SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND DELIVERANCE

First Love Ministries of Perry, Georgia USA

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle?
1st Corinthians 14:8 NLV

"As we await the day when our heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, will return to deliver us fully from this present age, we must be set apart from the world. When the Scriptures say "world," they generally refer to the world system-the political and social order that rejects God, is ruled by Satan, and governs the minds and manners of people who have not been saved (2nd Corinthians 4:3-4: *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them,* and 1st John 5:19: *We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one).* Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God secured the ultimate victory over the devil. Satan may rule this world, but his reign is fast approaching its end. Our deliverance-and God's glory-shall endure for all ages. With this in mind, we are to share God's light and love with the world-not to be confused with falling in love with the world or seeking to receive its love. Focusing on our heavenly home, we must clothe ourselves with humility. We must put off all self-seeking efforts and motives. These only fuel our pride, a dangerous attitude that blinds us to Satan's deception and makes us vulnerable. And we must cling to the cross, the same instrument that deals Satan's death sentence and secures our salvation through Christ's victory."

Derek Prince

Let us not glide through this world and then slip quietly into heaven, without having blown the trumpet loud and long for our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Let us see to it that the devil will hold a thanksgiving service in hell, when he gets the news of our departure from the field of battle.

C.T. Studd

LESSON ONE

INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND DELIVERANCE

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Jesus, as I often say, is the only real hero (Philippians 2:9-11: *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*). Somehow we have been wrongly taught that there is some great cosmic personal battle going on between Jesus and our archenemy satan, and they are like equally powerful brothers angrily battling over us. First off, Jesus is God and satan is a being that He created for His divine purposes and a being He could wipe off the map at any time He chooses. Secondly, Jesus is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, hardly a position of warfare, (*If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God*-Colossians 3:1. *But to which of the angels has He* [the Father] *ever said. "Sit at My right hand till I make Your* [God the Son's] *enemies Your*

footstool?"-Hebrews 1:13). (Just a side footnote: Jesus stood up when Stephen became the first Christian martyr (*But he* [Stephen], *being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God*-Acts 7:55 This is the only time recorded in the New Testament, as far as I can see, that Jesus in heaven stood, except in the book of Revelation where He stood as the Lamb that was slain.) Finally, Jesus is omnipotent or all powerful (Revelation 19:3: *And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!)* and omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-10: *Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your hand shall hold me*) and satan is neither omnipotent or omnipresent. Finally, satan is not an archangel. Many outstanding Christian leaders teach this erroneous idea, but the word *archangel* is always singular in the Bible, and the only archangel is Michael and there is NO scriptural evidence to suggest that satan ever reach the level of archangel. In fact, as we will emphasize later, satan is a mere cherub. However, don't be fooled into thinking he has no power, because he is a very powerful being.

Nevertheless, there *is* a cosmic battle going on, on earth and in the second heaven between the forces of evil and the forces of good or between the kingdom of darkness or the

kingdom of light, against members of the Body of Christ and demonic spirits.

Unfortunately, most in the Church today are not taught how to engage in this fight to the death. John Eldredge in *Waking the Dead* reminds us, "We are at war…. The world in which we live is a combat zone, a violent clash of kingdoms, a bitter struggle unto the death. I am sorry if I am the one to break the news to you: *You were born into a world of war, and you will live all your days in the midst of a great battle, involving all the forces of heaven and hell and played out here on earth.* Where did you think all this opposition was coming from?"

Michael Fickness adds to this: "The coming kingdom of God is going to have a far greater impact on the earth than any asteroid ever could. For when the holy ones truly arise, the kingdom of God will advance with such ferocity that all of man's kingdoms and complex world systems will be shaken-until they are eventually removed." As the prince of this world, satan is behind these world systems, and, until Jesus comes, it will be a fight to the finish between God's people and the Babylonian world system and the forces of the kingdom of darkness.

