

Lesson 4

Spiritual Warfare

Opening Verse: 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.

Introduction:

When we became a Christian, we enlisted in the “*Army of the Lord*.” There is no neutral ground. All Christians will enter into this spiritual battle. In this lesson you will learn that the war you are fighting is not physical but that the battlefield begins in your mind and that prayer is your means of warfare. You will also realize that God has equipped us with the “armor” we need to fight this battle. The good news is that Jesus, the “Captain” of our salvation (*Heb. 2:10*) has never lost a battle, and He never will!

Factors of Spiritual Warfare

- The enemy is LIMITED in number and power!
- The only power that the enemy has against the body of Christ is **Words**!
- The battlefield is your **Mind**. It is the door whereby the enemy enters into your territory.
- The Kingdom of God is voice activated for there is power in our **Tongue** when we boldly proclaim God’s promises in His Word, as we bind and loose spirits in Jesus Name! (Prov. 18:21)
- It is the **Spirit of God** that leads us and empowers us whenever are in battle against the enemy. For us to be led and empowered by God, we need to be continually plugged into the Source of our power.
 - ❖ Peace is the atmosphere of our relationship with God as a SURRENDERED vessel.
 - ❖ The absence of God’s peace denotes that we are prone to operate in our own will!

NOTES

- Initially, we receive God’s peace when we pray our RELATIONAL PRAYERS before we start our day.
- The absence of PEACE is our signal that there is “something” hindering the flow of God’s Spirit in us and we remove it by doing the **SELF-CHECK**:
 - (1) any **unforgiveness** in our heart
 - (2) any unrepented **sins**
 - (3) any **cares** that we have not casted unto God
 - (4) any part of **our will** that we have not fully surrendered to God.

If there is still a lack of peace afterwards, we need to CONFRONT the enemy and restrain it since it is now confirmed as an attack from the enemy.

Levels of Spiritual Darkness (Ephesians 6:12)

1. Principalities and Powers

Principalities - the **highest order** of demonic powers in the earth.

- Principalities are the ruling spirits over the most fundamental realms of the kingdom of darkness.
- These are the dominant things that affect culture, people and world systems across boundaries.

Powers = **Authorities**

- **Princes** are not the same as Principalities and their power is lower than the Principalities.
- Princes are authorities behind the world’s power as defined by governmental realms.
- They are “Princes of Authority.” It doesn’t mean that all natural government is of the devil but there is a designated power behind every world system.
- For example, there are Princes (also called as the ***Strong Man***) of cities, states and nations.
- There is also a Prince for the world’s number one Christian religion.
- God will either use His spiritual leader or collective army to bind these powers through His anointing.

2. Rulers of Darkness

- These are involved in all KINDS of wickedness.
- They oversee the BLINDING of the hearts and minds of lost souls so that they cannot believe.
- Their ultimate goal is to possess humans or any human that they can rule over.
- We use the Sword of the Spirit against these rulers.

3. Spiritual Wickedness

- These are spirits of **iniquity** (lawlessness) who are doing the work of deception on people every day.
- Spirits of infirmity/affliction
- They are very attuned to the flesh of humanity.
- Their tactics are more of suggestion and temptation than demand.
- We fight them primarily by mentally resisting their lies. (*James 4:7*)

The Three Battles of a Soldier

1. Internal Battle – to overcome our flesh and will

Our first battle is with our own flesh and will. We need to have a made-up mind to fully surrender our will to God on a daily basis for us to have victory over our flesh and will.

If we fight with our flesh, we will only be defeated. We are weaker than the devil with our carnal nature but we are always stronger than the enemy when God's Spirit rules within us. We attain our spiritual strength and growth through daily RELATIONAL Prayer.

2. External Battle – our one-on-one combat with the enemy; this is both defensive and offensive.

Defensive:

The enemy wars against us by putting false thoughts into our mind. Failure to discern his thoughts will cause us to fall when we take ownership of it. We fight him back by **submitting** to God's Word and by **resisting** his thoughts.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

NOTES

Using God's Authority:

- In Jesus' Name
- Binding and Loosing
- Praying in the Spirit
- Fasting (as needed)

Practical Steps:

(1) TRY the thoughts (we can discern them by their fruit, i.e. fear); (2) RESIST them mentally; (3) REBUKE it if the thought continues.

