**Extreme Warfare!**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**2 Corinthians 10:1-6**

**Sunday Morning**

**August 11, 2024**

**2 Corinthians 10:1-6**

1 Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ--who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you. 2 But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Saints the difference between deliverance and spiritual warfare is that deliverance is dealing with demonic bondages, and getting a person set free, whereas spiritual warfare is resisting, overcoming and defeating the enemy's lies (in the form of deception, temptations and accusations) that he sends our way.

Deliverance involves the breaking up of legal grounds, the tearing down of strongholds (offensive spiritual warfare), and the casting out of demons. Spiritual warfare on the other hand, is dealing with three key things the enemy sends at us:

**Temptations, Deception and Accusations**

Saints, I am hoping that this teaching will give you an idea of how spiritual warfare works.

**Offensive vs. Defensive Warfare**

Saints, spiritual warfare comes in two ways: offensive and defensive.

**Offensive Warfare** is tearing down the strongholds the enemy has formed in your mind through deception and accusations.

**Defensive Warfare** is guarding yourself against the tactics or schemes of the devil.

**The Enemy's three Primary Weapons are Deceptions, Temptations and Accusations**

Those are three things that we can expect from the devil. The Bible tells us that we struggle not against flesh and blood, but against demonic forces.

**Ephesians 6:12**

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

One of the first primary things we struggle against is:

**1. Deception**

**Matthew 24:4-8**

4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15**

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Saints, to deceive somebody means to make another person believe a lie or something that is not true. When the enemy sends deception your way, it is an attempt to deceive you into believing something that is not true, so you will fall into error.

Strongholds are built through deception. A stronghold is formed when deception takes hold in a person's mind. A stronghold is an incorrect thinking pattern that stems from believing something that is not true.

From the very beginning Saints, Satan deceived Eve into believing that God's Word was not true.

In Genesis 3:4, the devil told her that she will not surely die...

**Genesis 3:1-4**

1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

But in Genesis 2:16-17 God said she would die if she ate!

**Genesis 2:15-17**

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

One of the second things we struggle against is

**2. Temptation**

Temptation often follows deception.

**James 1:2-5**

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

In Matthew 4, Jesus was led out in the desert to be tempted by the devil. The devil tried to convince Jesus that it would be harmless to jump off a building.

**Luke 4:1-8**

1 Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

3 And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." 4 But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' " 5 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

6 And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." 8 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'

Often people will be so drawn to sin and the enemy tries to convince them that it is all harmless and fun, when it's not harmless at all, but an open door to the devil.

Jesus saw through Satan's deception, and resisted the temptation by speaking God's Word.

King David said in:

**Psalms 119:11**

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

Saints, when the enemy tempts you, he's showing you the worm... but behind that worm is a hook. The Word of God helps you see the hook behind the worm.

and thirdly we struggle against

**3. Accusations**

The devil is known as the accuser of the brethren:

**Revelation 12:10**

"Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down."

Saints, he is known to take a believer who has done an embarrassing or gross sin in their past, and continue to rub it in their faces and beat them down with guilt and condemnation over their past.

**Proverbs 10:18**

"Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, And whoever spreads slander is a fool."

**Dealing with Deception**

Saints, we have two weapons to deal with deceptions:

**Ephesians 6:14**

"Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth..."

**Ephesians 6:17**

" and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"

Saints, both are truth, which is found in God's Word, so

**Why are they given two different names (a sword and a belt)?**

Because one is meant to be defensive (the belt), while the other is meant to be offensive (the sword). This means that the Word of God is both an offensive and a defensive weapon. A belt is something you wear to guard against an attack, while a sword is used to slaughter the enemy.

You use the belt of truth (God's Word) to guard against the enemy's deception (lies) he sends your way and use the sword of the Spirit (God's Word) to tear down existing strongholds (deception that took hold) in your mind. Saints in"

**Romans 12:2**

"be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."

**How do we Renew our Minds?**

By getting in God's Word!

**Ephesians 5:26**

"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word."

**Dealing with Temptation**

**James 4:7-10**

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

**The Tearing Down of Strongholds**

Saints, a stronghold is deception that's taken hold in a person's mind. It's an incorrect thinking pattern based on a believed lie.

People can get incorrect perceptions of God by listening to Satan as he tells them how God doesn't love them, etc.

People can feel like dirty old sinners when they believe Satan's accusations as he continually reminds them of their past (which has been washed away!).

Strongholds are based on lies from the devil. They can come in the form of deception or accusations.

Accusations always lead to guilt and the feeling of unworthiness, which weighs you down and tears you apart spiritually.

**2 Corinthians 10:4-6**

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

**In closing:**

A sword is an offensive weapon and is meant to tear down and kill the enemy's troops. Strongholds are the devil's assets in war, and he uses them against us. Take up the sword of the Spirit (God's Word) today, and start slaughtering the enemy's assets that he's been using against you!

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace!**