

**“Spiritual Warfare part 2”
September 13, 2015**

PSALM 24

CORE: The ULTIMATE “spiritual warrior” is THE LORD “strong and mighty in battle.”

He has “DELIVERED US from this present evil age” (SEE Galatians 1:3-5 NIV).

1. Dynamics of “this EVIL AGE”:

a. FUTILITY

- **“They became futile in their thinking” (Romans 1:21)**—to go around in **circles**—having **lost the meaning of life**; experience a series of dead ends; going nowhere; making **no progress**.
- **Results in “boredom”**—fruit of a lost sense of purpose. (*i.e., TGIF—when I can forget about my purposeless life*)

b. DECEPTION

2 Corinthians 11:3- **“But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.”**

- **“Sin”** is being **less than** we were created to be (*i.e., “Acting like mere humans” 1 Corinthians 3:3*).
- NOTE: Criminals who admit that with each step of descent into greater “sin”—they are aware of the sense that what they are doing is “wrong” (*i.e., from petty theft to armed robbery*) until they become “numb” at a new level of descent; **“dulled/seared in their conscience” 1 Timothy 4:2**.
- **HS convicts us** in order to **apprehend us on this descent**

c. TERRITORIAL SPIRITS

- “Evil” targets individuals; yet, loves to create **strongholds**—infiltrating **people/territories**—controlling the spiritual **“climate.” Ephesians 2:2-** “Prince of the **power of the air** (*atmosphere in a region; the culture*).
- You can actually **“feel”** this evil unique to each territory. Sensing the **“spirit”** that controls the climate. (*i.e., poverty; deception; peace; pride; servanthood*)
- Things can shift! (*i.e., Eldoret, Kenya*) (*i.e., University Harvard motto: “Truth for Christ & the Church” → “Truth” –man’s reason superior to God’s revelation*)
- This happens in layers (*i.e., from indifferent parents → (OR from giving back change to a mistaken clerk → refusing corporate corruption)*) Beyond the human involvement/participation, there are “principalities & powers.”

2. God's RESPONSE to EVIL

- He is **"GRIEVED/His heart was deeply troubled" (Genesis 6:6)**. (Genesis 12; His response to idolatry & rebellion throughout OT)
- **(Hosea 6:7) "Like a husband betrayed—you have broken My heart"**
- When you look into the **judgments of God** throughout the **OT**, He gave **opportunity upon opportunity for people to turn to Him**. i.e., Canaan—land of the descendants of Ham—filled with immorality/corruption; spiritual cancer; in all of it, He grieves—He gives them time to turn (i.e., Sodom & Gomorrah—**"spared for 10 righteous ones"**)
- **"Adam, where are you?"** (in a father's tone of voice...like He always used).
- Sweating while you work and pain in childbirth is an unthinkable, harsh judgment...NO—these are merely reminders that we are not "gods"—and in this life, we will face difficulty as a reminder that choosing His ways is always the better choice! Difficulties remind us that we are human.
 - **It was God's mercy that removed them from the Garden.**
 - His **harsh judgment fell on the evil one**—not on man and woman. Sweat on your brow vs. a crushed head? Momentary pain in your belly giving birth vs. forever crawling on your belly?
 - To Satan: **"You preyed on the woman...her Seed will crush your head!"** *"The second Eve gave birth to the last Adam who crushed the serpent's head." (Quote from the early church writings).*
 - **"Head"** in Hebrew is **"headship"**—the one who has the authority. Satan's usurped authority was **"shattered like pottery" (Psalm 2:9)**
- **"ALL authority...in heavenly realm and on earth"**—therefore, you go and **implement My conferred authority**; declaring the good news that a **new King** is on the throne and a **new Kingdom** has been established."
- NOTE: Pic of the two arms; one a passive punch; the other an absorbing arm

HOW DID GOD DEAL WITH EVIL?

- **His grief, His tears** came to their full expression when Jesus wept over Jerusalem (i.e., **deep sobs; longing for**). His tears are **not hopeless tears**—they express the **love that will not give up until they deal with evil!** Restoring us to what we were first born to experience in Him!
- **He brought JUSTICE (not revenge)!**
 - **Revenge condemns** and punishes the guilty
 - **Justice restores** them to right relationship with Him!

Revelation 1- "I am He who lives (Life itself)...I was dead...and I overcame it...I am alive forevermore...and I have the keys of hell and death!"

Jesus is the Source of a new race of people. We were **infused by Adam's deception**. NOW, in Jesus, **infused with HIS life**, peace, joy, & authority. Literally **BORN AGAIN—fresh start!** We are in the midst of an evil age...but we are not OF it!

