

THE INVISIBLE WAR SESSION 5

Video Notes: How to Do Battle with the Enemy Within

Introduction: Four Facts You Need to Know: Ephesians 6:16-17

FACT #1

God has objectively defeated Satan and his agenda. He has delivered us from sin's penalty and power and ultimately will deliver us from sin's very presence. In the interim, we are involved in guerilla warfare with demonic forces.

FACT #2

As believers, we have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of light with all the rights, privileges, and position that being a child of God entails.

FACT #3

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 Gods shows us about His will for our lives-righteous living.
3. A clear understanding of and readily sharing the "Gospel message" of grace.

FACT #4

The great majority of spiritual warfare need never go beyond the regular practice of living out our position in Christ by faith. Our practice of Paul's metaphor of the spiritual armor protects us from Satan's ongoing attempt to break our fellowship with Jesus and, as a result, greatly minimizes any impact by the enemy.

THE INVISIBLE WAR: SESSION 5 (con't)

The Question:

Once you're wearing your spiritual armor and yet you feel yourself bombarded by spiritual opposition, How Do You Engage and Win Battles?

The Answer:

16 . . . in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

How to Engage the Enemy Within and Win

1. "Taking up the shield of faith" Verse 16

- Definition = Faith in this context is our "absolute confidence" in God, His _____ His power, and His program for our lives.
- Its purpose – to quench _____ the fiery missiles of the evil one.
- "Fiery darts/missiles" = The schemes, temptations, lies, deceptions, and attacks aimed at (us) God's people to get us to "shift our trust" to something or someone other than God. These are often rooted in lies obeyer God's identity or our new identity in Christ.
- Application: Darts of doubt and deception must be immediately met by the shield of faith. (i.e. your active, present, application of truth to your personal situation as soon as you recognize a dart has been received). How?
 1. Trusting in God's Character – God has my best in mind.
 2. Trusting in God's Promises and Word – He will accomplish what concerns me.
 3. Trusting in God's Program and Timing – His ways are not always easiest, but are always best.

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Discussion Questions

- 1. After listening to today's teaching, have you ever had an experience that you believe was a frontal attack with demonic activity? If so, share briefly what occurred and when. (Remember confidentiality is crucial to the health of any group. We all experience things that we either don't understand or at times may embarrass us.)**
- 2. What new insight did you gain about taking up the shield of faith when enemy attacks come? What specific role of knowing God's promises and His Word as you practice taking up the shield of faith?**
- 3. What specific promises of the four listed concerning our victory in Christ were most helpful and why?**
- 4. Which promises do you need to hide in your heart so that you can be ready to quench any and every fiery dart the enemy would shoot you way?**
- 5. Share one specific situation that you need to apply faith to today. Ask the group to help you identify which of God's promises would be the most helpful for you at this time. Take a few moments to close this session by praying for one another in the area of need that was shared by each person.**



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Action Steps (homework)

Chip talked about how darts of doubt and deception must be immediately met by the shield of faith.

Write these questions with the verses on a little card. Keep it with you and claim those verses when you go through a "frontal assault." Immediately respond by trusting in the truth of God's Word.

1. Am I trusting in God's character?
God has my best in mind. Psalm 84:11, Romans 8:32
2. Am I trusting in God's promises and Word?
He will accomplish what concerns me. Numbers 23:19, 1 Peter 1:2-4
3. Am I trusting in God's program and timing?
His ways aren't always the easiest, but are always best. Jeremiah 29:11, Isaiah 55:8-13

THE INVISIBLE WAR: SESSION 6

Video Notes

How to do Battle with the Enemy and Win

1. "Taking up the shield of faith" Verse 16
2. "And take the helmet of salvation" Verse 17
 - Definition = 1) Obvious allusion to the security we have saved, justified believers, safe from Satan's attacks. But, focus on present deliverance from sin! 2) The helmet of salvation is the certainty of deliverance from sin and the protection of our minds in the battle.
 - How? Focus on God renewing the believer's mind. Romans 12:2. Romans 8:5-8
2 Corinthians 10:5 = The battle is for the mind!
 - Practically – prayer, worship, music, Scripture, teaching, Scripture memory, fellowship
3. "And take...the sword of the Spirit" Verse 17
 - Definition = The sword of the Spirit is the Word (rhema – spoken word or words given to us by the Spirit of God) to do close, hand-to-hand combat with the lies of the Enemy.
 - Example – Jesus models for us the use of the sword of the Spirit. Matthew 4:11
 - Implications for us. Psalm 119:105, 19:9-11
 - Practical considerations – Note that the sword of the Spirit is both a defensive and an offensive weapon. Hebrews 4:12

THE INVISIBLE WAR: SESSION 6 (con't)

Summary: How to Engage the Enemy in Spiritual Warfare

1. Prerequisite is a healthy spiritual life.
2. Understand your position in Christ.
3. Discern when the demonic influence may be the cause.
4. Claim God's promises out loud. 1 John 4:4, 1 John 5:4-5
5. Take authority and position in Christ to command the demonic forces to cease activity and depart.

Key Resources

Biblical Texts

James 4:1-8

Ephesians 6:11-18

1 John 4:4, 5:4-5

Revelation 12:10-12

Books = Balanced Reading

The Invisible War – Donald Grey Barnhouse

Spiritual Warfare – Ray C. Stedman

The Adversary – Mark Bubeck

Overcoming the Adversary – Mark Bubeck

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share some specific ways that you've learned over the years to renew your mind (i.e. What you do in your devotional time, Scripture memory, times of worship, great books, etc.). Share with the group some very specific ways that have helped you put on the helmet of salvation.
2. Share with the group some specific ways that you guard your mind from evil. For example – are there movies, TV shows, books, or certain types of music that you do not allow to go into your mind? Share your personal convictions about what you allow in you mind and why.
3. What is your specific game plan to renew your mind in God's Word? Read Psalm 119: 9 and 11, and explain how this passage relates to the sword of the Spirit.
4. From Jesus' example, in Matthew 4:1-11, why is it so important that we have key passages of Scripture memorized so that we can't merely know them, but actually "speak them out loud" when confronting the Enemy?
5. What specific passages have been most helpful to you in any spiritual battles that you've encountered in the past?

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ACTION STEPS/AT HOME

A wise soldier would not enter a battle with a dull sword. sharpen your sword by starting a Scripture memory plan, even if it's one verse a week. Write them down on index cards, review them in the car, at work, or while you're waiting to pick up the kids or sitting in traffic.

Let's look back and summarize how to engage the Enemy in spiritual warfare. As you review each point, write down how well you're doing with each principle:

1. Maintain a healthy spiritual life
2. Understand your position in Christ, that you are a favored child of God
3. Discern when the demonic activity is the cause of your struggle.
4. Claim God's promises out loud.
5. Use your authority and position in Christ to command demonic forces to cease activity and depart. (See chart on the next page.) What part of the Armor do you have the most trouble putting on?



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The Enemy's Attack	Putting on the Armor
Deceive	Belt of Truth: Honesty with God
Accuse	Breastplate of Righteousness: Apply what you know to be true
Cast Doubt	Shod your Feet: Understanding the gospel
Fiery Darts of Temptation, Lies, Deceptions	Shield of Faith: Absolute confidence in God, His promises, His power, and His program for our lives
Battle for our Minds	Helmet of Salvation: Certainty that we are delivered from sin
Hand-to-Hand Combat	Sword of the Spirit: Knowing and Applying God's Word