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One Century in the Service
of our Lord Jesus Christ

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Newz of His

Abbeyville Road Christian Church
551 Abbeyville Road Lancaster, PA 17603-6399
717-393-8821 FAX 717-393-8660
email: office@abbeyvilleroad.com
web site: www.abbeyvilleroad.com



Guided by His Word,
Serving in His Love

Spiritual Warfare

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. – 1 Peter 5:8

“Spiritual warfare” is a provocative term so prone to being sensationalized that Christians tend to react to it according to one of two extremes . . .

1) On the one hand, many believers become unduly-obsessed with the realm of the darkside. They speak in terms of “binding the devil” and “rebuking demons”. They never simply get sick. They are oppressed by the demon of this or that disease. They never simply sin. They are under attack by a demon of lust, a demon of greed, a demon of rage, *etc.*

2) On the other hand, such sensationalism compels many other believers to dismiss the issue of spiritual warfare as though it is a relic of the New Testament era.

Both extremes are ill-advised!

No thinking Christian would ever *WANT* to go up against a demon, nor does he have the remotest chance of binding the devil. However, spiritual warfare is not a fringe topic that only preoccupies our more eccentric brethren. In fact, it is not far-fetched at all to say that the very conduct of our Christian walk *IS* spiritual warfare. After all, life is one confrontation after the next in which we must choose our master. Who will I worship? Who will I trust? Who will I serve? Who will I pursue?

We are not warriors against spiritual forces in the sense that Jesus was. He is not our *EXAMPLE* in defeating the devil. His victory over Satan by His Crucifixion and Resurrection is our *CONFIDENCE* that we can resist the devil. Jesus' role in this matter of spiritual warfare was, of necessity, unique. To the serpent at the time of the Fall, God said:

And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his feet. – Genesis 3:15

This would be solely the mission of Jesus:

... The reason that the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. – 1 John 3:8

Satan constantly assaults our flesh and appeals to the remnants of our sinful natures that tend toward rebellion and discord. We are hardly demon-rebukers or devil-binders. We are utterly dependent on prayer, on the Word of God and on the fellowship of other believers. But, ultimately, we are dependent upon a victory that has already been won by a Victor Who was raised up for the very purpose of destroying the work of the devil.

*Did we in our own strength confide,
Our strivings would be losing.
Were not the right man on our side,
A Man of God's own choosing.
Doth ask whom that could'st be?
Christ Jesus, it is He
LORD Sabbaoth* His Name
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle!*

- Martin Luther, *A Mighty Fortress*

* “LORD of Hosts” or “LORD of the armies” (of Heaven)



Karl's Korner