

SPIRITUAL WARFARE I

Mid Week Instruction
Reid Temple AME Church
Pastor Washington

LESSON DISCUSSION

- What is Spiritual Warfare?
- The Battle of the Mind

LESSON DISCUSSION

- Successful Deliverance
- Gift of Discernment

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE?



CALL OF DUTY SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground...

Ephesians 6:13



*I never said it would be
easy.... I said it would be worth it
Jesus*

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

- Christian believers use this expression to refer to the ongoing battle between the forces of good (God, Christ, the angels) and the forces of evil (Satan, the demons).

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

- On an individual level, each person, no matter how saintly, is a battlefield where good and evil meet, clash, and clash again.
- What takes place in the individual takes place in the world at large—Christ versus Satan

SPIRITUAL WARFARE - INWARD BATTLE

- Romans 7:23. It happens so regularly that it is predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's command, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE - INWARD BATTLE

- Romans 7:24: I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?

SPIRITUAL VICTORY

- Victory begins with the name of Jesus on your lips but it will not be consummated until the nature of Jesus is in our hearts.
- Satan will be allowed to come against the area of your weakness until you realize God's only answer is to be Christlike.

SPIRITUAL VICTORY

- Satan will not continue to assault you if the circumstances he designed to destroy you are now working to perfect you.
- Biblical examples, Job, Jesus, Paul

PREPARING FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- For most the term spiritual warfare introduces a new but not necessarily welcomed dimension in their Christian experience. The thought of facing evil spirits in battle is an unsettling concept.

PREPARING FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- Some of us may never actually initiate spiritual warfare, but all of us must face the fact that the devil has initiated warfare against us.
- Therefore, it is essential to our basic well-being that we discern the areas of our nature which are unguarded and open to satanic assault.

BINDING AND LOOSING

- Jesus promised His followers that what they bound and loosed on earth would be bound and loosed in heaven. Mt. 16:19. Thus, any Christian any member of the body of Christ has the authority to act on behalf of Christ to loose the power of demonic influence or denounce it over a person.

BINDING AND LOOSING

- How is it done? Is there a "correct" formula for casting out a demon? Persons experienced in dealing with the demonic recommend something like this, "In Jesus name, I or we command you, evil spirit to come out of this person and never enter him again."

PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS

- What we call "salvation" is simply the first step of God's plan for our lives, which is to conform us in character and power to the image of Jesus's Christ.

PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS

- If we fail to see our relationship to God as such, we will allow too many areas within us to remain unchanged. Pulling down strongholds is the demolition and removal of these old ways of thinking so that the actual presence of Jesus Christ can be manifested through us.

BATTLEGROUND OF THE MIND

**YOUR WORST
BATTLE IS
BETWEEN WHAT
YOU KNOW AND
WHAT YOU FEEL.**

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*Casting down imaginations,
& every high thing that
exalteth itself against the
knowledge of God,*

BATTLEGROUND OF THE MIND

- Jesus was crucified at Golgotha, which meant place of the skull. If we will be effective in spiritual warfare, the first field of conflict where we must learn warfare is the battleground of the mind; I.e., the place of the skull.

BATTLEGROUND OF THE MIND

- For the territory of the un crucified thought life is the beach head of satanic assault in our lives.
- To defeat the devil, we must be renewed in the spirit of our minds.

DARKNESS AND LIGHT

- If we tolerate darkness through tolerance of sin, we leave ourselves vulnerable for satanic assault. For wherever there is willful disobedience to the Word of God, there is spiritual darkness and the potential for demonic activity. Luke 11:35.
- Satan has legal access, given to him by God, to dwell in the domain of darkness. The devil can traffic in any area of darkness, even the darkness that still exists in a Christian's heart.

DARKNESS AND LIGHT

- We must recognize that before we can do warfare the areas we hide in darkness are the very areas of our future defeat. The battles we face will not cease until we discover and repent for the darkness that is within us.
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CARNAL SIDE OF HUMAN NATURE

- Peter denied Jesus, Jesus predicted accurately that Peter would deny Him 3 times. Peter's denial was satanically induced.
- Peter's actions that night might have simply been a manifestation of fear but Peter was not fearful by nature. This was the disciple who a few hours early, drew a sword against the multitudes who had come to arrest Jesus.
- The trip war that Satan used to cause Peter's fall was the disciples own pride.

SIN HABITS

- The sin habits often becomes the dwelling place for a spirit that is robbing a believer of power and joy, and that habitation or habit is a stronghold.

SIN HABITS

- If you have been a Christian for any length of time, you have already had many strongholds broken in your life. These were broken when you repented and came to Jesus.

FLESHY NATURE

- Satan dines on what we withhold from God. We need to recognize that the immediate source of many of our problems and oppressions is not demonic but fleshly in nature.
- We must contend with the fact that one aspect of our lives, our flesh nature, will always be targeted by the devil.

FLESHY NATURE

- We know who is in us, but we must also know what is in us if we will be successful in our war against the devil. Do not rationalize your sins and failures.

DO I REALLY NEED A DEMON

- Can we sin without prompting from Satan? Of course, Human beings are quite capable of sinning on their own, through weakness, selfishness, and so on.

DO I REALLY NEED A DEMON

- While the Bible speaks of Satan in connection with human sin, it also assumes that humans do much of Satan's work for him.
- The devil or Satan can only "tempt" the Devil can't make you do anything.

