**SYLLABUS AND STUDY WORKBOOK**

**EMMANUEL BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**



**SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

Dempsey C. Howard

**SPIRITUAL WARFARE - EMMANUEL BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

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Online Available for out of state students only

**Description**

A study on Spiritual Warfare with a look at the causes, techniques, and biblical insight as to approaching and winning the battle in spiritual warfare.

**Requirements:**

Attendance is a must to gain credit for the course. Tardy is not acceptable and will result in points taken off overall score.

Homework must be turned in on time. A deduction of 5 points per day for work not turned in on time.

Completion of all assigned materials and final exam with passing grade as established by the school.

**Required materials:**

This workbook in all classes.

Pen, Highlighter

Text Book, “Spiritual Warfare in The Church” By Jerry Haughton, Available on Amazon

**Objective**

Student should leave this course with knowledge and effective approach of spiritual warfare in personal and organized situations.

**Introduction**

An invisible war. There are no tanks, no guns, no grenades or paratroopers. It’s a war that rages, unseen, yet felt in the lives of every Christian today and in the past. Like any battle, it is one that is not to be taken lightly.

As with any branch of the armed services, they do not just pull people off of the streets and place a weapon in their hands. There is an intense period of training initially that each soldier must go through, and it’s called Boot Camp. And then even after being put on the enemy lines, the training continues through new intelligence that is gained.

For those of you who have never served in the military, boot camp is one of the most rigorous preparations a man or woman can endure. You learn all you can regarding: Ballistics and Rifle Marksmanship Fundamentals, Personal financial management, Law of Land Warfare, Uniform Code of Military Justice (Military Law), Dismounted Land Navigation (using a map and compass), Fundamentals of Physical Readiness, Nutrition, Rappelling and navigating rope bridges, Drill and Ceremonies (marching), Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) Defense (often referred to as the Gas Chamber), Fieldcraft, Patrolling. All of this in just the first three weeks. There are seven more weeks to go. Even then, when you think all of the training is over, there is more. Advanced Individual Training (AIT). In Spiritual Warfare, there are no drill sergeants, there are no training camps. And yet we, like the minutemen of the past are ready to take up whatever weapon we have and charge into the line of battle. Some endure, some do not.

It is the hope that in this course you will get a greater understanding of the battle that rages between good and evil as we will call it. We will attempt to describe the enemy and tactics used. And even now as you stand in the midst of the enemy lines and don’t even know it, you will be given some new intel on the enemy and more prepared as you walk in the line of fire daily, often unaware.

**The Enemy**

Since before the beginning of time, the enemy (though not always enemy) has existed. Created by God. Angels. All with different offices or positions. Some angels have the office of worship and they constantly worship around the throne of God. Some are messengers, some are warriors and comforters. Before man was created, God created the angels. When He was forming the earth at creation, angels were constantly present. They saw the creation of man. Yet, Angels and humans are an entirely different species of beings.  Angels are a spirit without an assigned body, while humans are spirit beings in a body unique to others.  Angels can temporarily take on a human form, while humans can never take on an angelic form.

One angel in particular was the most beautiful creation to date. He was as the morning star shining so brightly throughout the entire universe. Pride was the one thing that took him to the fall from the heavens. His voice in heaven was one that was heard, the sounds surrounding him were majestic and many believe him to have been the “choir leader” in heaven. Whatever his position, it was one of importance and his voice was known through all of heaven. When he walked by he was recognized. He gained a following. He was exalted, held in high regard. Pride developed as from the feelings he knew and experienced in the satisfaction of those around him. He too could be a god, like God. In his pride he railed up and gathered one third of the angels, his followers. He attempted to ascend to the throne, but was cast out of heaven along with his followers.

In the Medieval era, man created an image of Satan as with horns and pitchfork and long spiky tail. Yet in reality his image is different each time. Remember, angels are spirits without assigned bodies. He and his followers are deceivers. He can appear as the nice little old lady down the street, the happy gentleman next door, or even as our spouse. Yet, unlike God, he cannot be everywhere at once. So, as a general, he sits in command of his one third of the heavenly beings fallen with him, organizing, planning, dispatching, delivering dissention among the world.

His first charge, was his alone. Cunning, and lying, playing on the emotions of a creation of God. He deceived the woman in the garden getting her to partake of the fruit of the tree, promising her life and that she would be like God. We know where it went from there.

He is an accuser. Not only does he accuse us within our mind, but accused us before God. Note the past tense use of the word accuse. Since the blood of Jesus Christ was shed through the act of the scourging, and on the cross, the blood of the ultimate sacrifice required by God for man’s sins has been presented. The one who accused before the throne, no longer has cause for accusation! So therefore, his attack and accusations against man are made directly to man himself.

