

(Demonism-part 2)

2. The Spiritual Warfare.

- a. All believers are all in a state of warfare against a powerful, dark and wicked army. We are in a fierce struggle, and this warfare is in the mind.

Ephesians 6:12, "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against, rulers, against powers, against the world forces of darkness, against the forces of wickedness in heavenlies.

- b. The "heavenlies" show that the battle is part of the angelic conflict. The host refers to the unseen powers arrayed against God's people. The Christian who fails to consider the implications is a fool.
- c. All believers are forewarned to be forearmed: to put on the whole armor of God for this conflict. "Put on" is the aorist middle imperative, you put it on yourself. Notice that God did not say just pray and be sincere. "Full" means all of it; no part can be neglected! The battle is for the mind. This armor of God is prepared by God for his people, and without it the believer will be brainwashed by kosmos diabolicus and end up spiritually, mentally and psychologically damaged.

Ephesians 6:11, Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

- d. What are you to stand against? What are the schemes of the devil? What is the objective of all of Satan's schemes? Keep you from understanding the Lord, walking with the Lord, and growing in the Lord!

3. **Regardless of where the believer is, he must remember that the Lord is faithful and will never forsake him.** God promised to always be with us and never hand us over to the enemy. What a promise! This promise must be claimed before there can be true courage. God has not left us to fight this battle in our own strength. God's faithful presence means that there is always hope. He will be with you through the wilderness of such things as divorce, sickness, through misery, and any and all types of difficulties.

1 John 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

- 4. Victory always comes through the supremacy of the Word of God.** There is no victory apart from the supremacy of the Word of God in our lives. Without Bible doctrine there will only be defeat and misery. The Word of God is key to any appropriation of God grace and power. God's Word contains all we need to appropriate the power of God in our lives to defeat the enemy and whatever else stands between us and the promised supergrace life:

Joshua 1:5 "No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. 6 "Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 "Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. 8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. 9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

- 5. The believer is not to be ignorant or apathetic about the schemes of Satan lest he be taken advantage of by him.** Most Christians have no clue about the philosophy of Satan. They are totally unaware of how Satan loves to get people into religion (religion is man by man's efforts trying to please God; religion is anti-grace) instead of a genuine growing relationship with God. Consider how blind society is to Satan; society has no clue how Satan always promotes human good and religion.

2 Corinthians 2:11 in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

- a. The schemes of Satan are all designed to get the believer to live by kosmos diabolicus in every area of his life from growing in knowledge of the true nature of God ('Ehyeh) to every other relationship, e.g. marriage, family, work.
- b. Satan rules the world and distracts believers through his schemes, which become the thought patterns of the mind. It is through the mind that Satan works. He is very active in most churches today as evidenced by lack of teaching and the catering to pagan views of God just to get more people in the church.
- c. Satan is alive. He is real, and very active wrecking lives in the church, in government, and through internet porn, where is able to plant images in young minds that destroy capacity for future blessedness and fulfillment of sex in marriage.
- d. Demons are Satan's goons who are constantly at work by distorting God's Word and getting God's people out of fellowship with Him. Look at the acrimony in government. Look at the emptiness and shallowness of people's

views of God and the spiritual life. Note all of the bitterness and vindictiveness against Christianity. Note how good is called evil and evil is called good. Note the sweet wickedness of the prosperity movement in America. We are in real trouble.

Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

- e. Satan's satellite dish in America is in good working order.
- f. The believer is commanded to be alert to the activities of Satan and his demons. The only way to be aware is to know the true nature of God, His plan, His grace, and live and walk with Him. Most Americans probably do not even believe Satan exists, and he loves that. There is a reason we are not where we ought to be, and it is not because of God or lack of His grace. Satan is very effective in getting the believer to waste day after day thinking about stuff rather than the marvelous Lord and His grace—year after year become more calloused and cynical about the things of God, instead of growing and growing and growing in 'Ehyeh. The average Christian has no idea of how pride in his own life affects his volition to Bible doctrine, and how much Satan can use that pride to gut the believer's spiritual life.

6. Satan gains victory through the mind.

2 Corinthians 11:3, But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

- a. Capture a man's mind and you have him. All Satan has to do is to get his ideas in the head of a man to influence him. As a man thinks so he is. What you think is what you are.
- b. Paul makes it clear that the battle is in the mind, which can be corrupted so easily, and which leads to being led astray from devotion to Jesus Christ. Ever wonder why you cannot remember Scriptures when you need them, or why you cannot concentrate on the Word, or why your mind wanders at prayer?
- c. Ever wonder why believers would attack a pastor-teacher who is teaching truth and actually complain about the teaching of 'Ehyeh/Esse, the only name in the Bible that describes the true *nature* of God? Ever wonder why believers would rather sit home and watch TV than come to Bible class? I could go on and on and on ad nauseam, but you get the point: minds are corrupted by Satan's cosmic system—all unbeknownst to those minds.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

- a. The winner believer is able to take his thoughts captive to knowledge of God and obedience to Christ.
- b. The winner believer has victory in the mind.
- c. The winner believer has the mindset of Jesus Christ, Philip. 2:5, Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus; 1 Cor 2:16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE SHOULD INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.
- d. The mind of man is the theater of satanic operation. The extent to which Satan can influence the thoughts of people, is the extent to which he can control them. He influences billions daily through television programs, which constantly pump out his philosophy. Although Satan can only be at one place at one time, he can influence billions at once through the boob tube
- e. Satan's philosophy is the result of increasing health problems among Americans. Up to 85% of illness are psychosomatic. The percentage of stress related illness is even higher. A person's mind seriously affects his body.
- f. Satan is the god of this world who continues to blind the world regarding the Truth and glory of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.