

SPIRITUAL WARFARE 1/16/22

Why do we study Spiritual Warfare for a Healing prayer class?

Spiritual Warfare is real and we must be alert and prepared, Our Focus is on Jesus and not on satan! We must know the Word of God and resist the devil and be alert to his lies. The devil is a liar, thief, and comes to seek, kill and destroy.

Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil. We must remember that the battle has already been won on the Cross by our Savior.

In all areas of our life we must maintain a balance and guard against two extremes; overemphasis and under emphasis. We do not look for the devil under every rock, but when he does appear we know that we have authority over him by the Blood of Jesus.

We need to be able to recognize the voice of God or the Holy Spirit and also be able to recognize the voice and schemes of the enemy.

The Bible is God's Text book on himself and on satan as well . We must know the word of God and We must know the truth.

Let's review where we started in this class and where we will be headed.

We have studied:

- 1.The importance of the word and knowing the truth.
2. Hearing God's voice and how does He speak.
3. Discernment/ How to test if what we hear is from God.
- 4, Importance of Intercession and forgiveness.
5. Confession and repentance.
6. All kinds of healing: Physical, Emotional, Inner Healing ,Deliverance.Spiritual.
7. Generational Healing.

What is Spiritual Warfare? Here is a quote from Tom White's Book

Believers Guide to Spiritual Warfare.

“Spiritual Warfare is a multilevel conflict between good and evil initiated on a supernatural plane with the prehistoric rebellion of Lucifer and transferred to a natural plan with the fall of man's adversary, continues to work to deceive and divert people from salvation in Jesus Christ and harass and hinder Christians through to sin and exploitation of our weaknesses.”

Please review material on Spiritual Warfare we have previously given out.

Spiritual Warfare: Part 1

Every Christian will experience spiritual warfare in at least its minor forms. When you are growing in your faith and being used by God, the enemy naturally takes notice and tries to fight back. Take it as a compliment- it's a sign of vitality in your faith journey and effectiveness in your ministry!

Very few people are called to active spiritual warfare at a high and dramatic level. However, healing prayer ministry puts a target on you, so it is reasonable expect at least some spiritual pushback.

Worldview

The modern western worldview is heavily influenced by philosophies of The Enlightenment; that things must be measured, proven, and logically reasoned in order to exist. Because of this, many people dismiss the reality of the supernatural elements of the Bible, including miracles, healing, and the demonic. If active spiritual warfare seems hard to accept, this may be why.

Most indigenous and non-western cultures (which were not shaped by Enlightenment thought) more readily accept these realities as normal, and consequently see their effects much more frequently.

However, just because it's hard to accept doesn't mean we can ignore or dismiss it. (1 Peter 5:8-9) Know your enemy but know the truth better. Don't over-focus on the enemy.

The Foundation

Always focus on:

- We may fight battles, but the war itself has been won since the cross. We fight an enemy who knows he is already defeated.
- Satan is not God's equal in power or authority, he is a created being.
- If 1/3 of the angels fell from Heaven with Satan, 2/3 (twice as many) remain on God's side. (Revelation 12:4)
- The enemy has the ability to affect us, but not authority. We have the both the ability *and* the authority to tell him to back off.

Our Tools in Battle

- **Our authority** - One work that Jesus specifically called the first disciples to was casting out demons, and it is still applicable today. (Luke 9:1-2, Luke 10:19,)
- **Prayer and devotional time** - Keep actively engaged in prayer and in the Word, and ask others intercede for you, especially in stressful seasons.
- **Fellowship with other believers** -The body of Christ is there to help build us up, encourage us, and keep us accountable. There's safety in numbers; Satan works more effectively when believers are isolated.
- **Worship** - actively drives away darkness. Focus especially on songs that declare God's victory, power, and sovereignty, and on the work of the cross. (Psalm 8:2, Philipians 2:9-11)
- **The Armor of God** - Ephesians 6:10-18
"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 Lord's people." (NIV)

What can everyday warfare look like?

- **Our relationship with God is attacked** - Our devotional and prayer time, or our presence at discipleship and worship activities becomes difficult. This is a direct attempt to weaken our primary weapons and is very common. Often this is a subtle eroding over time. The bigger the fight to be present with God, the more you should probably be there. (John 15:5)
- **Flaming darts of the enemy** - Temptations that come at us from the world that directly target our inner weaknesses, brokenness, and sinful nature. These can be sudden irrational-feeling temptations, or longer a sustained temptation to willingly participate in the attack. (Ephesians 6:16)
- **Relationships around us** - The enemy working through a breakdown of community and supportive/Godly relationships. This can be subtle, like through personality differences being magnified, or on a bigger scale such as open division in a church body. Communication is one relational area that is often targeted. (Ephesians 4:15-16)
- **Our bodies and health** - Some mental and physical health symptoms are a result of (or are complicated by) enemy interference. This requires careful discernment to determine, as healing prayer, or medical/psychiatric attention can actually be the needed approach to many of the same symptoms. Sometimes it can have a sudden onset that makes it a more obvious spiritual attack. (Matthew 17:14-21)
- Not all evil is Satan maliciously attacking us - we live in a fallen world inhabited by sinful people and sometimes bad stuff just happens. Resist the temptation to start looking for the demonic in everything that is simply negative or unusual.

Can Demons Affect Christians???

Yes and no. We are owned by God and filled with the Holy Spirit, so we cannot be fully possessed or taken over by a demon. However they can still affect us in more subtle ways.

The term "demonized" (instead of "possessed") is the Biblically supported way of referring to demonic interference.

