

Gospel Clarity Study Series

The Gospel and Spiritual Warfare

Session 4: Our Spiritual Battles

➤ The First Battle in Eden...

- **God speaks _____.**
 - **In creation, God says _____ He is.**
 - **In Scripture, God says _____ He is.**
- **Satan speaks _____.**
 - **He doubts the _____ of God's Word.**
 - **Regarding God's _____ intentions.**
 - **Regarding God's _____ warnings.**
 - **He depersonalizes the _____ of God.**
- **We _____.**
 - **By way of _____.**

“Then Jesus was approached by Pharisees and scribes from Jerusalem, who asked, ‘Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they don’t wash their hands when they eat.’ He answered them, ‘Why do you break God’s commandment because of your tradition? ...Hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied correctly about you when he said: ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. They worship me in vain, teaching as doctrines human commands.’”

–Matthew 15:1-3, 7-9

“You are of your father the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies.”

–John 8:44

- **By way of _____.**
- **By way of _____.**

“For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God; the essence of salvation is God substituting Himself for man.”

–John Stott

- **Jesus _____.**
 - **God promises a champion of _____.**
 - **He will come from the _____.**

“Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel.”

–Isaiah 7:14

“For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. The dominion will be vast, and its prosperity will never end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever. The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.”

– Isaiah 9:6-7

- **He will be** _____.

“But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds.”

– Isaiah 53:5

- **He will** _____.

“The one who commits sin is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purposes: to destroy the devil’s works.”

– 1 John 3:8

➤ **The Decisive Battle in Christ**

○ **A thorough battle . . .**

- **At the beginning of His _____ and ministry.**

“Then Herod, when he realized that he had been outwitted by the wise men, flew into a rage. He gave orders to massacre all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, in keeping with the time he had learned from the wise men. Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children; and she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’”

– Matthew 2:16-18

“Then Jesus as led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. Then the tempter approached him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’ He answered, ‘It is written, ‘Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ Then the devil took him to the holy city, had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will give his angels orders concerning you, and they will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ Jesus told him, ‘It is also written: Do not test the LORD your God.’ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. And he said to him, ‘I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me.’ Then Jesus told him, ‘Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the LORD your God, and serve only him.’ Then the devil left him, and angels came and began to serve him.”

– Matthew 4:1-11

- **In the middle of His life and ministry.**

“Then Jesus began to go all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. Then the news about him spread throughout Syria. So they brought to him all those who were afflicted, those suffering various diseases and intense pains, the demon-possessed, the epileptics, and the paralytics. And he healed them.”

– Matthew 4:23-24

- **He cast out** _____.
- **He asserted His** _____.

▪ **At the end of His life and ministry.**

• ***The cross is the ultimate* _____.**

“Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of the world will be cast out. As for me, if I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate what kind of death he was about to die.”

–John 12:31-32

• ***The resurrection is the ultimate* _____.**

“For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then he appeared to over five hundred brothers and sisters at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one born at the wrong time, he also appeared to me.”

–1 Corinthians 15:3-8

“For this corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body must be clothed with immortality. When this corruptible body is clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body is clothed with immortality, then the saying that is written will take place: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, death, is your victory? Where, death, is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”

–1 Corinthians 15:53-57

• ***The ascension is the ultimate* _____.**

“Summoning his twelve disciples, he gave them authority over unclean spirits, to drive them out and to heal every disease and sickness.”

–Matthew 10:1

“Jesus came near and said to them, ‘All authority has been given to me in heaven and earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

–Matthew 28:18-20

“‘But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’ After he had said this, he was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight.”

–Acts 1:8-9

“The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”

–1 John 4:4

“God has raised this Jesus; we are all witnesses of this. Therefore, since he has been exalted to the right hand of God and has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit, he has poured out what you both see and hear. For it was not David who ascended into the heavens, but he himself says: ‘The Lord declared to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.’”

–Acts 2:32-35

➤ **The Current Battle in the Church**

- **We fight victoriously by appropriating gospel _____.**

“Finally, be strengthened by the LORD and by his vast strength.

–Ephesians 6:10

- **We fight not primarily by _____ but by _____.**

“Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.”

–Ephesians 6:11-12

- ***The armor of God is a reflection of the _____ of God.***

“Righteousness will be a belt around his hips; faithfulness will be a belt around his waist.”

–Isaiah 11:5

“He put on righteousness as body armor, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and he wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.”

