

Victory Christian Center of Hollywood

A Church appointed to Advance the Kingdom of God! August 2014 Pastor MC sermon notes

Spiritual Warfare: Ready or not-It's here! Are you prepared? Believers, we must be prepared.

Introduction:

Spiritual warfare is not fun and games. It is not some kids running around in devil costumes on Halloween or a spooky horror movie television.

Satan and the demons under his control are real beings with warped personalities, wicked hearts and malicious intents. They are more powerful than humans, but they are not God nor anywhere near to God.

Who is the devil: Is a Liar: A murderer: A sower of discord: An adversary: Cunning: Wicked: Malignant-totally evil: Cowardly: A tempter: A thief: Without Principles: Proud: Deceitful: Fierce and cruel: Aggressive: A destroyer:

The Devil works: Sin, Sickness, fear, death, depression, murder, temptation, deception. Lust and rebellion.

Ignorance:

Ignorance of the Word can leave openings/cracks and entry in our defenses that are devastating. Paul reminds us –he warns us 6 times: “not to be ignorant” concerning the word of God. If you don't know your rights as a child of God, how can you defend yourself?

Open Doors:

Do we leave cracks and openings for the devil? The word of God warns us: Eph. 4:27 Amplified:²⁷ Leave no [such] room or foothold for the devil [give no opportunity to him].

When we allow openings and cracks in our spiritual lives, we give the devil access to do what he wants to do. And in a lot of cases, the believers are unaware.

The open door principle is found in Genesis 4:7:

⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin crouches at your door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.

God told Cain that Satan was crouched at his doorway, waiting to leap into his life. Cain had the choice, and because he chose to open the door to the enemy to jealousy, Satan led him into the murder of his brother, Abel.

Make no mistake about it: Sin is progressive: One thing leads to another until we find ourselves in big trouble, for that reason, we must learn to close those doors, and keep them closed, before they bring harm, hurt and destruction into our lives. Make sure all sins are repented before God.

Expect Tribulation: The Kingdom of God tells us-we will go through it: The Apostle Paul says the following:

1. We must go through many tribulations to enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).
2. On several occasions he details what some of this tribulation can be expected to look like.
3. Perilous times will come and people will arise who are lovers of themselves, lovers of money, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unloving, unforgiving, brutal and despisers of good (see 2 Tim. 3:1-5)
4. He speaks of the persecutions that he suffered, and says, "All who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will suffer persecutions" (2 Tim. 3:10-12).
5. He desires that we ..."be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer" (2 Thess. 1:5). He was physically driven out of city after city and stoned to death in one of them.

First stop: Put on Your Armor: Eph. 6:10: ¹⁰ A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we^[c] are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.^[d] ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.^[e] ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.^[f]

Know these things for Victory:

1. We are in a life and death struggle. We must stay under the covering of the Blood of Jesus. Call out for the Power and precious Holy Spirit-the Powerful Name of Jesus-come into agreement with Believers for our Victory as we move into a higher level of Praise and worship.

"The kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force" (Matt. 11:12). That is why Paul said, "We must though many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

2. **Obedience** to God's word is top priority: As Believers we must not bow to no one except God and His ways of doing things.

3. **Have Faith:** Speak Faith: Act in Faith: Walk in Faith and act like a child of God. Having faith with corresponding action-pleases God. Hebrews 11:6
As Believers in Christ, we must approach spiritual warfare wisely; there are four dimensions, which must be carefully considered:

- 1) Our weapons of warfare;
- 2) Our spiritual authority;
- 3) Our engagement with the enemy;
- 4) Our plan of action

1. Our Weapons of Warfare

The Bible is clear: "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds" (2 Cor. 10:3-4).

What, then, are the weapons of our warfare?

1. Prayer

A chief New Testament passage on spiritual warfare is Ephesians 6 where we are told that, "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" (Eph. 6:12). We are told to put on the full armor of God, 'praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit' (Eph. 6:18). Without prayer we are impotent in our struggle with the enemy.

If prayer is the central activity for spiritual warfare, the central attitude for those of us in battle is faith and obedience. At one point when Jesus was on earth, His disciples tried to cast a demon out of an epileptic boy and could not. After Jesus stepped in, cast out the demon and healed the boy, the disciples asked Him why they couldn't do it. Jesus said, "Because of your unbelief" (Matt. 17:20). The disciples lacked the faith to succeed in that episode of spiritual warfare. Jesus tried to encourage them by telling them that as their faith increases they will have the power to move mountains, and 'nothing will be impossible for you' (Matt. 17:20).

Faith cannot be understood apart from obedience to God. How do we know if we really have the kind of faith that draws us into a relationship with God? 'Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him' (1 John 2:3-4). Faith without works is dead.

2.The Name of Jesus

Mark quotes Jesus as saying that we cast out demons in Jesus' name (Mk. 16:17). John quotes Jesus as saying, 'If you ask anything in My name I will do it' (Jn. 14:14). Paul says that God gave Jesus the name, which is above every name (Phil. 2:9), just to mention a few examples.