Accuser, liar, deceiver, manipulator. All of these words describe our enemy Satan. Yet, one of the greatest deceptions is: He thinks he can still win. He thinks he can overthrow God and be ruler of all things, taking the throne of God. Yes, he’s read the book and can quote it better than you. He can use the book to his advantage as well. Twisting and manipulating scriptures to suit his cause.

One of the greatest deceptions we face today in the church is tolerance. Things that are tolerated today were never tolerated to point of acceptance in the days of the early church. As time went on, some were burned at the stake for things done in the church today!

So, in recap:

There is a battle that rages.

An unseen battle.

There are casualties.

And we know who the origin of the enemy and know who he is. Or do we?

To really know who the enemy is, we must first identify his territory.

**The Lay of The Land**

**Ephesians 6: 12**For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Place a map on a table of let’s say a map of the United States of America. You see a depiction of land, you see mountain ranges; you see lakes and rivers, individual cities, capital cities. On each side you see the great oceans and to the north a border with Canada, the south, a border with Mexico. An invading enemy is most likely to enter the country by ocean, or borders.



However, our enemy has already invaded and it is an internal invasion. Like a paratrooper, the enemy has entered from above and descended to places of authority. Law makers, churches, medical facilities, schools. The enemy is ever present in these places however not seen or heard. Working within the law of the land to bring about chaos and discord among us in our thoughts and actions.

Religious freedom has become one of the most used forms of attack the enemy has used against the church body. If you find a division in the government, you will find also a division of those as well in the church.

In our lifetime, we have seen prayer removed from school. **June 25, 1962**, the United States Supreme Court decided in Engel v. Vitale that a prayer approved by the New York Board of Regents for use in schools violated the First Amendment because it represented establishment of religion. The prayer that was deemed a violation was **"Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence on Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our country."** The actual act of prayer was not under fire. It was the fact that the prayer was written by an official governing agency. Justice Hugo Black wrote in the decision of 6-1, “It is neither sacrilegious nor antireligious to say that each separate government in this country should stay out of the business of writing or sanctioning official prayers and leave that purely religious function to the people themselves and to those the people choose to look to for religious guidance,”

The following year, Murray v. Curlett lawsuit, which led to a landmark Supreme Court ruling ending official Bible-reading in American public **schools** in 1963. In my time, our school would recite a pledge that was led on the Public Address System, and a prayer was offered for our day by individual students. Not a scripted prayer. This was a practice later stopped due to interpretation of laws.

1962 was the first time the U.S. Supreme Court took up school prayer, but several state supreme courts had ruled on the issue prior to that. For example, the Wisconsin Supreme Court struck down government-sponsored Prayer in schools in 1892; the Nebraska Supreme Court followed suit in 1902, and the Illinois Supreme Court removed mandatory worship from public schools in 1910.

These are just a few examples. A 1960 survey by Americans United found that only five states had laws on the books requiring daily Bible reading in public schools. Twenty-four states allowed "optional" Bible reading. Eleven states had banned the practice as unconstitutional.(The remaining states had no laws on the subject.)

The fact is, prayer is not illegal for the individuals, just not legally allowed in and under conditions of law. Can we see how a simple thought and interpretation turned into a vast misinterpretation? Today, we have come so far from that, that it now not politically correct in many areas. Restaurants, parks, public meetings and the like have been taken down by a thought of reason. (More on Political Correctness later.)

What about school shootings? Is this a result of prayer being taken out of schools? Partly, but not complete.

The first recorded school shooting history of the United States happened July 26, 1764 in what is known as the Pontiac Rebellion. It resulted from the Indians great dissatisfaction of the British postwar policies. Two entered a school house (cabin) and killed nine children. Was this a result of the lack of prayer in Schools?

November 2, 1853 Louisville, Kentucky A student, Matthew Ward, bought a self-cocking pistol in the morning, went to school and killed Schoolmaster Mr. Butler for excessively punishing his brother the day before.

An April 30, 1866 editorial in the New York Times argued against students carrying pistols, citing "...pistols being dropped on the floor at balls or being exploded in very inconvenient ways. A boy of 12 has his pantaloons made with a pistol pocket; and this at a boarding-school filled with boys, who, we suppose, do or wish to do the same thing. We would advise parents to look into it, and learn whether shooting is to be a part of the scholastic course which may be practiced on their boys; or else we advise them to see that their own boys are properly armed with the most approved and deadly-pistol, and that there may be an equal chance at least of their shooting as of being shot."

June 8, 1867 New York City At Public School No. 18, a 13 year old lad brought a pistol loaded and capped, without the knowledge of his parents or school-teachers, and shot and injured a fellow classmate.

