

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

PART IX: SPIRITUAL WARFARE

SCRIPTURE READING: Eph.6:10-18; 1 Pet.5:6-9; James 4:7; 1 Tim.6:12; Matt.16:15-19; Matt. 18:18-20; 2 Cor. 10:3-5

MEMORY VERSE: Eph. 6:12

PURPOSE: To help the believer understand WHO HE IS, IN CHRIST i.e. the AUTHORITY that he has. To understand who and what forces are against us. To know something about the SPIRITUAL REALM and how to deal with the enemy for himself and for others. In short to learn how to DO spiritual warfare.

LESSON: The bible teaches that those of us who are Christians have been translated out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of God's dear son. (Col.1:13) These two (2) kingdoms (the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness) are antagonistic to each other. While people, circumstances and situations are involved and are what we can see, the Word of God warns us that our struggle, wrestling or warfare is not against "flesh and blood". We are to resist the power or forces of darkness behind the "SEEN" i.e. THINGS NOT SEEN WITH OUR NATURAL EYES. Therefore we know that in order to change circumstances, people, situations, etc. in the physical-material realm, WE MUST DO WARFARE WITH THE SPIRITS OF DARKNESS IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM.

I. THE BELIEVERS AUTHORITY IN CHRIST:

A. JESUS defeated Satan at the CROSS - through His death, burial and resurrection. See (Eph.1:17-23; Heb.2:14-15; 1 John 3:8) and of course there are MANY other scriptures pertaining to JESUS victory and Satan's defeat and our resurrection and our co-victory IN Him. So we KNOW that the enemy has no authority over the believer other than what we allow him. (More about this later)

B. Yet as we look around us at the WORLD, OTHERS and even OURSELVES we do not see much victory and it appears that Satan is not a defeated enemy. WHY?

1. God has not put him down completely yet. God is still using him. (Heb.2: 8; 1 Cor.15:24-26) Satan is nothing more than a TOOL or instrument in God's hands (Isa. 10:5 & 15)

2. God intends to use US, the CHURCH, the BELIEVERS to over come him and to defeat him in our lives and circumstances. In this struggle with the WORLD, the FLESH and the DEVIL we learn FAITH, PATIENCE, HOW TO GROW SPIRITUALLY, the importance of UNITY, LOVE, and many other TRUTHS. See (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:17; Luke 10:17-20; Matt. 18:18-20)

C. Jesus has given US (the believers) authority over all the power of the evil one, in HIS (JESUS) NAME. (Luke 10:19-20) Yet we MUST exercise this authority under the leadership of the Holy Spirit in order for it to be effective.

1. (James 4:7) states that WE are to SUBMIT our selves unto God and RESIST the devil and he will flee from US. (1 Pet. 5:9) states that we are to RESIST him STEADFAST IN THE FAITH. These passages indicate that this is something each individual must do for himself. We can and must also obtain the help of our brothers and sisters in the Lord so that we can resist and stand fast together and for each other in the faith and experience complete victory in our lives, circumstances, situations and our church.

2. (1 John 4:4 & 5:4) teach us that GREATER is HE that is IN US (Jesus, the Holy Spirit) than he (the devil) that is in the world. And that it is OUR faith, which allows us to OVERCOME and to see the victory in OUR LIVES and circumstances.

3. (Luke 7:28 & Matt.11:11) These two (2) passages spoken by Jesus teach us that even the LEAST believer in the kingdom of God is greater i.e. has more power and authority than John the Baptist or any other Old Testament prophet.

II. THE PLACE PRAYER HAS IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

A. In (Matt.18:18-19) & (Eph.6:18) We are instructed to "BIND & TO LOOSE" and to PRAYING ALWAYS".

1. When two (2) believers or more come together in HARMONY or in AGREEMENT in prayer to speak to BIND or to LOOSE, God's POWER is released in the spiritual realm and things begin to happen in the material-physical realm.

2. We as believers can and should BIND the enemy from tearing down, destroying and stealing from ourselves, others and our loved one's.

3. We can and should LOOSE any and all of God's blessings and His provisions to His people, which the enemy may be attempting to block or hinder.

III. THE PLACE THE WORD HAS IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

A. In (1 Tim. 6:12) we are told to "FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH". Where does faith come from? (Rom. 10:17) tells us that FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD. We are also instructed in the word to RESIST IN FAITH, STAND IN FAITH, TAKE THE SHIELD OF FAITH, and TO ASK IN FAITH etc. We are told that we CANNOT PLEASE GOD WITHOUT FAITH (Heb.11:6). If we are going to be strong for battle, do warfare and please God we must get into the WORD and APPLY IT.

