



Spiritual Warfare – The Reality

"A Christian who no longer has to struggle against the world, the flesh, and the devil is a Christian who has fallen either into sin or into complacency. A Christian who has no conflict is a Christian who has retreated from the front lines of service." (MacArthur)

1) The Reality of the Conflict:

(Job 1:6 – 2:7; Dan. 10:2-14; Matt. 4; Luke 22:31-32; Jude 1:9)
(Christ's earthly warfare – Matt. 8:28-34, 9:32-34, 12:22, 15:21-28)

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight."

(C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters)

We do not have the luxury of declaring as did Neville Chamberlain –

"I believe it is peace in our time."

Like any other war, it has:

a. Opponents:

- **God** with His **elect angels** and **redeemed man**.
- **Satan** with his **fallen demons** and **unregenerate man**.

b. Place & Time:

- The fight is **now**, on this **earth**, and until **Christ returns**.

c. Object:

- The **eternal souls** of man and **God's glory**.

"The subject of this treatise is solemn, A War between the Saint and Satan, and that so bloody a one, that the cruelest which ever was fought by men, will be found but sport and child's play to this. It is a spiritual war you shall read of, and that not a history of what was fought many ages past and is now over; but of what now is doing, the tragedy is at present acting, and that not at the furthest end of the world, but what concerns thee and every one that reads it. The stage whereon this war is fought is every man's own soul. Here is no neuter in this war. The whole world is engaged in the quarrel, either for God against Satan, or for Satan against God."

(William Gurnall; Dedication of "The Christian in Complete Armour")

2) The Christian's tour of duty in the conflict: (Ephesians 6:10-14a)

Finally: After 5 ½ chapters of "believer's boot camp", Paul is ready to give us our marching orders for this spiritual battle.



Spiritual Warfare – Our Marching Orders

1) Our Orders:

- a. **Continually** cloth yourselves with God's **inherent power**. (vs. 10)
- b. Put on God's own **armor** in its **entirety**. (vs. 11, 13)
- c. **Stand** your ground as a well-equipped and trained soldier. (vs. 14a)

2) Our Enemy:

- a. The general is **Satan** who is the **strategist**. (vs. 11)
- b. We are in hand-to-hand combat with **organized** and **powerful** **demons**. (vs. 12)
- c. The opposing army is **numerous**. (Rev. 12:4)

3) Our Hope:

- a. The passage leaves no doubt that the ready, equipped, and alert soldier will **prevail**. (vs. 11, 13; II Peter 1:3-4, I John 4:4, 5:4-5)

"The vessel of the church can never be wrecked; she rocks and reels in the mad tempest, but she is sound from stem to stern, and her Pilot steers her with a hand omnipotently wise. Her bow is in the wave, but she divides the sea, and shakes off the mountainous billows as a lion shakes the dew from off his mane! Fiercer storms than those of the present have beat upon her, and yet she has kept her head to the wind, and in the very teeth of hell's tremendous tempests she has ploughed her glorious way: and so she will till she reaches her appointed haven." (Charles Haddon Spurgeon)

- b. The outcome will be **Complete Victory**. (Rev. 19:6-21; 20:7-10; 21:1-8)

Conclusion: Sure and certain realities as our guideposts -

- 1) Only two spiritual beings exist outside God and man: **angels** and **demons**.
- 2) Satan is an **adversary** against (I Peter 5:8) and not an **equal** to God.
- 3) **All** spiritual forces are subject to God's Sovereignty.
- 4) For the believer, we lack **nothing** for the fight.
(Eph. 6:13, II Peter 1:3-4)
- 5) The outcome is **certain**.
(Rev. 19:6-21; 20:7-10, 21:1-8)





Spiritual Warfare – Our Enemy, The Devil

His Person (Ezekiel 28:12-17; Isaiah 14:12-15)

- 1) He is a created being and was created "good". (Gen. 1:31)
- 3) He is an angel of a high order, possibly the highest order.
- 4) His name was Lucifer, the "bearer or bringer of light" before the fall.
- 5) In his pride, he sought God's glory and rebelled against God. (Isaiah 14:12-15)
- 6) After his fall he is called Satan (adversary) or the devil (disrupter).
- 7) He rebelled against God between Gen. 1:31 & 3:1. (Luke 10:18)
- 8) A third of the angels fell with him (Rev. 12:4) and they are without hope of redemption. (Matthew 25:41, Matthew 8:29 & Jude 6)
- 9) He was the serpent in the garden. (Rev. 12:9)
- 10) He is powerful yet not God – not omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient.
- 11) He is subject to God's sovereign will. (Job 1-2, Luke 22:31-32)

His Works

- 1) He is a deceiver (Rev. 20:3), a liar (John 8:44), and a tempter. (Matthew 4:3)
- 2) He rules this present physical world. (John 12:31, 2 Corinthians 4:4)
- 3) He fights against God and God's people. (Eph. 6:11-12)
- 4) He controls or "owns" the unsaved. (John 8:44)
- 5) He executes the power of death. (Hebrews 2:14)

His Methods (Genesis 3:1-5)

- 1) He attacks God's ***word***. (vs. 1)
- 2) He attacks God's ***goodness***. (vs. 5)

His End

- 1) Satan will be defeated and cast into the lake of fire forever. (Rev. 19:6-8, 11-21, Rev. 20:7-10)

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little *Word* shall fell him.
(Martin Luther, 1529 – "A Mighty Fortress is our God")