

Spiritual Warfare

We Have an Enemy and It's Not Each Other

Sunday, September 19, 2010

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Message Truth:

So far in this series we have learned that the first step in our warfare plan is the realization that we do have an enemy but that it is not one another. We have learned that Jesus has and continues to pray for our spiritual protection and unity. Our unity is critically important for our ability to engage in spiritual warfare. In the Model Prayer and His High Priestly Prayer, Jesus taught us to pray for protection from the evil one. Today we will seek to understand how Satan tempts us through our desires so that we will be better able to defend against his attacks upon ourselves and others.

Methods of Satan's Attacks

● For the Believer

1. Satan's ultimate goal for believers is a compromised and fruitless life beset by heresy and sin.

⁸ *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.* 1 Peter 5:8 (NASB)

The most basic understanding for spiritual warfare.

⁷ **Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.** James 4:7 (NASB)

1. Temptation

¹⁵ *Do not love the world, nor 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 and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.**

1 John 2:15-16 (NASB)

- Flesh {Lust of the Flesh}
The desire to enjoy
- D_____ {Lust of the Eyes}
The desire to obtain

⁸ *But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.* ⁹ *People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.* ¹⁰ *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.* 1 Timothy 6:8-10

We all have to better distinguish needs from wants.

Being careful how we walk requires us to:

- Make the m_____ of our time (stewardship)
- Not be foolish or drunken
- Be filled with the Spirit. This will:
 - affect our speech
 - make us break out in song
 - give us a grateful heart
 - cause us to be subject to one another

- R_____ {Pride of Life}
The desire to accomplish

²³ For **rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.** Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.
1 Samuel 15:23 (KJV)

“ . . . pleasing self, is the great sin of man, . . . a Christian is a man who is to never seek his own will, but is always to seek the will of God, . . . ” - *The Master's Indwelling*, Andrew Murray

It is through submitting to one another and practicing the spiritual disciplines which Andrew presented on Sep. 5th that we rein in our selfish natures.

³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world **because of sinful desire.** ⁵ **For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,** ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ For **if these qualities are yours and are increasing,** they keep you from being **ineffective** or **unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For **whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind,** having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if **you practice these qualities you will never fall.**
2 Peter 1:3–10 (ESV)

To escape sinful desires, supplement your faith with:

- v _____,
- k _____,
- s _____ - c _____,
- s _____,
- g _____,
- b _____ a _____,
- l _____.

Whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted he has become blind!

Do you suffer from spiritual myopia and blindness?

Spiritual myopia occurs when we say, “my will, not thy will be done.” This at the root of all carnality. Common carnality has infected the churches of America today. Spiritual Christians are not perfect, but the predominance of their life will be obedience and self-denial. As Peter says (1 Pet. 1:8), these Christian virtues will be increasing, and by necessity the works of the flesh or sinful desires will be decreasing.

⁵ Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;
Romans 8:5–6

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;
² and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.
Ephesians 5:1-2 (NASB)