1. Harassment - spirits outside of a person; trying to harass and distract us, or dismantle what God is doing in and through us. They typically work through targeting our brokenness and natural temptations. These are often the flaming darts of Ephesians 6:16.
2. Oppression - The demon is specifically targeting a person and has begun to have influence over their life. The person may start regularly giving into temptation or experiencing difficulties in their faith, relationships, and/or health.
3. Inhabitation - The demon has moved in and has some degree of control of the person's life. The result is significant regular interference in their faith, relationships, and/or health.

4. Possession - The demon is in full control, suppressing the person's personality and will. This is relatively rare (particularly in the western world), and cannot happen to a Christian who is filled with the Holy Spirit.

Deliverance is the process by which demons prayerfully sent from of a person who is oppressed or inhabited. The process to deal with a demon in someone who is fully possessed is referred to as exorcism. Deliverance ministry is a normal part of healing prayer ministry and is relatively common if the person carries deep wounding, trauma, or a strong history of sin. It is still something we care called to minister today, and does not require a special office or calling.

Spiritual Warfare: Part 2

Quick Review of Part 1:

Always focus on the God, not the darkness. (James 4:7-8)

- We may fight battles, but the war itself has been won since the cross. We fight an enemy who knows he is already defeated. (Colossians 2:13-15, Revelation 20:7-15)
- Satan is not God's equal in power or authority, he is a created being.
- If 1/3 of the angels fell from Heaven with Satan, 2/3 (twice as many) remain on God's side.
- The enemy has the ability to affect us, but not authority. We have the both the ability *and* the authority to tell him to back off.

Can Demons Affect Christians??? Yes and no. We are owned by God and filled with the Holy Spirit, so we cannot be fully possessed or taken over by a demon. However they can still affect us in more subtle ways. The term "demonized" (instead of "possessed") is the Biblically supported way of referring to demonic interference.

1. Harassment - spirits outside of a person; trying to harass and distract us, or dismantle what God is doing in and through us. They typically work through targeting our brokenness and natural temptations. These are often the flaming darts of Ephesians 6:16.
2. Oppression - The demon is specifically targeting a person and has begun to have influence over their life. The person may start regularly giving into temptation or experiencing difficulties in their faith, relationships, and/or health.
3. Inhabitation - The demon has moved in and has some degree of control of the person's life. The result is significant regular interference in their faith, relationships, and/or health.
4. Possession - The demon is in full control, completely suppressing the person's personality and will. This is relatively rare (particularly in the western world), and cannot happen to a Christian who is filled with the Holy Spirit.

Who is Our Enemy?

Know your enemy but know the truth better. Don't over-focus on the enemy.

- Satan "The Accuser" - Isaiah 14:3-21, Ezekiel 28:1-19, Luke 10:12, Revelation 12:7-9
- Demons (typically understood as fallen or corrupt angels) - Genesis 6:1-5, 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6

How Does the Enemy Gain a Foothold or Entry?

Demons are attracted to, and feed on, pain and sin- much like rats attracted to garbage.

- The pain of past trauma. This is the most common avenue of entry.
- Un-repentant patterns of sin. Sexual sin and drug use are particularly strong attractants.
- Occult involvement at any level. In general, the further open the door, the more is able to enter.
- Generational spirits can follow a family line.
- Inhabits organizations, places (big or small), and/or objects, which can then affect people around them.
- Oaths containing un-Godly or secretive elements sworn to earthly organizations.

Occult 101

Involvement in the occult is a spectrum. It can range from innocent-seeming dabbling with a Ouija board, to fully practicing with a formal Wiccan or Satanic community. Any involvement opens the door to the demonic, but the more involved, the wider the door is opened and the more likely something has entered. Those involved in the occult at any level are seeking one or both of two things:

- **Power** - control over other people, circumstances, or material gain.
(ie. Shaman/witchdoctor healings, spells, curses, Satanic contracts, etc)
- **Knowledge** - about other people, the future, and/or the dead from a source other than God.
(ie. Ouija Boards, seances, psychics, mediums, tarot cards, fortune telling, etc)

Participation at any level must be repented of and renounced before any deliverance or healing can occur. Involvement in the family line should also be exposed and cut off. Occult-based demons can be particularly powerful.

Like the demonic, paranoia about everything being occultic is not fruitful. If something simply looks unusual, ask God for discernment before treating it as spiritual warfare.

How Do We Engage?

Be prepared and on track with God before engaging (1 John 1:6-7)

- Maintain an active prayer and devotional life, and be affirmed in your faith.
- Do a personal spiritual housecleaning of unconfessed sin, impure motives, and bad attitudes. Do not leave the enemy a foothold.
- Dress in the armor that God has given us. (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- Maintain spiritual community and accountability.

Deliverance Ministry

- This is the casting out of a demonic presence that is oppressing or inhabiting a person. Typically the term "exorcism" is reserved for when the demon is in full possession.
- Should be done with a team whenever possible.
- When done correctly, deliverance prayer is typically a quiet and relatively peaceful process, with no fear or drama. The reality bears very little resemblance to Hollywood stereotypes.
 - The team together discerns the presence of the spirit, prays with the demonized person to remove the enemy's territory, commands the spirit to leave, then ministers additional healing prayer as needed.
- All deliverance will need healing prayer ministry. Not all healing prayer ministry will require deliverance.

How to bind or shut down until an appropriate time (Matthew 18:18)

1. Address the demon directly. Remind it that you are under the authority of Jesus's Christ's shed blood. Declare it to be bound by his authority.
2. Command the demon to be silent and cease any influence over the person until it is commanded to leave. Cut it off from the control of Satan and forbid it from gathering reinforcements.
3. Minister any remaining healing prayer that the person needs to finish the session.
4. Pray and anoint sealing over the end of the session to help prevent any further demonic interference.