

Spiritual Warfare 1 – “The Schemes of the Devil”

Ephesians 6:10-13

THE REALITY OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

1. Every Christian is in a spiritual battle.

- Ephesians 6:10-20 is written to the church (not just to leaders, pastors, etc.)

2. This spiritual battle takes place in our ‘everyday’ life.

- This text is just after... teaching on marriage (5:22-33), family (6:1-4), and work (6:5-9).

REALITIES OF EVIL

1. Evil is real. v.12

- Evil exists as a personal entity. v.11: “the devil” i.e., Satan, the serpent (Gen. 3:1f), Beelzebul or Beelzebub
- Found in 20+ books of the Bible; approximately 100 direct references

2. Evil is real—but has limited power. v.13 Ref. Is 14:12-15; Lk 10:18; Rev 9:1; 12:3-9

- Using God’s armor and doing battle God’s way, a Christian is able to withstand evil.

3. Evil was defeated by Christ’s death and resurrection.

- Colossians 2:15: He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

4. Though Christ triumphed over evil on the cross, believers are still engaged in battle. 1 John 4:4; 1 Pet 5:8

- 3 imperatives: v.10: “be strong in the Lord,” v.11: “Put on the whole armor of God,” v.14: “Stand therefore”

THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL. v.11

1. The methods of evil. v.11

- “schemes” = Greek **τὰς μεθοδείας** Eng. “methods”
- 2 Corinthians 2:11: ...so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

→ How does evil function? What are the ‘methods’ of Satan?

2. Satan is “the father of lies.”

-John 8:44b: “He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

-2 Corinthians 11:14: “...for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.”

-Rev 12:9: “And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world.”

- Evil functions through lies. Ref. Gen 3:1: ‘Did God actually say...?’ Luke 7:34: Jesus was called a drunkard.
- Evil functions through distorting the truth.

3. Satan is “the accuser.”

-Rev. 12:10b: “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.”

-Job 1:11: “But stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, he will curse You to Your face.” Ref. Job 2:5

-Zechariah 3:1: “Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.”

- Evil functions through accusation. Lies become ‘incarnate’ through accusation.

4. Satan is “diabolos” – the Divider/Destroyer.

-John 8:44: “You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning.”

-1 Peter 5:8b: “Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

-Diabolos = Gk. **διάβολος** a false accuser seeking to hurt, condemn, and ultimately sever relationship

- Evil functions through making division...working towards the goal of destruction and death.
- Evil works toward dividing: our relationship with God, each other, ourselves, and our world.