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**INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRIES**  
**Institute in the Foundations of Church Leadership**  
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**SPIRITUAL WARFARE**  
**IFCL 8 (Advanced Lecture 5)**

**Introduction**

When we begin to study the topic of spiritual warfare in order to learn how we are to deal with Satan and demons, it is important that we do not allow our traditional beliefs to lead us to conclusions that are not biblical.

**I. THE BEGINNING OF THE BATTLE**

- A. The fall of Satan is thought to be described in Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:12-18.
- B. The army of Satan: One-third of the angels followed Satan to form the army of demons.
- C. Satan's targets: Christ, Israel, the church

**II. SATAN IS GOD'S INSTRUMENT**

- A. The Bible is our source of truth so what we know and believe about spiritual warfare comes from the Bible.
- B. The Bible says that when we become Christians we are protected by Christ. (1 Peter 1:5; 1 John 5:18; 2 Thessalonians 3:3)
- C. God is ultimately in control of all things, even Satan. (Romans 8:28; Psalm 115:3)
  - 1. Satan needed God's approval to take everything from Job. (Job 1:9-12)
  - 2. Paul's thorn was described as a messenger of Satan. (2 Corinthians 12:7) Paul did not try to bind or cast out Satan. He prayed three times for God to remove it, but God didn't.
  - 3. Jesus allowed Satan to "sift Peter like wheat." (Luke 22:31-32). Peter learned that he cannot stand on his own.
- D. Satan must always receive God's approval; therefore, God is in control.

**III. SATAN ATTACKED THE CHURCHES AND THE CHURCHES WERE CALLED TO REPENT (REVELATION 2-3)**

- A. The church at Ephesus: They lost their first love. They were told to remember and repent. (2:2-5)
- B. The church at Smyrna: There were some who were a part of the synagogue of Satan. Jesus gave Satan permission to test their faith. They were not instructed to pray against him, rebuke him, or cast him out. (2:9-10)
- C. The church at Pergamos: The throne of Satan was present. They were told to repent, NOT rebuke or bind Satan. (2:13-16, see especially v. 16)
- D. The church at Thyatira: They were following the deep things of Satan (this is implied in v. 24) and would be judged unless they repented (2:22). Still, there was no call for rebuking or casting out Satan.
- E. The church at Sardis: They were called to repent. (3:2-3).

- F. The church at Philadelphia: They were opposed by a synagogue of Satan, but they did not need to fight with him because they had been given an open door of ministry. (3:7-9)
- G. The church at Laodicea: It was lukewarm and was warned to repent and be saved. (3:19-20)

#### IV. THE DUTIES OF THE BELIEVER

- A. We are called to endure hardship. (2 Timothy 2:3-4)
- B. We are called to fight the good fight. (1 Timothy 1:18-19)
- C. We are called to stand firm. (1 Peter 5:8-9)

#### V. THE BELIEVERS CALL TO ACTION

- A. Be aware of the enemy's strategy.
  - 1. He tries to cause us to doubt God. (Genesis 3:1, 5)
  - 2. Through persecution he tries to make things hard for Christians.
  - 3. He tries to use false teaching to lead Christians away from God and truth.
  - 4. He wants Christians to be self-sufficient so they stop relying on God.
- James 1:13-14 Speaks of being "drawn away" and "enticed." That is how Satan draws us away from God's covering and protection so he can deceive us and get us to sin against God.
- B. Surrender to God and let Him transform the way you think about spiritual warfare (Romans 12:1-2)
  - One place that may require a change in the way we think is how we fight in spiritual warfare. Do we stand firm and resist, or do we think we need to bind and rebuke Satan, and cast out demons?
- C. Prepare for the battle (Ephesians 6:10-18)
  - Our war is a spiritual war and our true enemy is spiritual (Ephesians 6:12) (cf. 2 Corinthians 10:5)
    - 1. Rely on the Lord's strength, not your own. (Ephesians 6:10)
    - 2. Put on God's spiritual armor. (Eph 6:11, 13)
      - a. The purpose of God's spiritual armor
        - i. To protect yourself against the devil's tricks (Ephesians 6:11)
        - ii. To be able to stand firm and resist (Ephesians 6:13) (See also James 4:7)
      - b. God's armor piece by piece
        - i. Belt of truth (Ephesians 6:14): Probably the attitude of honesty and integrity
        - ii. Breastplate of righteousness (Ephesians 6:14): Don't counterattack; just put on righteousness.
        - iii. Shoes of the gospel (Ephesians 6:15): This is a defensive piece of clothing. It helps us to stand firm.
        - iv. Shield of faith (Ephesians 6:16): Faith is "trusting God and His Word." Faith and obedience work together.

- v. Helmet of salvation (Ephesians 6:17): Our eternal hope, which is the result of our salvation, is our motivation to persevere during trials.
  - vi. Sword of the Spirit (the Word of God) (Ephesians 6:17): Teaching and using God's Word cuts through Satan's authority on earth.
3. Pray at all times as the Spirit leads. (Ephesians 6:18)
- D. Place an emphasis on spiritual character, not your "deliverance techniques."
- 1. Christians are already delivered from and protected from Satan. (Colossians 1:13)
  - 2. We are called to stand firm, resist the devil, and he will flee.
- E. If a demon is cast out of an unbeliever he can return and bring others with him if the person does not become a Christian. (Luke 11:24-26) But if the unbeliever is led to Christ, the demon is not allowed to return. So true and permanent deliverance comes when an unbeliever becomes a Christian.