

Spiritual Warfare Part 2
Pastor Wilson's Notes
Wednesday August 20th 2014

Key Verses

Ephesians 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers; against the rulers of darkness of this world; against spiritual wickedness in high places.

2 Cor 10:3-5

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

TWO important omissions from last session.

1. You don't have to seek spiritual warfare out, you don't have to go looking for it. Spiritual warfare COMES TO YOU! Spiritual warfare seeks YOU out! It seeks to impose itself upon you!
 - a. John 10:10 "The thief **comes** only to steal and kill and destroy."
 - b. Mt 4:1-3 **1** Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. **2** And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. **3** And when the tempter **came** to him he said...
 - c. Mt 13:18 in the parable of the sower, it states: ¹⁸"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one **comes** and snatches away what was sown in their heart." The point: you don't have to seek out confrontation of spiritual warfare: he, the enemy brings the battle to your doorstep!
2. Fasting must be accompanied by prayer. Especially if you're going to go for more than 2 or 3 days. Not eating weakens the flesh, which is both good and bad. It's good because you're exercising dominance over the thing that give you the most trouble; however your weakened flesh is subject to strategic attack from the enemy. We need to pray so that the inner man might be strengthened, even while the outer man perisheth.
- 3.

DEFENSIVE COMPONENT 3: OUR WORDS

Yes, words as a defensive component. Words can, and should be used as an offensive weapon, but they are indispensable as a defensive tool.

Words are powerful things. Words can make us feel defeated and worthless: Many people have had the unfortunate testimony of sharing how they were berated and verbally abused as children—by parents who told them that they are stupid, or useless, or unwanted. Many are the husbands or wives who've been told by an unkind, or inconsiderate spouse that they are worthless, or ugly or fat or some other sort of demeaning words. Those words can be very powerful in that they can sometimes set the tone or direction of a life. Many are the people today who suffer from low self-esteem or low self-worth because they were constantly belittled in their early life.

Words can tear us down, but words can also build us up; strengthen us, encourage us or inspire us. However, our problem can be sometimes that instead of speaking inspirational words, or words of encouragement and blessing and abundance; we speak words that dishearten, words of discouragement, and cursing and lack. We speak fear and doubt instead of victory and faith.

The types and quality of our words matters because we are created in the image of God

Genesis 1:3, 1:6, 1:9, 11, 14, 20 and 26 all state, "...and God SAID, let there be..." and whatever He spoke came about, when God SPOKE something, His spoken word was manifested into tangible reality.

Heb 11:3 through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God...

We are the sons and daughters of God. We have the traits and characteristics of our Father.

When engaging in spiritual warfare, one very important aspect is to STOP BEING OUR OWN WORST ENEMY. Part of defensive spiritual warfare is NOT giving the enemy the opening to attack us; or not giving him the ammunition he needs to use against us. Part of defending ourselves is not speaking our negativism into the air where the "prince of the powers of the air" can forge it into a weapon with which he can mortally wound us.

Have you ever caught yourself saying things like: "I must be coming down with the flu?" or "I must have the worst kids in the world?" or "Why does God even bother with me. I'm such a failure?" How about "God will never use me.?" STOP IT!

Our words can affect our day-to-day life, and our words can affect other's lives. How?

Have you ever been encouraged by a positive word to you from someone? What happens to your demeanor when someone compliments you, or speaks kindly of

you before others? Conversely, have you ever had a parent, or a person in authority say hurtful things to you? Or, do you know of child who's had negative or hurtful words spoken to them? Did it affect their world?

Power of the tongue:

Mark 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which **he saith** shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever **he saith**.

We live in a body, but like our Father, we are in reality, "spirit beings." And Jesus said, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the **words** that I speak unto you, **they are spirit, and they are life.**" John 6:63

Negative example:

Negative report of the 10 spies

Num. 13:25-33, Num. 14:1-4

Because of the negativity of the spoken word of the 10 spies, the people were all disheartened, and even the positive words of Joshua and Caleb couldn't turn the tide. As a result of Israel's faithlessness and negativity they doomed themselves to 40 years of wandering in the wilderness and ultimately died out without having obtained the promises of God.

Positive examples:

Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart **burn within us, while he talked with us** by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:37 Now when they **heard** this, they were **pricked in their heart**, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Warnings regarding the tongue:

Prov. 18:19-21 A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle. 20 A man's belly shall be satisfied with the

fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled. 21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Summary

We all are spirit beings like our creator. Our words have creative and destructive power. Words are the coinage, or medium of exchange in the spirit realm. Words can have tremendous power to build us up, or to tear us down. Therefore, we must be careful what we speak out into the air. Positive, faith-filled words can make our hearts "burn within us," encourage us, and strengthen us. Conversely, negative words can tear us down, discourage us, they can water seeds of doubt and destroy spiritual vitality. When engaging in spiritual warfare, let us be mindful of not being our own worst enemy! Let's defend ourselves more effectively by not giving the enemy the raw materials he can use to trouble us.