

# Spiritual Warfare

Teaching notes by Dave Patty

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 conference 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.

**Dave Patty** has been involved in training youth leaders and leading national and international youth movements in Europe for over 30 years and serves as the president of Josiah Venture. He is also a founding member of Global Youth Initiative, which mobilises and equips youth ministry trainers in over 40 countries of the world. Dave is an ordained pastor with a BA in theology and a MA in education. He has also done graduate work in leadership development at Harvard University. For the past 21 years he has lived in the Czech Republic, and spent the 10 years before that in Germany. Dave is married to Connie, and has three children, Tyler, Caleb, and Claire.

"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

## ***Have you ever...***

- Been overcome with irrational fear?
- Woken up in the middle of the night with a sense of some evil presence?
- Experienced sudden temptations or urges that seems beyond your ability to resist?
- Felt accused and guilty even though you have confessed all known sin and asked for God's forgiveness?
- Felt deeply discouraged right after a significant spiritual breakthrough or time of powerful ministry?
- Wrestled with an area of sin that you cannot seem to get control of?

- Been filled with sudden doubt about the truth of the Bible?
- Experienced a sense of impending failure right before you teach the Bible or talk with someone about spiritual things?
- Been overcome with sleepiness or interrupting thoughts when you start to pray?
- Had an unusually difficult time finding an opportunity to read and study the Word?
- Been unable to concentrate on a speaker, even though his message is one you need to hear?
- felt the effects of an intense spiritual battle either in you or around you?

### **Why? You are in a WAR!**

1. You live in enemy territory
2. Satan is plotting your downfall, and he doesn't fight fair
3. If you try to do anything for the Lord, you will be the target of special attack

But.....

4. In Christ, you have the power to resist him and his purposes EVERY SINGLE TIME

*..... in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Rom 8:37*

*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  
"But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. 2 Th 3:3*

Unfortunately this victory, though available, is often not our experience. Many believers give in when the enemy attacks, or live in consistent bondage to sin, fear, or discouragement. If the promises we read here are true, there must be more written in the Bible about how to experience this victory. We need to search the Word of God so that we can **know our enemy, understand his strategy, and fight with the resources God provides.**

### **Know the enemy**

"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"

Sun- tzu  
"The Art of War"

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

### **Where did he come from?**

Ezekiel 28:11-19

**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)

**What is he like?**

<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
-----------------------------	---------------------------------	--

**Examples:**

"The highest realization of warfare is to attack the enemy's plans; next is to attack their alliances; next to attack their army; and the lowest is to attack their fortified cities. Thus one who excels at employing the military subjugates other people's armies without engaging in battle, captures other people's states without prolonged fighting."

"Warfare must be viewed as a matter of deception, of constantly creating false appearances, spreading disinformation, and employing trickery and deceit. When imaginatively created and effectively implemented, the enemy will neither know where to attack nor what formations to employ, and will accordingly be condemned to making fatal errors."

***Why is victory ALWAYS possible?***

1. Satan is still God's servant and must have permission from God for every move he makes. God has absolute sovereignty in his universe. (Dan 4:35)

Job 1:6-12

Luke 22:31

Matt 4:1

"The Devil is God's Devil" Martin Luther

2. God will not allow us to be tested beyond what we can bear

I Cor 10:13

3. In Christ, the victory has already been won. Satan is a defeated foe.

Col 2:15

I John 3:8

4. Victory is not the removal of problems, temptations, or pressures, but victory in the midst of them.

John 16:33

I John 5:3-5

"Do not be deceived, Wormwood. Our cause is never more in danger than when a human, no longer desiring, but still intending to do our enemy's will, looks round upon a universe from which every trace of God seems to have vanished, and still obeys."

The demon Screwtape to his apprentice nephew Wormwood  
"The Screwtape Letters"  
C.S. Lewis

### ***Know his Strategy***

"The thief comes only to steal, and kill and destroy" John 10:10

"Attaining one hundred victories in one hundred battles is not the pinnacle of excellence. Subjugating the enemy's army without fighting is the true pinnacle of excellence."

The Art of War

"The unvarying rule is never to rely upon the good will of others, nor upon fortuitous circumstances, but guarantee - through knowledge, persistent analysis, and defensive preparation - that the enemy can neither mount a surprise attack nor gain a victory through simple coercion."

The Art of War

An overview of his Strategy

Picture #1

Picture #2

Kingdom of Light

Kingdom of Darkness

***Level 1 - Temptation and Harrassment***

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

"When the men are well-trained, rested, properly fed, clothed, and equipped, if their spirits are roused they will fight vigorously. However, if physical or material conditions have blunted their spirit; if there is any imbalance in the relationship between command and troops; or if for any reason they have lost their motivation, they will be defeated.

Conversely, the commanding general must manipulate the situation so as to avoid the enemy when their spirits are strong, such as early in the day, and exploit any opportunity pre-

sented by their diminishment, attacking when they no longer have any inclination to fight, such as when about to return to camp."

"The fundamental tactical principle for attacks is 'Go forth where they do not expect it, attack where they are not prepared'"

### The Art of War

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 persons 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

## ***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 harrassment***

"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

### ***Why does God allow Satan to continue to rebel against him?***

1. God uses Satan to judge those with hard hearts and those who will not believe.  
Mark 4:15  
2 Cor 4:4
2. God uses Satan to refine the obedient  
Job 2:9-10  
Job 23:10  
Luke 22:31-32
3. God uses Satan to discipline the disobedient  
I Kings 22:9-23  
I Cor 5:1-5  
I Tim 1:20
4. God uses Satan to purify his chosen ones  
2 Cor 12:7-10

We must, however, distinguish between what God wants and Satan wants. Satan and God are both actively involved in our temptations, but they have radically different purposes. While God always works for our good, the Devil's aim is always to destroy. Satan wanted to destroy Job; God wanted to test him. We must submit to the purposes of God and resist the purposes of Satan. In Christ we have VICTORY.

*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*