UNDERSTANDING YOUR ENEMY

RECOGNIZING WHO’S BEHIND YOUR BATTLES

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A CERTAIN MAN’S STRUGGLES

 There was a minister one time who was struggling with all he had and battling the enemy to stay afloat and overcome in his trial. The Devil was hitting him with different things and beating him up in his mind and it was taking the air out of him. He was so low in spirit that he could not minster. A dear Brother in Christ came to him and said – “Brother so and so; God has laid you on my heart to pray for you! The Lord told me to tell you to read the letter that Paul wrote to the Ephesian Church and saints. He said to tell you that this letter had deep Revelation knowledge that would open your eyes to what you are fighting and up against and it will give you Faith, authority and power to rise up and be an overcomer!

Brother, he told me to tell you to earnestly pray and read this letter carefully through. When you read it, back up and read it through again and do this several times. Earnestly pray as you read it!”

 This dear Brother’s own words were – “I was battling hard in my mind. I was weak, struggling and desperate. I did what my brother in the Lord told me to do – I prayed earnestly and read Ephesians through one time every day for 6 straight days.” He said – “When I did, I saw things I had never seen before. I saw into the spirit world and spirit realm & I understood and realized where my battles were coming from and why I was feeling the way I was feeling. I saw clearly why I was being fought and what and who was behind the aggravations and causing them. God opened my eyes to the many different ways and avenues Satan uses to Hinder and bind God’s people. I was then able to discern that it was the enemy, Satan’s principalities and powers of darkness that was vexing me and holding me down. The Holy Ghost revealed to me my Spiritual rights as a Child of God that I had and possessed in Jesus Christ. I felt an authority and power come into my heart that I had never had or experienced before! I then rose up in Faith and confidence and rebuked the devil. I took authority over the enemy and the Mind games stopped! Satan’s doubts and fears and accusations that he hounded me with stopped and vanished as I Prayed and filled my Mind with the Word of God! The timidness and sense of unworthiness lifted and I was a different man! My Faith and ministry was renewed in the Holy Ghost and I was able to minster and help others!” This dear brother in the Lord overcame his weakness and claimed the spiritual victory that Jesus paid for. Satan has no legal rights over a true Born- Again Christian who has been Redeemed by the Blood of Christ and knows and believes the Truth of God’s Word! The enemy of your soul (Satan), wants you spiritually blind to what Christ did to him and his demon forces of Hell at Calvary!

**Col. 2:15** says that Jesus spoiled **principalities** and **powers** and made a show of them openly, triumphing over them. He stripped Satan of his power and authority. He does not want you to know that he has been defeated by the Atoning Blood and work of Christ on the Cross. Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection spelled his doom. The grave could not hold our Lord and Saviour! All of the sin debt has been paid in full. When Jesus arose from the dead, He took the keys of death and Hell, stripped them from the Devil and gave the Church the Keys to the Kingdom. Jesus ascended back to Heaven and sent back the Holy Ghost to help us and make us Overcomers!! Unless you know the Truth of God’s Word, the Devil will take your afflictions and trials and temptations and beat you up with them. He will batter your mind! His goal is to side-track you, get you focused on the troubles and problems all around you and take away your peace!

