

**Spiritual Warfare: Know Your Enemy**  
**(November 4, 2018, by Rev. Anthony Menzel)**

The past several weeks I have been preaching about spiritual warfare...

What are the key points we have discussed in the messages that have been preached?...

- [1) Our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ must be real.
- 2) Fasting
- 3) Praise & Worship
- 4) Obedience
- 5) Repentance
- 6) Covering ourselves with the blood of Jesus Christ
- 7) Respect large demonic powers that influence regions and nations: Say for example "The Lord Jesus rebuke you...]

When we are in spiritual warfare, we need to know our enemy...

- 1) First of all, the devil and demons exist...

One of the best tricks of the enemy is to convince us that he does not exist...

You can't fight an enemy that you think does not exist...

Not all sickness is directly due to bacteria or a chemical imbalance...

When the sickness is due to a bacteria or a chemical imbalance, the devil is often the originator of the bacteria or the chemical imbalance...

**Scripture 1: Job 2:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. <sup>5</sup> But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely [b]curse You to Your face!"

<sup>6</sup> And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he *is* in your hand, but spare his life."

<sup>7</sup> So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. <sup>8</sup> And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes.

Some people are wary of saying that sickness is caused by the devil... They think that doing so implies that the person is demon-possessed or evil...

That is not the case...

Job was attacked by the devil, but that does not mean that he was evil... Much to the contrary...

The Apostle Paul was definitely one of the greatest apostles ever...

He helped found many churches...

He was used by God to write much of the New Testament...

Almost half of the New Testament (13/27 books were written by Paul)...

Paul was not an evil person...

Yet he was attacked continually by the devil for years...

### Scripture 2: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

<sup>7</sup> And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to [b]buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. <sup>8</sup> Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. <sup>9</sup> And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Notice that this same Paul, who was attacked greatly by the devil, was used mightily by God...

Being attacked by sickness does not mean that God cannot use to heal someone else or advance His kingdom in different ways...

In fact, it can give God even more glory because when a sick person is used by God to heal, it is even more obvious that God should get all the glory for

the healing, that it is the Lord Jesus' power that is operating, and this power has very little to do with the person praying, other than the fact that the person has separated themselves for God's use...

### Scripture 3: Acts 19:11-12

<sup>11</sup> Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, <sup>12</sup> so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

As someone who suffers from epilepsy, I do not feel like God cannot use me...

If the Lord Jesus could use the Apostle Paul while he battled illness, the Lord can use me, too...

And He does for His glory...

I believe this example of the Apostle Paul is in the Bible was placed in the Bible to encourage all of us who battle illness so that we will know that the Lord Jesus wants to use even while we are fighting illness...

The person who the Lord used to bring me to Him and give my life to Christ was my friend Erica Graves, who struggled with kidney failure and died around the age of 20...

Up in heaven, part of her crown is every blessing that flows from this ministry, Abundant Love Christian Church, because it is because of her invitation to a Friday night prayer meeting that I gave my life to the Lord Jesus...

Mental illness is no different than physical illness in being an attack from the devil...

### Scripture 4: Luke 8:26-33

<sup>26</sup> Then they sailed to the country of the <sup>[k]</sup>Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup> And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons <sup>[l]</sup>for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" <sup>29</sup> For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For

it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

<sup>30</sup> Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?"

And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup> And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

<sup>32</sup> Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. <sup>33</sup> Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned.

I believe there is a spiritual component to every illness, whether physical or mental...

Scripture 5: Matthew 8:16-17

<sup>16</sup> When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, <sup>17</sup> that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

"He Himself took our infirmities  
And bore *our* sicknesses."

2) It is very important that each person has their own relationship with God...

Scripture 6: 2 Corinthians 11:7-16

<sup>7</sup> Did I commit sin in <sup>[c]</sup>humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge? <sup>8</sup> I robbed other churches, taking wages *from them* to minister to you. <sup>9</sup> And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lacked the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied. And in everything I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and so I will keep *myself*. <sup>10</sup> As the truth of Christ is in me, no one shall stop me from this boasting in the regions of Achaia. <sup>11</sup> Why? Because I do not love you? God knows!

<sup>12</sup> But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. <sup>13</sup> For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup> And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. <sup>15</sup> Therefore *it* is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Scripture 7: Matthew 24:23-27

<sup>23</sup> "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here *is* the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe *it*. <sup>24</sup> For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. <sup>25</sup> See, I have told you beforehand.

<sup>26</sup> "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; *or* 'Look, He *is* in the inner rooms!' do not believe *it*. <sup>27</sup> For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

If we are not careful, the devil and his demons will trick us into believing their lies...

That is part of why what we will be going after service today, incorporating Bible study into our fellowship time, is so important...

If you know the Word of God for yourself, it will be difficult for the devil to trick you...

Several religions, including Islam and Mormonism, are based on angelic visitations to the founders of those religions...

To be honest, I do not doubt that Mohammed and Joseph Smith has angelic visitations...

I just believe that those visitations were demonic...

I do not think that Mohammed and Smith just made up their religions...

Scripture 8: Acts 17:10-12

<sup>10</sup> Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue

of the Jews. <sup>11</sup> These were more [d]fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so. <sup>12</sup> Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

When we know the Word of God for ourselves, our belief will be strong because it will be based on a solid foundation...

### **3) We have to rest in the Lord Jesus, but at the same time, we have to be watchful...**

#### **Scripture 9: Matthew 11:28-30**

<sup>28</sup> Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am[f]gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light."

#### **Scripture 10: Psalm 127:1-2**

Unless the LORD builds the house,  
They labor in vain who build it;  
Unless the LORD guards the city,  
The watchman stays awake in vain.  
<sup>2</sup> *It is* vain for you to rise up early,  
To sit up late,  
To eat the bread of sorrows;  
*For* so He gives His beloved sleep.

#### **Scripture 11: 1 Peter 5:8-11**

<sup>8</sup> Be [c]sober, be [d]vigilant; [e]because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. <sup>10</sup> But [f]may the God of all grace, who called [g]us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, [h]perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*. <sup>11</sup> To Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.