

**Spiritual Warfare part 3: “Standing Your Ground”  
October 18, 2015**

**Background:**

- We have a Father who “SO loves us” (John 3:16)
- Yet, we have an enemy who absolutely hates us (John 10:10)
- We are engaged in a spiritual battle with this enemy—who defiantly wants to “destroy” our lives, our families, and our nations
- Jesus calls this time of spiritual conflict & upheaval a time of “sorrows” (Matthew 24:8)
  - *“Turmoil; experiencing dejection & losing heart”*
  - Also—*“birth pangs” (intense & painful; yet resulting in bringing forth life)*

**CORE: We have several CLEAR COMMANDS RE: our posture in this battle:**

**1. DON'T BE DECEIVED (Matt. 24:4,11,24)**

- Lit.- to conceal or pervert a truth
- “Deceive”—to decrease perception
- One of the greatest tactics of the enemy is to reduce our perception of Jesus → nominal church-attenders; token prayers; rather than passionate followers of Jesus
- KJV- *“See to it that no one misleads you”-it’s our responsibility to “abide”*

**2. DON'T BE AFRAID (Matt. 24:6)**

- FEAR is the wrong response to “last days” difficulties
- “Troubled” has 2 dimensions:
  - *“Inner turmoil; divided between 2 opinions”*
  - *“To panic; clamor”—spreading fear to others*
- 1 Kings 18:21- *“Elijah: “How long will you go limping (hesitate; vacillate) between two different opinions?”*
- Jesus: “Don’t let your heart be troubled! Believe in God!” (John 14:1)
- Bill Johnson- *“We can’t afford to be impressed with the devil.”*
- Key to success of early church: *“Continually filled with awe” (Acts 2:43)*

**3. BE ON THE ALERT (Matt. 24:42,44; 25:13)**

- “To stand up; fully awake; fully alert”
- (NOT indifferent or distracted)
- Lit.- *“to run to the High Place—to see from a full perspective”*
- Battle of Gettysburg won by the army that took the High Place
- CIA- *“History repeatedly has demonstrated that inferior forces win when leaders are armed with accurate intelligence.” (“Abide in My words”)*

#### 4. STAND YOUR GROUND (Ephesians 6:10-13)

- Lit.- *“you are powerfully capable of taking your stand against the devil’s schemes”* (v. 11) **“STAND THE GROUND THAT HAS BEEN WON FOR YOU”**

#### HOW JESUS WON THE HIGH GROUND:

14 Therefore, since [these His] children share in flesh and blood [the physical nature of mankind], He Himself in a similar manner also shared in the same [physical nature, but without sin], so that through [experiencing] death He might make powerless (ineffective, impotent) him who had the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and [that He] might free all those who through [the haunting] fear of death were held in slavery throughout their lives. (Hebrews 2:14-15 AMP)

- He “stepped inside our humanity”—becoming “one of us”—in order to render the enemy “powerless, ineffective, impotent”!
  - At the start of His ministry, HS—with Jesus’ full cooperation—“drove Him like a war horse into the wilderness” to confront the devil.
  - Spurgeon- *“Like a champion stepping into the arena, Jesus walked into the wilderness.”*
  - At the Cross, He “destroyed” (i.e., to strip away the authority of) the devil. [Jesus accomplished the ultimate destruction]!
- Colossians 1:16- (RE: Jesus) “All things were created BY HIM & for Him”
  - When the Creator becomes a “creature”—He has the authority to impact all of creation (i.e., TV show “Undercover Boss”)
  - Becoming human, Jesus experienced the history of every human being.
    - *“Sorrows”- deep affliction of the mind and soul*
    - *“Grief”- all that causes us to be faint, confused, anxious, worried*
    - *“Stripes”- blows that tear at us; unspeakable abuse*
    - He was “betrayed” (*pain of an unfaithful spouse; tearing at trust*), “falsely accused” (*religious leaders*), “bullied” (*Roman soldiers & the crowd*), even losing all His friends.
- Matthew 12- He “bound the strong man”—in order to “spoil” (release all he had stolen from us—life & fellowship with Father, joy, identity, dignity, peace, etc.)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Century church writer described Jesus’ death as “satan taking the bait—only to discover, too late, that it cost him everything!”
  - “He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross” (Col. 2:15 MSG)

#### SUMMARY-

Satan has no more legal authority to hold anyone in bondage!