

Open Your Eyes to the Unseen World

For the Win, Week Two

Today, we're diving right into the deep end! We kicked off this series last week with kind of a *preface* - that with everything we talk about in terms of spiritual warfare and the internal battles we face each day, no matter what... **we win with Jesus!**

His resurrection has decided the war. But we still have battles to face, and we're going to spend the remainder of this series talking about how to fight.

You need to know that for me, the Bible is the one and only perfect authority on all matters of faith and practice. I value the contributions of other thinkers and other works of literature in the realm of human psychology, but the Bible alone is breathed out by God.

And the Bible teaches that there is a spiritual, heavenly realm that we can't see or sense or experience yet. We often believe in the things we *wish* to believe in - like heaven and angels, but we reject the things that violate our sensitivities, like hell and demons. But we must embrace that invisible, spiritual things can be just as real as anything we can physically touch, taste or handle in this world.

C. S. Lewis wrote in his *Screwtape Letters*, *"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them."*

The Bible puts it this way...

Ephesians 6:10-12 NLT

Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

3 Foundational Truths About Spiritual Warfare...

1. There is a spiritual, heavenly realm all around us.

It can't be seen or sensed by our senses, but it's just as real as anything that can be seen or touched.

Ephesians 1:3 TEV

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! For in our union with Christ he has blessed us by giving us every spiritual blessing **in the heavenly world.**

1 Peter 5:8 NLT

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He **prowls around** like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

This unseen, spiritual world is spoken of throughout scripture. It's interwoven with all of the events experienced by humankind.

2. Our biggest problems in life are spiritual.

Not ALL problems are spiritual. Some are physical. Others are brought on by our own sinful, human nature. Sometimes things happen because of nature or the choices of others.

We need both **discipleship** and **deliverance**.

Our real fight is spiritual.

Our fake fight is natural.

Satan will never own or "possess" you in the Hollywood sense.

But he can gain control in your life. How?

When we allow him in. When we leave the door cracked just a little and allow ourselves to be influenced by the lies of the enemy, which twists our thinking and makes us susceptible to temptation, to addiction, to self-destruction.

3. The victory is found in your relationship with God.

“Be strong **in the Lord!**”

When you are saved, you are sealed. You have, permanently, the indwelling presence of God and the fullness of the power of the Holy Spirit is at your disposal every moment of your life.

You don't have it *within* you to win this battle on your own. What you do have is **Kingdom authority**, from *above* you.

Luke 10:17-20 NLT

17 When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, “Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!” **18** “Yes,” he told them, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! **19** Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. **20** But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven.”

You must simply choose what will influence you...

Error, or truth?

Your flesh, or God's Spirit?

Ephesians 5:18 NLT

Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.

1 John 4:4 NLT

You belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

Why are you fighting the flesh so hard? Isn't it exhausting?

When you see the real problem, you will also see the real solution.

Jesus really **IS the answer** to the biggest problems in your life!