Paul said in **2Cor. 2:1** – Lest Satan should get an Advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his **Devices**. He is an evil expert in his cunning artful designs. He knows how and the right time when to hit you with things in different areas of your life and then lie to you in your mind and cause you to doubt! Oh, if we could understand Satan’s “power of suggestion”, how our mental state is so easily influenced through the thoughts that are injected and enter our minds daily! Your enemy can so easily bring a wrong spirit or feeling into your heart that will rob you of your stedfastness and commitment to God if you let it. Your biggest battlefield is in your mind. He would like nothing any better than get you discouraged to let up, stop praying and fighting and quit. The enemy will attack your mind during your time of trial in order to rob you of your Faith and fill you with fears and frustration. He will pump you full of unbelief and make you doubt God’s Love and Calling in your life! If you stay focused on your troubles and problems, the devil will keep you in a state of confusion. If you love God and are endeavoring to serve Him with your whole heart and you are presently going through some hardship or suffering, it DOES NOT mean that you are out of God’s Will! It does not mean your efforts are not good enough and your work is vain. It is the attack of your Enemy the Devil and the Powers of Darkness. He is your chief Adversary and the enemy of all righteousness. He’s the tempter, liar, and deceiver! He is the Accuser of the brethren. He has stopped, crippled and hindered many ministries. The Principalities and Powers have held back victories and blocked the blessings of God for many good saints because they did not understand and see what and who was behind the spiritual warfare! WE ARE AT WAR! You must discern the origin of Confusion. Your enemy wants you Distracted. His plot is to keep you agitated and on edge and get you focused on the negative and bad. He’s the **Thief** that Jesus described and warned about that comes to kill, and to steal and to destroy. He will hinder you in every way he possibly can. Yes, your mind is the battle field!

PAUL’S PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

I don’t have to remind you that we are living in an unprecedented time of evil when it seems all the stops have been pulled out and Hell’s fury from the powers of darkness has been unleashed against the Church and God’s people. The pressures of Sin and evil are so thick you can cut it with a knife. We are the most hated people in the world right now! We are now facing things we never thought we would see or have to deal with that is coming against us like a tidal wave of ungodliness. I want you to listen close to the great Apostle Paul’s prayer that he prayed for all the Christians in God’s Church: This prayer was INSPIRED by the Holy Ghost to open our eyes to understand what we are up against in Spiritual warfare.

**Eph 1:15** ¶ Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, **16** Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; **17** That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may **give unto you** the Spirit of **Wisdom** and **Revelation** in the knowledge of him: **18** The eyes of your understanding (the eyes of your inner man – your spiritual heart) being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, **19** And (**know**) what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, **20** Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, **21** Far above all Principality, and Power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: **22** And hath put **all things** under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, **23** Which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.

UNDERSTANDING THE SPIRIT WORLD

AND WHAT YOU ARE UP AGAINST

There is a spirit world that is more real than this natural world. The spirit world was here first before mankind ever showed up on earth. All we see is this physical, material, tangible world that we can handle and feel – but behind it is a spirit realm, a spiritual world that was here before Adam and Eve ever came along. When God created Adam and Eve, He created them perfect, Happy, Holy and Sinless and placed them in Eden the Garden of Paradise. They had harmony and peace, nothing to defile, no wars or strife. There was unity and the Love of God abounded. It was paradise, nothing to harm or hurt. God said to Adam, obey me Adam, keep my commandment and do what I tell you to do and **keep** the garden and dress it. Why did He warn Adam to KEEP that Garden? Why did He tell him to be on Guard? It was because there was someone evil and powerful lurking all around who was coming to rob him and take it all away! Who was it that was going to and fro in this world and walking up and down in it seeking to Steal, Kill and Destroy? It is the Devil and his evil hordes of demons.

WHERE DID SATAN COME FROM

AND WHY IS HE HERE?

**Isaiah 14** says – How art thou fallen from Heaven O Lucifer, son of the morning! Before He ever became Satan and the Devil, this powerful being was called Lucifer. He was once the greatest and brightest of all God’s cherubim’s that led the Heavenly choir of angels singing and playing music. He was the choir leader. He got lifted up in pride because of his wisdom and beauty and sought to become like God. Lucifer caused one third of God’s Holy angels to rise up with him in rebellion to rule over God, and God kicked him out of Heaven down to this earth. **Rev. 12:4** says that his tail (his influence) drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth. The stars here refer to the angels, for it is recorded in **Job 38:7** that when God created this big earth and laid the foundation of it - the Morning Stars sang together as they beheld God’s mighty power! Can I ask you - How many angelic spirit beings does God have? How many angels fell with Lucifer and got kicked out into this earth? Listen to the apostle John as He tells his vision that Jesus gave him in **Rev. chapter 5.** And I John was caught up into Heaven and I saw and beheld 10 thousand times 10 thousand and thousands of thousands of angels. This literally means multiplied millions and millions of angelic beings.