December 22, 1868 Chattanooga, Tennessee A boy who refused to be whipped and left school, returned with his brother and a friend, the next day to seek revenge on his teacher. Not finding the teacher at the school, they continued to his house, where a gun battle rang out, leaving three dead. Only the brother survived.

In 1864, kids were imitating Jesse James in Boston… 1867, student shoots teacher for punishing him the day before… prayer taken from school? In fact, there were 63 school shootings prior to the decisions made in the early 60’s. (see: https://www.k12academics.com/school-shootings/history-school-shootings-united-states )

If you look at the cause of most of the shootings shown, you see lust, rebellion, retaliation, all desires of the heart at the center of the cause.

So, back to the map. If you look at the map, the heart of a city is city hall. The state, the state capital. The country, the nation’s capital.

Imagine the map as a man. The heart pushes the blood through the body and each part is dependent upon the heart to maintain functionality.

The heart is said to be the central or innermost part of something. That central part controls our emotions, love, compassion, and even thoughts. Courage and enthusiasm are controlled by the “heart”. In all reality, it is the very essence of ones being.

There is another body. This body is the church. Not a building, but the people who occupy the building. Who is the heart of the church? The people? No, the heart of the church is the leadership. Pastors, deacons, elders, teachers. Let’s say we think of the heart of the Catholic Church, (And I use Catholic Church because it is the most easily identified with one man), We immediately think of the Pope. Even though he, like other church leaders are temporal, the title is everlasting. The man himself will eventually die and another will take his place, yet the office and title as the heart and even soul of the church will endure. Understand, the use of the Catholic Church and Pope ARE NOT to be construed to be putting down the church, or it’s leader. I only use them as an example of identifiable leadership.

Ok, so we have identified the land in which the enemy works. We have essentially identified his home base from which the attack emanates being the heart. Yet, we still don’t know what the enemy looks like.

There are so many today who go into a battle against this unseen enemy unprepared. We have some that say, “the battle is the Lords” and just stand back doing nothing. But, let me remind you, we are not soldiers of the heavenly army who fight in the heavenly realm, but soldiers nevertheless, and when thrust into a battle of spiritual warfare unprepared the results can be catastrophic. The mentality of those who send the unprepared into battle is not fully understood, moreover, the mentality of those who go unprepared into battle is even less understood.

Ephesians 6:13 tells us to “Put on the WHOLE armor of God.” What is that armor?

In today’s army, the gear in which they wear is greater than in the past. The technology has greatly improved to provide more safety for those going into battle. Body armor is the most important next to the weapon.

As a child we have seen in movies and cartoons, the super heros and most all of them had a utility belt of sorts. In those belts we were amazed at the things they carried. Batman for example carried a small vial of shark repellant! He may have only used it once in the story line, but it was effective and available for use at anytime to him… it was in the belt! A tried, tested and true product!



(image from bbcfnc.org)

Ephesians 6:14-17 gives us a description of the armor used to fight the enemy:

**The Belt of Truth.**

When we think of a belt, we think of a piece of alternate clothing that holds our pants up, keeps the shirt tucked in a little better. A woman wears a belt to secure clothing that wraps around, or as an ornament. Our belt, holds us together. It is the truth of the word of God, the truth in our integrity. Without integrity we fail. For integrity is our state of being upright, unwavering, reliable veracity or sincerity for that which we stand. There may be some little clasps on that belt that attaches to the top and to the bottom. At the top,

**The Breastplate of Righteousness.**

In ancient days the breastplate worn going into battle was made of tightly woven metal rings, or layers of metal to protect the body from the enemy weapons. The breastplate of righteousness protects us from the weapons of the enemy in protecting our heart and other vital organs as he will attack us with deception, lust of the heart, gluttony, temptations of the flesh, even sickness.

**The Helmet of Salvation.**

A main point of attack on one is the head. Disorient them and you gain control. In martial arts, you see the rapid wearing down of the defenses as most will hold the arms near the head to counteract punches or kicks. When the defenses drop, the blow to the head is made and then another till we fall to the ground. Since this is a spiritual battle, we must fight with the mind of Christ. If we lose our focus, if we waiver in our thoughts, we become disoriented and ready for the knock out punch. A sound mind with direction and focus is the one of the keys to victory.

**The Shield of Faith**

We see pictures of knights riding horses in jousting matches and each carries a shield. This shield is to protect them against the danger of being pierced by the lance. Roman soldiers are shown each carrying a shield marching into a battle of even just down the street. It can be moved from one area to another. Often we will find things hurled at us in forms of words, or even advances that can cause us damage. The shield is there to protect us from those projectiles the enemy throws our way. The shield is reinforced with,

**The Sword of the Spirit**

The sword is God’s word. Knowledge of His word, standing on His word, trusting and believing on His word. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, He used the word of God as his defense. Each time the devil would come against Him, He spoke words of truth and words of fact that drove the enemy back.

