

# *Dangers of Spiritual Warfare*

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

Ephesians 6:10-13 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

- I. It is necessary to stop and give some warnings about this subject of spirits and spiritual warfare.
  - A. Because people are so easily deceived and drawn to mysterious, mystical things, we must be very cautious when we deal with such important matters as this.
  - B. The different tendencies and weaknesses of people must be taken into account.
    - 1. People who have been influenced by superstition and superstitious people are more prone to be tempted and tricked because of their unnatural interest and curiosity in these matters.
    - 2. All people have been programmed by the world to believe certain things and have crazy ideas about spirits and spiritual matters.
  - C. I have learned that what I mean when I speak is not always what people hear sitting in the pew.
  - D. So there needs to be some clarification and warning about discerning spirits and resisting evil in the spiritual realm.
- II. The Word of God instructs us to try the spirits and to discern whether they are of God or not.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

- A. This is as far as we are to go with investigating and looking into evil spirits.
- B. Any curiosity or seeking to know more about these spirits than to identify them is entering into the occult.
- C. To seek help, power, control, or gain from the knowledge of spiritual things is evil in itself, and that is exactly what witches, diviners, necromancers do.
  - 1. This is the basic motive behind all the spiritually evil things the Bible specifically forbids and deems as evil and abominable.
- D. Evil spirits will take advantage of your inordinate interest in them to deceive you through your lust for knowledge in this matter, just as they deceive and trap you with your lusts in other matters.
  - 1. The enticement of the devil always involves “knowing” something that is hidden from you.
- E. When you allow your curiosity to be excited about knowing more about them it opens a door for them into your soul.
- F. We only need to identify the spirits that are not of God and resist them and their influence.
- G. If you have no moral compass concerning things of this world and the flesh you will be blind to spiritual wickedness, also.

1. If you cannot read the Word of God and accept as truth what it says about right and wrong concerning things of the flesh that are plainly and specifically named, you will not have spiritual discernment, either.
  2. Because spiritual good and spiritual evil are defined from the same law of God.
  3. Spiritual evil approves wickedness and condemns righteousness outright, or disregards it, discredits it, or devalues it.
  4. Spiritual evil will focus on YOU and what YOU need and what YOU think, and what YOU desire, etc. and urge it as being of supreme importance, while putting aside what God says about any matter.
- H. It is an evil spirit that causes you to focus on and desire something that is forbidden.
1. An evil spirit takes advantage of a natural desire and encourages you to seek its satisfaction in a way other than what God has designed and commanded.
  2. An evil spirit will urge you to have your desires now and not to wait.
- I. The Spirit of God will speak peace to your spirit and encourage you to be satisfied with all the many blessings that you already have. (Eve in the garden)
1. And the Spirit of God will encourage patience for you to wait and to deny yourself until God provides the proper opportunity.

[Galatians 5:5](#) For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

- III. Put on the whole armour of God.
- A. The whole armour does not include intellectual wrangling with, or about spiritual powers.
  - B. The whole armour of God has to do with the things of God and not ourselves.
  - C. Our intellect is no match for evil spiritual powers and any attempt on our part to resist them in the power of our reasoning or deeper knowledge of them will only result in our defeat and being taken captive by them.
  - D. These are the parts of the armour of God that the Bible instructs us to have to be able to stand against these evil powers:
    1. Truth

[Ephesians 6:14](#) Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

- a) Having your loins girt about is referring to what you are clothed with.
  - b) It covers and protects your body from the enemy.
2. Righteousness
    - a) Breastplate covers and protects the heart and lungs.
  3. Preparation

[Ephesians 6:15](#) And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

[2 Timothy 2:15](#) Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- a) Having our feet shod ...so that we can go over any terrain to carry the gospel and fight the enemy or flee from him.

- b) To no be shod means to be barefooted and therefore slowed down and greatly handicapped for movement or battle.

#### 4. Faith

Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

- a) The shield is to stop anything that is hurled at you with the intention of injuring or killing you.
- b) Faith will deliver you from the attacks of devils and ungodly people.

#### 5. Salvation

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

- a) The helmet protects our head, our mind, the part of us where the evil spiritual powers attack every time.
- b) True salvation is what protects our mind and makes it possible for us to keep the devil out of our mind.

#### 6. Prayer

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

- IV. These are our clear instructions from the Word of God concerning evil spirits and how to deal with them.
  - A. We have plenty to learn about and know about God and what He has provided for us.
  - B. There is absolutely no need for us to seek to know more about the enemy or the darkness.
  - C. We should seek to know more about God and righteousness and truth – not the things of darkness.
  - D. If we fight the good fight of faith, we will not become superstitious and fascinated with the lies of devils and the fantasies of those who are captive of them.
  - E. If we fight the good fight of faith we will simply seek to know whether the spirits that are suggesting and speaking things to our mind are of God or not.
  - F. We are to walk in the light and be the light of the world.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Ephesians 5:8-12 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.