

What Is Spiritual Warfare?:

"Who Are My Enemies And What Are Their Methods/Weapons?"

Romans 8:6-8,12-13; 1 John 2:15-17

"Satan, our flesh, and this world fight relentlessly that every Christian would be uninterested or be minimalistic for Christ to be hallowed, treasured, glorified, revered, prioritized, obeyed, loved, and viewed as sufficient in all things, through focusing on the sins and failures or accomplishments of ourselves or others, desiring to be loved by the world and God, busying people by a focus on the cares of life or accolades in this life, or believing lies and false doctrines, that lead to a lack of interest in the salvation of the lost, the sanctification of the saints, the public and private worship of God, and identifying with Christ in the sufferings and blessings of this life."

(1 Peter 5:8-9; cf. Luke 22:31-34)

- **The Flesh:** (Romans 8:5-8,12-13) Our natural desire to think and to live in opposition to God and His Word. Our natural desire to reject dependence on or submission to God. It is our natural desire to reject treasuring or glorifying God above all things and *feel justified* in doing it. *"For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do."* (Galatians 5:17)
 - 1) The flesh wants to kill you by thinking and acting unbiblical. 2) The flesh is hostile against God and has no interest in submission to or pleasing God. 3) The flesh must be resisted and put to death or you will die. 4) The flesh can never be trusted and wants us to wander from the truth (Jeremiah 17:9; James 5:19-20).
- **The World:** (1 John 2:15-17) The systems put in place by Satan (*"...the whole world lies in the power of the evil one"* 1 John 5:19) that entices us to love things or people more than God and to have a temporal mindset instead of an eternal mindset. Systems that entice us to treasure stuff more than God and to obey our desires instead of obeying God. Systems that want us to reject being thankful to God and giving Him glory. *"For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica...."* (2 Timothy 4:10)
 - 1) There is a tension, a warfare, a division — we cannot love the world and God. 2) Satan's systems and flesh work hand in hand to accomplish victory. 3) The world's systems promote selfishness, covetousness, and pride or lack of dependence on God. 4) These satisfactions are temporary and bring death. 5) They must be killed by obedience to God and love for God or treasuring of God.
- **The Devil and his Demons:** (Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:12-17) Satan is called the "ruler of this world" (John 12:31). We are told that the whole world (systems) lies in the power of Satan (1 John 5:19). Satan is called the "god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4). He is called "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2). He is a liar, he is the father of lies, so we should expect an attack of lies (John 8:44). He loves to accuse believers as unworthy of salvation and deceive us, leading to doubts and a lack of confidence in our salvation (Revelation 12:9-11). He wants us to be full of anxiety in suffering or possible suffering in this life (1 Peter 5:6-11). He wants to deceive us by burdening us or "freeing us" with unbiblical doctrines (1 Timothy 4:1-4). He wants us to keep back forgiveness and love towards our brothers and sisters in Christ (2 Corinthians 2:7-11). He wants us to doubt the importance or legitimacy of certain portions of Scripture or hold the wisdom of this world supreme over the Word of God (2 Corinthians 10:2-6).

Announcements:

★**CLEANING MINISTRY MEETING:** If you are interested in or have any questions about joining the Cleaning Ministry, please plan on staying for a short meeting NEXT Sunday, November 20th, immediately following the worship service.

★**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner TONIGHT immediately following the worship service. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!

★**FRIENDSGIVING:** Our annual Friendsgiving Dinner will be on Wednesday, November 23rd, at 6:30pm, here at the church! There is a sign-up list in the back, please sign-up to bring something to this dinner and we invite EVERYONE to join us for this!