

Spiritual Warfare: Conclusion

I Peter 5:6-11

1. Intro

1. We looked at three areas of spiritual warfare
 1. Personal, the Church, the Heavens.
2. When we first started this series, I mentioned that Christians can harbor darkness
 1. Darkness comes through sin; Satan has legal access to the domain of darkness (Eph 2:2)
 - 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.
3. Remember Peter
 1. He denied Jesus three times
 2. Jesus says that Peter is going to be sifted (Luke 22:31-32)
 - Behind the scenes permission is given for this to happen.
 3. What caused Peter to fall?
 - Was it pride that led to his downfall?
 - He was a broken and defeated man when he leaves the courtyard that night.

2. A Few Thoughts

1. Satan is a defeated foe, but his complete demise is yet future. (8)
 1. Satan was defeated at the Cross
 - I believe he thought he had won when Jesus died; what he didn't expect happened three days later.
 2. Even though defeated, his end is not yet. Therefore he can continue to harass for a time.
2. Satan's opposition is the outworking of his own rebellion and distorted perception.
 1. Why would anyone worship God on the basis of Who He is, rather than on the basis of what He gives.
 2. He sees God only as the Rewarder of those who do His bidding, not our Reward.
 - Look at Job.
 3. Satan's response to his position of power was through pride and ambition.
 - He seeks to have those under authority to act independently, rather than to submit to those over us.
 - self-interest rather than self-sacrifice.
 - He delights in the downfall of others.
3. Our victory over Satan's attacks is not always evident in terms of his defeat and our success, but is sometimes won in what looks like our defeat and his success.
 1. We already mentioned when Jesus died on the cross of Calvary, it looked very much like he had won, but His resurrection brought about our salvation.
 2. When we finally look at ourselves, in brokenness; it is at that point that we can begin to overcome.
4. Satan's opposition is not to be found so much in the bizarre and the supernatural as it is in that which seems natural and even human.

1. Satan tempted Adam and Eve to doubt God's goodness and to disobey His Word.
2. His opposition to Job was evident in the form of natural disaster and human illness.
3. His temptation of David seems to be in terms of an appeal to his pride (numbering the troops (1 Chronicles 21:1)).
4. Who would have thought that the deception of Ananias and Sapphira was motivated by anything more than their own greed and desire for man's praise? (Acts 5)
5. So, too, his temptation of our Lord was an appeal to what we would think of as natural ambitions and desires (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13).
5. Satan's present opposition to the people and purposes of God appears to be detrimental to the church, but in reality Satan is actually furthering God's purpose and plan for creation.
 1. While he carries on his work with evil intent, God uses him for our good, and for His glory.
 - The struggle is a part of God's eternal plan. (10b)
 - The opposition should drive us back to Him.
 2. Standing against his attacks in the strength of the full armor of God is our duty (Eph 6:10-20).
 3. There is not one thing which Satan is allowed to do which does not promote God's purposes, His glory, and our good. The outcome of the spiritual war between Satan and God is certain.

3. Conclusion

1. Peter became a broken man after his third denial of Jesus.
 1. In our eyes he had been defeated by Satan.
 2. But that is not the end of the story.
2. Jesus, after the resurrection restores Peter (John 21)
3. Peter begins his ministry in a powerful way (Acts 2)
 1. He preaches to the Jews
4. Then as he and John are going into the temple he heals a lame man (Acts 3:6-7)
5. Is this the same man that seemingly had been defeated by Satan?
6. So the battle rages on.
 1. The great question is not, "Who will win?," but "Who will stand?"
 - The question is not whether God is on our side as much as whether or not we are on His side.
7. How do we fight the battle; Keep our eyes on Jesus, be firm in our faith. (9)