

Remnant Life Church
June 20, 2021
“Spiritual Warfare –
Part 4
A Biblical Drama”
Acts 16:16-18

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 He has already decided that satan’s rebellion will ultimately fail.

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.*

The threads of satan’s rebellion and the responses of Almighty God are interwoven throughout the Scriptures as an ongoing drama played out on the stage of human history

Act 1 – God’s creation of the universe and everything in it

Act 2 – The fall of man into sin

Act 3 – The drama is continued throughout the rest of the OT

Act 4 – The drama intensifies in the NT

Act 5 – Is seen in the first Christians working out their freedom in Christ

- We begin to see this happening in the book of Acts following the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
- While there are numerous accounts of the power of the Holy Spirit in the early Christians, there are relatively few examples of spiritual confrontations like that in the Gospels
- On such example, however, is found in the encounter between Paul and the fortune-teller
 - First, fortune-telling is expressly and specifically forbidden by God
 - **Lev 19:31** - *Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them.*
 - Yes, that law was given a long time ago, but time does not diminish what God has said
 - If you go to a palm reader, tarot card reader, or any other type of medium, you are not just opening the door of your life to satan, you are hanging out a giant flashing neon sign inviting him and every conceivable demonic entity to come in
 - Seemingly innocent things are just as a dangerous
 - Horoscopes
 - Ouija board
 - Magic 8-ball
 - These things are not child’s games
 - If you have them in your house – throw them away immediately!
 - This is also why I speak so strongly against Harry Potter

- It trivializes the darkness and danger of witchcraft and sorcery
 - You cannot do battle against satan and expect to have victory, when you have swung the gate of your heart and home wide open and invited him in
- Back to Peter's encounter
 - **Acts 16:16-18** - *Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally, Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.*
 - Once again, God's power is supreme and superior to that of satan
 - While we don't know what happened to girl...
 - We do know that Paul and Silas were thrown into prison because the girl could no longer make money for her owner
 - Because that is how the world responds to the things of God
 - A young girl's life is set free but it is more about money
 - Does this sound familiar to anyone?
- The battles between Christians and satan began with Adam and Eve, continued through the entirety of the Bible, and will continue from this point on until Jesus returns again
 - It is not a game
 - It needs to be taken seriously
 - But it also must be approached in confidence and without fear
 - We will talk about how you have been given authority to win later

Act 6 – The final act is satan's demise and the full manifestation of God's eternal kingdom

- Remember back before the first act what I said?
- We have this entire
- play laid out before us
 - If you have ever been to a show
 - I have been to both a Broadway show (My Fair Lady) and amateur productions when my boys were in high school
 - They give you a Playbill which is listing and synopsis of the acts, who is featured in the various acts and scenes, and a list of the cast
 - The Bible is our Playbill
 - Look at the last act, the war has been won

READ – **Rev 20:1-3**

- What this shows us is that, ultimately, spiritual warfare is not angels vs demons
 - It is not satan and his demons vs humans
 - It is God vs satan
 - And the creature or created will never prevail against the almighty, omnipotent Creator!

Spiritual warfare is laid out before us through the entirety of the Bible because of satan's rebellion against God

- It begins with the creation of all things by God and satan's pride leading to his expulsion from heaven
- He gains an initial victory in act 1 with the entrance of sin and the fall of man in the garden
- The battles continue throughout the OT focusing on the children of Israel and their struggles with sin
- It carries into the NT with the life of Christ culminating in the singular act of victory in the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- Christians begin to encounter and walk through the battles at the start of the church in Acts and continuing through to today
- The last act is coming, and it is the final defeat of satan, his demonic host, and the war will come to an end

NEXT WEEK – we will begin to examine the day-to-day aspects of the fight

- Temptation
- What weapons do I have?
- What are the plans and plots of the enemy?