SUCCESSFUL DELIVERANCE

DEMON POSSESSION
AND
THE BELIEVER'S SURE DEFENSE

SUCCESSFUL DELIVERANCE

- All successful deliverance must begin by first removing that which defends the enemy. In speaking of spiritual warfare, the apostle Paul enlist the world "stronghold." To define the spiritual fortresses wherein Satan and his legions hide and are protected.

SUCCESSFUL DELIVERANCE

- These fortresses exist in the thought –patterns and ideas that govern individuals and churches, as well as communities and nations.
- Before victory can be claimed these strongholds must be pulled down and Satan's armor removed. The weapons of the Word and Spirit can effectively plunder Satan's house.

NOT THE WORLD'S WEAPONS

- The good fight of faith is tough, because Satan and the demons are formidable opponents. Paul gave a comforting reminder. "Though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does."

NOT THE WORLD'S WEAPONS

- The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.
(2 Cor. 10:3-4)

STRONGHOLD OF GODLY HUMILITY

- Satan fears virtue. He is terrified of humility; he hates it. He sees a humble person and it sends chills down his back. His hair stands up when Christians kneel down, for humility is the surrender of the soul to God.

STRONGHOLD OF GODLY HUMILITY

- The devil trembles before the meek because in the very area where he once had access, there stands the Lord, and Satan is terrified of Jesus Christ.

HUMILITY

- A vital key to overcoming the devil is humility. To humble yourself is to refuse to defend your image; you are corrupt and full of sin in your old nature.
- The strength of humility is that it builds a spiritual defense around your soul, prohibiting strife, competition, and many of life's irritations from steal your peace.

DELIVERANCE MINISTRY

- In a broad sense, deliverance ministry is a term that refers to deliverance from demons, sickness, depression, and so on. But generally speaking a person with a deliverance ministry has demonstrated some ability in casting out demons.

DELIVERANCE MINISTRY

- This practice has been neglected through the centuries, particularly since modern thought leads many people to believe that Satan and demons are simply not real.

DELIVERANCE MINISTRY

- To the credit of the modern Charismatic Movement—and to people's sense that there really are demonic forces in the world—believers are now more open to seeking divine help in deliverance from demons.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE POSSESSED?

- Back in the 70's the book and then movie the "Exorcist" caused a surge of interest in demonic possession. While the movie was a horror film with religious veneer, it did raise the question, what does it mean to be possessed?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE POSSESSED?

- Christianity generally defines demon possession as a condition in which one or more demons inhabit a person's body and take control.
- The demon's personality eclipses the victim's personality and the demon manifests his personality through the victim's body.

PANDEMONISM

- The New Testament accepts demons as real and dangerous. So do many Christians, and casting out demons is still a vital part of Christianity.
- The word pandemonium refers to the habit of seeing devils everywhere—that is attributing everything unpleasant to the world of demons, including minor personal feelings and mishaps.

PANDEMONISM

- While Christians connect demonic power with serious illness most Christians do not believe that all of life's minor inconveniences are caused by the powers of darkness.

CHARACTERISTICS OF POSSESSION

- Based on the New Testament and on centuries of experience with possessions, we know there are several Denise symptoms of demon possession.
- Christians who have dealt with possession know that some of these characteristics can indicate mental illness not all of them at one.

CHARACTERISTICS OF POSSESSION

- A mentally ill person might have fits of rage or increased physical strength—butt not clairvoyant powers or the ability to speak in a language he has never known.

SYMPTOMS

- 1. Unusual physical strength
- 2. Fits of rage
- 3. Disintegration or splitting of the personality

SYMPTOMS

- 1. Resistance of spiritual things
- 5. Super mental abilities such as clairvoyant powers or the ability to speak in languages the person never learned
- 6. Alteration of voice

PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS

- When there is no physical cause for disturbing behaviors, we chalk it up to "psychological factors."
- Some things never change; in the 1700's evangelist John Wesley wrote that when doctors could not give a proper diagnosis, they blamed "nervous" factors.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS

- Wesley was will and Christians today should be willing to consider the demonic as a possible explanation for "psychological problems"

DO WE NEED THE DEMON'S NAME?

- According to the Bible, no. Jesus and the disciples never asked a demon to name itself. In the case of the Gadarene demoniac, Jesus asked the man (not the demon) what his name was, with the famous answer, "My name is Legion." Mark 5

DO WE NEED THE DEMON'S NAME?

- Holding a conversation with the demon is not part of exorcism. The exorcist commands the demon, in Jesus name to depart the person. This is an authoritative order, not a dialogue.

THE GIFT OF DISCERNMENT

PRAY INTO
WHAT YOU SEE
AND GOD WILL
SHOW YOU MORE



THE GIFT OF DISCERNMENT

- Jesus himself had the gift of discerning of spirits and used it on several occasions. "He knew what was in man. John 2:25. Likewise the Spirit gives some Christians a special gift of reaching people's insides, distinguishing between hypocrisy and reality, between the influence of good and evil spirits. 1 Cor. 12:10

THE GIFT OF DISCERNMENT

- The Spirit gives some a keen ability to distinguish between what comes from above and what comes from below. Those who would minister to the demon afflicted do well to have this gift.

CRIMINAL TAMPERING

- Christianity has always had a dim view of magic and the occult, mostly because the occult connects people with the worship of demon or pagan gods.

CRIMINAL TAMPERING

- The theologian Augustine called magic, "criminal tampering with the unseen world." He believe any form of magic even when called white magic and felt to be harmless was a dangerous dabbling in the demonic.