

# **One2One - Spiritual Warfare**

## **Discipleship Journey**

### **SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

#### **A New Enemy**

##### **1 Peter 5:8-9**

*“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.”*

- We have an enemy, stripped of weapons, power and disarmed, but with a will to fight vs
- The church / believer, fully armed with weapons and authority, but without the will to fight!
- Satans goal - looking for someone to devour.
- While the devil is running around roaring and roaming, we are called to STAND AGAINST in the authority of Jesus Name.
- Satan is like a lion who may roar but who was defanged at the cross (Colossians 2:15) - yet the sound of his roar, his deceptive lies, are still potent, if we fall into his trap.
- Colossians 2:15, “Having disarmed principalities and powers, HE made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”

##### **James 4:7:**

*“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*

- “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.
- Spurgeon: Sin seeks to enter - Grace shuts the door. Sin puts us down at times, and puts its foot on our neck, but Grace comes to the rescue!
- In light of the grace offered to the humble, there is only one thing to do - SUBMIT TO GOD.
- Order yourself under God.
- Surrender to Him our conquering King and start receiving the benefits of His Reign!
- **Why submit?**
- Because He created us.
- Because His rule is good for us.
- Because all resistance to Him is futile. Run but can't hide!

- Because such submission is absolutely necessary to salvation.
- Because it is the only way to have peace with God.

## **2 Corinthians 10:3-6 (NKJV) 3**

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”

The devil, or Satan, is a spiritual being totally committed to keeping us from living for the glory and pleasure of God. His goal is to divert glory from God to himself or to others. He hates the image of God in us. The devil, our enemy, has three main weapons he uses against God's people.

## **1. TEMPTATION**

- Temptation in itself is not a sin, but falling into it is.
- With every temptation, we have a choice. Life or death. Blessing or cursing.
- Deuteronomy 30:19, "I call heaven and earth as witness today against you, I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;"
- 2 Corinthians 11:14, "For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light."
- Appearing glorious, good and attractive, and also like a roaring lion - loud and full of intimidation.
- His goal, not to only make us miserable, but he may even try to make us happy - offering us "sweets filled with poison" - success - promotion - status - chasing the corporate ladder and dream - not all entirely bad, but at WHAT COST?
- Be on our guard for anything that keeps us from our walk with God, from community and from fulfilling God's call on our lives.
- Be careful of selling our birthright for a bowl of soup and the temporary at the expense of the eternal.
- Scripture urges us to flee from various evils:
  - 1 Corinthians 6:18, "Flee sexual immortality..."
  - 1 Corinthians 10:14, "... flee idolatry."
  - 2 Timothy 2:22, "Flee youthful lusts..." eg. Joseph.

Satan's favourite method of attack is temptation. But God has promised that we can have victory over temptation.

### **1 Corinthians 10:13**

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

If temptation doesn't work, Satan does not give up. He goes to "plan B"—deception. The way to keep free from deception is to stay in God's Word and stay in fellowship with God's people.

## **2. DECEPTION**

- to lead astray, lead aside from the right way
- to lead away from the truth, to lead into error

### **2 Corinthians 11:3**

"But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ."

### **1 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV)**

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,"

## **3. ACCUSATION**

The most subtle weapon in Satan's arsenal is accusation. He is the master accuser.

- He accuses God, producing doubt.
- He accuses our fellow Christians, resulting in division.
- He accuses our spiritual leaders, creating gossip.
- He even accuses us to ourselves, causing condemnation.

He is constantly pointing his finger of accusation!

NB: Jesus was falsely accused - He didn't try to defend or justify Himself. God is The One Who vindicates. He fights for us.

- Joseph was falsely accused - for doing the right thing. Landed in prison, but God was with him.
- Daniel was too - landed in the lion's den, but God was present.
- Shadrack, Meshack & Abednego. The Lord was with them in the fire.

- Paul was , Peter was, many of the early disciples were.
- I'm sure you were. I have been on numerous occasions... but God!
- We can't often control external factors but we can control how we respond to them.
- We can't stop a bird from flying over our heads, but we can prevent it from building a nest.
- When our lives become a threat to Satan's schemes, his attacks against us intensifies.
- When we advance the gospel, we push back the enemies advances.

### **Matthew 5:11**

"Blessed are you , when [men] shall revile you, and persecute [you], and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake."

### **Revelation 12:10**

"Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: 'Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.'"

Our response?

### **STAND UP AND FIGHT**

God has not left us defenseless. He has equipped us with spiritual weapons and spiritual armour so we can stand up and fight the devil.

Through faith in Christ, we can walk in victory over every attack of our enemy.

- How did Jesus respond? "It is written..." The power of The Word and Truth of God.
- As believers, Christ gave us His authority. Use it!

### **Ephesians 6:11-17**

"Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the

readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

### **Personal Application**

1. Are there temptations that you are not able to resist or struggle with? Talk to someone who will stand in prayer with you.
2. Are you consistently reading and obeying God’s Word? God’s Word is living and active. It’s our weapon against a spiritual enemy.
3. Have you received accusations against God? Against other Christians? Against spiritual leaders? Against yourself? Don’t entertain the enemies lies. Keep the unity. Stand together with fellow soldiers. Power in unity.

### **Some of Our weapons:**

1. Prayer - direct access to God Almighty. Direct access to all that heaven has to offer. Taking our appeals to the “courts of heaven”.
2. God’s Word - sword of The Spirit. Powerful weapon Jesus used - “it is written...”
3. The blood of Christ - Revelation - “overcame Satan by the blood of The Lamd and the word of our testimony “.
4. Our testimony- talk about what Jesus did for us.
5. Praise - Jehoshaphat - 2 Chronicles 20 - incredible story of the power of praise.
6. Thanksgiving
7. Gratitude
8. Faith - “speak to the mountain...” - mustard seed!
9. Unity - “if two shall agree...” - “One can put a thousand to flight...”
10. Love - Matthew 5,6,7 “love your enemies...” - The fruit of The Spirit!