

Spiritual Warfare part 5: "Night Vision"
November 1, 2015

BACKGROUND-

- All of our life comes under the heading of "SPIRITUAL WARFARE"—whether in any given moment we are feeling the "heat" of the battle or not, simply by being "alive in Christ" is an affront to the kingdom of darkness.
- **Our Father is the "God of all creation." Satan, however, cannot create anything—he can only distort (twist, deceive).**
- **Satan can never win when confronted with Jesus' authority. He has limited power (Eph. 2:2- "*prince of the power of the air*"; Eph. 6:12- "*principalities & powers*"), but NO AUTHORITY—defeated at the Cross.**
- **He works in darkness (*deception*). Jesus: "Power of darkness" Luke 22:53. Paul: "Powers of this darkness" Eph. 6:12.**

PSALM 112:1-4

NOTE: "**Fear**"- "*to honor, be in awe of, be inspired by—resulting in life change*"

CORE- Jesus equips us with "Night Vision"—the capacity to "see through" works of darkness (*not by overlooking or ignoring them*) by putting them in perspective.

1. THE DECEPTION OF DUALISM

- Throughout the history of the Church we've been plagued with "dualism"—belief that the universe consists of a clash between two equal, opposing parts (*i.e., good and evil*).
- The problem in this philosophy ("*view of life*"): each side has equal powers and exclusive territory. "**DOUBT**" comes from the word "*double*." Elijah- "*How long will you hesitate between two opinions?*" "*Double-minded person—unstable in every way*" (James 1:8).
- The truth: it's ALL God's territory!
- It's why we can "rejoice greatly" in the middle of "all kinds of trials" (1 Peter 1:6). And it's why we can feast with Him "in the presence of our enemies" (Psalm 23). It's why we can "in everything, give thanks" (1 Thess. 5:18).

2. THE PERSPECTIVE OF A PURE HEART

- Jesus: "Blessed are the **PURE** in heart, for they shall **SEE** God" (Matthew 5:8). Pure is "*unmixed, singular in focus*." In plain words, **PURITY is not DUALISM**.
- Jesus: "If your eye is **SINGLE** (*i.e., pure*), your whole being will be flooded with light" (Luke 11:34). It's why "even in darkness—light dawns" for those in awe of God (Psalm 112:4). Able to "see through the darkness."

3. "NIGHT VISION" IS CULTIVATED OVER TIME

- Psalm 57:7- "My heart is fixed."
- Psalm 141:8- "My eyes are fixed on you, LORD."
- **John on Patmos**- shackles wielded to his hands/feet; 7 churches in Asia Minor (within a small circumference around Patmos) were experiencing severe persecution from the Romans. Bleak days. Question of many—"Will Rome crush the Church?" Yet, John saw "**a door, open to the heavenly realm.**" He saw "**the throne of God at the center of all that is.**" God was saying, "*There's more to this than meets the eye! Look into My reality! I AM the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End!*" (Rev. 22:13).
- **Joseph to his brothers: Seeing through** his brothers' deliberate sin (*you MEANT it for evil*)—*strong intentionality. "BUT God MEANT it (same word) for good.*"
 - The same "IT" (*series of circumstances*). Every evil scheme—God turned around for His GOOD!
 - That's why Joseph, writing his own story, continually said: "And the Lord was with Joseph!"
 - He developed the ability to "SEE THROUGH" his circumstances!

4. THE KEY TO "NIGHT VISION" → REMEMBERING

- More than a mental exercise—our brain attempting to recall a fact
- A powerful spiritual encounter in which Holy Spirit "reminds us" of a past event or a future promise—making them real to us NOW.
 - (Ps. 78:9-10) "The men of Ephraim...turned back (in cowardice)...they forgot what He had done, the wonders He had shown them."
 - (Deuteronomy) Repeatedly God told His people to: "Remember"
 - Remembering is the foundation from which we "FORGIVE" (*as I have forgiven you*), "LOVE" (*as I have loved you*)...(tithes, serve)
- Remembering also works with the promises of God.
 - (John 13:3-5) Jesus "knowing...come from/returning to God"
 - Puts today in perspective—ENCOURAGING (past event) & EXPECTING (future promise)!
 - Reminded that death is not the end—we know that our "labor (*daily course of activities, loving, serving*) are never in vain." (1 Cor. 15:58) In fact, our "works follow us" (Rev. 14:13)
 - "Rewards" are tangible, personal RESULTS in the lives of people ("*You are my crown, my reason for rejoicing*" Phil. 4:1)

Remember His faithfulness. Remember His promises. "See through" the darkness! ("*Sunrise brilliance will come bursting through*" Ps. 112:4 TPT)