

8/6/17 Handout – Spiritual Warfare in the NT Letters

Romans: *‘in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us... So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light... put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires... The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet’* (8:37, 13:12-14, 16:20, all ESV unless noted)

2 Corinthians: *‘if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes... in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left... we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension [or ‘lofty thought’] that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.’* (2:10-11, 6:7, 10:3-5 NIV)

Ephesians 6:10-18 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests [note the context includes parenting in v. 1-4]*

James 4:1 (NKJV) *Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You ...covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. [NIV ‘You want something but don’t get it...you cannot have what you want’]... ⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts... ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. ¹¹ Do not speak evil of one another...*

1 Peter 5:8-9 *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

1 John 4:1-4 *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits ...every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God... You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world (NKJV)*

Revelation 12: *‘the dragon... went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus... And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.’* (v. 17, 11). For further study, see 1 Pet 2:11, Eph 4:26-27, 1 Thess 5:6-12.