

Church of the Promise
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Infusion

Become

Believe

Belong

Befriend

#3 Spiritual Warfare

INFUSING THE LIFE FOUND IN CHRIST
THROUGH FAITH IN GOD'S VITAL PRECEPTS,
MAKING EVERY MEMBER WHOLE
SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY

Spiritual Warfare

Session Three

~♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦ ~ **BELONG** ~♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦ ~

Key Verse: *“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world”*

(1 Peter 5:8–9 NASB).

Key Scriptures:

- Ephesians 1:17–23; 6:10–18
- Revelation 12:10–11
- 2 Corinthians 4:4
- Luke 11:14–26
- James 4:7
- Colossians 2:15

Objective: The goal of this lesson is to teach the servant leader how to stand in the victory that Jesus has already won against Satan.

Introduction: When we are born again, we cross over from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God (or the kingdom of light). Once we served Satan (*John 8:42–47*), but now we serve God because He rescued us from the dominion of Satan (*Col. 1:12–14*). Satan is not pleased that we no longer serve him. In fact, he will try to do everything possible to get us to fall and come under his dominion again. For this reason, we must learn how to resist Satan’s advances and stand in the victory that Jesus won for us over Satan and his demonic forces.

We must also learn spiritual warfare in order to fulfill our commission to make disciples of all nations. The people in the world are under the power of Satan (*2 Cor. 4:4*) and cannot see the truth. Before they can come to Christ, we need to release the power of God for salvation to deliver them from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God.

We do not have to defeat Satan again. Jesus has already won a total victory (*Col. 2:15*); we just need to enforce that victory. As we engage in spiritual warfare, we enable God to use us to bring others into the light of God's kingdom.

I. The spiritual battleground & two opposing sides.

A. One side is the kingdom of God.

1. This is the Church, who has been commissioned to take back what the enemy stole and reverse damage done. This is what we do through the authority of the name of Jesus. (*Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15*)

B. The other side is the kingdom of darkness. (2Cor. 4:4)

1. Satan and his angels' rebellion produced a kingdom set up in opposition to God.
2. Through Satan's enticing of Adam and Eve, sin entered the world. The devil continues, through sin, to draw all human beings into sin and his kingdom of darkness.
3. As Christians, our fight is against the strongholds or evil systems of thought, influenced by forces of darkness (*Eph. 6:12*), who are led by Satan.

C. Who is Satan?

1. Satan is a real being (Luke 4:1–13), not just a figment of the imagination. Originally, he was a beautiful angel called Lucifer, but he was cast out of heaven because of his pride (*Isa. 14:11–15; Ezek. 28:12–17*).
2. The Bible uses many different terms to describe Satan.

- a. He is called “your enemy, the devil” (*1 Pet. 5:8 NIV*).
 - b. He is “the tempter” (*1 Thess. 3:5 NKJV*).
 - c. He is “the father of lies” (*John 8:44 NIV*).
 - d. He is called “the ruler of the kingdom of the air” (*Eph. 2:2 NIV*).
 - e. He is also referred to as “the evil one” (*1 John 2:14 NIV*).
 - f. He is “the accuser of our brethren” (*Rev. 12:10 NKJV*).
 - g. He is “a murderer” (*John 8:44*).
 - h. He was first referred to as “the serpent” (*Gen. 3:1*)
 - i. He is also called “an angel of light” (*2 Cor. 11:14*)
3. At the present time, Satan’s has access to the entire world system. (*1 John 5:19*) He is the ultimate source of sin, sickness, and death.
 4. He has a kingdom of demons (*Matt. 12:24–28*) composed of evil spirits (*Luke 11:24–26*), or fallen angels (*Matt. 25:41*). These are intelligent, active beings that dwell on earth and in supernatural realms (*Eph. 6:11–12*).
 5. Remember: The devil, or Satan, is not equal with God or even effective against God. He is not all-knowing or all-powerful. He can only have what he is given by us.

D. How does the enemy attack?

1. You cannot afford to be ignorant of Satan’s evil schemes (*2 Cor. 2:11*). You must be aware that the devil is constantly out to destroy you (*1 Pet. 5:8*). He is clever and cunning in his tactics (*Eph. 6:11; Gen. 3:1–6*), and he will try anything at any time to pull you down.
2. The main battlefield is in your mind. Satan accuses (*Zech. 3:1*), deceives (*2 Cor. 11:14*), tempts (*1 Thess. 3:5*), and lies (*John 8:44*). He inspires evil thoughts, confusion, complacency, laziness, doubt, fear, despair, unbelief, and discouragement. He

appeals to your fleshly desires and will try to entice you through idolatry, witchcraft, or other occult practices.

