

Spiritual warfare Part 4
Pastor Wilson's Notes
Wednesday September 3, 2014

Key Verse

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;

Armor of God

Eph 6:10-17

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on **the whole** armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. 13 Wherefore take unto you **the whole** armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Helmet of Salvation

Eph 6:17

...And take the helmet of salvation...

One of the most important pieces of our spiritual armor is the helmet of salvation. But, what does a helmet have to do with our salvation? From the very beginning, the battlefield has been the mind of mankind. The loyalty, the allegiance, the obedience, the very soul of man has been the prize that has been fought over. And the battle takes place here: between the ears.

The earliest account we have of this warfare; this battle for the heart and soul of mankind is found in Gen 3:1:

Gen 3:1a

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.

NIV: The serpent was more crafty...

NLT: The serpent was more shrewd...

The Holman Christian Standard: The serpent was the most cunning...

The Jubilee Bible: The serpent was more astute...

God's Word translation: The snake was more clever

Gen 3:1b

And he said unto the woman, *Yea, hath God said*, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

NIV: Did God really say?

ESV: Did God actually say?

NET: Is it really true that God said?

Douay Rheims: Why has God commanded you?

In this war that takes place between man's ears; this battle for the loyalty, fidelity and allegiance of mankind, satan has always used the tool of deception and doubt and even man's vanity to undermine the Word of God, and God's will for man. In the parable of the sower, we can see that the devil has no need for new tricks because the old ones work JUST fine:

Mark 4:5

And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

Again, what does the helmet have to do with salvation?

Heb 11:4

By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

How does the Bible say that we receive faith from God?

Rom 10:17

So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Able received the testimony of a more “excellent sacrifice” and that testimony survives to this very day, BECAUSE Abel was acting in obedience to the Word of God! It’s real simple, God asked Cain, “If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? God wasn’t trying to be coy with his instructions concerning what was an acceptable sacrifice. He wasn’t trying to be foggy or shrouded or deceptive or confusing. HE TOLD CAIN AND ABLE EXACTLY WHAT WAS AN ACCEPTIBLE SACRIFICE, and Abel complied in obedience, and Cain in his vanity thought that he had a better way of pleasing God other than doing what was commanded.

What’s the bottom line and how is the helmet related to salvation? Jesus said, “Accept a man be born again of the water and the spirit, he cannot SEE or ENTER the kingdom of heaven. Peter took the keys to the kingdom and interpreted being born again of the water and the spirit to mean baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, and the infilling of the baptism of the Holy Ghost speaking in other tongues; both of these being preceded by repentance of course! This plan of salvation was stated by Peter in Acts 2:38, 39 and then repeated in Acts 8:12-18, 10:44-48 and Acts 19:1-6.

Romans 6:3-5 restates the plan of salvation again, mentioning repentance, water baptism and spirit baptism again. Titus 3:5 differentiates between “works of righteousness,” and what truly saves us: water baptism and the infilling of the Spirit. And finally, Hebrews 6:1, 2 tells us that repentance, water baptism and the baptism of the Spirit are FOUNDATIONAL to the faith and the doctrine of salvation.

Again, God is not being coy, God is not being deceptive or confusing or difficult. Jesus alluded to the components of salvation when he spoke to Nicodemus in John 3; Peter spelled it out in black and white in Acts 2; Paul confirmed the plan of salvation in Romans 6 and Hebrews 6, and yet and still there are people who do not see it, or worse still, there are people who used to see it, and believe it, who’ve now fallen prey to the crafty devil, the cunning devil, the shrewd, astute and clever devil asking the question: Did God really say? Did God actually say? Is it really true that God said? Why has God commanded you?

The devil is relentless in using one of the oldest tricks in the book. “Hath God said?” to deceive people into forfeiting their salvation! The Apostle Paul said, “But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” Mt 24:13 says, “But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” Heb 2:1 says, “So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it.”