LUCIFER BECOMES THE GREAT DRAGON

There was War in Heaven and now it comes to earth! **Re 12:7** And there was **War** in heaven: Michael and his (God’s Holy) angels fought against the Dragon; and the Dragon fought and his angels, **8** And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. **9** And the great Dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and **his angels** were cast out with him. **10** And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. **11** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. **12** Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe (**Woe** means great pain, trouble and suffering) to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. Jesus said in **Luke 10:18** – I beheld Satan as lightning fall from Heaven when God kicked him out of Heaven!

THE REASON WHY YOU ARE BATTLING

 There is a reason why you’re feeling what you are feeling! You must discern and understand Who and what you are up against! Millions of fallen angels followed Satan to this earth and they all have an Agenda! They hate God and they hate man. You and your family are on their Agenda. They hate you with a cruel hatred because you are made in the image and likeness of God. Listen – All these millions of supernatural spirit beings are disembodied spirits invisible to the naked eye and they are all around us. The atmosphere above us and around us are filled with them. They have infiltrated our society. They are very powerful and strong. They are evil, cunning and deceitfully sly. Their wisdom is unearthly and their knowledge is out of this world. You must know that these spirit beings were once in God’s divine Holy presence. They know about His Holiness – they were once filled with God’s Love and Glory – they were filled and endued with His mighty power. When these strong angels fell, these spirit beings turned dark, ungodly and ugly. They now have twisted evil natures that are hate-filled. They are opposite of everything that God is and stands for. These spirit beings and entities are demons that Jesus called devils. He casted these spirits out of people that were possessed with them. Deaf and dumb spirits Jesus casted out of people that were bound by them and they could hear and speak. **Matt. 17** records that a man came kneeling to Jesus begging Him for mercy on his son that was a lunatic and was sore vexed (the boy was mad, mentally ill, suicidal and wreckless) **Mark 9** records that when the dad brought this son to Jesus, he said – Jesus, he can’t speak, and wheresoever that spirit taketh him, **He** teareth him, and he foameth and gnasheth with his teeth and oftentimes **IT** (the devil) hath cast him into the fire and into the waters to destroy him. **Vs 21** says – Jesus asked the man – how long ago since this came unto him? (When did this spirit come in and possess him?) and the man said – Since a child! **Mark 5** records there was a man named Legion who dwelt among the tombs. No man could bind him or tame him. He was the demoniac of Gadara. You could hear crying out day and night out in the grave yard cutting himself with stones. He wore no clothes but ran naked with no right mind. Do you know how many demon spirits possessed this man? As Jesus got ready to pray for this man, He asked him what his name was. The devil spoke out of him and cried out with a loud voice – what have I to do with thee Jesus, thou Son of God? I adjure thee by God that thou torment me not. Jesus asked him – what is thy name? The devil answered – my name is Legion: for we are many. A legion in that day was 6,ooo Roman soldiers. Jesus commanded and said come out of the man thou unclean spirit. And he, the chief devil besought Jesus that he would not send them out of the country but said - send us into the herd of swine that is feeding nearby. Jesus commanded and the devils came out of the man and entered into a herd of 2,000 swine. When the devils entered, they ran violently down a steep place into the sea and drowned.

KNOWING WHAT YOU ARE FIGHTING

COMPREHENDING SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Spirits have Voices that speak and work by influence. They operate in Politics, in Religion, in Sports. They are heavily involved in the Entertainment industry and in Games. They control leaders and Governments, the Gambling industry and money. Jesus said – you cannot serve God and Mammon which means the god of money. Jesus said beware of covetousness which is a spirit that causes you to crave and eagerly desire things of this world and put them before God. This world is filled with Lust spirits, lying spirits and deceiving spirits. Millions of souls are bound and controlled by them and they don’t even know it! Satan’s spirits cause you to do things you wouldn’t ordinarily do. These fallen angels that are demonic spirits are strong and persuasive and controlling. Once they enter your mind with their thoughts and allowed to stay there and you entertain them, they will enter your heart and possess you. They will control you and make you like they are. Whatever spirit you entertain, you will become. The evil spirits of Satan instigate, they cause wars and strife. Satan’s emissaries cause chaos and confusion. They separate and divide people. They cause hate and bitterness, tempers of anger and wrath. They cause divorce and murder. They take away peace and harmony. I don’t have to tell you that Satan wants your mind. As a man thinketh, so is he. If we ever needed spiritual wisdom and help to have power and victory over the demon forces of the enemy in this world – it is now! The devil and the powers of darkness want your mind and thought life and if they can influence you there, they will take the reins of your emotions and control you. They will rob you of God’s Love, peace and Holiness.

