

THE INVISIBLE WAR: SESSION 3

Video Notes

Introduction: Guerilla Warfare

1. Satan was _____ at the Cross.
2. Sin's _____ was paid for all people for all time.
3. Sin's _____ was broken.
4. Yet, Satan and his host of fallen angels engage in guerrilla warfare to discourage, deceive, divide, and destroy God's people and God's program.
5. Believers are commanded to _____ and _____ themselves in the strength of the Lord and in His mighty power to stand firm against the enemy's schemes, repel his multi-faceted attacks, and engage and defeat him in specific battles. Ephesians 6:10-12

How to Prepare Yourself for Satanic Attack

13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; . . . Ephesians 6:13-15 (NASB)

- Our commander (Jesus Christ) _____ commands us to "pick up" our spiritual armor and put it on. Why? = For the purpose of being fully prepared and enabled to withstand the grave and difficult "dark times" when the enemy attacks.

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How to Prepare Yourself for Satanic Attack (con't)

- ☒ After picking up our armor in preparation for battle, we are then commanded to _____ and vigorously make a _____ act (or succession of acts) to stand our ground firmly and fearlessly against the enemy's assaults as he seeks to deceive, accuse, and discourage us. Ephesians 6:14b-15

"Having girded your loins with truth"

- ☒ Satan's first attack on mankind was _____, which was followed by man's hiding, denial, and blame-shifting.
- ☒ Application: "Search me O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offense in me, and lead me in the way of everlasting." Psalm 139: 23-24

Discussion Questions

1. What new insight did you gain about the beat of truth from the teaching today?

2. Why is it so important to be totally honest with God, others and ourselves in light of Satan's primary tactic to deceive us as believers?

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Discussion Questions (con't)

3. Share one specific instance (as is appropriate for this group) when you've been less than honest with God and yourself in the past. What were the implications of your failure to be honest?
4. Share a time in the last month where you have been less than honest with a person. How does God want us to deal with those times (that we all experience as fallen human beings) when we fail to be honest with God or others? See: 1 John 1:9, and Ephesians 4:15 and 25.
5. It's often said that everyone wears a mask? in other words, insecurity drives us all to posture and pose in certain situations to make a good impressions on others. How can the truth of our position in Christ help us to take off our mask?

Action Steps (homework)

Read Psalm 139:23-24 and yourself these questions:

Where am I deceived?

Is my heart pure before there Lord?

Have I hurt someone by deceiving them?

THE INVISIBLE WAR: SESSION 4

Video Notes

How to Prepare for Satanic Attack (cont'd)

1. "Having girded your loins with truth"
2. "Having put on the breastplate of righteousness"

_____ = Uprightness, right living, integrity in one's lifestyle and character – conforming of our will with God's will.

Satan's attacks are not merely deception, but accusation (resulting in guilt and condemnation) of the believer. When we willfully turn away from what we know is God's will, we open ourselves to demonic influence in our lives.

Old Testament = Saul

New Testament = Peter

Application: "Therefore to the one who knows what is right to do and doesn't do it, to him it is sin."
James 4:17 (NASB)

Personal area to address = _____

3. "Having shod your feet with the preparation for the gospel of peace"

_____ = Establishment – the means of a firm foundation; also conveys the idea of readiness to share the Gospel which brings peace between man and God.

Satan not only uses _____ and _____ to neutralize believers, but also specializes in casting doubt on the very basis of God's goodness and the means by which we have received it – the Gospel.

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Application:

1. Know and _____ the content of the Gospel.
(1 Corinthians 15:1-5; Ephesians 2:1-9)
2. Know the basis for your _____ and the assurance of your salvation. Security - (Romans 8:38-39; Ephesians 1:13-14. Assurance - 1 John 5:11-13)
3. Faith is based on _____, not feelings.
4. Sharing your faith is one of the most powerful faith-builders available—Often “the best defense is a good offense.”

CONCLUSION

The spiritual battle we fight involves a responsibility on our part to “put on” the spiritual protection that God has provided for us. We can and will resist the enemy’s attempts to “deceive”, “accuse”, and “cast doubt” when we stand firm against him by:

1. Being honest with God, ourselves and others as a prerequisite to all spiritual battle.
2. Responding to the truth that God shows us about His will for our lives – righteous living.
3. A clear understanding of “the Gospel” and the habitual sharing of this message of grace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What new insight did you gain about the “Breastplate of Truth” from this session’s teaching? What organ does a physical breastplate protect, and what are the spiritual implications?
(See: Proverbs 4:23)

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (con't)

2. How are we to respond to “true guilt” when the Spirit of God has shown us there is a discrepancy between our belief and our behavior? (See: 1 John 1:9) How are we to respond when Satan’s condemnations or when “false guilt” is the source of our condemnation? (See: Romans 8:1) How can you tell the difference between the conviction of the Holy Spirit and the condemnation of the enemy?

3. Share a time in the last two weeks when the Spirit convicted you and you practiced 1 John 1:9. What were the results? Share as honestly and appropriately as possible so that we can learn from one another.

4. Why is it so important to understand your security in Christ? Is it possible for a believer to be fully assured of his or her salvation and know with certainty that we are going to heaven? Please read 1 John 5:11-13 out loud in the group. What promise is made in verse 13 to every genuine believer?

5. The security of our salvation is rooted in a clear understanding of the gospel of grace. From what you’ve learned in today’s session, break off in pairs or in trios and take 5-7 minutes to practice clearly articulating the gospel. Remember, the gospel message always involves four specific components:
 - There’s a problem—human sin separates us from God (Romans 3:23)
 - There’s a solution—Christ’s death on the cross paid for the sin of all people of all time (Rom. 5:8)
 - God’s solution—(Christ’s shed blood) is a gift that can’t be earned, but must be received by faith. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
 - We need to personally receive God’s gift of salvation by faith. (John 1:12)