

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Topic: Spiritual Warfare
Text: Matt 12:25-28

Wednesday, July 31, 2024
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In Matthew 12:25-28 and in Luke 11:17-20 Jesus speaks about two kingdoms which are in opposition to each other: the kingdom of God (or of heaven) and the kingdom of Satan. Until the present age closes, these two kingdoms will continue to coexist. The kingdom of God includes all created beings who are submitted to His righteous government while the kingdom of Satan includes all who are in rebellion against God's government.

Though spiritual warfare is fought primarily in the spirit the effects can be seen all around us:

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:12)

"For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8). Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7).

The conflict is between two kingdoms - the kingdom of God and that of the devil: *"If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand?...But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."* Luke 11:18,20 NIV. The objective of the conflict is the control and dominance of the souls of men, so that the will of the victor will be established. Nobody is free from the influence and control of these two kingdoms.

Where Does Spiritual Warfare Take Place?

1. Heavenly Places

Spiritual warfare in heavenly places concerns nations and territories. Believers participate at this level only through intercession, petitions and supplication.

E.g. Daniel's experience in Daniel 10:13. The overthrow of satan and his cohort in Rev.12:7-9. This is where the enemies in Ephesians 6:12 referred to as Principalities and Powers operate.

2. On Earth

Normally, the earth is the exclusive domain of human beings - Psalm 115:16-18. But satan and his demons seek to control the lives and affairs of men. So they seek to be worshipped through false religions, possess unbelievers, influence believers (remember "Get thee behind me satan" - Matt.16:23) to act against the will of God.

3. The Mind:

The battleground of spiritual warfare is the mind of people. Prov.4:23, *“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”* NIV

Romans 12:2, *“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Satan controls the world system through lies, deception, ignorance and arguments that are against God’s word.

His biggest lie is to tell people that he does not exist!

Our Victory in Spiritual Warfare

Christ’s victory over sin, satan and death helps us to engage in spiritual warfare from a position of victory. We are partakers of Christ’s victory over Satan, but we need to exercise the authority that belongs to us from the position of reigning with Christ over principalities and powers before it will profit us - Eph.2:6, *“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus”* NIV.

Luke 10:19, *“I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.”*

Our Spiritual Armor - as soldiers of Christ 2 Tim:2:4

2 Corinthians 10:4 says, *“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.”* And Ephesians 6:13, *“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”*



1. Helmet of Salvation
2. Belt of Truth
3. Breastplate of Righteousness
4. Shield of Faith
5. Sword of the Spirit
6. **Prayer** - the act of war itself: Lk.18:1; Phl.4:6
7. **Praise** - 2 Chronicles 20:22; Ps.149:6-9
8. **Love** - Rom.12:20; Prov.25:22

The Full Armor of God - Ephesians 6:14-17.

Weapons of spiritual warfare:

Praise: 2 Chronicles 20 King Jehoshaphat led the people to fast and praise God while facing an ambush and God gave a word, revelation knowledge and victory came. Zech. 4: 6 ...by my spirit says the Lord. Acts 16:25, Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns to God at midnight while in prison, and the other prisoners listened

Prayer, faith and courage : 1 Kings 18:20-40 Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal. He put his head in between his legs and prayed. Romans 8:26 in the Bible says, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered"

James 5: 17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. We pray because we have the authority to demolish strongholds, to break patterns that we observe in families, nations, to set people free, break the power of darkness that is controlling the lives of people 2 Cor :10 3 -5

Why do we do spiritual warfare:

Because Jesus already defeated the devil: Colossians 2:15 And having spoiled (disarmed) principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Jesus wants us to do greater works than he did. John 14:12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

And what did Jesus do? Acts 10:38 how God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil, for God was with him.

Go and do likewise!!!