

Warfare (I): Why Warfare

I. Why do we need warfare?

1. Revelation 12:7-12, because the whole world lies under the control of the evil one.
 - (1). Verse 10: *“for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.”*
 - ◆ Jesus was crucified for us, bearing the sins of all humanity on His shoulders. He ascended to heaven, triumphing over all enemies. At that moment, Satan and its angels were cast down, and all accusations and curses against us were nailed to the cross.
 - (2). Verse 12: *“But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”*
 - ◆ For the enemy can no longer accuse us in heaven, so it descends to the earth angrily, seeking whom it may devour.
2. 1 Peter 5:8: *“Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”*
 - ◆ What kind of people are the most devourable?

In 1 Peter 5:7-8, it talks about **how anxious people are the most easily devoured** because they are constantly worrying and not resisting.
 - ◆ We must indeed recognize that we are in a battle, and this enemy is very real. It prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
3. One is the kingdom of God, and the other is the kingdom of the enemy; light and darkness are in conflict.
 - ◆ Revelation 12:10, it speaks about Pentecost, when the powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit came down. The powerful presence of the Holy Spirit is the coming of the kingdom of God. On the other hand, the devil and his angels are also present on this earth, constantly seeking to capture Christians and attack the church.
 - ◆ The Bible speaks of *the kingdom of God not being about eating and drinking, but about righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit*. The kingdom of God and the authority of Christ have been powerfully present from Pentecost until now. The Holy Spirit has been continuously pouring out upon His people. However, only those who understand how to live in His presence are consistently using these authorities to manifest the kingdom of God through them.
4. Revelation 12:12: *“Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them!”* Sitting in the position won for us by Jesus.
 - ◆ Do you want to dwell in the “earth and sea” or do you want to dwell in the “heavenly realms”? Ephesians Chapter 2 speaks of having raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. However, many Christians are not seated in heavenly places; their hearts and minds are focused on the “earth and sea.” If you are seated with Christ in heavenly places, your life will be different. This is the position won for us by Jesus, but many people do not enjoy this position and do not live in the reality of it.
5. Leaving the land of Egypt and entering the beautiful land of Canaan.

- ◆ God leads His people out of the land of Egypt, where they were enslaved. You'll find that some of God's people, while in Egypt, didn't face much battle; they were just slaves for generations, accustomed to hard labor, sighing and groaning, sometimes calling out to God, but unsure if He heard them because God seemed distant.
- ◆ God's purpose in leading the Israelites out of Egypt was to enter the beautiful land of Canaan. However, upon entering Canaan, they faced many battles, one after another, starting with the mighty city of Jericho. Although the land was already allotted to them, they still had to possess it.

6. Sharing on God's victory

- ◆ Psalm 110:1

When Jesus Christ said *"It is finished,"* He had already shattered the chiefs of the enemy, so we know that the Lord Jesus is already seated on the throne. When someone sits down, it signifies that everything is completed; this salvation has been perfected. Jesus sitting down is waiting for the enemy to become His footstool.

- ◆ Psalm 110:2, *The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter.*

"You" refers to Jesus Christ; "Zion" refers to the church, God's dwelling place, which is us. This means that God will extend the mighty scepter of Jesus Christ, His son, from us. Today, we are His dwelling place, and Jesus Christ wants to exercise authority through us in the midst of the enemy.

Today we are fighting a battle that we are destined to win, because the victorious commander has already won the victory for you.

II. Why is there warfare?

1. To train us, to enable us to have the ability, authority, and glory of a son of God.

- ◆ Perhaps someone might ask, "Why doesn't God just bind the devil and throw him into a lake of fire?" **God leaves Satan on the earth to train His people, teaching them to use the authority of God's son.** So, Satan is simply a training tool, allowing the natural, earthly weaknesses of God's people to be transformed into heavenly strength. Through the battles, earthly traits can become heavenly traits.
- ◆ It's like many parks have signs warning visitors not to feed them because if they're constantly given food, they lose their ability to fend for themselves.

Today, God's people have food—they can devour their enemies. The Anakites are the ones we are meant to devour. Even though we may seem as small as grasshoppers, the sons of God have this authority. You must plunder your enemies, devour them, and you will grow stronger and stronger.

- ◆ When the Israelites entered Canaan, Caleb desired the hill country of Hebron, which was the most difficult to conquer. So when Caleb reached the age of 80, his body was still strong, and his spirit had not weakened. **He said, "I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then..." This was because he never chose the easy path.**
- ◆ God is full of love and wisdom. His arrangements for us are always the best. He knows exactly how to train us. So, when challenges arise, we shouldn't run away or complain. Instead, we should face them and emerge victorious.

2. God desires to win us over to become His dwelling place, and so does the enemy.

- ◆ Psalm 83:12 speaks of enemies desiring to take possession for themselves of the pastures of God.” In the book of Ephesians, it tells us that God’s eternal purpose is to obtain a dwelling place where the Holy Spirit can reside, and that dwelling place is the church. He desires to obtain a holy people, to have their bodies as His dwelling place, to become His inheritance.