**The Shoes of Peace**

There is nothing more discomforting than walking on sharp rocky ground with thin sole shoes, or no shoes at all. The armed forces will tell you emphatically to care for your feet. If the feet are injured, your mobility is hindered. You can not move as needed. A foot ball player wears special shoes with spikes to dig in and move forward against a rushing opposer. We must be able to dig in and stand firm. There will be no peace in not being able to stand your ground or move forward. These shoes of peace extend up beyond the foot and cover the calves to protect us against snares and pricks encountered as we move forward.

**Know Your Battle**

There was a missionary who had come into a land only to find he was greatly opposed as to his presence there. The native king had planned to attack the encampment of the missionary and kill him and all that were with him. The missionary did not waiver from his mission. He continued to teach, minister to needs of the sick and never once prepared for the coming battle that lay ahead of him. He could have organized his people and armed them with weapons, yet they did not. They maintained daily life and mission. When the native king and his army of men came to encampment late at night to attack, the sounds of battle cries stopped suddenly and the attackers backed away. In a meeting of the king and the missionary who continued his work the question was asked: “why did you stop your attack on us?” The king answered saying “ as we came closer to the camp and were running towards you with intent to kill you the army of men standing with swords and shields were greater than my army, they were bigger and they did not run. When they drew their swords and put up the shields and began moving towards us we had no choice but retreat and let you do your work.” The missionary then understood that God had sent his army to stand for them and what the king had seen was not men, but angels in full battle gear ready to fight. The king was lead to Christ and the mission work was a great success.

Most of us would have prepared for that battle upon hearing the news of attack. But in standing firm in the belief of God and His word, there was no loss of life on either side for surely the missionaries would have been killed. They were not prepared for a battle.

I was in a revival meeting in Florida one evening when a girl was brought to the church in a wheel chair. It was said by all who knew her, that a demon possessed her and she was confined to a chair. The parents said that she had been diagnosed with a disease that caused her body to twist and she was in constant pain. It was the belief of some of her family, it was a demon. The evangelist I was singing with took it upon himself to “cast out” the demon. What seemed like hours of his praying for the demon to come out. The shaking of the chair, the act of touching and moving the girl’s legs and arms to raise them to God, she would scream in pain. Nothing. She left as she came in. The evangelist said it was a breakthrough.

Back on the bus I was asked what I thought. My response was not taken well at all. “Why did you not just speak to the illness?”

Some people enter a battle of spiritual warfare blaming everything from sickness, financial problems, or just sin, on demonic affliction from the devil. Where we in reality are dealing with effects from a situation, that situation may have been the results of an enemy attack yet not a demon seated on them. Speaking to a demon to drive him out of a person who has, let’s say asthma in fact is not necessarily a result of a demonic presence. It is important to keep in mind that when Jesus healed a sick person, he did so by not every time casting out a demon.

The Healing of the Centurion’s Servant (Matthew 8:5-13) By reason of the man’s faith that healing came.

The Healing of the Woman Bleeding (Matthew 9:19-20) She reached and touched the hem of his garment!
The Healing of the Blind Men (Matthew 9:27-30) They believed and in their faith they were healed.

The Healing of the Man with the Withered Hand (Matthew 12:9-14) He spoke to him and said, “stretch forth thy hand”

The Healing of Peter’s Mother-in-Law (Luke 4:38, 39) He rebuked the fever. Fever is a natural cause of the body to burn away sickness, and yes a fever can be deadly. He spoke to the fever itself since it was not doing what it was supposed to do and lingered. Upon his speaking to the cause of the discomfort she was made whole.

The Healing of the Leper (Luke 5:12-16) He just said, be thou clean!

The Healing of the Paralyzed Man (Luke 5:17-26) He said, “thy sins are forgiven thee” WHOA! Sins?

A friend in North Carolina who I had known while growing up there, had gone through an embarrassing divorce from her preacher husband. She was bitter. A disease had already been identified prior to his leaving and was being treated, yet she gained attention for being put aside because of her disease and bitterness towards him actually increased the effects of the disease. Her fingers drew up, he feet drew up, the joints of her body became hard. Her heart became hard towards him and others. God had forgiven him, but she had not. It was only at the end of her life did she forgive him and peace came to her. Was it a demon or situation?

The Healing of the Immobile Man (John 5:1-16) Healing was available in the pool, but he could not make it there in time, others went before him and by the time he reached the pool, the waters were again calmed. Jesus just spoke, “get up, take your bed”
The Healing of the Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19) He just said go show yourself!