Put on the helmet of salvation and leave it on! Buy the truth and sell it not! Hold on zealously to the truth and resist all attempts to water it down. Be leery of people who either with awareness, or unwittingly use the devil’s tactics to appeal to your vanity, or your flesh to try to get you to take the “easier path” that they themselves have chosen to walk. Remember that “straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, that leads to life everlasting, and FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT; and wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction”!

The Sword of the Spirit

Eph 6:17

...and the sword of the Spirit, *which is the word of God*:

The sword of the Spirit is the only piece of equipment listed by Paul which is used in an offensive capacity.

The Word of God is living and powerful and sharp (Heb 4:12). The Word of God is able to cut through every defense the enemy can raise. Nothing can withstand the Word's ability to cut right to the core of any matter.

But in order to use the "sword," we must internalize the Word. When facing the enemy in Matthew 4, Jesus said, "It is written," and then quoted scripture to bring to nought every temptation and attack of the devil. Scripture, and words of faith rooted in scripture are powerful weapons that will chase the enemy, **bind** the wicked and **loose those who are bound**.

Mt 16:19 HCSB

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth is already bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth is already loosed in heaven."

The Holman Christian Standard Bible gives us a more perfect understanding of Mt 16:19: Jesus wasn't saying "Peter, I give you a blank check to bind and loose whatever you want," Jesus was saying, "Peter when your will is in perfect subjection to my will, and your words are in sync with my words, then what you bind will be that which I have already bound, and what you loose will be that which I've already loosed. In heaven, in the mind of God; in spiritual reality; the work is already a finished work! The last thing the dying Jesus said on the cross before he gave up the ghost was, "It is finished." With Jesus' sacrifice, he finished the work necessary for our salvation; he completed the requirements needed for our reconciliation to God Almighty; he bought our healing and deliverance; he purchased our freedom from lack, fear, and from doubt!

We are ambassadors for Christ. We speak in his stead; and when we are in alignment with his Word and with his will, the speech which comes out of our mouths is of the mind of Christ! We can use the sword of the spirit and words of faith rooted in the Word, to call into existence things here on earth that are already sanctioned in heaven! We can speak life, and healing and deliverance and hope and liberty into the lives of our loved ones because life, and healing and deliverance and hope and liberty are what has already been loosed in heaven! We can bind the works of the enemy in the lives of our loved ones, because those foul works have already been bound as far as heaven is concerned, and is just waiting for a child of God to proclaim it here on earth!!

WORSHIP

The second and final offensive weapon is our worship.

2 Chron 20:22, 23

And when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them; and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

Ammon and Moab were the products of a drunken Lot and his wrong-headed daughters. After being delivered from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot's daughters conspired to get their father drunk for the purpose of having relations with him while he was sleeping. These illicit and perverse relations resulted in the births of Ammon and Moab.

The "inhabitants of Mount Seir" are the descendents of Esau, who sold his birthright for a bowl of bean soup. Esau, had no respect for the rights and privileges that the birthright represented. Esau, counted his inheritance and relationship with God of less value than a bowl of lentils. Esau, was only interested in filling his belly; only concerned with temporal things, earthly things. Esau and the inhabitants of Mt. Seir represent carnality.

Romans 13 states that even Christians sometimes make provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. Even Christians can be involved in rioting and drunkenness; and chambering and wantonness. "Chambering" and "wantonness" means sexual immorality; lewdness and illicit and habitual acts; and shocking and outrageous conduct.

We must take up the challenge to engage in spiritual warfare! We must move beyond just defending ourselves and hanging on until the Lord comes. We ourselves, or our sons, or daughters; our husbands or wives; or our friends, neighbors or co-workers may be in need of deliverance from carnality, or acts of perversion; or from pornography or a perverse lifestyles! Once again:

2 Chron 20:22, 23

And when they began to **sing and praise, the LORD set ambushments** against the children of Ammon, Moab (perversion) and mount Seir, (carnality) which were come against Judah (God's children); and they (perversion and carnality) were smitten.