B. The WORD is the Christians ONLY offensive weapon. (Eph.6:17) Without the use of the Word of God in our daily lives we have no OFFENSE. We will be constantly on the DEFENSE. No coach or general can win with his team constantly on the defense. There must be some offense. Please read the first several verses of Matt.4 or Luke 4 and note how JESUS handled the DEVIL. GO THOU AND DO LIKEWISE.

IV. THE PLACE YOUR MIND HAS IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

A. If you will read (2 Cor.10:3-5) very carefully and in three or four different translations if you can you will see that much of the battle in the spiritual realm has to do with our MINDS.

1. How we think will determine how we get along in this life and with God. While this includes positive thinking it is more than that. IT IS FAITH THINKING! See (Rom 12:1-2).

2. FAITH is as attitude of HEART and MIND. Put the WORD in your HEART and MEDITATE upon it with your MIND. Use it to WARD OFF thoughts of WORRY, FEAR, DOUBT, UNCERTAINTY, LUST, PRIDE etc. which the enemy brings in and tries to use against you. (Philip. 2:5 & 4:6-8).

3. Get your thinking in line with the Word of God. Let HIS Word be your thoughts and control your thoughts. Then your MIND will be ARMED against the cunning deceit of the enemy and YOU WILL MAKE YOUR WAY PROSPEROUS AND SHALL HAVE GOOD SUCCESS. (1 Pet. 4:1-2 & Joshua 1:7-9)

V. QUESTIONS:

A. Have YOU ever resisted the Devil? Yes_____ No_____

B. HOW did you resist him? The Word___Prayer___A Partner___ all of these_____.

C. Name or describe one such instance._____What were the results?_____

Have you told anyone of your success in over-coming the enemy in the case? Would you please tell someone now.

D. Have you ever been PERSONALLY aware that spiritual forces were attacking you or a loved one? Yes_____ No._____ Will you be from now on?_____

E. Have you ever been aware that many of the thoughts which come into your mind were not your own and in fact were placed there by an outside force? Where do you suppose that these thoughts come from?

F. Do you ever attempt to control your mind i.e. you thoughts? How much success have you had in your attempt? Did you find that in some matters you had a very difficult time staying focused and in control of your thoughts?

G. Have you noticed a special difficulty with your thinking when you attempt to pray?

H. How DID and how DO you handle these stray thoughts?

I. Do you realize that THOUGHTS of doubt, hate, fear, worry, anger, lust, depression, disgust, frustration, suicide, bitterness, resentment etc. ALL come from or have their source in the EVIL ONE?_____.

J. Do you realize that YOU have control over these thoughts and that YOU have AUTHORITY (power) over the evil one?

K. Can you name ONE time when you resisted the Devil and he fled from YOU?

L. How much FAITH would YOU say that you have? Little____, Some____, A lot _____. Where does FAITH come from?
_____ Do YOU want MORE? _____

M. In your own words describe what faith is._____

N. Have you ever united with one or more people to pray about someone else's specific need?
_____.

What were the results? _____.

O. Can you right now, without looking quote the memory verse of this lesson?

P. Are there some circumstances or situations in your life, family, affairs etc. that you think you need to deal with the enemy about right now?_____Will you do it?_____. If you need help, call one or more Christian friends.

Q. Can you think of anyone who is having trouble with the enemy in their lives, situations etc. right now?_____. Will you, right now, pray for them and BIND the enemy?

Will you also, right now, LOOSE God's blessings upon them?

R. Is there a friend, family member, enemy that you have been blaming for you problems have been fighting with over some situation or hurt? Do you realize that they are not the cause of your problem, but the enemy is? Do YOU realize that your are not resisting or fighting against flesh and blood, but against wicked spirits, super-natural forces behind that person or behind you? Therefore you can love the person and resist the enemy that attempts to use him.

S. To have a lot of knowledge is to be SMART. To apply the knowledge that we have is to be WISE. To not have knowledge is to be IGNORANT. To have knowledge and not use it is to be a FOOL. The choice is ours. Which one will you be?

THANK YOU!

GOD BLESS YOU!

ISN'T JESUS WONDERFUL!