Offensive:

We initiate OFFENSIVE battle against the enemy during our KINGDOM prayer, as we remove the demonic influences from the **body of Christ** and from the **lost souls** of our cities, etc.

- The body of Christ needs to be set free from the spirit of INIQUITY and RELIGIOUS TRADITION!
- The harvest of souls need to be set free from the spirit of BLINDNESS!

As God leads the Church into spiritual warfare, each soldier will fight these spirits individually, and then this collective effort will eventually push all the forces of the enemy into its gate or its headquarters (i.e. within a specific city).

Matthew 16:18

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

3. Corporate Battle – when God’s army fights collectively to defeat the gates of hell. (Matt. 16:18)

The Church is ready to attack the gate of hell in its specific territory when all the forces of the enemy have been restrained and have fled into its gate. This type of battle is a more ORGANIZED structure of prayer, wherein the spiritual leader or Pastor guides the army of God in prayer TOGETHER in the same direction.

It is very important for the spiritual leader to be led by His Commander in Chief with regards to the specific timing and method/s of prayer against the gate. For the supernatural empowerment of God is necessary for this battle to be won!

Aside from attacking the gate, the STRONG MAN of the house will need to be bound and God will use either corporate battle or the spiritual leader to BIND the STRONG MAN of the house. After that – we can set the captive souls free. (Matt. 12:29) The results of this battle won will be a great HARVEST of souls!

Each time that the Church gains victory over a specific gate, the next phase of prayer will be “Dominion Praying.” This will continue until the Lord declares that it’s time to attack another gate through spiritual warfare.

Dominion Praying - Kingdom Prayers to MAINTAIN our victory and to advance from there.

- Not the same as WARFARE prayer but it is like “keeping our foot on the enemy’s neck.”

NOTES

Powerpoint Guide:

Slide 1 – What we are dealing with – the enemy’s gate and demonic forces outside the gate)

Slide 2 – The focus of our corporate prayers – to push the forces inside their gate.

Slide 3 – Goal to bind the strong man of the gate.

Slide 4 – The results of the battle won – great harvest of souls are available for us to reap!

*God promises to give us dominion over every City that He assigns to us. (*Matt. 16:18*)

Additional References:

- **Dominion Praying** on 11/11/20.
- See separate handout

Our Primary WEAPON of Warfare:
The Sword of the Spirit (*Ephesians 6:17*)

1. The Rhema

The Sword of the Spirit is also called as the *Rhema* or the “spoken” Word of God, or God’s thoughts being quickened into our spirit.

We use our sword in battle whenever we speak/pray the Word or the Rhema that God gives to us. We hear it and we speak it by FAITH.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2 Corinthians 4:13

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

2. Binding and Loosing

Using God’s Sword involves the process of binding and loosing, which are the KEYS of God’s kingdom.

Matthew 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt **bind** on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt **loose** on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

- **BINDING** of spirits – when we command specific spirits of darkness to be hindered and restrained in the name of Jesus by God’s power and authority.
- **LOOSING** of spirits – when we command a “release” of souls from specific demonic bondage; and when we release or loose the power of God through specific spirits of God’s Kingdom (i.e. *spirit of healing*, etc.).

3. Tongues Intercession

- **Warfare** Intercession – as you yield to warfare tongues, you are **restraining** the enemy by God’s authority and power. It’s a flow of the Spirit that sounds and feels like you are “fighting.”

NOTES

Additional Reference:
Our Offensive Weapons
(STLH - 07/01/20)

-see also *Wuest Translation*

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

- **Travail** Intercession – as you yield in travail for lost souls, you will **give birth to new souls**. It is God’s sorrow flowing through you as you intercede. This type of intercession is also necessary for spiritual babies to keep growing in Christ.

Isaiah 66:8b Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

OTHER Weapons:

1. **NAME OF JESUS** also as a “battering ram”
2. **BLOOD OF JESUS** (Exodus 12:13; Ephesians 2:13)
3. **PRAISING God** (Psalm 149:6)
4. **Ministry of ANGELS** (Hebrews 1:13-14)

Tactics of the Enemy

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

1. **Serpents** – **subtle deceptions**; appealing to our flesh or will so that we can take ownership of it; *spirits of offense, iniquity* and *religious tradition*
INIQUITY = SELF-WILL (Matt. 7:21-23; Matt 6:33)
2. **Scorpions** – **stinging accusations**; *spirit of condemnation*
3. **Other Powers** – **attempts to cause us to be afraid and intimidated**; *spirit of fear*

(this topic is covered more extensively in the next lesson)

NOTES

Psalm 149:6

Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a twoedged sword in their hand;

Put On The Whole Armor Of God (*Ephesians 6:10-18*)

We always need to have our whole armor of God on before we fight. Our Relational Prayer prepares us for battle as it corresponds to the wearing of God's armor. When you put on God's armor – it will remain on until you take it off (consciously or unconsciously).