The Healing of the Woman with the Spirit of Infirmity (Luke 13:10-17),… maybe… maybe not. Spirit here means pneuma from the greek which means that which is breathed or blown. In other words, she had an odor about her. The cause of the odor had her bent over and she had been like this for 18 years. He said to her as he laid hands on her, Woman, thou are loosed from thine infirmity (sickness).

How many times have those going into a battle have given the enemy credit for something that is not theirs? Ever heard anyone say “the enemy has created this disease, or situation in your life.” Keep in mind, the devil, demons (his followers) cannot create anything. They can however work with something that exist. Does this mean there are limitations?

So, what are the limitations of the enemy?

* Cannot reveal him/themselves. Must operate stealthily and in secret.
* Push towards, but cannot tell the future
* Cannot enter uninvited
* (Can encourage us, and urge us but) he cannot make us do anything
* (accuse us but) cannot condemn us
* (tempt us but) cannot make us sin
* (Can trouble us) but not possess as he cannot co-exist in a soul
* (Can hear us and see us but) Cannot read our thoughts or search our hearts
* (Can hinder us but) Cannot succeed unless we let him
* (Can trouble us but) Cannot take away our salvation

**Foxholes, Moats and Walls**

The military teaches soldiers the importance of a foxhole. It’s used to not only hide from the enemy, but place you out of clear view, even store up supplies. In spiritual warfare, our fox holes are found created when we dig deep into the word of God.

When we think of moats, we think of the castles in medieval times. Before an enemy could gain access to the castle, they had to cross the moat. It became easier for the enemy to be stopped as they attempted to cross. Moats in spiritual warfare can be applied through prayers.

Walls. Again, the castles or forts had high fortress walls. This made it impossible for the enemy to penetrate and it seemed the only way in was either over or under!. Soldiers stood on top of the wall and could easily defend the fort from attackers with this high vantage point.

Often our warfare is found in the open and there are no walls. Yet, we can build up a hedge of protection around us. This hedge is thick and not easy to penetrate. Often it is filled with things that will stun, scratch or even stab the enemy as they approach. The thicker the hedge and more tightly wound leaving no gaps at all it is

more difficult to be overcome.

Many today who lean on the hedge of protection find that they have been

overcome by the enemy and the battle gets stronger. Looking at our image we

can imagine the difficulty one would endure in attempting to go through the

hedges. The taller, the wider, the thicker it becomes almost impossible to

maneuver through. However it can be penetrated in time without care and

upkeep. God has placed around his children a hedge of protection. We can

maintain it or tear it down. In Job chapter 1: verse 10, the devil asked God, Hast

not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he

hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is

increased in the land.

He recognized the hedge was not easy to go through…

How do we build and maintain our hedge of protection going into spiritual warfare? Through prayer, fasting, reading and understanding of God’s word. Being led by the Holy Spirit in all areas of life. James 5:16 tells us Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The **effectual fervent** prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

**The Trenches**

Some years ago I had a dream that has stayed with me to this day, and I pray that I never forget it. My brother Bobby and I were walking on a familiar dirt road back in North Carolina. We were on each side of a man walking with us in the middle, it was our Grandfather Claude Kennedy. Granddaddy died about six months before I was born and to me this dream alone was a big deal for I was getting to spend time with him! We had the appearance of children as we walked along with him, so gentle and confident in his direction. I noticed his thumb on the right hand was green. I had heard that all he had to do was stick his thumb in the ground and plant a seed and it would grow to a beautiful crop or individual plant. This was evident in the dream as we approached his house and the beautiful flowers and bushes. We played, he laughed and then we were standing by a ditch in front of the house. It was deep, dark and scary. At the end of the ditch was a grated locked area that to us was unknown as to what was in it. As we were about to lose our footing and fall in the ditch, Granddaddy grabbed us by the belt and held us back saying “don’t fall in the trenches boys.” I woke up.

Trenches have long been used in warfare. These are long, sometimes winding ditches in which one can stand and move about, not often free movement, but tight with boxes of ammo, weapons, mortars and more. Some of the most intense fighting was often found in the trenches for both sides of the battle. If you could reach beyond the obstacles, barriers and trenches you could effectively take out the artillery lines that were most often found after passing across the trenches.

Falling in the trenches for either side resulted in personal defeat. Sure steps, firm footing and effective use of weapons keeps you upright and able to endure. Think back on our description of the Whole Armor of God and it’s usage in this situation of spiritual warfare.

“Though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled” (2 Cor. 10:3-6, KJV).

