

Spiritual Warfare (short series)

A. The reality of the spiritual realm and struggle

Revelation 12

1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. 2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. 5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. 6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.
Satan Thrown Out of Heaven

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them^[a] in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. 12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

The Woman Persecuted

13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *Child*. 14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. 15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:10-18

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,^[a] against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. **13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16** above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. **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, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

B. The devil's origins and motivations

John 8:44

You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.

1 John 3:8

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Isa.14:12-16

“How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!
13 For you have said in your heart:
‘ I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
On the farthest sides of the north;
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.’
15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,
To the lowest depths of the Pit.
16 “ Those who see you will gaze at you,
And consider you, *saying*:
‘ *Is* this the man who made the earth tremble,
Who shook kingdoms

Ezek.28:12ff

“Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD:
“ You *were* the seal of perfection,
Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;
Every precious stone *was* your covering:
The sardius, topaz, and diamond,
Beryl, onyx, and jasper,
Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.
The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes
Was prepared for you on the day you were created.
14 “ You *were* the anointed cherub who covers;
I established you;
You were on the holy mountain of God;
You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.
15 You *were* perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
Till iniquity was found in you.
16 “ By the abundance of your trading
You became filled with violence within,
And you sinned

C. Two kingdoms in tension

[Matt.12:28](#)

But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

[Col.1:13](#)

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love

[Luke 10:17-18](#)

Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

[Acts 14:22](#)

strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

D. The opposition

1. *The enemy within*

[Galatians 5:17](#)

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

[Romans 7:14-25](#)

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. **15** For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. **16** If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is* good. **17** But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. **18** For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find. **19** For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice. **20** Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ^[SEP]**21** I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. **22** For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. **23** But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. **24** O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? **25** I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

[James 1:13-15](#)

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. **14** But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. **15** Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

2. *The world and its prince*

[Eph.2:1-3](#)

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, **2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, **3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

John 12:31

Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

John 15:18-21

“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. **19** If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. **20** Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. **21** But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

2 Cor.4:3-4

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **4** whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

1 John 3:12-13

...not as Cain *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother’s righteous. ^[13]**13** Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

3. Demons

Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

E. Objectives of warfare:

1. Survival

1 Cor.9:26-27

Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air. **27** But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Eph.6:13

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Luke 10:19

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

2. Conquest

2 Cor.10:4-5

For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, **5** casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ

F. The security of the Christian warrior

1. What angels do

Heb. 1:14

Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Psalm 34:7

The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him,^[SEP] and delivers them.

Psalm 91:11-12

For He shall give His angels charge over you,^[SEP]

To keep you in all your ways.^[SEP]

12 In *their* hands they shall bear you up,^[SEP]

Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

2. The Position and the Possession of the believer “in Christ”

a. Christ is Victor

Col.2:15

Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Heb.2:14

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

Rev. 5:5

But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed...”

b. Christ is Exalted as is His Name

Eph. 1:20-21

which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, **21** far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

Phil. 2:9-11

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, **10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, **11** and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

c. “In Christ” so are His servants

[Rom.8:37](#)

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

[Eph.2:6](#)

and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus

[Eph. 6:10](#)

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

[Mark 16:17](#)

And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues

[Acts 19:15](#)

And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?”

3. *The armor of God*

[Eph.6:11-17](#)

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,^{1a} against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. **13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ^{1SEP}**14** Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16** above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. **17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God

[2 Cor.6:7](#)

by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left

[Rom.13:11-14](#)

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. **12** The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. **13** Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. **14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

[Isa. 59:17](#)

For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.

[1 Thes.5:8](#)

But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

4. Vigilance : Early Detection essential; agents through whom Satan speaks

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because^[a] your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

G. Weapons and methods

1. Our yielded bodies

Romans 6:13

And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

Psalm 127:3-5

Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD,^[SEP]

The fruit of the womb *is* a reward.^[SEP]

4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,^[SEP]

So *are* the children of one's youth.^[SEP]

5 Happy *is* the man who has his quiver full of them;^[SEP]

They shall not be ashamed,^[SEP]

But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

2. Filled with the Holy Spirit

Matt.12:28

But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Luke 4:18

“ The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,^[SEP]

Because He has anointed Me^[SEP]

To preach the gospel to the poor;^[SEP]

He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,

To proclaim liberty to the captives;^[SEP]

And recovery of sight to the blind,^[SEP]

To set at liberty those who are oppressed

3. Wielding the word of God

Eph.6:17

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God

Heb.4:12

For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword

a. Submitting and appealing to the Scriptures

Matt. 4:3-4.

Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*’”

1 Tim.4:16

Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

b. **Preaching the Gospel**

Eph. 6:15

and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace

Luke 4:18

“ *The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,*^[SEP]

Because He has anointed Me^[SEP]

To preach the gospel to the poor;^[SEP]

He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,

To proclaim liberty to the captives^[SEP]

c. **Discipling the converts**

Matt.28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.”

2 Tim. 3:16

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness

d. **Reproving evil**

Eph. 5:11

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*.

Luke 3:19

But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him concerning Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife,^[a] and for all the evils which Herod had done

4. **Prayer**

Eph.6:18

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

Matt. 26:41

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.

Matt.6:13

And do not lead us into temptation,^[SEP]

But deliver us from the evil one.

a. **Fasting**

Matt.17:21

However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

[Dan.10:2-5, 12-13](#)

2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. **3** I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

4 Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris, **5** I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man... **12** Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. **13** But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me...

b. *and Watching*

[Eph. 6:18](#)

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

[Matt.26:40](#)

Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?"

c. *Praise*

[Psalm 8:2](#)

Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants^{[L][SEP]}
You have ordained strength,^{[L][SEP]}
Because of Your enemies,^{[L][SEP]}
That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

[Matt.21:16](#)

and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?"^{[L][SEP]} And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, ' *Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants^{[L][SEP]} you have perfected praise* '?"

[Psalm 149:5-9](#)

Let the saints be joyful in glory,^{[L][SEP]}
Let them sing aloud on their beds.^{[L][SEP]}
6 Let the high praises of God *be* in their mouth,^{[L][SEP]}
And a two-edged sword in their hand,^{[L][SEP]}
7 To execute vengeance on the nations,^{[L][SEP]}
And punishments on the peoples;^{[L][SEP]}
8 To bind their kings with chains,^{[L][SEP]}
And their nobles with fetters of iron;^{[L][SEP]}
9 To execute on them the written judgment—^{[L][SEP]}
This honor have all His saints.^{[L][SEP]} ^{[L][SEP]}
Praise the LORD!

[2 Chron. 20:22-23](#)

Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. **23** For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy *them*. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.