

Spiritual Warfare

Part 1 “We Are in A War”

Key Scripture:

Eph. 6:11-12

“Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (ESV)

1. We Are in A War

Paul is describing the spiritual warfare that every person is involved in as soon as they yield to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

2. Two Kingdoms

Every war has opposing sides. In this war, they are the Kingdom of God, or the Kingdom of Light, and the Kingdom of Satan, the Kingdom of Darkness.

Characteristics

Kingdom of God – Light	Kingdom of Satan – Darkness
• Holiness, righteousness	• Sin, wickedness, unrighteousness
• Truth, justice	• Deception, injustice
• Beauty, peace, joy	• Vileness, turmoil, sorrow
• Creativity, productivity	• Destruction, loss
• Healing, life	• Sickness, disease, death
• Ultimate goodness and love	• Hatred of all that is good

Domains

Every kingdom has a domain, the extent of its authority.

Kingdom of God:

- God is the ruler over all that is!

1 Chronicles 29:11

“Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.”

- Ultimately, only God’s kingdom will remain.

Rev. 11:15

“The kingdoms of this world have now become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

- Everything in it will bear his image and express his nature.

Rev. 21:25

“And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, ... and there will be no night [darkness] there.”

- We live in an age in between.

Heb. 2:8-9

“Putting everything in subjection under his feet...At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.”

Like an election process, where the outcome is decided on election day, but not fully realized until a later inauguration day, God’s kingdom rules over everything now, but we do not yet see everything subject to his authority.

In this present age, there’s a war going on. But the outcome is already decided, and we’re on the winning side!

Don’t study demonic entities and spiritual warfare without first beholding the glory, the majesty, and the ultimate authority of Almighty God!

Kingdom of Satan:

- Satan has a measure of authority, within the sovereignty of God.

John 14:30 Jesus calls Satan *“the ruler of this world.”*

- Satan is the god of this world order. He has influence over the hearts and minds of unredeemed mankind.

Eph. 2:1-2

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.”

All earthly systems – governments, education, finance – are corrupted by sin and therefore under the influence of Satan. Even activities born of good intentions by the will of sinful man *“are as filthy rags”* in God’s eyes and are at war against the coming of the Kingdom of God in this age.

3. Two wrong views of this conflict:

- a. Too much emphasis on Satan’s kingdom.

Some see an evil spiritual power directly at work in every sniffle, fender bender, or appliance failure.

This is giving the devil way too much credit. Satan is NOT – omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent.

b. No awareness of spiritual conflict.

Others fail to recognize that spiritual enemies even exist. This opposite end of the spectrum is equally mistaken, and at least as dangerous. Demonic powers are real, and this battle is for real!

Satan's every intention is to *"kill, steal, and destroy"* (**John 10:10**). No one is exempt from his hatred and murderous intentions.

1 Peter 5:8 *"Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."*

However, we do not have to fear Satan.

1 John 4:4 *"Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."*

We were all bound by sin, imprisoned by the kingdom of darkness until Jesus came and set us free to live under the rule of God.

Col. 1:13 *"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son."*

Jesus set us free, then assigned us to wage war against our former captors with the same power He used to deliver us!

Matt 16:18 *"I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

Now, not only do we have victory through Christ for our own lives, we are to be the deliverers of those who are still held captive!