

Remnant Life Church  
May 30, 2021  
“Spiritual Warfare -  
What Is It?”  
Pt 1  
Eph 6:10-13

We have spent a couple of months talking about the supernatural

- What is the supernatural?
- How does the world’s definition differ from God’s?
- What is the difference between natural and supernatural?
- Finally, some of the supernatural works of Jesus
  - Feeding of the 5000
  - The raising of Lazarus
  - Healing of the 10 lepers

This morning we are going to begin a series on spiritual warfare

- You may have heard that term often yet not felt that you had a full understanding of what it was, or why it was
- A few of the questions we will answer among others
  - How did it begin?
  - Who is at war?
  - Am I in this battle or can I stay out of it?
  - Am I destined to be a victim or casualty of this conflict, or can I have victory not only for eternity but in my daily life?

First, let me give you a definition that is going to provide the backdrop to our study:

- In biblical terms, spiritual warfare encompasses satan’s rebellion against God and the manifestations (or visible aspects) of that rebellion in the created order of the world.
- But at the heart of this warfare is the fact that God is sovereignly in control of His creation, and, as the Sovereign One, He has already decided that satan’s rebellion will ultimately fail.
  - Again, remember that sovereign means in total control and with absolute authority
- The threads of satan’s rebellion and God’s loving responses are woven throughout the Scriptures as an ongoing drama being played out on the stage of human history since the time of creation in the Garden of Eden
- The individual acts of that biblical drama will be examined in the weeks to come but today, spiritual warfare: what is it?

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1. It begins with satan’s rebellion against God
  - a. This happened long before he showed up as a snake in the garden

- b. We don't have an exact account of what happened
  - c. Only that satan wanted to be like God
    - i. What was the source of his downfall?
    - ii. Pride – the killer of the heart, mind, and soul
  - d. His name, satan, means adversary or accuser; he is also known as the devil, slanderer, Beelzebub, ruler of this world, liar, murderer, god of this age, prince of demons, ruler of darkness, and tempter – among others
  - e. His name is first used in the book of Job ([Job 1:6-12; 2:1](#))
  - f. His first appearance is in the Garden of Eden in [Gen 3:1-6](#)
  - g. Most scholars believe, and I with them, that satan is a fallen angel (perhaps even an archangel) who wanted to replace God and have others worship him ([Matt 4:8-9](#))
  - h. But God cast him out of heaven and with him a third of the angels who were also corrupted who became his demonic force ([Ezek 28; Rev 12:4,7](#))
    - i. This brings a vital truth to the front that Christians must understand
    - ii. satan and his demons are not all-powerful
    - iii. They are created beings or creatures meaning they are under the authority of God
  - i. But satan knows that he cannot defeat God
    - i. So he has turned his attention to those whom God loves
    - ii. His children; those who worship God and follow Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior
    - iii. Adam and Eve had barely been created before satan was at work to steal the hearts of God's most treasured creation – and he is still at work in the same way today
    - iv. [I Peter 5:8](#) - *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*
2. His efforts are seen in the manifestations of his rebellion
- a. What is the most obvious and apparent manifestation of satan's victory in the Garden?
    - i. Sin – Death – Disease – Decay – Imperfection – and the most terrible of all, Separation from God
    - ii. All of these remain active today except for one
    - iii. We have been restored to God through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ
    - iv. But the battle continues
  - b. The battle is for your soul, your heart, and your mind
  - c. Notice in the verse from [I Peter](#) that it says he is looking for someone to devour, not who he will devour
    - i. Another version says, whom he MAY devour
    - ii. That is why we fight in this battle – to prevent him from winning and capturing the hearts and minds of those God loves
  - d. Another manifestation is seen in the natural world
    - i. Plants and animals, the other aspect of God's creation, age and die
    - ii. All things because of sin will die

