

OVERCOMING THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE WITHIN AND WITHOUT

We dwell in the midst of an INVISIBLE BATTLE which manifests in the VISIBLE realm. We must remember that GOD HIMSELF IS NOT AT WAR; He has already won! We are observing that iniquity, a “measure of guilt”, is being “filled up”; Matthew 23:32; Genesis 15:16; Joel 3:13, while at the same time, God has a people who are coming to the “measure of the stature” of the fullness of Christ; Ephesians 4:13

1. ENEMIES that we wrestle with:

- a. The World; James 4:1-4
- b. The Devil and his hierarchy of darkness; 1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:12
- c. The Flesh; 1 Peter 4:1-4

2. CONFLICTS WITHIN AND WITHOUT are noted in both Old and New Testaments:

- a. “Two nations” (Esau and Jacob), “struggled” together within Rebekah’s womb. The spirit man must prevail over the fleshly man; Genesis 25:22-24; Romans 8:5, 7
- b. Scripture describes two “laws” at work; a “war” waged within Paul; Rom. 7:19-25; 8:2
- c. The O.T. records Israel’s wars and Jesus said that wars would increase; Matthew 24:6

3. AS A SOLDIER, we must watch out for “landmines” (traps) that are set by the enemy:

- a. Take authority over fear: Jesus said “Fear not, I have overcome the world”; John 16:33
- b. Know what your spiritual weapons are and how to use them; Ephesians 6:11-17
- c. Fight the good fight of faith and endure hardness; 1 Timothy 1:18; 2 Timothy 2:3
- d. Resist the devil; give him no place (ground, room, opportunity); James 4:7; Eph. 4:27
- e. Don’t allow yourself to become entangled with the affairs of this life; 2 Timothy 2:4
- f. Stay focused on your own assignment: don’t compare yourself with others and practice discipline which includes fasting; 2 Corinthians 10:12; Matthew 9:14-15

4. THE MIND IS A BATTLEFIELD; every action (godly or sinful) begins as a thought:

- a. We must bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ; 2 Corinthians 10:5
- b. The helmet of salvation (right thinking) must be firmly in place; Ephesians 6:17
- c. We are transformed by the renewing of our minds (which are under assault); we must meditate in God’s Word; Romans 12:2; Ps. 119:148; Ephesians 4:23
- d. The Old Testament example of a “consecrated mind” was seen on the headpiece of the high priest; the inscription was “Holiness unto the Lord”; Exodus 28:36-38; 1 Cor. 2:16
- e. Jesus had to endure the battle against His mind when the devil tempted Him in the wilderness; and when He was in the Garden of Gethsemane; Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 14:34-36

BIBLICAL TERMS associated with a SPIRITUAL BATTLE:

1. PRAYER – There are different kinds of prayer which include:

- a. The prayer of Agreement – two or more united in agreement; Matt. 18:19; 1 Peter 3:7
- b. The prayer of Faith – faith is a tangible substance; Heb. 11:1; James 5:15; 1 John 5:4
- c. The prayer of Petition – making our requests known to God; 1 John 5:15; Phil. 4:6
- d. The prayer of Supplication – “to entreat, beseech, implore”; Hebrews 5:7; Eph. 6:18
- e. The prayer of Intercession – it is the Spirit of the Son pleading through us, crying out to God in behalf of others; Hebrews 7:25

2. INTERCESSION – the Greek word is “Enteuxis”

- a. It is a technical (legal) term that is used for approaching, or coming before a king
- b. It means “to meet with in order to converse by making petition; to plead”

c. The Hebrew word means “to come between”; it involves “standing in the gap” for another; Isaiah 59:16; Ezekiel 22:30; Psalm 106:23

d. Being filled with the Holy Spirit empowers us to pray in other tongues, to travail and groan with the Spirit; Romans 8:26-27, 34; 1 Corinthians 14:2, 4; 14-18

3. SPIRITUAL WARFARE – the term used to describe warfare in the realm of the spirit

a. It is against principalities, powers and rulers of the darkness of this world; Eph. 6:12

b. It is warfare in heavenly places; Revelation 12:7

4. THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE

a. Our spiritual weapons are not carnal (fleshly), but mighty through God; 2 Cor. 10:3-5

b. The armor of light, the whole armor of God; Romans 13:12; Ephesians 6:13-17

c. Expressions of Praise and Worship are weapons; 2 Chron. 20:21-22; John 4:23-24

d. The Blood and Name of Jesus Christ are weapons; Matt. 10:1 Acts 3:6, 16; Rev. 12:11

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR SUCCESS IN THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE:

1. A Lifestyle of Praise and Worship; Ps. 149:6-9. Scripture reveals different expressions and forms of Praise and Worship. There is a pattern and an order:

a. The MOUTH

(1) Voice

(2) Singing

(3) Shouting

b. THE HANDS

(1) Clapping

(2) Lifting

(3) Instruments

c THE BODY

(1) Standing

(2) Bowing/Kneeling

(3) Dancing

2. We must be motivated by compassion and love; Matthew 14:14; 18:33

3. We must have godly character, humility and repentance; Ps. 66:18-19; Luke 18:10-14

4. We must remain watchful and sober; 1 Thessalonians 5:6; Matthew 26:40-41

5. Pray in the name of Jesus (Yeshua), according to God’s will; John 14:13; 1 John 5:14

6. Pray according to the pattern given by Jesus to the disciples; Matthew 6:9-15

7. Pray without ceasing; and without vain repetitions; 1 Thess. 5:17; Matthew 6:7-8

8. We must be bold and be specific in requests; Heb. 4:16; 10:19; Luke 11:9-10

9. We pray in secret, in public, and in any posture; Matt. 6:6; 18:20; Acts 10:2, 30

10. Prayer is measured by intensity, not by length; Matthew 7:7-11; James 5:16

11. Our lives and relationships must be in order; no discord in home; Prov. 6:14-19

12. Take inventory at home: remove forbidden images, cursed things; Deut. 7:25-26

THE CONDITION OF SPIRITUAL DECEPTION:

1. Jesus said that the end of the age is marked by deception, and that it is possible for the elect to be deceived; Matthew 24:4-5, 24

2. The devil (satan), who is called the father of lies, perverts the truth; John 8:44

3. False doctrine and false teaching abounds because people are not grounded in foundational, biblical truth; Hebrews 6:1-2

4. People are ignorant of satan’s devices; they do not discern the spirits that are in operation; 1 Corinthians 12:10; 2 Corinthians 2:11

5. Deception is due to an unregenerate condition; Ephesians 4:18

6. Smooth talk and flattering speech can deceive those who are naïve; Romans 16:17-18

7. Deception causes spiritual blindness; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 2:11; Rev. 3:17-18

8. Counterfeit manifestations, lying signs and wonders are increasing; it is necessary to test the spirits. All supernatural experiences are not of God; 2 Thess. 2:9; 1 John 4:1

Terri Hill

