



## Week 1: The Battle is Real

Key Texts: 2 Kings 6:8-19, Ephesians 2: 1-5

Sunday, May 31, 2020

There is a temptation of Christ-followers to discount the work of the unseen powers of this world and often try to take on this world alone. Take note; the Bible says there is a battle raging for your soul.

**There is a spiritual battle that we do not always see.**

**In Christ, you are not alone in this battle.**

When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked. "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are **with us** are more than those who are **with them.**" And Elisha prayed, "**O LORD, open his eyes so he may see.**" Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 2 Kings 6:15-17

**In Christ, you have power through prayer.**

"**Don't be afraid, Daniel.** Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. **I have come in answer to your prayer.** But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come." Daniel 10:12-14

### Defining the Battle

Once you **were dead** because of your disobedience and your many sins. <sup>2</sup>You used to live in sin, just like the rest of **the world**, obeying **the devil**—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the Spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. <sup>3</sup>All of us used to live that way, following **the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature.** By our very nature, we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. Ephesians 2:1-3

#### 1. The Battle with the World

The phrase "as for you" identifies those who were dead in ... transgressions and sins before they met Christ. This refers not only to eventual physical death or to the sinners' ultimate eternal state; it also refers to a very real "death" in this life. People who are spiritually dead have no communication with God. These people are physically alive, but their sins have rendered them spiritually unresponsive, alienated from God, and thus incapable of experiencing the full life that God could give them. <sup>1</sup>

- War with outside forces. (The World)
- The temptation is strong to live like the "World."
- If you belong to the world, it will love you as its own. If you live like the world, you are not a follower of Jesus. (Outside forces)

<sup>18</sup>"If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup>The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. John 15:18-19

<sup>2</sup>Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Romans 12:2

#### 2. The Battle with the Devil

- "Satan" means accuser.

<sup>1</sup> Barton, B. B., & Comfort, P. W. (1996). [Ephesians](#) (p. 37). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

The Greek word *archon* means "ruler" and refers to Satan's control. In the Old Testament, angels and spirit powers operated in heaven (Job 1:6). The "air" (*tou aeros*) refers to the space around the earth, and thus, this is Satan's sphere of influence. Though Satan's influence is great among unbelievers, his power is limited because he is a defeated enemy. He cannot separate believers from the love of God.<sup>2</sup>

- He is created being, not equal to God. He is a deceiver and lures people into sin. He seeks to steal, kill, and destroy. (John 10:10)
- Discouragement (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)
- Doubt (Eph. 6:16-19)
- Division (Colossians 3:12-14)

*There is no neutral ground in the universe; every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counter-claimed by Satan." C. S. Lewis*

### **3. The Battle of the Flesh**

The philosophy "if it feels good, do it" is not unique to the twentieth century. "Gratifying" means that they did whatever felt natural to them. The "sinful nature" refers to people's natural state without God. That nature is self-centered, enslaved to its own desires.<sup>3</sup>

- Followers of Christ will have a daily internal battle of the sin nature.
- The top focus on someone who has the mindset on the flesh is "Me."
- The top focus of someone whose mindset on the Spirit is "Us." (Jesus, Others, You)

### **One Last Thought:**

<sup>4</sup> **But God** is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, <sup>5</sup> that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)  
Ephesians 2:4-5

### **Discussion Questions**

- What do we learn about God in this text?
- Respond to the statement; there is a spiritual battle that is often unseen. Have you ever experienced spiritual warfare, felt oppressed, or observed evil at work in your family or elsewhere?
- Pastor Matt mentioned that there are three enemies of the soul, the world, the devil, and the flesh. Can you share how each on these wage war on our soul?
- After hearing and reading through this passage, what is one take away you have personally?

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<sup>2</sup> Barton, B. B., & Comfort, P. W. (1996). [Ephesians](#) (pp. 38–39). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>3</sup> Barton, B. B., & Comfort, P. W. (1996). [Ephesians](#) (p. 39). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.