3. The Blood of Jesus

Revelation 12 relates one of the fiercest episodes of spiritual warfare imaginable. Michael and his angels are fighting against the dragon and his angels. Michael wins 'by the blood of the Lamb' (Rev. 12:11).

When Jesus shed His blood on the cross, Satan's power was definitively broken. It was on the cross the Jesus 'disarmed principalities and powers' and 'made a public spectacle of them' (Col. 2:14-15). Satan hates nothing more than to be reminded of the blood of Jesus. The cross is an embarrassment to him. Every soul saved by the blood of Jesus is a further embarrassment to him. Satan cannot stand his ground against the blood of Jesus.

4. Agreement

Undoubtedly the greatest day in the history of the church was the day of Pentecost. On that day 'they were all with one accord' (Acts 2:1). The accord was 'in prayer and supplication' (Acts 1:14). Few weapons of spiritual warfare are more effective than agreement in prayer.

What is it we agree upon? We agree first of all on what the Word of God is saying to us. Then we agree on what we see the Father doing by the Holy Spirit. Even Jesus said He did only what He saw the Father doing (see Jn. 5:19). It is possible for us to know individually what the Father is doing, but given our human tendency toward the world and the flesh we are on much safer ground when others agree with us.

Jesus sums it up when He says, 'If two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven' (Mt. 18:19). This is one reason why corporate prayer is so important in spiritual warfare. When numbers of believers in one local church or from many churches in the same area get together to agree in prayer, power against the enemy increases dramatically.

5. Fasting

The highest-level power encounter of all time was Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. As a part of it, Jesus fasted for 40 days. Did that weaken Him? yes, it weakened Him physically, but it strengthened Him spiritually. Paul says, 'When I am weak, then I am strong' (2 Cor. 12:10).

With the right attitude and with God's timing and guidance, fasting is one of our most useful weapons.

6. Praise

We often think of praise only as an expression of joy when something good happens to us. We hear of some victory and say, almost as a reflex action, 'Praise the Lord!' But there is more to praise than that. Our praise, under any circumstances, blesses God. The Psalmist says, 'Every day I will bless You and I will praise Your name forever and ever' (Ps. 145:2).

7. The Word of the God

In Ephesians 6 the full armor of God is described in detail. Of the six pieces of armor, (Helmet of salvation, Breast plate of righteousness, Belt of Truth, Shield of faith, Feet shod with the gospel of peace) five are defensive weapons and only one offensive - the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (Eph. 6:17).

What is the word of God?

The use of the written word of God, the scriptures, is a powerful weapon of warfare as we see in the temptation of Jesus. As a response to all three attacks of the devil, Jesus quoted the Old Testament scriptures and the devil could not resist.

But there is also a spoken word of God, a rhema, which I will explain in more detail later on. At this point I simply want to indicate that hearing a fresh, spoken word of God is an important part of using the sword of the Spirit.

Knowing God's will by receiving the word of God and acting accordingly is crucial to effective spiritual warfare. Fasting is related to this since it makes our spiritual ears more sensitive, and agreement with other believers helps protect us when we are hearing as accurately as we should. When accurately discerned, the word of God is an extremely powerful weapon.

The weapons of our warfare are spiritual, not carnal. As we mature in the things of God we will better learn how to use the name of Jesus, the blood of Jesus, agreement, fasting, praise and the word of God. These are not the only weapons we have for spiritual warfare we have, but they are extremely important in resisting the enemy.

Closing Power Points to remember when seeking help from Heaven:

1. Prayer is top priority
2. The Name of Jesus: Phil 2:
3. The Blood of Jesus: Rev. 12:11
4. The Power of the precious Holy Spirit
5. Agreement: Matt. 18:19
6. Fasting: Matt 4
7. Praise: Read Psalms-the last 5 books
8. The Word of God: Eph 6:17

Let's Pray

I Praise and Bless Your Holy Name today. I love You Lord. From the rising of the sun until the going down of the same-I will Praise and bless Your name.

Thank You Lord for loving me, for dying on the Cross for me-my family and for the whole world. Thank You Jesus. I believe You are the Son of the Living God. You are my Lord and Saviour-Jesus: Thank You Lord. I declare today and forever more- I believe in the Power of the Blood of Jesus.

Lord, I repent for any known and unknown sins in my life that have caused my blessings to be hindered. I thank You that I walk in agreement to Your word: There is no strife-disagreement-disharmony and contention in my life because of disobedience to Your word.

Holy Spirit, thank You for leading and guiding me into all Truth-the Truth of God's word. I believe God's word is the ultimate authority in the world today. I humbly submit in obedience to Your word for my Victory. Thank You Lord –in Jesus name.

Now, I take my authority that Jesus give me: Satan, I command you to go-I caste you out-in Jesus name. You have no authority here. Jesus is Lord. It is written- man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Thank You Lord for my Victory-In Jesus name Amen