The flesh is external, that which is exposed. “Fruits” of the flesh are described in

Galatians 5: 19-21 are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry,

sorcery (or witchcraft), hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish

ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the

like. All of these are against the laws of God. The spirit however has different

fruits. The same book of Galatians chapter 5: 22 - 23: But the fruit of the Spirit is

love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness,

temperance: against such there is no law.

If there is no “law” regarding those, does it not stand to reason the enemy will

attack in those areas more aggressively?

**EXERCISE 1**

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| **LOVE** | **JOY** | **PEACE** | **LONGSUFFERING** | **GENTLENESS** | **GOODNESS** | **FAITH** | **MEEKNESS** | **TEMPERANCE** |
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Below are words of each action that the enemy can use to influence negatively spiritual fruits. Place in each column the related action the enemy may use to affect the fruit. Each action may or may not be applicable in each column.

adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery (or witchcraft), hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries

You have heard the old saying “The mind is willing but the flesh is weak.” Often we enter into battles that the weakness of the flesh is exposed and that is where the enemy gains its foothold.

At a time in my personal life when ministry was the main goal and pressing forward with plans and even action being made, I made a statement regarding my service to the Lord would not waiver, even if the enemy took my family. Two weeks after making that statement, I was under the strongest battle of the flesh I have ever encountered in my life. I gave reason for the enemy to find a weak place and begin to work around me, eventually within my emotions. My focus was changed.

One should never engage in any spiritual warfare without things being right in and around your own lives. Areas of your personal weaknesses will be the first attacked. Sometimes those weaknesses are not necessarily found in you, but in that which is around you. People you love. They will be found, exposed and shown as vulnerable and taken down.

Flesh is not removed by spiritual warfare and rebuking demons.  It is removed when we do as Jesus said and “crucify it”.  When we get rid of the flesh, we automatically get rid of the demons that feed on the flesh. (Pastor Keith Hassell, Grace Fellowship Church, Rusk, TX)

When God created man, He gave him dominion over every living thing on earth. This means he had sovereign power. There was no greater power on earth over every living thing on earth than man. Man was the ultimate authority on earth answering only to God.

Man’s first mistake was not exercising authority over the serpent. The serpent itself was a living breathing earth created being and man had dominion over it. There was obviously an air of trust between man and the serpent and it may have been common to have interaction. Why do we say this? Because the Bible tells us that God put enmity (Strongs H340: hatred, and hostility) between them. Man loses his dominion at this point.

Man not only has lost his rule over the earth and its beings, but has lost a personal one on one relationship with God. There was a need for an intercessor. The first indirect intercessor was Noah. As an indirect intercessor he was warning the people, only hearing from God about what was to happen. Next we find Abraham as a direct intercessor. As a direct intercessor, the angels of God purposed to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. But, Abraham boldly stood directly before them and pleaded for the lives of those in the city for 50 righteous. Then he boldly goes again, and again. Forty-five, forty, all the way down to ten. He interceded for the sake of ten people. Unfortunately, there were not found 10 righteous people in all of Sodom and Gomorrah.

An intercessor is one that stands in the gap or intervenes for something or someone.

In the Christian world we think of intercessors through prayer. In the secular world lawyers serve as intercessors. But imagine you had a situation come up and needed a solution to a problem and when you came to face that problem you find a solution had been met and it was less than desirable. How did that happen? You soon discover a lawyer had gone in on your behalf and settled the case without real knowledge. Where was the authority?

On a personal note: I once had a person come up to me and say they had been praying for me, kind of like an intercessor. I told them I appreciated the prayers, but how were they praying? What were they praying for? It stunned them. They had never had anyone ask them that. I explained upon hearing the prayer direction they had been praying they had been praying different than I had.

Should we engage in the spiritual battles of others? Some say yes, some say no. We will not present an opinion on this question, yet offer to you reasoning of validity of intercession.

Intercessors are always ready it seems. “Yes sir! We will immediately begin the battle!”

Pastor Keith Hassel of Grace Fellowship Church in Rusk, Texas summed it up greatly in saying “Intercessors can spend so much time in the spiritual realm that they can lose all sense of God’s wisdom in the natural realm.”

Have you ever known someone in which you turn to for prayer? They seem to have the “connection” to get straight to the throne? They are always on a spiritual high? Just the way they talk separates them from the “normal” person. Even when the prayer is not answered in the way you wanted it to be, they have a sufficient reason in which the answer was given differently.

Maybe you have heard, “I was praying this morning in the spirit and the power was stronger than I have ever felt it before…” A constant new high has been or being obtained. If that new high does not seem to be present, they see the battle is greater in their warfare. The seeking of that new spiritual high can be a deterrent, causing one to lose focus on the original prayer.

Who does this intercessor go to for prayer? For someone to intercede for them?

