

Spiritual Warfare: Introduction

Eph 6:10-13

1. Intro

1. What kind of a morning did you have as you prepared to come together as a church?
2. Three areas of warfare:
 1. Personal
 1. Battle of the mind – take every thought captive.
 2. Corporate
 1. Battle for the church – united or divisive (internal or community)
 3. Heavenly
 1. Battle for the heavenlies – how does God's word, our prayers and understanding opposing spirits, affect the heavenly battle?

2. The Adversary: Satan

1. Much about the spirit world is shrouded in mystery
 1. They are created (Col 1:16)
 1. All at once?; don't reproduce
 2. They are immortal
 3. Seem to be different classes; archangel, cherubim, seraphim
 4. They worship God
 5. They are God's messengers
 6. They are ministering spirits to us.
2. At some point many sinned and fell from Gods presence and purpose He had for them.
3. Where did he come from?
 1. His name Satan, means adversary
 2. Is not an independent force opposed to God
 1. His existence comes from God, although that existence has been distorted and contradicts the original intent.
 2. Originally created with other angels
 1. Isa 14:12-15; Ez 28:11-19
4. What did God do with him?
 1. Through disobedience they (angels) sinned and will be under judgment
 1. II Peter 2:4; Jude 6
 2. Is not the ruler of Hell. Hell is a place designed to put him.
5. His dominion
 1. Adam given authority to rule over the earth.

2. Dominion of the earth lost to Satan at the fall.
 1. Ruler of this world (John 12:31)
 2. God of this age (II Cor 4:4)
 3. Prince of the powers of the air (Eph 2:2)
 4. World under his sway (I John 5:19)
6. His purpose
 1. To oppose God and the work of Christ; can do this through temptation; but primarily through deception.
 1. Poses as an angel of light (II Cor 11:14-15)
 2. Opposes and hinders Christians in their service (I Thes 2:18; Eph 6:12)
 2. He is limited in his scope of activity
 1. Because he is a created being
 2. Not omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent
 3. God sets the boundaries (Job)
7. His state
 1. If Jesus is light, Satan is darkness
 2. Satan relegated to live in darkness (II Peter 2:4)
 1. Darkness more than absence of light
 1. Absence of God
 2. Moral darkness
 3. We are delivered from darkness (Col 1:13-14)

3. The Trip Wire

1. Christians can harbor darkness
 1. Sin (Luke 11:33-36)
 2. Satan has legal access to the domain of darkness
 1. If there is any darkness in the Christian's heart, Satan can travel there.
2. The areas that we hide in darkness are the very areas that will defeat us.
 1. Peter (Luke 22)
 1. We know that Peter denied Jesus three times
 1. Where did that come from?
 2. Jesus says that Peter is going to be sifted (Luke 22:31-32)
 1. Behind the scenes permission is given for this to happen.
 3. What caused Peter's fall?
 1. After the Passover meal Jesus says that one of them will betray Him (Luke 22:23 – in reference to Judas)
 2. Yet the conversation turns to “who is the greatest” (v 24)
 3. Peter's nature was that of being outspoken
 1. Who had walked on water after all?

4. Was it pride that lead to his downfall

1. He even states that though others leave he won't (Matt 26:33)

3. Can't happen to me

1. Attacks a perfect man in the Garden

2. Solomon, given wisdom, wrote books; fell

3. Satan himself was in the very presence of God.

4. Conclusion

1. We will look at three areas of spiritual warfare

1. Personal, Church, Heavens

2. We need to know a little about our adversary and how he operates

3. Is there any dark spot in us that will allow Satan to gain a foot hold and play in that area?