- e. But we, His children, because of Jesus Christ, will live in eternity with Him
    - i. satan can do NOTHING about that!
    - ii. And so his greatest desire is to keep as many people as possible from experiencing and knowing that truth
3. God is in sovereign control of His creation
- a. **Pslm 103:19** – *He has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all*
  - b. David, as king over Israel wrote these words –
    - i. *The greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor of God, for everything in heaven and earth is His (I Chron 29:11)*
  - c. Because of this fact, there will be things that occur in our lives, in our world, that we will not understand
  - d. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ, certainly the most heinous crime in history, occurred within the boundaries of God’s set purpose and foreknowledge.
  - e. There are those who would argue the place of man’s free-will in the sovereignty and power of God’s purpose and presence but that will be for another time
  - f. That emphasizes again that the forces of evil, satan, and the demonic host are ALL under the headship and authority of God
    - i. Do you know else that means?
      - 1. As His child you also have authority in the name of Jesus Christ
      - 2. Jesus sent out a large group to minister in the local areas
      - 3. **Luke 10:17** - *The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”*
4. Finally, as sovereign, God has already decided that the rebellion will ultimately fail
- a. Here’s another way to say that
    - i. We have the book – go ahead and sneak a peak at the end – we win!
  - b. Paul writes in **Romans 1:16** that *His sovereignty is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.*
  - c. There is coming a time, sooner than later, when satan, the antichrist, and all of the demonic hoards will be thrown into the lake of fire for all eternity
    - i. His time of fighting the righteousness of God will come to an end
    - ii. Our time of struggle with the temptations of the flesh will also be at an end
  - d. The war is already won, it is over, but the battles must continue and we are in the midst of them whether you want to be or not
    - i. That is why you must be alert as we read earlier in second Peter
    - ii. It is why you must be prepared
  - e. And what you must never forget is our sovereign God is on His throne in full authority of His creation to use as He pleases to accomplish His will

This is Memorial Day weekend I’ll conclude this morning by sharing a story of God’s sovereignty in the face of seemingly overwhelming circumstances...

September 11 is an important date in our nation's history.

On September 11, a foreign enemy attacked America. There was smoke and fire that obscured the horrible loss of life from the explosions. But I'm not talking about September 11, 2001, this was September 11, 1814.

The British sea forces had started bombarding Ft. McHenry in Baltimore, America's largest seaport at the time. It is the War of 1812, and most Americans don't realize how close we came to surrendering our new-found freedom and independence that had been won only a brief thirty years earlier.

Three weeks prior to that date, British General Robert Ross had made a tactical error. Instead of attacking Baltimore immediately, he first turned and attacked Washington D.C. which had at the time only 8,000 residents of which half that number were slaves. There was little resistance, and the British captured Washington easily.

President James Madison had fled earlier in the day, but Dolly Madison, his wife, had chosen to remain at the White House setting her huge table with forty places for what she had hoped and believed would be a victory banquet. When she saw the British soldiers approaching the White House grounds, she quickly took a painting of George Washington down from the wall, cutting it from its frame, secured an original copy of the Declaration of Independence, and fled from the building.

The enemy soldiers entered the White House and found the table set for a banquet with food already prepared in the kitchen. General Ross and his officers sat down and enjoyed a sumptuous meal, all courtesy of the First Lady. Then, when they were finished, they set fire to the White House and the surrounding public buildings. Dolly Madison watched from a nearby hillside as our nation's capital, and her home burned.

However, the very next day, an unusual weather phenomenon occurred. Although violent storms seldom make landfall around Washington, a violent hurricane roared ashore in the pre-dawn darkness and two hours of torrential rain and winds extinguished the fires, meaning the White House and the city was not completely destroyed. Tornadoes spawned by the hurricane killed more British soldiers than the battle of Washington itself! The weather was so bad that General Ross decided to leave Washington rather than continue to occupy it. And as he was leaving, he asked an American lady along the way: "Great God, Madam! Is this the kind of storm to which you are accustomed in this infernal country?" The lady politely yet firmly answered, "No, Sir, this is a special interposition of Almighty God to drive our enemies from our city."

The battle between the light of God and the darkness of satan is raging right now

- The war has been won
- But satan is trying to take as many prisoners as he can
- We are going to be looking at how we should prepare and how to respond when the skirmishes are getting intense

**Isaiah 41:10** - *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*