

“The Victory We Have” (Spiritual Warfare pt. 2 and Ephesians pt. __) Ephesians 6:10-18

Greeting/offering/kids in 1st

Bulletin/cards

Video about class/article

Candle

Scripture reading

Special music

Prayer

Intro

The Word of God, literally from Gen. to Rev. speaks of spiritual warfare, a cosmic battle between God and His people and Satan and the demonic realm. We see this in

- **Gen.** when Satan tempted Eve to sin and sin was introduced into the human race
- **Dt. 18** God warns the Israelites when they enter the Promised Land not to participate in things like divination and sorcery and witchcraft and spells
- The **wars** in the OT though very literal and physical were also spiritual battles because the victory often came not because of a superior physical force but rather through spiritual means like obedience, prayer and praise.
- **Dan. 10** it took 21 days of prayer to overcome the Prince of Persia, probably a demonic arch-demon over that region
- **Isa. 14 and Ezek. 28** tell us how Lucifer fell from heaven and became Satan
- Then we go to the **Gospels** and there we find Jesus often casting demons out of people and setting them free. He said He came to set the captives free
- **Acts:** the early church also regularly dealt with demons and casted them out of people and set them free
- **1 Peter 5:8**
- The passage here in **Eph. 6**
- **Rev. 20** Satan will one day be thrown into the lake of fire forever.

So, you can see from that quick bible survey that literally ffrom Gen. to Rev. we find much information about spiritual warfare.

Now, some will say, “Well, that happened in Bible times but it doesn’t happen today. We don’t experience stuff like that today.” Is this true? Well, watch this short video of some people in this very church.

Video

The bible says that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Our passage today clearly tells us that we too are still in this battle and we must know how Satan works in order to be victorious over him.

1. We are in a battle with Satan and demons.

Last week we began to look at some passages in God's Word concerning how Satan and the demonic realm work. We learned that he:

Satan and the demonic realm:

- a. Tempts to sin
- b. Steals, kills and destroys
- c. Blinds the minds of unbelievers
- d. Places thoughts into our minds
- e. Accuses us of our worth
- f. Lies
- g. Causes some physical sicknesses

This is where we left off. So let me give you some other common areas that Satan works:

- h. Causes some emotional hardships

2 Tim 1:7

7 For God has not given us a **spirit of fear**, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

NKJV

Isa 61:3

to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a **spirit of despair**.

This is a biggie. So many people are plagued and paralyzed by fear. Fear of rejection, fear of punishment, fear of men if a woman has been abused, fear of harm, fear of losing someone, all kinds of fears. Now, some fears are just normal fleshly reactions to circumstances and some fears can be good in that they make us more careful. When I ride my motorcycle I have a healthy fear of having an accident that makes me more careful. It is when a fear becomes all consuming or paralyzing that it then could be a demonic spirit.

2 Tim. 1:7 mentions a "spirit of fear" – it can be (though not always) a literal spirit, a demonic spirit

Ps 27:1-3 The LORD is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid? 2 When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. 3 Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.

Then there is also the emotion of despair or depression or being downcaste. Now I know that we all get down at times and discouraged, but sometimes despair can be a spirit of despair, just as this verse speaks of. And it teaches us that God has given us crown of beauty and oil of gladness and garment of praise instead of a spirit (can be a literal demonic spirit) of despair.

And what do so many do today when they have fear or despair? They either try to camouflage it with sin: alcohol, sexual immorality, drugs Or they try to medicate it away: anti-depressants are a major industry today. If it is a spiritual issue you don't fight a spirit with the flesh. You fight a spirit with the Holy Spirit's weapons!

By the way, there is a nugget here you cannot miss. What does it tell us we have instead of despair? Garment of praise! What do you do with a garment? Put it on. You must wear it before it benefits you.

Appl. So, every day we have the choice of what garment we are going to put on: praise or despair. When you put on praise, Satan takes off running. He hates praise and worship.

