

Call to Duty – Spiritual Warfare

Ephesians 6:12

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. NKJV

- People are not the enemy
- We wrestle with principalities that try to distract us from focusing on the author of our faith – Jesus

The Devil will sometimes try to get us to doubt the word
Some people don't think the devil is real – that he is a fairy tale – This is not true

Others think the devil can do anything he wants and controls our lives – This is not true

Some people believe in the devil so much that they think he is active constantly in their lives – This is not true

The devil does not have the same attributes as God
God is omniscient – all knowing
The devil does not know what you're thinking

1 Corinthians 2:8

8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. NKJV

The devil does not know what's on your mind until you open your mouth.

If you're in fear he doesn't know unless you confess it

God is omnipotent – all powerful

The devil is not!

1 Peter 5:8

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. NKJV

- Verse 9 says – Resist him in the faith

The Bible calls him a liar

Why would he need to lie if he was all powerful?

John 8:44

44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. NKJV

- The only way he can make things happen is to get you to believe a lie
- He has been disarmed – he has no power!

Colossians 2:15

15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. NKJV

God is omnipresent – Everywhere all the time
The devil is not!

The devil has other spirits that do most of the lying and
deceiving in our lives
Chances are you didn't fight the devil last night
God doesn't need you to defeat the devil
Jesus defeated him already!
If you believe this you are full of pride! – Sorry!

1 Corinthians 15:57

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through
our Lord Jesus Christ. NKJV

Most people have problems because they don't know the
word
Because they don't know the word they don't understand
the authority they have been given
The devil seeks those to devour by locating those who
isolate themselves
Somebody once said the old lion has no teeth
He roars to frighten you
A lion will attack the stray not the heard

Luke 10:19

19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents
and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and
nothing shall by any means hurt you. NKJV

Most of us have not defeated our own flesh
Our problem is not a devil problem
Our problem is a flesh problem

James 1:14-15

14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. NKJV

The way in which you approach spiritual warfare is very important. If you enter it trying to win a battle that has already been won by Christ, then it is a form of self-righteousness. – Joseph Prince – Spiritual Warfare

God has not given you the job to defeat the devil
Jesus already did that!
All we need to do is STAND in the victory

The devil is not this big creature that Hollywood depicts him to be
He is a defeated foe whose only weapon is deception
He is a slithering snake – you can't get lower!
He does not have unlimited power

Isaiah 14:16 (speaking of Lucifer)

16 "Those who see you will gaze at you,
And consider you, saying:
'Is this the man who made the earth tremble,
Who shook kingdoms? NKJV

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End: 2:00:36

Ephesians 6:11, 13-14

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness. NKJV

- 4 times STAND is repeated
- Stand still and see His deliverance!
 - Exodus 14:13, 2 Chronicles 20:17
- The devil will always try to make you think you don't have what you already do!
- Wiles – Strategy of deceit and trickery

Daniel 10:12-13 NKJV (Prince of Persia)

12 Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

- A spirit over Persia delayed Michael – Don't quit!
- Persia is now known as Iran
- There is a spiritual power over the nations of Iran and Iraq
- Saddam Hussein was not the problem

Deuteronomy 3:18, 21-22; 4:5-6

18 "Then I commanded you at that time, saying: 'The LORD your God has given you this land to possess. All you men of valor shall cross over armed before your brethren, the children of Israel.

21 "And I commanded Joshua at that time, saying, 'Your eyes have seen all that the LORD your God has done to these two kings; so will the LORD do to all the kingdoms through which you pass. 22 You must not fear them, for the LORD your God Himself fights for you.' NKJV

5 "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. 6 Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' NKJV

- God has given us the land!
- Winning or losing the spiritual battle determines our entry into successful Christian living – Promised Land
- Remember the devil is defeated
- Do not let fear defeat you
- Speak the word
- Make known the will of God to the principalities and powers of darkness

Ephesians 3:10

10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. NKJV

Our Struggle

Lust of the flesh – Lust of the eyes – Pride of life

1 John 2:15-16

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. NKJV

- Vs. 17 – The world is passing away

Ephesians 1:3

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. NKJV

- Don't say I'm trying to be rich
 - Say I am rich!
- Don't say I am trying to be strong
 - Say I am strong!
- Don't say I am trying to be well
 - Say I am well!

Don't let the devil get in your head with doubt, fear and lack

Don't fight for the victory – fight from the victory!

The devil will always try to get you to think you don't have enough of what you need

Remember Adam and Eve were in a perfect garden, yet he got them to believe there was still something they were missing

There is a spiritual battle going on – don't lose heart
– don't give in – stand and see your answer come!
Remember we do not wrestle with flesh and blood!

Luke 4:3-4, 7-8, 9-12 (Jesus' Temptation)

3 And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."

4 But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written", 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"

- Live by the word!
- Quoting – **Deuteronomy 8:3** "*God led them*"

7 Therefore, if You will worship before me, **all will be Yours.**" – "*Kingdoms of this world*"

8 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

- Serve the Lord!
- Seek the kingdom first! – **Luke 12:31**

9 "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. 10 For it is written:

'He shall give His angels charge over you,

To keep you,' 11 and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

12 And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" NKJV

- Don't doubt what the Lord has said – Deception 101
- "Has God indeed said?" – **Genesis 3:1**