

We've been talking about the war within. It is a battle that many of us face just about on a daily basis.

Ie.

There is always something we are contending with.



We began with the Enemy, our Flesh. Our Flesh is our sin nature. The nature within us received at birth that draws us away from God to do the things that are antagonistic to God and His will for our lives.

We then went onto the battlefield where we were reminded that the world we live in is the place where this battle is engaged.

We noted 5 things about this world:

1. It is under the power of Satan
2. It is a place where people are separated from God
3. It is a place of spiritual danger
4. The world is only temporary
5. There is hope in the world – our faith.

We now move on to "why" this world has become the battlefield and it is as it is.

Today we will see that there is an opposing general in this battle. Every army has commanders and at the top, a general.

Satan is the general of the demonic forces over this world.

Let's see what we can learn about this commanding foe:

Job 1

1. Satan is the god of this world

II Cor 4:4 tells us that:

in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

He has been given authority by God over this world.

Job 1:6 *Now there was a day when the sons of God (angels) came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.*

v.7 *The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."*

Adam Clarke says;

"The verb shows how earnest and determined the devil is in his work.

He is busily employed in it; he is seeking the destruction of men; and while they sleep, he wakes - while they are careless, he is alert.

Think of your house, while you are sleeping the termites are eating it down, quietly and certainly.

2. The devil fears no one

The devil even went after Jesus in Mt 4 to temp Him to sin against God.

3. Hinders your prayer life

Dan 10:12 *Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words.*

V.13 "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.

Don't give up praying. We have no idea what is going on in the spiritual realm.

4. Satan has a family

Jn 8:44 *You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

V.45 *"But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.*

The children of the devil are those who reject the truth about Christ.

Yes;

Nice people, some you even know and love, have Satan as their father because they rejected Christ as their Savior.

You see. There are only:

Two kingdoms – light and darkness

Two families – God and Satan

Two conditions - saved and lost

5. The opposing general has a plan

II Cor 2:11 ...we are not ignorant of his schemes.

"schemes" *noema* – thoughts, purpose

Question:

Are you ignorant of his purpose?

This passage has to do with forgiveness.

Other passages have to do with lying about money as in Acts 5:3 with Ananias and Saphira.

Every general has a battle plan and he uses it to confound the enemy. And Satan will do that with you.

II Cor 11:14 He looks and sounds so good

v.14 *No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*

v.15 *Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.*

Any doctrine that contradicts the truths of God's Word are demonic.

And the general has his captains in pulpits preaching those false doctrines.

Ad not just in Christianity but in every religion of the world.

Jesus said in:

Lu 8:18 *Be careful how you hear...*

James said to be:

Quick to hear and slow to speak Ja 1:19

Acts 17:11 the Bereans *received the Word with eagerness.*

6. If not, you lose what you heard

Mt 13:19 *When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.*

"understand" *sun/emi* together, to send

Ie. To put together; to understand

Why is it some people don't grow? Maybe even some that are here today?

Still stuck in your old ways. You just can't get the victory.

Ans.

Because you haven't put it together yet.

And why not?

As Jesus said;

This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.

The road or path in the garden is made by routine.

You can be in a routine of coming to church, or listening on line, but you haven't put it together yet with your life.

- So at home same old fights
- At work same old complaints

The opposing general steals away the resource God has provided because you are just a routine individual. Just going through the motions.

Oh,

We are on the battlefield and the general has a plan to make you a casualty in the war.

There is much more I could say, but I think for now, we have enough to digest.

In quick review:

The general that opposes God and you:

1. Is the god of this world II Cor 4:4
2. He fears no one, not even Jesus Mt 4
3. He hinders your prayer life Dan 10:12
4. He has a family, unbelievers Jn 8:44
5. He looks and sounds so good II Cor 11:14
6. Understand what you hear or it will be taken from you.
Mt 13:19