2 Chron. 20 we see the power of praise to defeat the enemy.

Now, lest we go to the extreme of blaming everything on a demon, let me show you this diagram that I call the unholy trinity. The bible says we battle on 3 fronts, with the world, our flesh and the devil. But it is not always one or the other. These work in partnership. Satan is called the god of this world. Satan knows the weaknesses of your flesh and will seek to take advantage of those weaknesses, so it kind of works like this next slide

Triangle with world, flesh and devil and then the one with arrows

Quo. by Anderson and Warner, p. 50, 55

TS Another emotional issue (I did not have this on the notes last week) that can give the enemy a place in our lives

i. Anger, bitterness and unforgiveness

Eph 4:26-27, 31-32

26 "In your **anger** do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the **devil a foothold**....31 Get rid of all **bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ... forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**

Matt 18:33-35

33 Shouldn't you have had **mercy** on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' 34 In anger his master **turned him over to the jailers to be tortured** ("hand him over to the torturers" – NASB), until he should pay back all he owed. 35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you **forgive your brother from your heart.**"

These passages teach us that when we allow anger and bitterness and unforgiveness in our heart toward someone to go undealt with, we give the devil a foothold, and that foothold can eventually become a stronghold. This passage about being turned over to the torturers. I wonder sometimes if those tortures come in the form of demons that we give a place to by our unforgiveness. If there is someone in your life that you are not forgiving, you could be giving a place to the enemy. Forgive them!

TS another area that Satan works is he

j. Spreads false teaching

1 Tim 4:1

4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow **deceiving spirits and things taught by demons**

1 John 4:3

3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the **spirit of the antichrist**, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

2 Cor 11:3-4

3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was **deceived by the serpent's cunning**, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if someone comes to you and **preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached**, or if you receive a **different spirit** from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

Because Satan is the father of lies and hates truth and hates God and all that leads people to God, he is busy doing everything he can to spread false teaching and keep people from the truth of Jesus, the Bible and the Gospel.

In 2 Cor. 11 Paul is rebuking them for putting up with false teachings. Boy is this true in the church today as well. Let me say it plain and clear: Cults and non Christian religions and any teachings that are against Salvation by grace through faith or Jesus being the only way to God or the Bible not being God's word is clearly from the enemy.

Ex. Groups like Jehovah Witnesses, Mormonism, the Muslim religion, Buddhism, Hinduism ... all of these groups and their teachings are contrary to God's Word, the Bible and are thus ultimately from Satan and the demonic realm. **2 Cor. 4:4** "god of this world." ... **2 Cor. 11:14** "Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." And when you are witnessing to someone of these groups, you need to do spiritual warfare prayer! Don't be deceived. We are not worshiping the same God.

TS Finally, be aware that Satan and demons can:

k. Performs false signs and wonders.

Matt 24:24-25

24 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great **signs and miracles to deceive** even the elect-if that were possible. 25 See, I have told you ahead of time.

Deut 18:9-12

9 When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. 10 Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices **divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft**, 11 or casts **spells**, or who is a **medium or spiritist** or who consults the dead. 12 Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD...

And what those signs and wonders or false miracles can do is lure people in and make people so fascinated by the outward signs that they don't check out the source of those signs. You see Satan can do supernatural things, like the Gadoren demoniac in Mk. 5 that could break iron chains. Satan in someone can make them do superhuman things. So be aware that just because something supernatural or superhuman occurs doesn't mean it is of God. Be discerning. And what Satan often does is lure people into stuff through their fascination with the supernatural, and that is why in **Dt. 18** we are told:

You don't mess with stuff like fortune telling, oiji boards, séances, horoscopes, palm readers, games like dungeons and dragons ... these are all demonic!

Now, many people ask me "To what degree can Satan and the demonic affect a Christian?" Can a Christian be demon possessed? Can a Christian have a demonic spirit to the point of needing deliverance?

Let me show you a diagram that I got from Dr. Tim Warner that I have found very helpful on this:

Diagram with circles showing spirit, soul, and body

When we receive Christ we are told that we are sealed with the HS and the Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us. The one who lives in the spirit of a person is the one who possesses them. You are either possessed by God or by Satan, either in the kingdom of light or in the kingdom of darkness. There is no middle ground.

Our soul is defined here as our mind, will and emotions, and of course our body is our physical body.

Now look closely

Diagram showing how far Satan can come

For the true Christian who has the HS in their spirit, and sealing them until the day of redemption, Satan cannot get inside our spirit. Thus, he cannot possess us. We are possessed/owned by the Lord. However, Satan and the demonic realm can affect our mind (we are told to take every thought captive), our will (we are told to obey God and not give the devil a place), our emotions (spirit of fear), and our bodies (Satan was able to touch Job's body)

Listen carefully as you look at this diagram: You can be influenced by the demonic to the degree that God allows for your testing (ex. Job, Peter) and to the degree that you allow through your disobedience, laziness or lack of faith.

TS enough of how Satan works, let's go now to the victory we have in Christ.

