

THE BATTLEFIELD

LESSON 13 – OUTLINE

- I. Dealing with the devil and overcoming his hindrances to the manifestation of what God has already provided is popularly called “spiritual warfare.”

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

ACTS 10:38

- A. Overall, it has been good for Christians to recognize the fact that Satan exists and that his demonic powers are active today.
- B. However, Satan is a defeated foe.
- C. The only reason he is able to do anything is because of our own ignorance, unbelief, and fear.
- D. Although the body of Christ today has come to an awareness of the devil's existence, it has remained, for the most part, functionally ignorant of Satan's true devices (2 Cor. 2:11).

- II. The battle is between our ears.

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.

EPHESIANS 6:10-12, EMPHASIS MINE

- A. We are in a battle, but it's not out there in heavenly places.
- B. We are fighting demonic powers—and they do exist in heavenly places—but the battlefield (place of engagement) is our minds.
- C. All Satan can do is try to deceive us through wiles, cunningness, craftiness, and lies and then use against us the very power we surrender to him.
- D. The devil's goal is to keep us ignorant of the truth and believing his lies.

I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:3, EMPHASIS MINE

- E. Satan comes against us by trying to corrupt our minds from the simplicity that's in Christ.
- III. Satan chose the serpent—the craftiest animal on the face of the earth—to come against Eve because he knew he had absolutely no power to force or intimidate Adam or Eve into anything.
 - A. He had to deceive them instead (Gen. 3:1).
 - B. If Satan hadn't challenged the Word and gotten them to question and second-guess it, his temptation would've gone nowhere.
 - C. Satan tempted Adam and Eve with something they already had.
- IV. Satan loves to hinder people from coming to the Lord, but his only "power" is deception and lies.
 - A. If Satan were really as powerful as he claims to be, then he would have kept you from receiving salvation.
 - B. Satan can't stop you from doing anything.
 - C. Satan can't do anything to you without your consent and cooperation.
 - D. The devil will condemn you over what you don't have and try to keep you focused on just the physical realm.
 - E. But the truth is, in the spirit, you already have everything.
- V. The key to seeing what you have in the spirit manifest in your life is believing and acknowledging it.

That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

PHILEMON 6

- A. The way you get your faith to work is by starting to acknowledge the good things in you in Christ.

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing.

ROMANS 7:18, EMPHASIS MINE

- B. To live in victory, you need to be focused on who you are in Christ.
- C. Satan specifically targets your understanding and acknowledging of who you are and what you have in Christ.
- D. Adam and Eve threw it all away because a talking snake convinced them that they didn't have enough.
- E. If you have been born again, you do have everything—you are complete in Christ (Col. 2:10).

VI. The battle against the devil is waged in your thoughts.

- A. That's why God's Word is so essential.
- B. Satan's only power is deception—but the truth is the antidote to deception.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

JOHN 8:32

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: [4] (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) [5] Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5, EMPHASIS MINE

- C. Notice how your warfare is against thoughts, imaginations, strongholds, and knowledge that come against the Word of God—these are all processes of your mind.
- D. Although he has been beaten, the devil walks about “as a roaring lion...seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8).
- E. Apart from the power you give him through believing his lies, Satan can't steal anything from you.
- F. He uses your ignorance, your fear, and your unbelief to try to oppress and destroy you.

LESSON 13 – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

My teachings entitled *Christian Philosophy* and *The Believer's Authority* both amplify and expand on the concepts presented in this Lesson.

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LESSON 13 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. According to John 4:24, how must we worship God?
2. According to Acts 10:38, God anointed Jesus who went about doing what?
3. According to 2 Corinthians 2:11, who do we not want to get an advantage over us?
4. According to Ephesians 6:10-12, what are we to put on?
5. That we may stand against what?
6. Who do we wrestle against?
 - A. Principalities
 - B. Powers
 - C. Rulers of the darkness of this world
 - D. Spiritual wickedness in high places
 - E. All of the above
 - F. None of the above
7. According to 2 Corinthians 11:3, what does the serpent try to corrupt from the simplicity in Christ?
8. According to Genesis 3:1, what was more subtle than any other beast of the field?
9. According to Philemon 6, where is every good thing?
10. According to Romans 7:18, to will is present with us, but what do we not find?
11. According to Colossians 2:10, we are what in Christ?
12. According to John 8:32, knowing the truth shall what?
13. According to 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, are the weapons of our warfare carnal?
14. What are they?
15. Casting down what?
16. Bringing into captivity what?
17. According to 1 Peter 5:8, our adversary, the devil, walks about like a roaring lion seeking _____.

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LESSON 13 – SCRIPTURES

JOHN 4:24

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

ACTS 10:38

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

2 CORINTHIANS 2:11

Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

EPHESIANS 6:10-12

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.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:3

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

GENESIS 3:1

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

PHILEMON 6

That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

ROMANS 7:18

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

COLOSSIANS 2:10

And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.

JOHN 8:32

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: [4] (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) [5] Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

1 PETER 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.