You rarely see them in the pews of the church for they are spending so much time in prayer and being taught via video or seminars or reading the latest greatest book by other spiritual leaders, there is no time for refreshing fellowship. And when they are in church, they are not focused on the reason for being there, but fighting battles of others. Even the army gives to their soldiers leave once in a while!

Selfish Intercession

Sometimes we enter into intercession for family members. All too often, that intercession is for selfish reasons.

When my wife left me I began to pray. Fast and pray. Although the prayers were with good intention and directed towards what I perceived to be the will of God, it was more for selfish reasons. I had lost. I had been rejected. I had been put aside and beliefs had been put aside. My prayers were not towards God’s will, but towards my will. My father has said to both my brother and I that we sometimes were guilty to pray with our minds made up. I was even guilty of getting others to pray in the direction I desired, instead of the direction God desired. I often wonder what would have happened had I prayed with God’s will instead of mine.

Intercession pronounced as defined in the Evangelical Dictionary of Theology is: in-ter-sesh'-un (**pagha**`, "to make intercession"; originally "to **strike upon**," or "**against**"; then in a good sense, "to assail anyone with petitions," "to urge," and when on behalf of another, "to intercede"

In the Strongs Concordance #6293 it means to impinge, by accident or violence, or (figuratively) by importunity:--come (betwixt), cause to entreat, fall (upon), make intercession, intercessor, intreat, lay, light (upon), meet (together), pray, reach, run.

In **Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon:**

pâga‛ 1) to encounter, meet, reach, entreat, make intercession 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to meet, light upon, join 1a2) to meet (of kindness) 1a3) to encounter, fall upon (of hostility) 1a4) to encounter, entreat (of request) 1a5) to strike, touch (of boundary) 1b) (Hiphil) 1b1) to cause to light upon 1b2) to cause to entreat 1b3) to make entreaty, interpose 1b4) to make attack 1b5) to reach the mark

When you personally say, “Brother/Sister, I will be praying about that” upon hearing the need one has, you THEN commit yourself to intercession on their behalf. Failure to follow through on your intercession leads to a victory for the enemy.

Don’t be a Hero

Intercession in spiritual warfare is not a one man show. I am pretty sure you have seen the action movies, or read books in which there is a key super character, he always seems to have the abilities to come out on top while everyone else falls by the wayside. Often it is to a disastrous fall at that. Don’t be a Rambo!

It is important to understand that in these Last Days the battle that rages is stronger and more intense than ever before. Keep in mind, when the Japanese attacked at Pearl Harbor, they did not do it with just one airplane. They sent in 353 planes, wave after wave delivering a blow to the US Pacific Fleet. We didn’t see them coming and were taken by surprise. We were aware that they were up to something, but were not prepared. The enemy in spiritual warfare is sending in wave after wave of attackers, unknown to us.

God is sending in armies, not individuals to possess a territory. That territory may be family, health, finances, even salvation. Once the prayer is heard and within the will of God, he dispatches his answer immediately. It is between the prayer and your possession of the answer the biggest battle is fought.

Remember Daniel prayed and when the angel finally showed, which was not immediate, he questioned him? What took ya so long?!!! The angel stated God sent him immediately and along the way he had encountered the prince of Persia. Angels do not encounter opposition of men, so the prince of Persia is who? The Devil and his army. The Angel Michael was also sent to assist in the battle, BEFORE reaching Daniel.

The prayer is heard, the answer is enroute. Our part of the battle is standing in speaking the truth of God’s words and promises, and the prayers which weaken the enemy.

The biggest battle ground in America is not what you may think. Some would say Washington, some would say the educational system. Some would even say the home, but in reality, the biggest battle ground is the church and we find it is the least protected.

It is said there are over 300,000 churches in America. It is here that we are to learn God’s truths, God’s love and experience the presence of God. We are to take those things we have learned and go into the world sharing with others, Compelling them to come into the house of God. Yet, that is not the case. It is also here we find political differences aired, homes are destroyed, gossip is rampant, sexual perversions are tolerated all in the name of love.

Not intended to sound political, but the church has become too liberal. The meaning of the word liberal is: open to new behavior or opinions and willing to discard traditional values. In the church being liberal, we have become willing to discard biblical values and truths. Sin is no longer sin.

In many cases, the sermons that are delivered in today’s pulpits are directed by the mood of the congregation. For example: A pastor who once had strong beliefs against homosexual lifestyles has a family in the church in which one of the children has come out as gay. This family is a prominent family and gives a lot of money to the church each Sunday. The pastor may find that the sermons that once condemned and warned against the lifestyle, now no longer are present. The enemy has success in ceasing the message of truth for sake of finances affecting the church.

Truth is the first deception the enemy used in the Garden of Eden. He still attacks truth today and with the perversion of God’s truth.