So why teach a course on spiritual warfare and deliverance? First, I want you to understand that we are at war, and the battles taking place today will only become increasingly ferocious and bitter as we near the Second Coming of Christ (Revelation 12:12: *"Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."*)

Secondly, I want to convince you that *you* have a part to play in this fight to the death. We quote again the verse from Hebrews 1:13: *But to which of the angels has He* [the Father] *ever said. "Sit at My right hand till I make Your* [God the Son's] *enemies Your footstool?"* This verse is found 7 times in the Bible (Psalm 110:1, Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 20:43, Acts 2:35; Hebrews 1:13, Hebrews 10:13). It is my belief that the Body of Christ on the earth, i.e. you and me, are called to make the enemies of God His footstool. In other words, we are to battle these enemies until they are totally defeated.

Finally, I hope to teach you how to fight using the weapons which He has given us in scripture. (2nd Corinthians 10:3-5: *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal* [of fleshly devising], *but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 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 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled*.) (These verses in the Amplified read as follows: *For though we walk in the flesh [as mortal men], we are not carrying on our [spiritual] warfare according to the flesh and using the weapons of man.* [4] *The weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood]. Our weapons are divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.* [5] *We are destroying sophisticated arguments and every exalted and proud thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought and purpose captive to the obedience of Christ…*)

The Church in the Western World is overall ineffective and powerless, "…*having a form of godliness, but denying the power. And from such people turn away!"* (2nd Timothy 3:5) Until we learn how to defeat the enemy, we will continue to be ineffectual and powerless, and we will continue to minister to people, bound up by demons and desperately wanting to be free, and see no real change and no abundant life. (John 10:10-***"The thief does not come except to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."***

Most Christian believers live in some type of bondage and do not see the Lord move in their circumstances because they have no clue how to do spiritual warfare, thus never living the abundant life that Jesus promised.

When I teach this course, I usually get three different unfavorable reactions. First, there are those who are filled with fear (we will be looking specifically at the spirit of fear later in the class). Paul makes it very plain in 2nd Timothy 1:7 (*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind)* that fear is not of God. A second reaction of some is a grossly out-of-balance approach that sees a demon under every bush and tries to spiritualize everything. A final reaction, just as bad as the first two, is the reaction that says that demons are not real, just myths to explain natural occurrences. Frankly I feel more sorry for this latter group than I do for the previous two groups for these people, unless the eyes of their understanding are opened, will spend their lives either in bondage themselves or surrounded by others in bondage, all of which could be set free and filled with the Spirit.

I'm not afraid of the devil. The devil can handle me-he's got judo I never heard of. But he can't handle the One to whom I'm united, he can't handle the One whose nature dwells in my nature.

A.W. Tozer

SPIRITUAL WARFARE VERSES DELIVERANCE

Spiritual warfare is a generic term that includes *all* opposition to satan and the kingdom of darkness. It is paramount that we learn to engage in spiritual warfare so that the kingdom of darkness will be defeated. *The Prophet's Dictionary* by Dr. Paula Price defines spiritual warfare in this way: "A term used to describe conflict and intangible infliction and assaults that emanate from and take place in, the invisible spheres of creation. It is centered on God's invisible creatures battling with the prayers of His saints, members of the church of Jesus Christ, on earth." Spiritual warfare always, to some degree, involves the forces of good against the forces of evil, the Christian body on the earth and angelic beings, against the forces of satan and antichrist spirits and the kingdom of darkness.

Deliverance, a part of spiritual warfare, involves casting out demons from humans and from, I believe, even inanimate objects, such as statues and houses and businesses, etc. The believer has the power to do deliverance, (even self-deliverance when the bondage is relatively weak), but must know how to use the spiritual weapons the Lord has given him to defeat demons and evil spirits.

Again deliverance is a part of spiritual warfare, but spiritual warfare involves much more than just deliverance. For example, we can wrestle to the ground, at least on a temporary basis, principalities, but we have no authority to cast them out (Ephesians 6:11-12: *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle* [to the ground] *against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*) This often takes a season of specific prayer and should not be done as a lone ranger but is more wisely done in a corporate fashion. Likewise curses cannot be cast out, but we can be cut off from our curses when we recognize that Jesus hung on a tree to make null and void our curses and when we accept His sacrifice for us in this area (Galatians 3:13: *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*) We will be looking at breaking curses and wrestling principalities in much more depth later in this course.