

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE: Class 1: Introduction Part 1

Bible verse of the Day: "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." Matt 6:13

A. It does us no good to fight in a battle, including the Spiritual one, unless we first acknowledge that there *IS* a war!

1. If we cannot "see" the battles, how do we know the war is going on? That is...why should we believe in it?

a. Many people refuse to believe in something they cannot see with their own eyes and yet they cannot see electricity or wind and they believe they exist. Why? They can see the EFFECTS of electricity or wind and many other invisible forces.

b. Further, it's not true that people have not "seen" these invisible beings. Just because YOU may not have seen an angel or demon, does not mean they don't exist. There is plenty of EVIDENCE, based on what people have reported in the Bible and in modern literature, (which we will *not* use as proof since it does not meet our criteria for reliability.)

1. READ: Gen.16: 7; Judges 6: 11-12; Luke 1: 11-13; Luke 2:8-15. These are only a few instances where angels appeared to humans. The bible is replete with many more examples.

B. Also, even if we acknowledge invisible forces, both good and evil, and even if we acknowledge that there *IS* a spiritual war waging, it will do us no good to learn about this war if we see no reason to fight in it!

QUESTION: What do YOU think are some good reasons for YOU to become engaged in this Spiritual War?

QUESTION: How do YOU define "Spiritual Warfare"?

QUESTION: Based on this slide, who do YOU say is fighting this "spiritual war"?

READ: Billy Graham explained the reality of spiritual warfare in his book *Angels*:

"We live in a perpetual battlefield. The wars among the nations on earth are mere popgun affairs compared to the fierceness of battle in the spiritual unseen world. This invisible spiritual conflict is waged around us incessantly and unremittingly. Where the Lord works, Satan's forces hinder; where angel beings carry out divine directives, the devils rage. All this comes about because the powers of darkness press their counterattack to recapture the ground held for the glory of God.

Since the fall of Lucifer, that "angel of light" and "son of the morning", there has been no respite in the bitter Battle of the Ages. Night and day Lucifer, the master craftsman of the devices of darkness, labors to thwart God's plan of the ages. We can find inscribed on every page of human history the consequences of the evil brought to fruition by the powers of darkness with the devil in charge. Satan never yields an inch, nor does he ever pause in his opposition to the plan of God to redeem the "cosmos" from his control."

QUESTION: Why do you think this "spiritual war" is being waged?

QUESTION: What do you think that means?

C. READ: Eph. 2: 1-10. Here, Paul underscores this most significant reason for WHY the spiritual war is waging:

1. As (former) unbelievers, we were under the power and control of Satan, even though we did not know it. But when we came to faith in Christ by His grace, we were delivered from his "kingdom of darkness" and made citizens in the "kingdom of light."
2. Our salvation no longer caused us to be the enemies of God, but at the same time resulted in us becoming the enemies of Satan!
  - a. No wonder the Devil so aggressively attacks Christians. They were once his subjects and he wants them back!

D. Since we are in a battle to protect and defend our very minds, hearts and Eternal destiny, we need to think about Spiritual Warfare as we would any kind of *actual* war. We need to start thinking like WARRIORS.

1. So, how do successful warriors prepare and win battles and wars?"
  - a. They learn about and know their enemy (including his weapons, strategies, allies, etc.)
  - b. They realistically identify, recognize and evaluate their own resources (including their allies, their strategies for success, their weapons, etc.)
  - c. They realistically identify their enemy's strengths and weaknesses as well as their own strengths and weaknesses.
    1. They figure out how to maximize their strengths and minimize their weaknesses.
    2. They figure out how to minimize the strength of their enemy and use the enemy's weaknesses against them.
  - d. They keep in mind, at all times, the STAKES at risk of winning or losing the War. Why?

E. Let's now take a look at the outline we will be using for the course. It follows the logical response to the question we asked at the beginning of this class: "How do successful warriors prepare and win battles and wars?"

#### I. KNOW THE ENEMY

- Determine that we *have* an enemy and how we know it. **(CLASSES 1 & 2)**
- Determine what he wants. **(CLASS 3)**
- Identify the enemy, by name, his allies and learn how they think and behave. **(CLASSES 4 - 5)**
- Analyze the enemy's strategies. **(CLASSES 6 & 7)**
- Identify the enemy's strengths and weaknesses. **(CLASS 25)**
- Identify the enemy's resources. **(CLASS 26)**
- Identify the enemy's weapons. **(CLASS 31 – 36)**

#### II. RECOGNIZE, IDENTIFY AND EVALUATE OUR OWN SITUATION

- Determine that we *have* Heavenly support and how we know it. **(CLASSES 8 – 10)**
- Identify how our Heavenly Allies (i.e., Angels) think and behave. **(CLASSES 11 – 21)**
- Identify our *other* Allies. **(CLASSES 22 & 23)**
- Identify *our own* strengths and weaknesses when it comes to Spiritual Warfare. **(CLASS 24)**
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of our Allies. **(CLASS 25)**
- Identify our resources. **(CLASS 27 – 30)**
- Identify our weapons. **(CLASS 37 – 41)**
- What is our Strategy for winning the battle(s) and the war? **(CLASSES 42 & 43)**

#### III. WHAT IS AT STAKE IF I WIN THE WAR? WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I LOSE THE WAR? HOW CAN I KEEP FROM LOSING SIGHT OF WHAT'S AT STAKE **(CLASS 43)**

As you can see, we will be embarking on a great ADVENTURE, albeit at times a frightening trip, as we study all the details of the challenge we call Spiritual Warfare.

Next week, we will complete the INTRODUCTION to this course.