3. Satan also uses his fallen angels, called demons, to trouble and torment people (*Luke 13:10–16*).

II. You have been given VICTORY over Satan!

A. Jesus overcame Satan!

B. This same Jesus who overcame Satan lives in you!

1. Jesus said that in His name, His disciples would drive out demons as part of their work for Him (*Mark 16:16–17*). Your strategy for warfare, whether for yourself or for others, consists of several steps.
 - a. First, you must recognize where God is at work and do as God directs you to do in the situation.
 - b. Then you will recognize Satan's activities. (*2 Cor. 2:11*).
 - c. Then, you reject his advances (*Eph. 4:27*).
 - c. Finally, you resist his attacks (*James 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8–9*).
2. You can use your spiritual armor to defend yourself against the enemy.
 - a. The blood of Jesus cleanses you from all sin when you confess your sin to God and receive His forgiveness (*1 John 1:7–9*). The blood of Jesus also enables you to live in victory over Satan (*Rev. 12:11; Col. 2:15*). If you live in the blessing of this provision of God, Satan will not be able to gain a foothold in your life.
 - b. You must put on the full armor of God in order to stand your ground, regardless of what the enemy throws at you. Putting on this armor is like putting on the Lord Jesus (*Rom. 13:14*). The armor of God is described in (*Eph. 6:10–18*). Check to see if you are wearing your spiritual armor.

- (1) **Are you wearing the belt of truth?**—Do you live in the truth and in God’s reality? Jesus is the truth, dwelling in you and inspiring you to live a truthful life (*John 14:6*).
 - (2) **Have you put on the breastplate of righteousness?**—Are you living righteously before God? Jesus is your righteousness, inspiring you to righteous living (*2 Cor. 5:21*).
 - (3) **Are your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace?**—Are you fulfilling the Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations? Jesus is the Prince of Peace (*Isa. 9:6*), and you carry His Gospel.
 - (4) **Have you taken up the shield of faith?**—Are you living a life of faith, trusting in God and knowing your victory over the enemy and your flesh? Jesus is the author and finisher of your faith (*Heb. 12:2*).
 - (5) **Have you put on the helmet of salvation?**—Do you know that you are born again and are a child of God? Jesus is the captain and author of your salvation (*Heb. 2:10*).
 - (6) **Have you taken up the sword of the Spirit?**—Do you know the Word of God and what it says about who you are in Christ? Jesus is the living Word, and He has given you His Word as an active weapon in your mouth (*Heb. 4:12; John 1:14*).
 - (7) **Do you pray in the Spirit on all occasions?**—Are you open to the Holy Spirit’s leading and prompting, and do you know how to pray effectively? Jesus gives you access to the Father, and you can therefore present things to Him in Jesus’ name (*Heb. 4:16; John 14:13*).
3. When Satan has someone in his grip or when he comes against you personally, you have the authority to not only defend yourself, but also to go on the offensive. These are some of the offensive weapons you can use:

- a. The name of Jesus has power over everything in heaven and earth. Demons are subject to it and cannot resist it (*Acts 16:18; Phil. 2:9–10*).
 - b. The Word of God within you gives you strength to overcome the devil’s lies. It is a spiritual weapon, full of divine power (*1 John 2:14; Eph. 6:17*).
 - c. The power of the Spirit gives you victory over demonic attack (*Acts 10:38*). Without the presence of the Spirit, you will be weak and ineffective against the devil’s attacks.
4. The victory is assured: “Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (*1 Cor. 15:57 NIV*).
- a. Everything is placed under the feet of Jesus Christ because He rules over all (*Eph. 1:21–23*) and He gives His authority to all believers (*Matt. 10:1; 28:18–20; Rom. 16:20*).
 - b. Because you are born of God, you are kept safe (*Rom. 8:37–39*).
 - c. He who is in you, Christ Jesus, is greater than he who is in the world, Satan (*1 John 4:4*).
 - d. There is overcoming power in the blood of Jesus and in your testimony of Him (*Rev. 12:11*).
 - e. When you resist the devil and are submitted to God, the devil will flee (*James 4:7*).
 - f. Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father” (*John 14:12 NIV*).

Questions and Discussion Points

1. Why don’t people in the world understand the truth?
(*See 2 Corinthians 4:4.*)

2. If Christ Jesus won such a complete victory for us, why do so many Christians seem to be living in defeat?

3. Why do you think Satan attacks people? If you are doing nothing for God, do you think Satan will still attack? Discuss.

4. Is there any area of your life in which you are allowing Satan a foothold?

5. Have you checked to make sure you are wearing all your spiritual armor? Put it on, and then stand and face Satan boldly. Don't ever run from him, remembering that the armor Paul wrote about had no protection for the back!

6. Do you live as a victorious child of God, overcoming Satan and all his wicked schemes? If not, why not? What could you do to more effectively walk in the victory that is yours through Christ?

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: 1 Thessalonians

Use the EPISTLES Study tool as you read. Return your completed form to the next session for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment. Ask the Holy Spirit to BUILT your faith when you are reading: