

The Newness of Life part 4
Victory in Spiritual Warfare

John 12:31-32

31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

I. Review

1. On the journey of the new life, you start with a look back at what just happened? Lesson 1 looked at the experience of Acts 2 as the basis of what just happened and what continued to happen in the church. A similar experience was repeated by the apostle with the key with three different people groups: Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles.
2. Lesson 2 looked at some ways to operate in victory in your new life. We need to understand our new life walking with God is actually a battle with an adversary who would like you to fail. Ingredients of success include daily prayer, daily Bible reading, and consistent church attendance.
3. Lesson 3 was a deep dive into what our daily prayer can look like by using the model of the Lord's prayer. We provided a prayer guide as a tool to help you in your daily prayers.
4. Today is lesson 4 that will enlarge ideas we looked at in lessons 2 and 3. Today we are talking about a specific type of prayer for a specific situation—spiritual warfare. When we understand that there is an adversary who would like us to fall away from God, and when we realize the great power we have in prayer, there are times we must employ prayer warfare, or spiritual warfare to keep the adversary in retreat. That is what we are going to talk about this morning.

I. Introduction

1. Spiritual warfare is about a spiritual awareness and discernment that recognizes that there is spiritual activity going on around us beyond what we see with our eyes.
2. And prayer warfare is an application of principles taught by Jesus and His apostles about resisting the devil.
3. Jesus is seeking to save the lost and set them free from the devil, and then to draw all men unto Him. He made through His death on the cross:

John 12:31-32

*31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall **the prince of this world be cast out.***

*32 And I, **if I be lifted up from the earth,** will draw all men unto me.*

4. But we must also be aware that even as the Word of God goes forth through this kind of preaching and teaching, the wicked one attempts to steal those words that Jesus is trying to plant in hearts.
 5. Jesus said the “sewer soweth the Word” (Mark 4:14) but then...
Matt 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.
 6. In spiritual warfare, we develop a sensitivity to discern when the enemy is working. Then in prayer warfare we use the weapons Jesus provided to us to tread upon, resist, stand against, wrestle against, pull down, cast down, and overcome the adversary until we win.
- II. What Jesus provided for us
1. It is important that we understand the foundation on which we stand. We are not facing the battle with the devil on our own power or authority. That will not work. But we go in the power and authority of the name of Jesus.
 2. Jesus, the sinless One, won a decisive victory over the devil and then gave authority to His followers through His name.
 3. One of the reasons Jesus came to earth was to destroy the works of the devil:
*1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might **destroy the works of the devil.***
 4. He accomplished that through His death, burial, and resurrection:
Col 2:14-15
*14 **Blotting out** the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, [the list of sins (works of the devil we did) and our guilty verdict] and took it out of the way, **nailing it to his cross;***
15 And having spoiled [disarmed] principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.
 5. Of course the devil was attempting to kill Jesus, but what He didn't realize, that those nails that the soldiers pounded into Jesus' hands and feet, actually fastened our guilty verdict to the cross through the blood of Jesus.
[images-Jesus nailed to cross, focus on His hand]

6. Our sins have earned a judgment that condemns us, but when Jesus died for our sins, those nails pounded our condemnation into Jesus' blood, which blotted out our sins and cancelled the devil's authority over us.
7. Jesus openly demonstrated His triumph over the devil, and principalities and powers, when He walked out of the grave, and hundreds saw Him alive.
8. You see, spiritual warfare begins with having your sins forgiven so you can enjoy the benefits of that holy relationship.

Col 1:13-14

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins [Remember Acts 2:38]:

9. It is not my power but God's power and God's righteousness working in me and through me that I am relying on.

III. Discern the enemy

A. His activity

1. To overcome the devil, we must be able to recognize his methods of assault:
2 Cor 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

2. We must recognize the adversary's attempts to work and then do not give him a work permit!

Eph 4:26-27

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

*27 **Neither give place to the devil.***

3. We must understand that when sexual sins or anger are let loose, it opens a place ("have a seat") giving the devil an opportunity to do his evil work.

4. So don't give him place! If you have, repent, revoke his hold and evict him!

B. Spiritual jurisdictions

1. Part of any warfare training is learning who your enemy is and where he is located. The scripture identifies our adversary and his hierarchy:

Eph 6:12-13

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

2. Verse 12 provides a description of **[slide]** four levels of increasing authority.
3. A *Principality* is a local chief; *powers* refers to a national authority.
4. "*Rulers of the darkness of this world,*" refers perhaps to a continental rule.
5. *Spiritual wickedness in high places,* refers to a realm of authority located in the heavens. Eph 2:2 speaks of "*the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*"
6. The devil and his power are not everywhere like God is, and there is no evidence he knows our thoughts, and he only manifests where his spirits roam or are invited.