2. We have the victory through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Look at the number of times our passage talks about standing:

Eph 6:10-14

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your **stand** against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to **stand** your ground, and after you have done everything, to **stand**. 14 **Stand** firm then

I find this very encouraging: that in the middle of a section on spiritual warfare and the demonic and Satan we have here 4x God's Word telling us to stand. One thing I have learned about God and His word: He never tells us to do something if it were not possible to do it. He wouldn't tell us to stand if it weren't possible to stand.

Satan is big and powerful and is attacking and has all kinds of schemes and strategies and in the midst of all of this we are told to stand. That's right! Look at the verses: take your stand Able to stand your ground To stand ... stand firm. Don't back down. Don't run away. Don't be afraid. Don't give in. Don't loose ground.

But rather stand and stand strong and stand upright and stand victorious because there has already come One who stood right up to him, took his best shot, even took the sin of the world upon Him, went to the cross, paid the penalty, spent 3 days in hell for you and me, and then stood right up and came right out of that tomb and rose again in victory, and put Satan and all his demons in their place, took the keys of hell and death right out of his hand, and has now given us, His church, those keys to use in victorious warfare!!!!

The battle has been won for us. And we stand in that victory and enforce that victory and claim that victory. **And this is why we do not fight toward victory but from victory!!!!**

Quote by Nee, p. 55

Look at these very important passages on our victory:

Heb 2:14-16

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that **by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-that is, the devil-** 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Christ came as fully God and fully man in order to fully pay for our sins. Satan had the power of death through sin. Satan had the upper hand on us, but when Christ took our sin and paid the divine penalty for it, it took the keys of death right out of Satan's hand and now we don't have to live in fear of death or in bondage to sin.

Col 2:13-15

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having **disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.**

Once again, Satan had the upper hand because of sin and our guilt before God. But Christ died for that sin, paid the full penalty so we could be set free from the penalty and power of sin. So now Satan is disarmed. Not completely annihilated, but disarmed, stripped of his upper hand. We are now over him in Christ.

Rev 12:10-11

For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. 11 They **overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.**

Again, the death of Jesus, the blood of Jesus and our verbal spoken testimony is what gives us the victory.

Notice how each of these verses mention the victory coming through the death of Jesus, the cross, the blood..... you can see why the cross of Jesus is under such attack today. Satan does not want you and I to realize the significance of the cross. The cross and blood of Jesus is where our victory comes from. It is Jesus' death and resurrection for our sins that dealt the fatal blow to Satan, disarmed him and freed us from his power.

Satan is still alive; he is still tempting us and accusing us, and will do so until he is eventually thrown into the lake of fire forever, which will happen in the end times, but until then we have to remember that the victory has been won by Christ and it is this victory that we stand in!!!!

(More on this next week but the armor we wear is all from God: belt of truth – His truth ... breastplate of righteousness – His righteousness ... sword of the Spirit – His Spirit, His Word The ground we stand on has been won by Christ ... the armor we wear is purchased by Christ The faith we exercise is in Christ ...

Christ's death won the legal victory over Satan. Our position in Christ allows us to enforce that victory. And next week we will look at how using the weapons we have been given is one of the means to be victorious.

Diagram of us seated with Christ but having our position be in the middle layer

This is why

Luke 10:19-20

19 "Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you. 20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in

this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

1 Jn. 4:4

James 4:7

1 Peter 5:8

So, are you walking in victory? Do you want to? You can if you submit to God and resist the devil. Now, submitting to God means you need to repent of sin, turn from practices that have given the Devil a place.... Forgive those who have hurt you, and then resist Satan in the Name of Jesus Christ! You can do that today and have victory. Look at the prayer in your sermon notes:

Prayer of Victory:

Search me, O God, and show me any sin I need to repent of and any areas I may have given Satan a place to work.... *(take time for reflection)*. I confess and repent of these areas _____ *(name specific sins)*.

Show me anyone I need to forgive *(take time for reflection)*. Based on the forgiveness I have in Christ, I choose to forgive _____ for _____. I release them to you, Lord.

Now, I submit my entire life to you, Lord God. Based on the finished work of Jesus, I resist the devil and all of his works in my life. In Jesus' Name, I command all evil spirits to leave my presence, and to go where Christ sends you.

Lord God, fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Amen

Pray

Response time: those who are especially qualified to do spiritual warfare prayer, be near the prayer room.

End:

- ABFs
- Financial Peace