

## Spiritual Warfare 101

Five hundred years before Christ, the great Chinese General Sun-tzu wrote these words, in his book *The Art of War*. *"One who knows the enemy and knows himself will not be endangered in a hundred engagements. One who does not know the enemy but knows himself will sometimes be victorious, sometimes meet with defeat. One who knows neither the enemy nor himself will invariably be defeated in every engagement."* Unfortunately, there is much confusion today in the area of spiritual warfare. Are Satan and his demons behind everything, or so irrelevant they should be ignored? Is the battle in me, or around me? Should I respond to every attack in the same way? In this seminar Dave will give you a broad Biblical map for understanding spiritual warfare, showing the nature of our three main enemies, how to effectively fight each one of them, and the three levels of warfare with the forces of Satan. This Biblical foundation will help keep you oriented as you experience attacks and proactively engage the enemy.

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"Warfare is the greatest affair of state, the basis of life and death, the Way to survival or extinction. It must be thoroughly pondered and analyzed."

Sun- tzu  
"The Art of War"  
China, 500 B.C.

"Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 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."

The Apostle Paul  
"The Epistle to the Ephesians"  
Rome, 62 AD

### I. Who are your three main enemies?

#### 1. The World – I John 2:15-17

How does it war against me?

How do I fight against it?

What will happen if I ignore the fight?

2. The Flesh – I Pet 2:11, Gal 5:17

How does it war against me?

How do I fight against it?

What will happen if I ignore the fight?

3. The Devil – I Pet 5:8-9

".....in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes."  
2 Cor 2:11

**II. What is Satan like?**

1. Where did he come from?

Ezekiel 28:11-19

2. Who does he work with?

Rev 12:9

Rev 12:3-4

Col 1:16, Eph 6:12, Dan 10:4-13

Eph 2:2, John 14:30

James 3:6

not omniscient (I Pet 1:12), omnipresent (Job 2:1-7), or omnipotent (I Pet 3:22)

3. How does he attack?

<b>Names of Satan (adversary)</b>	<b>method of warfare</b>	<b>Names of Christ (Messiah)</b>
Accuser (Rev 12:10)	Accuse the saints day and night	SAVIOR - Titus 3:4-7 Saved, washed and renewed us
Roaring Lion (1 Pet 5:8)	Make us afraid so we will run	LION of JUDAH - Rev 5:5 Triumphed
Angel of light (2 Cor 11:14-15)	Pretends to be good, attractive, and beautiful	The TRUE LIGHT - John 1:9 gives light to all men
Thief (John 10:1, 10)	Takes things that are precious to us and precious to God and makes them his.	the GOOD SHEPHERD - John 10:11 lays down his life for the sheep
Father of Lies (John 8:44)	Deceives us into believing lies	The TRUTH - John 14:6 sets us free - John 8:32
Murderer (John 8:44)	Seeks to destroy us and take life from us	the BREAD OF LIFE - John 6:33-51 - gives life to the world
God of this Age (2 Cor 4:4)	Blinds the minds of unbelievers	MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER Isa 9:6, 2 Cor 4:6 - made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the Glory of God

### III. Three levels of spiritual warfare

#### Level 1 - Temptation and Harassment

1. Temptation

Examples:

Gen 3:1-7

Luke 4:1-13

2. Harassment

Examples:

2 Cor 12:7

Job 2:7

I Th 2:18

Satan's goal? To keep us from obeying God or lead us to sin.

## Level 2 - Strongholds

Definition: a pattern of sinful behavior that enables Satan to exert influence over us.

"Attack voids in the enemy and employ substantial force at chosen points."

"The art of war"

There are 8 primary locations he seeks to build strongholds

1. Rebellion / self will  
I Samuel 15:23
  
2. Anger  
Eph 4:26-27
  
3. Hatred or lack of forgiveness  
I John 3:15  
2 Cor 2:10-11
  
4. Guilt  
Rev 12:10  
2 Cor 7:9-10
  
5. Deceit  
John 8:44
  
6. Fear  
John 3:20  
Prov 29:25
  
7. Sexual immorality & perversions  
I Cor 7:5  
I Cor 6:18-20
  
8. False religions or the occult  
I Tim 4:1  
I Cor 10:20-21

Satan's goal? Build a stronghold where he can come and go at will, and from this position safely spread poison into other areas of our life. Because it is an ongoing pattern of sin he can easily defend himself there and thus retain influence.

"One who cannot be victorious assumes a defensive posture; one who can be victorious attacks. In these circumstance by assuming a defensive posture, strength will be more than adequate, whereas in offensive actions it would be inadequate."

"Those who excel at defense bury themselves away below the lowest depths of Earth."

The Art of War

### **Level 3 - Demonization**

def: The situation in which specific demonic forces either control or inhabit a person. Sometimes this control is hidden in the background, other times very open, but in each case there is an apparent binding of the person's will, and often physical manifestations. The spirits torment the person they inhabit. (Acts 5:16)

Examples:     Matt 8:28-33  
                  Matt 9:32-33  
                  Matt 17:14-21  
                  Mark 3:14-15

## **IV. Taking back lost ground**

### **Level 3 - Demonization**

Because this involves the binding of the will and a specific evil presence there must be:

1. Help from other mature, Godly leaders. (prayer, fasting, exercising of spiritual authority).
2. A confrontation with the evil spirits in the name of Christ (rebuke, commanding them to leave, driving them out)
3. Care taken that they or others do not return. Luke 11:24-26 (salvation, removal of strongholds, building patterns of spiritual growth, training in warfare at level 2 & 1)

Questions:

### **Level 2 - Strongholds**

"For though we live in the world we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of this world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."  
2 Cor 10:3-5

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.  
James 4:7-10

Satan would love to make this area of our lives appear hopeless, but victory is ALWAYS possible. To take back this lost ground you must:

1. Commit before God to demolish it (not just contain it or make it smaller)
2. Submit to God (this area must be brought back under his authority)
3. Confess, in detail, the nature and extent of the stronghold to a trusted fellow believer. Repent, specifically and completely, out loud with them. Make sure no area of the stronghold is hidden, but everything is in the light.
4. Grieve and mourn, humble yourself
5. Let the Lord come near you, purify you, and lift you up
6. Out loud and with authority, refuse and deny any claim Satan and his forces have on this area of your life. Proclaim your freedom in Christ. Resist the devil and remind him that he must flee.
7. Commit to a specific plan for defending this area at level 1

### **Level 1 - Temptation and harassment**

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 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.

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. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."

Eph 6:10-18

To be victorious in level 1 warfare we must:

1. Be strong in the Lord (take our position in Christ with all the rights and authority that comes with it)
2. Take a stand against him - stand your ground (we must oppose the work of the enemy)
3. Put on the armor of God
  - a. The belt of truth
  - b. Breastplate of righteousness
  - c. Ready with the gospel (shoes)

- d. Shield of faith
- e. Helmet of salvation
- f. Sword of the Spirit (God's Word)
- g. Spirit-led prayer

*“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you.” 1 Cor 15:57-58*