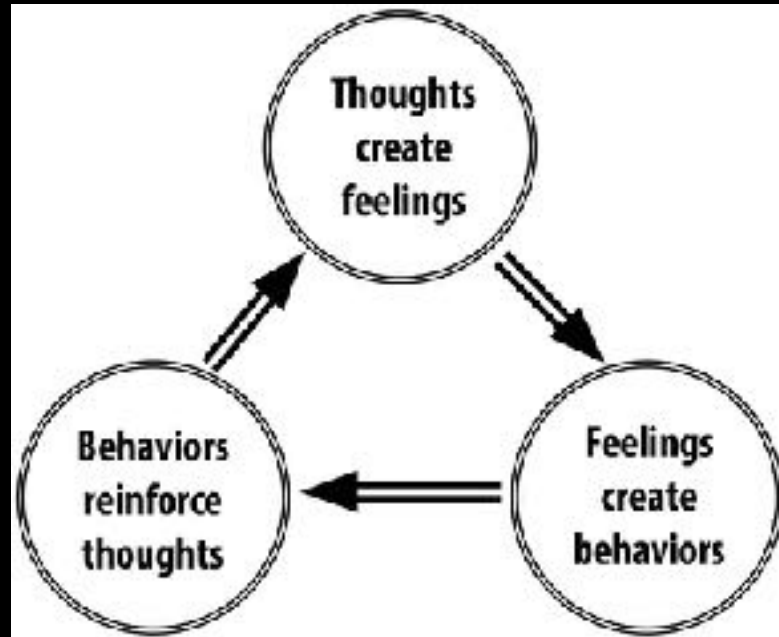
The Society

- Satan seeks to capitalize societies to such a degree as to make societies into entities that oppress personal freedom and opportunity rather than serve as instruments, as they have been designed by God to promote biblical justice.
- When we understand Satan's agenda to overpower individuals, families, churches, and ultimately societies as a whole, you can understand the complex nature of spiritual battles we are in.

Removing Satan's Armor

- Before we were saved, you and I were the undisturbed possession of the devil. Satan was like a fully armed strong man guarding the homestead of our souls.
- On the day of our salvation, someone stronger than the Lord Jesus Christ attacked and overpowered Satan and stripped away his armor.
- What exactly was this armor that protected the devil and kept us from salvation? The armor upon which demons rely consists of our own thoughts, attitudes, and opinions which are in agreement with evil.

House of Thoughts



ENVY
FOR WHERE ENVYING AND
STRIFE IS, THERE IS CONFUSION
AND EVIL WORK

PRIDE
HE BOASTS OF THE
CRAVINGS OF HIS HEART
HE BLESSES THE GAYE

SLOTH
FOOLS FOLD THEIR
IDLE HANDS LEAVING
THEM TO RUIN

GREED
IN THEIR GREED THEY
WILL EXPLOIT YOU WITH
FALSE WORDS

LUST
FOR THE REWARD OF OUR
SINNERS WE HAVE A TEST
TO REVEAL TO DESTROY
THEIR HEARTS

GLUTTONY
THEY ARE INCLOSED
IN THEIR OWN FAT WITH
THEIR MOUTH WIDE OPEN

House Made of Thoughts

- Where ever a strong hold exists it is a demonically induced pattern of thinking. Specifically, it is a "house made of thoughts" which has become a dwelling place of satanic activity.
- Although the nature of an unclean spirit is by definition spiritual and not physical, it still seeks a dwelling place, a "house" where it may rest.”
- Jesus revealed that there is a dimension to human nature that actually can host an evil spirit and provide it a type of rest.

Home of The Holy Spirit

- First let us realize that a demon cannot dwell in a true Christians spirit. Through regeneration, the human spirit becomes the home of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is within us that we have discernment concerning the enemy's inroads.
- If we are going to be successful in spiritual battle, your warfare must be waged according to the scriptures. Christ must enter and be allowed to build His house of righteousness in the very area where Satan once dwelt.

Inner Conflict



Inner Conflict

- It is significant that the process of deliverance quite often involves a season of inner conflict and turmoil. This is a good sign, signifying the individual's will desires to be free.
- Paul speaks of the struggle of the church against principalities and powers. There will be a period of fighting involved in the process of pulling down strongholds.
- Christians often excuse themselves so readily, their thoughts, attitudes, perceptions are justified and makes it difficult to discern areas of oppression in our lives.

God's Standard

- In order to recognize what is wrong in us, we must perceive God's standard of right. Therefore we must learn to look objectively at any thoughts or attitudes that fail to conform to the likeness and teachings of Jesus.
- Consequently, when we seek to identify and destroy demonic strongholds, the second fortress that must be annihilated is the stronghold of unbelief.
- This is the scheme of thinking that tells us Christlikeness is impossible which holds all further Christian growth hostage.



Defeat the Stronghold of Failure

- To deal with the stronghold of failure, we must make repentance a way of life. Repentance means change not merely feeling bad..
- Our thinking must change. There are many thoughts roaming across our minds, thoughts like, I tried but it didn't work. To secure victory we have to capture the thought of failure. Phil 4:13



Freedom
From
Fear

Destroying the Stronghold of Fear

- Your experience tells you that if you try something new, especially in front of people, you may be embarrassed and rejected.
- To counter this, a whole series of reactions emerges in your mind. You sit back when you should step forward. You are silent when you should be speaking.
- God does not want u to be in bondage. There is no fear in love... love casts out fear 1 John 4;18. The stronghold of fear must be replaced by the stronghold of love

Stronghold Survey

- If you want to identify the hidden strongholds in your life, you need only survey the attitudes in your heart. Every area in your thinking that is illuminated with hope in God is an area which is being liberated by Christ.
- But any system of thinking that does not have hope, which feels hopeless, is a stronghold which must be pulled down.
- The amount of love or lack thereof in our cultural environment, peer values, and fears of rejection, exposure even physical appearance combine to form our view of life.

Rule in the Midst of Your Enemies

- Our peace does not come from extreme indifference, no becoming so spiritual that you fail to notice a problem. It is being confident in God's love that you know, regardless of the battle and the difficulties in your circumstances, that "greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world..
- We are not self-assured, we are God assured. 1 John 4:4. Spiritual authority is not forcing your way will upon another. Spiritual authority is having peace in an area that once was full of conflict and oppression.