

# Spiritual Warfare

## We Have an Enemy and It's Not Each Other

Sunday, September 26, 2010

Pastor Warner Smith

### 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 in our own pride, 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.

<sup>8</sup> *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.

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

### 1. Temptation

<sup>15</sup> *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.* <sup>16</sup> ***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*
- Desires {Lust of the Eyes}  
*The desire to obtain*
- R\_\_\_\_\_ {Pride of Life}  
***The desire to accomplish***

<sup>23</sup> ***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. 5<sup>th</sup> that we rein in our selfish natures.

<sup>3</sup> *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, <sup>4</sup> 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.** <sup>5</sup> **For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,** <sup>6</sup> **and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,** <sup>7</sup> **and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.** <sup>8</sup> **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.** <sup>9</sup> **For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.** <sup>10</sup> **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, these Christian virtues will be increasing, and by necessity the works of the flesh or sinful desires will be decreasing.

<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;

Romans 8:5–6

<sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; <sup>2</sup> 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)

**Faith:** When I came to the foot of the hill called Difficulty, I met with a very aged man, who asked me what I was, and whither bound. I told him that I was a pilgrim, going to the Celestial City. Then said the old man, Thou lookest like an honest fellow; wilt thou be content to dwell with me for the wages that I shall give thee? Then I asked his name, and where he dwelt? He said his name was Adam the First, and that he dwelt in the town of Deceit. I asked him then what was his work, and what the wages that he would give. He told me that his work was *many delights*; and his wages, that I should be his heir at last. I further asked him, what house he kept, and what other servants he had. So he told me that his house was maintained with all the dainties of the world, . . . Then I asked how many children he had. He said that he had but three daughters, the Lust of the Flesh, the Lust of the Eyes, and the Pride of Life, and that I should marry them if I would. Then I asked, how long time he would have me live with him; And he told me, as long as he lived himself.

- Pilgrims Progress *The Fifth Stage*