1. The Belt or Girdle of TRUTH

- This is the foundation of everything the soldier wears: Word of God supports and holds every piece of armor together. So all of our weapons are supported by Truth.
- It protects our LOINS (our reproductive area) so that whatever is produced by our prayers is PRODUCED by TRUTH.
- What we're producing is also PROTECTED by TRUTH against the lies and falsehood.
- This foundation gives us FREEDOM and BOLDNESS as we pray!

2. Breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Covers your sins and heart with God's righteousness after we repent (1 John 1:9),
- Root word for Righteousness = INNOCENCE
- We need to receive God's righteousness as a GIFT. It is not something that we try to earn by good works.
- It is our SHIELD against CONDEMNATION (Romans 8:1).
- Without the revelation of God's BLOOD, condemnation will undermine our FAITH.

3. Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of PEACE

- The Gospel of Peace is the GOOD NEWS of Peace that God has provided us.
- All the power of the hand-to-hand combat starts with the feet! And without shoes, we can't grip the ground/God and be able to STAND in all kinds of circumstances that we will face!

NOTES

Additional Reference:
The Armor of God
(STLH 9/23/20)

Prayer Service
(STLH 02/24/21)

- We wear our shoes of peace after we have fully surrendered our will to God and after we have casted all our cares to God.
- God's peace insulates us from circumstances that affect our faith.
- And the Peace of God which is superior to and surpasses all understanding shall KEEP and GUARD and PRESERVE our HEARTS and MINDS in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

4. Shield of FAITH

- The same as the shield of TRUST wherein we trust in WHO HE IS.
- Covers both our mind and heart as we hold it up by faith.
- This shield quenches every fiery dart or temptation of the enemy! (Ephesians 6:16)
- My trust is my shield: No matter what the devil says against us – we TRUST God! No matter what the devil says against God – we trust God!
- This is a FAITH that has such CONFIDENCE in GOD that can DEFEND you in ATTACK.

5. Helmet of SALVATION

- Protects your mind by the knowledge and hope of salvation!
- The same as the **HOPE** of Salvation = the definite hope and assurance of our eternal salvation with Christ.
- HOPE is greater than faith because it is an **ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY IN GOD** that cannot be shaken, that refuses to consider anything else!
- *I AM SAVED!! I don't care what I just did or what I failed to do because HE LOVES ME!! I'm living a repentant life and I don't want one mistake to become a habit. And I'm receiving forgiveness right now because I've got a CERTAINTY and CONFIDENCE in His LOVE!!!*
- Wearing the Helmet of Salvation is **whenever our mind is protected with the certainty of salvation!**

6. Sword of the SPIRIT

- We need to take the **SWORD of the Spirit** (RHEMA) for the Spirit to give us Rhema in whatever situation that we are in.
- Rhema is a Word of God that you speak in whatever situation you are in.
- Our two-edged sword cuts coming and going!
- Our sword is both offensive and defensive.
- Using the Sword is **speaking the Word of God in faith as you hear it from God.** (2 Cor. 4:13)

Conclusion:

As enlisted soldiers in God's army, let's "*Fight the good fight of faith...*" (1 Timothy 6:12). We must be able to endure the hardness as a good soldier and not become entangled with the affairs of this world. Keep your eyes on the prize as it is all about SOULS! Remember, this world will pass away, but that which we cannot see will remain forever. (2 Cor. 4:18)

Application:

- To continually REPENT of the sin of **Iniquity!** (having a made-up mind not to follow your own will)
- To become watchful of every THOUGHT that enters into your mind by first comparing it with the Word of God. Thereby, resisting the lies of the enemy and submitting to the Word of God.
- To continually guard your PEACE by using the Self-check guide.
- To be involved in **Corporate Prayer** every month.
- To choose an hour of prayer to sign up for the **24-Hour Prayer Chain** on Wednesdays. The focus is on Spiritual Warfare/Kingdom Prayer.