

# Spiritual Discernment

Lesson 1: Into the Spiritual Battle  
Springs Reformed Church  
High School Class  
March 1, 2015

The spiritual battle is *not* defined primarily in terms of outward conflict.

Read Ephesians 6:12 and James 4:1-10.

Read Ephesians 4:17-18. What characterizes the Gentile “walk”? What is it that makes the “old self” corrupt (v. 22)?

The spiritual battle begins in the *heart* (desires/passions) and the *mind* (thoughts/ideas).

Read Romans 1:21-22. How are the hearts and minds of unbelievers described? Where does it lead (v. 23)?

Read Ephesians 2:1-3. How is our “natural” condition described in this passage?

Read Romans 12:2. How is the Christian transformed from darkness to light? For what purpose?

Read Ephesians 4:23-24. What is the “new self” linked to?

Read Ephesians 4:11-14. Notice the contrast between maturity (“manhood”) and immaturity (“children”). How are “children” characterized in this passage?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22. What are the three imperative verbs in this passage? What do we need in order to accomplish these imperatives?

Read Ephesians 6:13-17. What part of the spiritual armament is both *offensive* and *defensive*?

Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5. What does it mean to destroy *strongholds*? How are we to do that?

Read 2 Tim 3:16-17. How is scripture to be used? For what purpose?

What happens if the Bible is not the *ultimate* standard by which to judge truth and error? How does the world discern right from wrong?

**Further Reading:** 1 John 4:1-6; 2 John; Jude; Rev 2:2,6,9,13,24-25; 3:4,9,17

**Review:** Reread Ephesians 6:12, then read the whole book in light of this passage. Notice the stark contrast between the two sides of the spiritual battle.

**Homework:** Read Genesis 3:1-7, Matthew 4:1-11, and Luke 4:1-13. Compare and contrast the interactions that Satan has with Eve and with Jesus. What “tactics” can you identify?