**Spiritual Warfare...Revisited Part One**

Introduction: The topic of Spiritual Warfare can provoke a lot different ideas and images among people. However, the goal of the message is to identify how to engage in Spiritual Warfare practically and effectively. With this being said there are several places that we could start but the first statement that has to be made is that as a born again believer the “War” over your soul has already been won. Jesus’ victory over death, hell, and the grave has secured the victory for your soul. When you placed your faith in His finished work for you became a partaker of His victory. So, in reference to the born again believer, when we talk about Spiritual Warfare what we are really referring to is the opposition that we face as we go about our daily lives.

\*However, spiritual warfare looks different for the person who has not yet given their life to Christ. This person’s ability to understand spiritual truth is blinded by Satan:

*2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NLT*

*If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. [4] Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.*

Therefore, when it comes to our calling as followers of Jesus Christ we are called to be witnesses and testimonies of God’s goodness through **actively sharing our faith**, **living a life that displays the love of God**, and **praying for people to be drawn across the paths of those who are not yet born again**.

**How Do We Actively Share Our Faith & Why Is It Important**

*Romans 10:13-17 NLT*

*For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” [14] But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? [15] And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”*

*[16] But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said, “LORD, who has believed our message?” [17] So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.*

In order for anyone to be born again they have to first understand their need for a Savior and then be introduced to who the Savior is, and how to receive the gift of salvation. It’s not just the preacher during church service that shares the message of Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Really, it’s when we are out and about in the community and working amongst people is when we do the most effective evangelism. A person can be turned away from the preacher’s message by some gossip about the preacher or preconceived bias about church, however when a person sees the fruit of the Spirit working in front of their face or if they see the power of God operate through, then it is harder for the person to reject the message.

*1 Peter 2:12 NLT*

*Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.*

**Living A Life That Displays The Love of God**

Love is mankind’s greatest need even the psychologists and doctors are coming to realize what God’s Word has told us for many centuries. Although men and women may perceive love differently, we all crave love. As such this is an area that the Enemy likes to exploit in his attempt to weaken or outright cancel out our witness along with destroying our quality of life. However, we can take heart that by the Power of the Holy Spirit we can show genuine love to our spouses, children, neighbors and co-workers and even our enemies. Keys to living this way is by **remembering the Perfect Love that God has for you and remembering that we battle not against flesh and blood.**

*John 13:34-35 KJV*

*A new commandment I give unto you,* ***That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*** *[35] By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

***1 Corinthians 13:4-8 NLT***

***Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud [5] or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. [6] It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. [7] Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. [8] Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever!***

***Selah…***

*Ephesians 6:10-12 NLT*

*A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. [11] Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. [12] 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.*

*2 Corinthians 5:16 NLT*

*So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now!*

(The enemy’s job is to tear up God ordained relationships...Thus anytime we find ourselves quickly swallowing up with anger or offense after someone has said something...we need to Pause for a moment before we respond, so that we allow the Holy Spirit the opportunity to guide us in what to say and what not to say).

**Praying For Labourers (To Cross the path of our unsaved family, friends, and co-workers)**

(It is God’s desire for us to pray for all people and it is God’s desire for all to be saved)

*1 Timothy 2:1-4 NLT*

*I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.*

*[2] Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. [3] This is good and pleases God our Savior, [4] who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.*

*Luke 10:1-2 AMP*

*Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them out ahead of Him, two by two, into every city and place where He was about to go. [2] He was saying to them, “The harvest is abundant [for there are many who need to hear the good news about salvation], but the workers [those available to proclaim the message of salvation] are few. Therefore, [prayerfully] ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.*

We are instructed to pray that laborers cross the path of the unsaved that we know so that these laborers can share the Gospel message with them. This can happen in various ways, but our role is to pray for laborers to be in the path of the individual to be used of God to either plant the seed (Plainly share the Gospel message verbally) and another water the seed if necessary (Demonstration of the Love of God through good deeds or manifestations of the Gifts of The Spirit).

The most important aspect of Spiritual Warfare for us to understand is that although Christ finished work has already won the war, God has chosen us who believe to be co-laborers with Him in fighting that individual battles for men’s souls through **actively sharing our faith**, **living a life that displays the love of God**, and **praying for people to be drawn across the paths of those who are not yet born again**.