So the greatest battlefield in this world is within our own bodies.

- ◆ God desires to win us over to become His dwelling place. He wants to make all glory, peace, and joy our inheritance. The enemy also desires to possess our bodies as its inheritance and dwelling place, filling us with hatred, bitterness, strife, jealousy, and immorality.
- ◆ We should be mindful of what thoughts are consistently filling us, as it determines which spirit can dwell within us. For example, if you frequently entertain lustful thoughts without repentance, a spirit of lust can reside within you.

III. What are we warfaring against?

1. Sin

(1). Hebrews 12:4

- ◆ This sin always follows us, tempting us to fall. So, we must resist it in order to prevail.

(2). Romans 6:11-14

- ◆ To whom do you dedicate your body? Is it as an instrument of righteousness or as an instrument of sin?

- ◆ Some sins are not so obvious but are ones we frequently commit, like worry, unbelief, complaining, suspicion, and lying. Therefore, we must strive to keep ourselves away from sin today, which requires fighting and staying vigilant in prayer.

- ◆ Have you struggled against sin to the point of shedding blood? For example, a brother who struggles greatly with lust, in order to resist falling into that sin again, kneels on the ground and strikes his head against it. He is so determined to overcome this sin, and eventually, he becomes so free.

- ◆ Galatians 5:19-21, If you repeatedly engage in these mentioned actions, consistently following the desires of your body, you will gradually become enslaved to them. Therefore, be careful not to become a slave to sin; instead, be an instrument of righteousness.

2. 1 Peter 5, James 4:7: The devil

- ◆ How do you resist it?

It’s by submitting to God in all things, resisting it.

To resist the devil, don’t softly say, “Please leave,” but **loudly** stomp and say, “Devil, in the name of Jesus, I command you to leave.”

- ◆ Some things may bring comfort to the flesh but lead away from God.

For example, it wasn’t easy for Jesus to go to the cross. When Peter said to Jesus, “Don’t go to the cross,” it was comforting to the flesh. So Jesus said, “Get behind me, Satan!”

- ◆ What kind of person is most susceptible to being devoured? Those who are anxious, unbelieving, timid, complaining, and discouraged.

- 1) The Bible says, *“Whatever you fear will come upon you.”* So, even if you feel afraid, you should still say, “I am not afraid.” The Lord treats you according to what you speak, not according to your feelings. Satan listens to the words coming out of your mouth, and based on them, it can pursue you.
- 2) Discouragement is easily devoured by the enemy **because discouragement is essentially automatically disarming in front of the enemy.**

So, we must be vigilant, resist the devil, and guard our souls from these vulnerabilities that allow the enemy to attack. **Another name for Satan is Beelzebub, which means “lord of the flies.” Therefore, we must ensure that there is no garbage or openings within us.**

- ◆ The enemy often devours people through certain environments.

(1). Suffering

- ◆ Suffering is actually a disguised blessing. We often say that a crisis leads to an opportunity. A person who has endured suffering tends to possess a humble and resilient character.
- ◆ God rescues the afflicted through affliction itself. If it were not for God's permission, nothing would come upon us. Like Job, who endured so much suffering, it allowed him to truly know God and no longer consider himself righteous.
- ◆ **Satan often tries to drown the faith of Christians in God through suffering, but God turns suffering into blessings that adorn His people.**

(2). The World

- ◆ **Suffering is visible and apparent, while the world deceives gradually.**
- ◆ What is the world?

In the book of 1 John, it mentions the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, or anything that makes you particularly fond of what you see, gradually diminishing your love for God. You should also be mindful of anything that makes you boastful. The whole world lies in the power of the evil one, so do not follow the trends of the world.

- ◆ **The enemy's scheme is to divert our attention away from God,** to decrease our focus on Jesus, and our longing for Him. If that happens, the enemy succeeds.

Satan slowly devours us through the world, often starting with attractive things that gradually lead us astray. You find yourself losing appetite for God, losing your longing for Him. Therefore, we must be vigilant and guard ourselves.

Warfare (I) Assignment

1. Why is there a battle? Where is the world's biggest battlefield?
2. Why did God leave Satan on the earth?
3. The enemy devil, like a roaring lion, prowls around seeking whom he may devour. What kind of people are most devourable?
4. What similarities are there between someone who faces little battle and someone who is enslaved for generations in Egypt?
5. Ephesians speak of us being resurrected with Christ and seated with Him in heavenly places. Are you living in this reality and position? If yes, can you share an example with everyone? If not, what do you think is hindering you?
6. What is the object of our battle?
7. In what kind of environment does the enemy often seek to devour people?
8. Scripture memorization: Hebrews 12:4, Revelation 12:10-11, 1 Peter 5:7-8.