**Spiritual Warfare: Obedience & Repentance**

**(September 16, 2018, by Rev. Anthony Menzel)**

Today we will continue our series on spiritual warfare, even as we prepare for our annual baptism service…

Baptism is an act of obedience to God…

Scripture 1: **Matthew 28:18-20**

**18**And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19**Go [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-24215c)]therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20**teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-24216d)]Amen.

God always blesses our obedience…

Scripture 2: **Deuteronomy 28:1-2,8**

“Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. **2**And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:

**3**“Blessed *shall* you *be* in the city, and blessed *shall* you *be* in the country.

**4**“Blessed *shall be* the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+28&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-5616a)]fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.

**5**“Blessed *shall be* your basket and your kneading bowl.

**6**“Blessed *shall* you *be* when you come in, and blessed *shall* you *be*when you go out.

**7**“The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.

**8**“The Lord will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

So if we want our prayers to be truly effective, we have to obedient to the Lord Jesus…

Repentance is also key…

Repentance should be something constant in our lives…

Scripture 3: **1 John 1:8-10**

**8**If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10**If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

For our prayers to be effective, we cannot allow sin to remain in our lives…

The baptismal candidates before us today, William, July, Giulianna, and Jean Pierre have all repented of the sins that can keep us out of heaven…

They are saying “no” to these sins as they prepare to obey the Lord Jesus in their baptism today…

What are these sins?

Scripture 4: **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**

**9**Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+6&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28477b)]homosexuals, nor [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+6&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28477c)]sodomites, **10**nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Scripture 5: **Revelation 21:7-8**

**7**He who overcomes [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-31061d)]shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. **8**But the cowardly, [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-31062e)]unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Scripture 6: **Galatians 5:19-21**

**19**Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+5&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29182d)]adultery, [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+5&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29182e)]fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, **20**idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, **21**envy, [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+5&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29184f)]murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

As they say “no” to the these sins and confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and confess their belief in the Holy Trinity, they will be cleansed spiritually according to passages such as

Scripture 7: **Colossians 2:11-12**

**11**In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body [[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29506h)]of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, **12**buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.