It Is an Issue of Authority

The original battle of spiritual warfare did not begin here on earth. It began in heaven. Remember the beautiful angel, one of God’s creations who served as a leader sought more authority. He sought God’s throne. On earth he sought to destroy and seeks to destroy God’s truth.

Christians today fail to use the authority that is given to us by God, through his Son Jesus Christ.

Understanding The Battle Grounds

**Ground Warfare** is most common areas of warfare that we encounter on a daily basis. It is the warfare that Jesus personally encountered while on earth. Mark chapter 16 verses 15-18 commissions us to go and cast out devils, take up serpents,… lay hands on the sick and they be healed.

Let’s clarify a few of these items found in ground warfare.

Our words of truth and knowledge are what enable us to cast out the devils. These devils are the thoughts and actions put in place in a person’s life.

The next part, serpents. We know them as snakes. There are many who have taken this verse literally to show the power of God in their lives by literally picking up rattle snakes (most common found in the area) and dance around with them. The word take up means to expose that which can harm, bring into knowledge.

Ingesting poisons. That we who have the knowledge of Christ within us will not be deceived when we (ingest) hear that which can cause harm to the spirit.

Through the knowledge and authority of Christ, we can speak healing into the lives of the sick.

This is the same ground warfare that Jesus faced daily.

**Warfare with the Occult**.

Occult is not just satanic worship and witchcraft. Occult is the speaking of curses and damaging words. These are words that seep into the minds of men and begin allow demons to speak and to work in areas that open up areas for the enemy to gain a stronger foothold.

Then there is **Territorial Warfare** which is the working among political leaders and even church leaders in changing the mindset of man. If you think on the situations of today, you can see the mindset changes taking place all around us.

The spirit of man is the target in spiritual warfare. If your spirit can be weakened, your soul can be in jeopardy. You are a body that possesses a spirit and a soul. The enemy could care less about your body. It seeks to break the spirit. Upon breaking the spirit, the soul is easy target.

The Body is only our physical presence. Warfare is begun and attacks are spirit to spirit. Attacking our thoughts, our directions, our goals and eventual outcome, even things around us.

Intercession is not done in the body or even the spirit of man. It is done at the Throne of God. This is gained only through the Holy Spirit being active in the life of the intercessor. There are many who attempt to fight in Spiritual Warfare that have not or do not have an active relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Our true intercessor in any spiritual warfare is The Holy Spirit. Jesus told those gathered that he would send a comforter. A companion. This is an active spirit being that dwells within each of us directly from the throne of heaven. The Holy Spirit knows the way to approach the throne with prayers and supplications. Any attempts to fight a battle of spiritual warfare from the man standpoint or the man spirit, is futile. It takes something stronger.

The Holy Spirit has rank. When you enter a battle of spiritual warfare you invoke the Holy Spirit to act quickly. You want someone with authority, with power and ability to get through the battle lines. The Holy Spirit is our friend, companion, teacher, guide, and comforter. In times of doubt and confusion, he reminds us of the promises of God. Yet, man can stop the power of the Holy Spirit working within him or around him. We are warned to “quench not the spirit” in 1 Thessalonians 5: 19

The word quench has two meanings. One, it can be used to satisfy a thirst. Second, can be to extinguish, as in a fire.

The enemy is cunning and uses every deception available. What we perceive as an answer to a solution in which amends are made to satisfy both sides, is an act of quenching. In the battle of spiritual warfare there is no satisfying both sides.

**There are no peace treaties in Spiritual Warfare.**

Historical sociologist Jacques Novicow, states “**There have been 8,400 Historical Treaties for Peace from 1500 BC to 2013 AD (over 3,500 years = average 2.4 treaties per year)”. Countless numbers of those treaties have been broken, and most last a period of no more than two years. In the United States alone, there have been over 400 treaties broken between the Native Americans and United States government.**

**A treaty is a pact or concession or settlement made by both sides of a disagreement.**

Concession must never be made to the enemy for peace. When you give in, there is a period of great relief and a feeling of satisfaction. However, you have fallen captive to the enemy. This is a fight to the end.

You may win the battle, but the war still rages. It is important to not put away your weapons of warfare. You will encounter the enemy on many different fronts, not just once, but many times. Personal battles, marriage, family, work, school, church, and even recreation, all are battle fronts. You must fortify these areas and yourself with the hedge of protection even stronger, and that is done through an active prayer life both personal and if married with your spouse, inviting and allowing your spirit man to be led by the Holy Spirit. He’s already present, just waiting to be called into action.

Continue in fellowship with like believers and lifting up the name of Jesus daily.

When you enter His presence with praise.

He enters your circumstance with power