RECOGNIZING YOUR ENEMY

The first chapter of Ephesians starts off with nine blessings that rightfully belongs to you in Christ but the last chapter tells you there is an enemy that will fight to block you & and hold you back from them. **Eph. 6: 12** – For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against **Principalities**, **Powers**, **Rulers of Darkness** and **Wicked Spirits** in high places. You must know and recognize what you are up against. Spiritual knowledge of God’s Word is overcoming Power and liberty. God wants you to know there is a reason why you feel like you feel at times. Why do I feel these mood swings? Why do I feel these agitations and nervousness? Why does anger sweep over me at times, right out of nowhere a bad arguing mood? Why are thoughts and imaginations injected into my mind at times that are not good or right? Why do I feel this heaviness and sense of depression and gloom hanging over me weighing my spirit down? What you are feeling is the heavy paw of Satan and his kingdom of darkness hovering all around and over you. It is the **Prince** of the Power of the air. The atmosphere is charged with evil! It’s not just sinners feeling this, but God’s own born-again children are fighting depression, discouragement, frustrations, despondency, oppression and feelings of hopelessness! You don’t understand it - why you feel like you do! You can’t put your finger on it, but it’s there – a spirit pushing and weighing you down! It is the Prince of the Power of the air – the god of this world – the powers of Hell and spiritual darkness working and influencing. It’s like a blanket, a spiritual magnetic influence of evil hanging over and around you. This is why people do such stupid stuff.

What is the Holy Ghost saying to us here? You will never rise any higher than you are right now to obtain Victory unless you Know God’s Holy Word of Truth! **Knowledge is Power**. Ye shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free! Unless you rise up and claim God’s Promises and stand on them, you will continue living a defeated life, battling your doubts and fears and giving in to the enemy. He will keep you down. He’ll keep you giving in to the lusts of the carnal flesh where Satan operates! Don’t let the enemy lie to you in your temptations and trials. He’s trying to weaken you and rob you of your Faith! God wants your spiritual eyes opened to see the greatness of His power when He raised Jesus from the dead. Where is Christ today? He is seated at the right hand of God on high! Where at? **Far above** ALL Principality, Power and Might and Dominion! Who did He do it for? The Church of born-again believers! Where is Satan and all these dark demon forces of Hell now? They are under Christs’ feet! So, if we are Redeemed, born-again, saved, and washed in the Blood of Jesus, where does that put us? Where do we spiritually stand in God’s sight right now? ANSWER: - We are seated with Christ. **Eph. 2:1** – And you hath He quickened (brought to life) who were dead in trespasses and sins, **V5** – and hath quickened us together with Christ, **V6** – and hath Raised us up **together**, and made us sit together in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

 So, where are you spiritually right now dear children? Where do you stand in God’s eyes in Christ? You are seated with Jesus in the Heavenly places! And where is Satan and his Principalities and demon powers? They are under your feet because you are seated with Christ! Now do you see your Position and do you understand your Spiritual rights? Do you realize your God given Authority that you have the power to resist and overcome your enemy? You don’t belong to the Devil anymore. He has no jurisdiction or control or rights over you **unless you surrender it to him**!! You have been made More than a Conqueror through Jesus Christ our Lord! You belong to God and you are His property. Hands off Satan! **Fast** & **Pray**, take this **knowledge** and the Word of God, stand up and do battle with it and claim your Spiritual rights and authority in Jesus your Lord! **May God Bless You all!**