C. Spirits identified in scripture

1. **[slide]** There are several kinds of spirits identified in scripture: Spirit of: fear, bondage, error, slumber, whoredoms, divination, heaviness, lying, jealousy, infirmity, the world, antichrist; and deaf and dumb spirits, seducing spirits, unclean spirits, and familiar spirits.

IV. How to prepare for battle

A. Be aware and ready

1. The apostle Peter warned us to be alert of your circumstances because the devil is looking for victims to devour.

1 Peter 5:8-9

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are [throughout] in the world.

2. Jesus is the true Lion of the tribe of Judah, but the devil is a copy-cat, acting "as a roaring lion."
3. It is important to be ready with a plan to confront the adversary, and not be taken by surprise when he shows up with a plan of destruction.
John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

B. Pray daily, "keep us from evil"

1. Part of being ready, is committing to praying daily, “thy [God’s] kingdom come,” not advancing the devil’s works of temptation and evil:
Matt 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 2. Jesus intended for us to start our day with a spiritual awareness and readiness, and praying for deliverance from evil.
- V. Our protection (defense)
- A. The armor of God
 1. Now that the adversary’s cover has been pulled away, consider the weapons we are provided to use in battle to defeat the adversary.
 2. They are listed in Ephesians 6 as the armor of God, and are provided because of our relationship with Jesus as our Savior :
Ephesians 6:13-17
*13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **withstand in the evil day**, and having done all, to stand.*
14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;
15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
 3. The word, “withstand,” refers to resisting, standing firm, and standing your ground.
 4. And we can do that successfully against all of those powers of the adversary, **even those that assault our thoughts**, by using God’s authority and the weapons of our warfare.
2 Cor 10:3-5
3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)
5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;
 5. Weapons in *Ephesians 6:13-17*.

6. The first weapon is v. 14 **loins girt about with truth**. The gospel truth/the keys of truth that Jesus set us free by His blood that washed away our sins when we were baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost.
7. The v. 14 **breastplate of righteousness** is Jesus' righteousness that was also placed on us when we are born of water and Spirit.
8. V. 15 Your **feet** are even **covered** with the **preparation of the gospel of peace**, and that is a peace with God that comes from obeying and standing on the gospel.
9. And our v. 16 **shield of faith** that stops the fiery darts of the devil's attacks. Raise your faith—don't lay it down! The shield is also an offensive weapon.
10. And even your head and mind are covered by salvation v. 17 your **helmet of salvation**. From head to foot, you know you are leaning on the authority given you by the salvation Jesus provided to you through obeying the gospel.
11. And finally, you have the v. 17 **sword of the Spirit**—the Word of God, which is our primary offensive weapon to shut the devil down.
12. Go to battle with Jesus all over you, and wrestle and pull down some strongholds.

B. Protection of angels

1. God has millions of angels around His throne:
Rev 5:11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;
2. When Jesus was facing arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter took out his sword and struck at one of those who came to arrest Jesus.
3. Peter saw it as a battle of flesh and blood, but Jesus helped him see it was more than that:
Matt 26:53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?
4. You and your little sword may make you feel ferocious, but I guarantee you, thousands of angels will be more effective.
5. These are promise to recall:
[Angels will encircle and deliver] *Ps 34:7 The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.*
6. [Angels take charge and protect] *Ps 91:11-12*
11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

7. [Angels minister] *Heb 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*
8. [Especially when the battle has been fierce] *Matt 4:11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.*
9. When we need help, God can send an angel for that.

VI. Using our authority (offense)

A. The need for fasting

1. When we find we have touched a stronghold of the adversary and the intensity of the assault intensifies against you, it is time to proclaim a time of intense prayer and fasting.
2. Fasting increases both our faith and our spiritual sensitivity and it is essential when dealing with some spiritual warfare:
Mark 9:28-29
28 And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?
29 And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.
3. The adversary may counterattack by asking, “Who do you think you are?”
4. But when we are regular in our fasting and in resisting the devil, he will recognize God’s authority on which we stand (“Jesus I know, Paul I know” (Acts 19:15)—“in fastings often” (2 Cor 11:27)).
5. And we be strengthened to prevail in areas where we struggled before.