–Isaiah 59:17

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the herald, who proclaims peace, who brings news of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’”

–Isaiah 52:7

“He made my words like a sharp sword; he hid me in the shadow of his hand. He made me like a sharpened arrow; he hid me in his quiver.”

–Isaiah 49:2

- ***The weapons of our warfare...***

For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand. Stand, therefore, with truth like a belt around your waste, righteousness like armor on your chest, and your feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace. In every situation 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. Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. For this I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I might be bold enough to speak about it as I should.”

–Ephesians 6:13-20

- **The Belt of Truth**

“For although we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh, since the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments and every proud thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ.”

–2 Corinthians 10:3-5

- **Know who _____ is.**
 - **Jesus is fully_____.**

“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming; even now it is already in the world.”

–1 John 4:1-3

- **Jesus is fully _____.**

“Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elements of the world, rather than Christ. For the entire fullness of God’s nature dwells bodily in Christ, and you have been filled by him, who is the head over every ruler and authority.”

–Colossians 2:8-10

- **Jesus is _____.**

“Therefore, don’t let anyone judge you in regard to food and drink or in the matter of a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of what was to come; the substance is Christ. Let no one condemn you by delighting in ascetic practices and the worship of angels, claiming access to a visionary realm. Such people are inflated by empty notions of their unspiritual mind. He doesn’t hold on to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with growth from God.”

–Colossians 2:16-19

- **Know who _____ are in Christ.**

“Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ. For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he lavished on us in the Beloved One. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding.”

–Ephesians 1:3-10

- **You are blessed**
- **You are _____.**
- **You are loved.**
- **You are _____.**
- **You are _____.**
- **You are _____.**
- **The Breastplate of Righteousness**
 - **Our _____ righteousness**

“God presented him to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he would be righteous and declare righteous the one who has faith in Jesus.”

–Romans 3:26

“He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

–2 Corinthians 5:21

“It is from him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom from God for us—our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, in order that, as it is written: ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’”

–1 Corinthians 1:30-31

○ **Our _____ righteousness**

“Take off your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires, to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, the one created according to God’s likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth. . .
. Be angry and do not sin. Don’t let the sun go down on your anger, and don’t give the devil an opportunity.”

–Ephesians 4:22-24, 26-27

“So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

–Colossians 3:1-4

“My children, I am again suffering labor pains for you until Christ is formed in you.”

–Galatians 4:19

● **The Shoes of Peace**

○ **We stand _____.**

○ **We step _____.**

● **The Shield of Faith**

“This is the victory that has conquered the world: our faith.”

–1 John 5b

○ **A faith that is _____.**

○ **A faith that is _____.**

● **The Helmet of Salvation**

○ **We have been saved from the _____ of sin.**

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.”

–Romans 8:1

○ **We are being saved from the _____ of sin.**

“For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is the power of God to us who are being saved.”

–1 Corinthians 1:18

“Therefore, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, so now, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good pleasure.”

–Philippians 2:12-13

○ **We will be saved from the _____ of sin.**

“We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified, and those he justified, he also glorified.”

–Romans 8:28-30

- **The Sword of the Spirit**

- **An offensive _____ a defensive weapon.**

“For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

–Hebrews 4:12

- **An _____ weapon**

“Then Jesus as led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. Then the tempter approached him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’ He answered, ‘It is written, ‘Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ Then the devil took him to the holy city, had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will give his angels orders concerning you, and they will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ Jesus told him, ‘It is also written: Do not test the LORD your God.’ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. And he said to him, ‘I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me.’ Then Jesus told him, ‘Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the LORD your God, and serve only him.’ Then the devil left him, and angels came and began to serve him.”

–Matthew 4:1-11

- _____ **the Word**
- **Study the Word**
- _____ **the Word**
- **Meditate on the Word**
- _____ **the Word**

- **The Power of Prayer**

- **Prayer is the _____ of all spiritual warfare.**

“We cannot know what prayer is for until we know that life is war. Life is war. That’s not all it is. But it is certainly that. Our weakness in prayer is owing largely to our neglect of this truth. Prayer is primarily a wartime walkie-talkie for the mission of the church as it advances against the powers of darkness and unbelief. It is not surprising that prayer malfunctions when we try to make it a domestic intercom to call upstairs for more comforts in the den. God has given us prayer as a wartime walkie-talkie so that we can call headquarters for everything we need as the kingdom of Christ advances in the world.”

