

## Spiritual Warfare

### Concept:

“For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith” (I John 5:4). We can overcome the world; that is some statement. But what world is John talking about? We know there is a natural world, a spiritual world, and a people world. I am sure that the verse alludes to all three but the emphasis is certainly pointing to the spiritual world. We need to understand that the Spirit World existed long before there was a natural world and long before people were placed on this earth. The Spiritual World is going to take precedence and dominion over the other two. We are going to have to understand it's working before we can have victory in the natural and human realm.

Ephesians 6:12, informs us that our struggle or fight isn't against flesh and blood, but it is against spiritual forces. Once again, reminding us that there is an unseen realm that is exerting pressure in the physical realm. That is why scripture makes statements such as, be strong in the Lord's power, Ephesians 6:10 and we are reminded in Zechariah 4:6 that we win the battles of life with the Lord's Spiritual muscles and not ours. Scripture continues to bring revelation to us that it is through Christ that victory is assured.

We see that, it is through Christ that we have the victory because He has already defeated the enemy that we are fighting (Colossians 2:15). We are to rest in the awareness that no plan of God will be stopped (Job 42:2) and no action of the Ancient of Days can be reversed (Isaiah 43:13). We are to imitate the Lord (Ephesians 5:1), which means that I should also walk as a victor in the spiritual and naturalness of my life. I must be persuaded that the Commander, Lord of Hosts is with me (Isaiah 41:10) and He will give me strength for the battle (Isaiah 40:31). We can easily see that the enemies weapon and strategies is specifically designed to take over and destroy the influence of the church, of which, we all are a vital part. We through the Lord will prevail. We are confident in I Corinthians 15:57, which states, that we are being lead into victory and not defeat as a body or as an individual member of that body.

We, as Christians, need to have awareness that the Lord has given us the authority and power to resist the devil and all of his works. We are presented with the example of Moses, Aaron, and Hur using spiritual authority in Exodus 17, which allowed Joshua to fight a physical battle and experience a victory. We read of a choir that went out praising the Lord in front of an army and the enemy going into confusion and fleeing before any combat took place (II Chronicles 20). We are told in II Kings 6, of a prophet, who spoke the Word of the Lord and a whole raiding party was blinded and taken captive without any physical exchange. All through scripture, we see the Spirit of God change natural battles and natural circumstances by initiating different acts of faith through His people. God is always reminding us that His word is what is holding all things together and His spoken word that contains faith will change any and all circumstances (Hebrews 1:3).

As we study scripture together, we will see that we must fight in the Spirit World with our weapons that are mighty through God. We need to identify the enemy and then apply the wisdom of God to enforce the victory that the Lord has already established. The Lord

has demonstrated a violent Gospel that we need to be comfortable using (Luke 16:16, Matthew 12:29). We are to overcome by the blood of the Lamb and a testimony that is filled with the Word of God. The prince of this world has been judged (John 12:30-32) and we need to remind the powers of darkness that we are the victorious ones and we will not settle for defeat in any part of our lives.

### **Definitions:**

Principalities: Archas. Hold highest power in Satan's organization. Probably held since the fall of Lucifer. Beginning, highest, chief rulers, and ones' holding the highest rank

Powers: Exousia. Delegated authority, received from Satan to do whatever they want to do, carry out all manner of evil and wickedness. Privilege, competency, freedom, mastery, get there power from the chief rulers.

Rulers of darkness of this world: Kosmokrator. Raw power that has been harnessed and put into some kind of order. Military word that shows taking young men of raw power and potential and making them into a submitted, disciplined, orderly, and perfectly arranged foot soldier. Disciplined, organized, and committed

Spiritual wickedness in high places: Pneumatikos. Something bad, vile, vicious, and malignant

Thrones: thronos. A stately seat, power or a potentate, a place of rulership

Dominions: Kuriotes. Rulers, government, controller, and master

Devices: noemata. Mind games; fill mind with confusions, devil wants our minds to be the storehouse of his ideas and suggestions

Spirits of Darkness:

Deceiving spirits: I Timothy 4:1

Perverse spirit: Isaiah 19:14

Distressing of evil spirit: I Samuel 16:23

Unclean spirit: Mark 7:25

Dumb spirit: Mark 9:17

Spirit of Infirmity: Luke 13:11  
John 5:5

Spirit of Jealousy: Song of Solomon 8:6  
Romans 10:19  
Romans 11:11  
Numbers 5:14  
Proverbs 6:34

Spirit of Lying: I Kings 22:23  
Jeremiah 23:26  
Ezekiel 21:29

Spirit of Fear: II Timothy 1:7  
Isaiah 41:10,11  
Job 3:25

Spirit of Witchcraft: Acts 16:16  
Micah 5:12  
Galatians 5:20

Spirit of Harlotry: Hosea 4:12  
Hosea 1:2  
Hosea 5:4

Spirit of the Antichrist: I John 4:3  
I John 2:18  
Revelation 13:1-18  
Revelation 17:14  
Revelation 19:19,20

Character of the Devil:

Revelation 9:11  
Revelation 12:10  
I Peter 5:8  
II Corinthians 11:14  
Matthew 10:25  
II Corinthians 6:15  
Ephesians 6:11  
Revelation 12:9  
Matthew 6:13  
John 8:44  
John 12:31  
Matthew 9:34  
Ephesians 2:2  
Luke 10:18

**Scripture Application:**

Ephesians 1:21

Colossians 1:16

II Peter 2:10

Jude 1:8

Ephesians 6:12

Ephesians 3:10

I Corinthians 15:24

Romans 8:38,39

Colossians 2:10,15

Ephesians 6:10-18

Exodus 17:8-15

Daniel 9:1-14

Luke 16:16

Matthew 12:29

Matthew 16:16-19

Matthew 17:17-22

Mark 4:35-41

Mark 5:21-43

Luke 22:31-35

Luke 22:39-46

Luke 13:10-17

Acts 4: 23-31

Acts 12:1-17

Acts 16:25-28

Acts 19:13-16

Hebrews 7:23-25

Romans 8:26,27

Isaiah 59:12-21

Nahum 1:9

II Kings 19:14-35

I Chronicles 14

II Chronicles 14:11-15

**Summary:**

As we have studied the spiritual realm, I hope that Lord has opened your eyes to where the real battle is fought. We see, time after time, where the Israelites were victorious by simply following the advice of the Lord. Sometimes, this advice was not naturally meaningful, but it was always spiritually sound, which always brought natural success. We have to be alert to what the Spirit is saying to us, so that we can follow His direction that will guarantee success. The watchmen on the wall could always see trouble coming so the city could get prepared. The Lord wants to show us trouble that is coming and then give us the strategy and weapons to insure a defeat of the enemy. Let's not get consumed with the physical battles and miss the strategy the Lord is giving to insure a spiritual victory. That is where the lasting victory is located and where the true battle is located. Psalms 20:7 states, that some trust in man's weapons but we trust in the Name of the Lord. Proverbs 21:31 declares, that we get ready for battle but he Lord gives the victory. Allow the Lord's method be your method of battle.

**Action:**

Examine the battle that you are in right now and ask the Lord to identify the controlling spirits and then ask for the strategy. Use your authority and the Lord's weapons and watch the enemy run. Establish the bloodline around your household and then remind the enemy that according to Nahum 1:9 he cannot return again.