B. Jesus gave His disciples authority

1. In Luke 9-10, Jesus explained a key aspect of spiritual warfare. To His 12 apostles, He said:
Luke 9:1-2
1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.
2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.
2. And when Jesus sent the 70 out to preach, their response was:
Luke 10:17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

3. Jesus explained why that happened:
Luke 10:19-20
*19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on **serpents and scorpions**, and **over all the power of the enemy**: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*
20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.
 4. As Jesus' disciples, those who have obeyed the gospel, we are given the authority to influence our world to advance the kingdom of God, and to pull down the strongholds of the kingdom of darkness.
- VII. Conclusion: Word weapons to use
1. Jesus is more powerful and the devil trembles before Him:
James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.
 2. Devils begged Jesus not to destroy them:
Mark 1:23-24
23 And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,
24 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.
 3. *Mark 5:7 And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.*
 4. And even the weapons the devil tries to manufacture to use against us, bear the manufacturing defects of the devil and will lose against God's children who know who they are:
Isa 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.
 5. His church is protected by His blood and will not be defeated:
*Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which **he hath purchased with his own blood**.*
 6. *Matt 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

7. We will overcome by the blood of Jesus and our testimony of salvation:
Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.
8. Because Jesus washed your sins away by His blood, and because He filled you with the Holy Ghost, you have authority and weapons of warfare to fight with.
9. When you sense an attack of the adversary, engage in spiritual warfare by praying these verses. The Word is your authority and Jesus is your source of power.
10. Pray using spiritual warfare and you will gain victory in spiritual warfare.

VIII. Lucifer in the beginning, satan in the fall

A. Princes over nations

1. In the writings of the prophets Daniel, Ezekiel and Isaiah, there are some truths that are clothed in metaphors that make it appear as though the prophets were speaking about the kings who were ruling in their day.
2. But as you read these descriptions of human kings, it appears they are speaking about more than just human rulers.
3. The prophets move from describing the puppet king to describing the puppet master who was behind the pulling of the strings.
4. The prophet Daniel helped us understand how that worked by describing the evil forces that were operating in the spiritual realm where spiritual warfare was going on that were influencing the kings of Persia and Greece.
5. Following a three week fast, an angel appeared to Daniel to tell him that a battle in the heavens had delayed his answer arriving until the angel Michael came to help him resist those evil spirits.
Dan 10:13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.
6. The angel told him about a fight somewhere in the heavens, perhaps in earth's atmosphere, the first heaven. The fight involved the Prince of Persia and the Prince of Greece:
Dan 10:20 Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come.

7. These spiritual princes apparently had been given jurisdiction over certain political boundaries which no doubt were influencing the kings of those nations and political activity there.
- B. Lucifer the praise leader
1. In the beginning, lucifer was created as an anointed angel of light who dwelled in the heavens:
Ezek 28:13-15
*13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy **tabrets** and of thy **pipes** was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.*
*14 Thou art the **anointed cherub** that covereth [like the cherub that covered and guarded the ark]; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.*
15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.
 2. Verse 13 describes that he was created with “tabrets” and “pipes”, and Isaiah 14:11 added “viols” to the list of musical instruments:
*Isa 14:11 Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy **viols**: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.*
 3. Tabrets are a percussion instrument, pipes are a wind instrument, and viols are stringed instruments. In other words, when Lucifer spoke, it was as an orchestra of musical praise unto God.
- C. The fall of satan
1. That is until iniquity was found in him. And that started what Jesus described as, his fall from heaven. He began as a prince in the heavens and continued a long fall of descent:
Luke 10:18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.
 2. You see, Lucifer desired to ascend even higher—to be above God and to be like God.
 3. Of course we will read how he failed at that, but it is interesting that his next recorded move was as a serpent in the Garden of Eden, telling Eve, if she ate the fruit, she would “be as gods” (Gen 3:5).

4. Read about Lucifer's fall:
Isa 14:12-15
12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!
13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.
15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.
 5. Jesus described him three times as the prince of **this world** (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11). Paul described him as the prince of the power of **the air** (Eph 2:2).
 6. And apparently that is the state of affairs even now.
 7. Revelation 12:9 looks back to the time when the dragon, the old serpent, the devil and satan, all names for the same being, were **cast out of heaven to the earth** along with his angels.
 8. But then Revelation 20:1-3 looks forward and tells of the millennial reign of Christ on earth that will begin with the dragon, that old serpent, the devil and satan, was **cast into the bottomless pit** for 1000 years.
Rev 20:1-3
20 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.
2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,
3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.
 9. And then finally, Revelation 20:10 tells us that the devil that deceived them was finally **cast into the lake of fire and brimstone**. Direction is **down**.
Rev 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.
- IX. Conclusion: Let the church arise!
1. One of the reasons the old serpent tried to tempt Eve and Adam, was because God chose man to replace him to show forth high praises to God:
1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy

nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

2. Plus, as you see, as the church, we are not on a path downward like the devil is. We are on a path upward.
3. Once we were delivered out of darkness, we are on an upward path:
Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:
4. Upward we go, as 1 Thes 4:16-17 describes a trumpet calling us to rise, be caught up, to meet the Lord in the air.
1 Thess 4:16-17
16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
5. And then in Revelation 4:1, there is the command, “*come up hither*” and the scene in Revelation 5 describes the redeemed saints singing a new song before the throne of God:
Rev 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;
6. The saints, those redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, have taken the place of the devil as God’s praisers around the throne of God!
7. Listen church, we are not going down—the is the direction the devil is going. We as the church are on an upward trajectory!