–John Piper

“Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

–Matthew 6:9-13

- **It recalibrates our _____.**
- **It provides perspective.**
- **It expresses our _____.**
- **It accesses God’s _____.**

“When Jesus saw that a crowd was quickly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, ‘You mute and deaf spirit, I command you: Come out of him and never enter him again.’ Then it came out, shrieking and throwing him into terrible convulsions. The boy became like a corpse, so that many said, ‘He’s dead.’ But Jesus, taking him by the hand, raised him, and he stood up. After he had gone into the house, his disciples asked him privately, ‘Why couldn’t we drive it out?’ And he told them, ‘This kind can come out by nothing but prayer.’”

–Mark 9:25-29

○ **We do not fight _____ victory but _____ victory.**

▪ **Regarding our external opposition....**

“For this is what love for God is: to keep his commands. And his commands are not a burden, because everyone who has been born of God conquers the world. This is the victory that has conquered the world: our faith.”

–1 John 5:3-4

- **Unbelief projects the _____ into the _____.**
- **Faith brings the _____ into the _____.**

▪ **Regarding our internal opposition...**

“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be rendered powerless so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin, since a person who has died is freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him, because we know that Christ, having been raised from the dead, will not die again. Death no longer rules over him. For the death he died, he died to sin once for all time; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

–Romans 6:6-11

▪ **Regarding our spiritual opposition...**

“We know that everyone who has been born of God does not sin, but the one who is born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him. We know that we are of God, and the whole world is under the sway of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we may know the true one. We are in the true one—that is, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.”

–1 John 5:18-20

➤ **The Final Battle in the End.**

“Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels also fought, but he could not prevail, and there was no place for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was thrown out—the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say, ‘The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have now come, because the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been thrown down. They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; for they did not love their lives to the point of death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you with great fury, because he knows his time is short.’”

–Revelation 12:7-12

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: ‘Look, God’s dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away. Then the one seated on the throne said, ‘Look, I am making everything new.’ He also said, ‘Write, because these words are faithful and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will freely give the thirst from the spring of the water of life. The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son. But the cowards, faithless, detestable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars—their share will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.’”

–Revelation 21:1-8

- **The glory of Christ will be our** _____.
- **The rule of Christ will be our** _____.
- **The life of Christ will be our** _____.

Some Final Take-Aways

- **Let’s not be naïve about the _____ of spiritual warfare and the danger it represents.**
- **Let’s resolve to _____ and refuse to _____ with the world, the flesh, and the devil.**
- **Let’s be aware of the schemes of the devil who _____, tempts, accuses, _____, and influences people in various ways to varying degrees.**
- **Let’s resist the devil by being quick to _____ and _____ of our sin.**
- **Let’s remember that God is _____ and Satan is not.**
- **Let’s appeal to the _____ of Christ in all our encounters with Satan and demons.**
- **Let’s ordinarily fight spiritual warfare by fixing the eyes of our faith on _____ and seeking spiritual _____.**
- **Let’s not live in _____ of our enemies but rest in the _____ of our Savior.**
- **Let’s rejoice in the vicarious victory awarded to us by _____ in Jesus.**
- **Let’s continue to _____ how the gospel equips us for victory in spiritual warfare.**

Recommended Readings

If you are interested in further study in the topic of spiritual warfare, the following resource are recommended with slight reservations. Though these books are helpful, it is important to note that Dr. Arthur, as well as the Elder board of The Hallows Church, does not necessarily agree with or endorse everything included in them. You are encouraged to read and to learn from these books, but at the same time, be wise and discerning in utilizing biblical, gospel-saturated discernment.

C. S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*

Joel Beeke, *Striving Against Satan*

Jerry Rankin, *Spiritual Warfare*

Chip Ingram, *The Invisible War*

Karl Payne, *Spiritual Warfare: Christians, Demonization, and Deliverance*

Clinton Arnold, *3 Crucial Questions About Spiritual Warfare*

Clinton Arnold, *Powers of Darkness: Principalities and Powers in Paul's Letters*

Edward Gross, *Miracles, Demons, and Spiritual Warfare: An Urgent Call for Discernment*

David Powlison, *Power Encounters: Reclaiming Spiritual Warfare*

Jay Adams, *Winning the War Within: A Biblical Strategy for Spiritual Warfare*

Thomas Brooks, *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*

William Gurnall, *The Christian in Complete Armor*

John Owen, *Overcoming Sin and Temptation*

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*

Millard Erickson, *Systematic Theology*