



Spiritual Warfare: Pulling Down Strongholds

JAMES 4:7; 1 PETER 5:8-11
LESSON 16 – RESIST THE DEVIL
PASTOR PHILLIP M WAY

The Wiles of the Devil

- ▶ Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- ▶ This verse in Ephesians 6 tells us that with the armor of God we can stand against the wiles of the devil. The word translated “wiles” is the Greek word *methodia*, better known as methods. These are cunning, deceptive methods that the devil uses to attack us, discourage us, confuse us, and accuse us.

The Wiles of the Devil

- ▶ The methods of our enemy include appealing to our fallen flesh through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. He plays and preys upon our desires, fueling them into areas where they do not belong, tempting us to depend upon ourselves instead of walking by faith. He also deceives by spreading false doctrine and giving false hope. And yet his demonic wisdom leads to destruction. He uses counterfeits. This is part of his deception. He lies about what is good, and substitutes what is evil.
- ▶ Ephesians 6:16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.
- ▶ Faith – belief – trust – taking God at His Word.

Evidences of War

- ▶ James 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
- ▶ What are the evidences that we are under attack by the fiery darts of the wicked one?
- ▶ Fighting, divisiveness, lust, anger, self-seeking, friendship with the world, pride...

Evidence of War

- ▶ James 4:1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? 6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Resist the Devil

- ▶ James 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.
- ▶ #1 – Submit to God, otherwise sin and Satan are in control.
- ▶ #2 – Resist the devil
- ▶ #3 – Draw near to God, by removing anything that would hinder your relationship with Him
- ▶ #4 – Repent and be sober-minded and holy
- ▶ #5 – Weep over your sin
- ▶ #6 – Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord (Think less of yourself? Think of yourself less!)

Be Sober; Be Vigilant

- ▶ 1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. 11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- ▶ #1 Be sober-minded
- ▶ #2 Be on guard (make no provision for the flesh)
- ▶ #3 Resist him, steadfast in the faith – stand your ground by faith (shield of faith)
- ▶ #4 Depend upon God and His grace, not on yourself
- ▶ #5 For the glory of God, forever, amen!

STAND

- ▶ Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able **to stand** against the wiles of the devil.
- ▶ 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able **to withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, **to stand**.
- ▶ 14 **Stand therefore**, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

Don't Stumble or be a Stumbling Block

- ▶ 1 Corinthians 8:9 But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.
- ▶ Romans 14:13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.
- ▶ Psalm 119:165 Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.