



2.16 - Spiritual Warfare - Introduction.

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(Scriptures from KJV)

Refer to the following Subjects.

- 1.01 - Easter - What is it really all About.
- 1.02 - Salvation.
- 1.03 - Your New Identity In Christ Jesus.
- 1.04 - The Word Of God.
- 1.05 - The Authority Of The Believer.

1. For We do not Wrestle against Flesh and Blood.

Foundation Scripture.

Eph. 6:10-18 (Full Armour of God)

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ **Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.** ¹² **For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.** ¹³ **Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.** ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: ¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; (KJV)

- Our battle is not against people (**flesh & blood**), but against spiritual forces (**principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**) that are opposed or in opposition to God, His Word, His Kingdom and His Creations.
- There is a spiritual world and a natural physical world that we live in. The spiritual world is often referred to the supernatural realm, “super” meaning “above the natural”.
- The spiritual realm came 1st (Gen.1:1-2) and then the physical world came 2nd (Gen.1:3-19) that we now live in. To use an illustration one could say the spirit realm is the “parent” and the natural realm is the “child” which is still subject to the parent. In other words the natural realm is still subject to the authority of the spiritual realm.

2. Creation of the Spirit and Natural Realms.

Genesis Ch.1 (complete)

Gen. 1:1-2 (God who is spirit created the natural or physical)

¹ In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. ² And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. (KJV)

Gen. 1:3-25

³ And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. ⁴ And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵ And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. ⁶ And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. ⁷ And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. ⁸ And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day. ⁹ **And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.** ¹⁰ **And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.** (KJV)



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John 1:1-5 (Spirit before the natural)

¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² The same was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life; and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. (KJV)*

John 1:14

¹⁴ *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (KJV)*

- In these scripture also we see that all things were made through the Word and God and in verse 14 we also see that the “Word” is Jesus.
- Then we have the right to say that all things were made by Jesus, the Word, by God.

3. The Battle in the Spirit.

As Christians, we are in a spiritual battle of some sort on a daily basis. In warfare, battles are fought on different fronts, for different reasons, and with varying degrees of intensity. The same is true in spiritual warfare.

- Our spiritual battles and warfare are real, even though we cannot physically see the attacker. But, we can educate ourselves on how the battles are fought and how they impact our lives on a daily basis.

But the **Matthew 28:18** verse is not only about our salvation; it is also about our victory every day.

¹⁸ *And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (KJV)*

- Every day victory is achieved by knowing, believing and understanding the battles that we are enduring daily, regardless if we are passive or active in the battles.

Nehemiah 9:6

⁶ *Thou, even you, art Lord alone; you have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, **with all their host**, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preserve them all; and **the host of heaven** worships you. (KJV)*

Luke 2:13-15

¹³ *And suddenly there was with **the angel a multitude of the heavenly host** praising God, and saying, ¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. ¹⁵ And it came to pass, as **the angels** were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord has made known unto us. (KJV)*

Ephesians 6:12

¹² *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, **but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.** (KJV)*

Colossians 1:15-16

¹⁵ *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: ¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, **visible and invisible**, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: (KJV)*



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Hebrews 11:3, what is required for us to believe?

³ *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. (KJV)*

However, since we do not see it, we often fail to believe in it. If we do not believe in it, then we cannot be aware of all that is going on, for and against us.

- Whether we choose to believe in the existence of spiritual beings and places does not change the fact of their existence and their activities.
- We believe with the eyes of our heart, instead of with the eyes in our head. There have been others who were able to see with their physical eyes into the spiritual realm.

2 Kings 6:11-17

¹¹ *Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?* ¹² *And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in thy bedchamber.* ¹³ *And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan.* ¹⁴ *Therefore sent he there horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.* ¹⁵ *And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?* ¹⁶ *And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.* ¹⁷ *And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray you, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. (KJV)*

Daniel 10:7-17

⁷ *And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. (KJV)*

The stories above represent two different times of activity that are taking place in the invisible realm around us. God allowed these men in the physical realm to see into the spiritual realm.

- The Lord opened the eyes of Elisha's servant to see the host of God's army. His spiritual eyes were opened to see into the spiritual warfare around him.
- And only Daniel saw the angel standing before him as everyone else felt the "terror" and fled from the scene. Daniel was granted an access to see, hear and speak spiritually, as he could communicate with the angel.

The Bible explicitly warns against the practice of spiritual fascinations. Just as the agents of God exist in this invisible place, so do the agents of Satan.

- The demonic forces want to lure us into their deceptions of power and supernatural activities. Witchcraft, horoscopes and psychic phenomenon can seem innocent on the surface yet are a dangerous influence causing great harm to those who get involved.

Leviticus 19:26-31

²⁶ *You shall not eat anything with the blood: neither shall you use enchantment, nor observe times.* ²⁷ *You shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shalt you mar the corners of thy beard.* ²⁸ *You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the Lord.* ²⁹ *Do not prostitute your daughter, to cause her to be a whore; lest the land fall to whoredom, and the land become full of wickedness.*



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³⁰ You shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord. ³¹ Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God. (KJV)

Deuteronomy 18:9-14

⁹ When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth you, you shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. ¹⁰ There shall not be found among you any one that makes his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that uses divination (witchcraft), or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, ¹¹ Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. ¹² For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord your God does drive them out from before you. ¹³ You shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God. ¹⁴ For these nations, which you shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for you, the Lord thy God hath not suffered you so to do. (KJV)

There are forces, both angelic and demonic, that are actively working around us. There is evil that we fight in our spiritual warfare.

- We need to understand that the battle is not against flesh and blood but against powers in the heavenly places. As we begin to get a revelation of the spiritual warfare, we will begin to understand how the enemy moves against us in the physical realm.

4. The Battle in the World.

We, as believers, are told to not conform to this world, of how others live, but to live to please God, who is not of this world.

John 17:14-16 (Jesus speaking)

¹⁴ I have given them your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I pray not that you should take them out of the world, but that thou should keep them from the evil. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. (KJV)

- So, we are called to live in the world but not be a part of the world.

After reading **John 17**, it becomes clear that if we are in the world but not of the world, we are going to have conflicts. Those conflicts are spiritual warfare. It is the forces that control the world that are in conflict with God.

- It also takes training to discern between the ways of God and the ways of the world. Because we are born into this world, we naturally think according to it therefore Gods tells us to renew our mind to His Word to think how He thinks and to know His ways.
- We have to be transformed to understand God's ways instead (**Romans 12:3**). God's ways are not natural to us.
- We constantly need to crucify our natural inclinations and desires to receive all that God has for us.

The world promises instant satisfaction and pleasures that fulfil the desires of our flesh, a tempting offer but one that Christians must be constantly on guard against. Jesus understood the temptations of the world. He knew that Satan would use every kind of enticement possible to lure man's heart away from God.

- Jesus also knew how difficult it would be for those who believe in Him but do not remain faithful due to the cares of the world as he shared on the parable of Mark 4 – The Sower Sows The Seed and how Satan uses 5 things to steal and choke the Word in the spiritual battle, **tribulation or persecution, cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in.**



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Mark 4:1-20

¹³ And he said unto them, Know you not this parable? and how then will you know all parables? ¹⁴ The sower sows the word. ¹⁵ And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. ¹⁶ And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; ¹⁷ And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when **affliction or persecution** arises for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. ¹⁸ And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, ¹⁹ And **the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.** ²⁰ And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred. (KJV)

The battles of spiritual warfare are intense when a person decides to accept Jesus as their Saviour. The enemy will attack from all angles, hoping to dissuade the person from fully giving their heart to Jesus. He will use circumstances, events, people, things and even doubt in their minds to steal their heart back to his ways.

- The seeds that are sown in people's hearts will either take root on good soil, which is a heart fully surrendered to the Lord operating in FAITH. Or, they will be sown in places where the word is snatched away from them until they fall away.
- These types of battles are fought in the world but involve the spiritual forces of darkness that exist in the invisible realm around us.

5. The Battle Inside Us.

Bible teaches about the war within us, **the constant struggle between flesh and spirit**. Our battle with sin "wars" within our members. To begin to examine the battle within us we must first understand its nature. The **desires of the flesh are part of our human nature** and its history goes back to the beginning of time.

Genesis 4:3-7.

³ And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. ⁴ And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: ⁵ But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. ⁶ And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? ⁷ If you do well, shalt you not be accepted? and if you do not well, **sin lies at the door. And unto you shall be his desire, and you shalt rule over him.** (KJV)

- The battle of flesh versus spirit.

Often we make decisions according to how we think, feel and want and we find ourselves struggling with anger, bitterness and hatred leading us into areas of temptation. But God tells us to fight against those sinful feelings. We must learn to fight against the old nature that tries to rise up in us.

- Paul tells us to put off the old nature and put on the new man (Colossians 3:8-13). The Lord has given us His Spirit who will empower us to overcome but we must be willing to allow Him the authority to be in control of our emotions and behaviours

Matthew 26:41

⁴¹ Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. (KJV)



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Romans 7:14-20

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. ¹⁶ If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. ¹⁷ Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwells in me. ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwells no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. ¹⁹ For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. ²⁰ Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwells in me. (KJV)

Galatians 5:16-17

¹⁶ This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that you cannot do the things that you would. (KJV)

We suffer in our flesh, whether we feed its desires or deny its pleasures. We are constantly battling between what we want to do versus what we know the Lord wants us to do.

The Christian life is not passive. Jesus told us in **Luke 9:23**, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

- Christians are not living the abundant life of love, joy, and peace because they are unaware of how to maintain and claim those promises. Jesus promised us an abundant life that starts here on earth.
- Until we understand the forces that are against us, and are prepared to fight for what is rightfully ours, we will not be able to receive all that God has for us.

6. A Final Word on Spiritual Warfare.

From the day that a person is born into the earth, he or she is in a spiritual battle without choice purely because they are a human being, it has nothing to do with the nationality, colour of the skin, male or female or age, and often that battle is going on before a person is even born.

Satan is the "god" of this fallen world system only but has no power because Jesus defeated him and took back the power that he had taken from Adam & Eve. He uses lies and deception to get the authority that mankind has to cause problems in lives of people and this is where the spiritual battles are.

One thing must be made very clear that God is supreme and there is no competition with Satan. Each Believer must grow in their understanding of the spirit realm and natural realm and how they function, also in the area of angels, demons etc. in how they function and what are the tactics used by Satan.

Maturing in spiritual warfare as a Christian, comes from understanding the Word of God and operating in it as well as the practical experience that comes through prayer, counselling and deliverance ministry. It does not come over night but over time in conjunction with and by the Holy Spirit.

If you are skilled in spiritual warfare you will be victorious here on the earth.

Jesus is Lord!