

Our Warfare

The Top Ten Things We Need

Parkland Foursquare Church

Roderick Graciano, Saturday, September 9, 2017

1. **There are two spiritual kingdoms in our universe and they are at war against each other.** The battle is a battle for human hearts. This is the first, if not *complete* answer to the Problem Of Evil: there is a kingdom of darkness afflicting evil upon mankind. Our good God sovereign is over all, but is not the immediate cause of evil.
2. **The war is real and the human combatants suffer real casualties.** Our battle is not against flesh and blood (Eph 6.12). The book of Revelation implies that there are hundreds of millions of evil spirits, and life experience confirms their iniquity and ubiquity (cf. 1Pe 5.8). The Greek NT does not use the word “possession,” but speaks of people “having a demon,” or being “demonized.” Christians can be attacked in varying degrees by demonic spirits.
3. **We cannot evade or sit out the battle.** “The battle is the Lord’s,” but He is a warrior and He has predestined us to become like Him (Rom 8.29); He calls us into His battles. We are either armed, prepared and fighting strategically, or we are being lulled to sleep, and like the frog in the

kettle, slowly dying, losing our marriages, losing our children, losing our relationship with God.

4. **We advance the kingdom of God by taking territory from the enemy.** There is no unoccupied territory in the spiritual realm, no spiritual vacuum, and we cannot fulfill our great commission without provoking the devil. 1Jo 5.19: "...the whole world is under the control of the evil one." Consider Luke 11.20, and Christ's statement about the "finger of God": spiritual power can only come from one of two kingdoms.

5. The battle is essentially a clash of ideas (2Co 10.3-6).

Even demonization has to do with evil spirits believing that they have rights in a person's life, and with people believing Satan's lies, e.g., that they can live in compromise without suffering spiritual consequences. We must love the truth (Zec 8.19)!

6. **God calls us to fight as an army, not as lone combatants.** Submitting to one another is a family discipline, but certainly has application in a warfare context (Eph 5.21). Offended Christians who no longer belong to a congregation can hardly "submit to one another." Furthermore, as we have previously taught, Paul's teaching on the armor of God has first a corporate application, then an application to the individual. Since the one offensive weapon is the sword of the Spirit, wielded in prayer and petition (Eph 6.17-18), this means that we must study the Word together, and we must pray the Word together.

7. **One way to assess our progress in the battle is by the presence or absence of the fruit of the Spirit in our individual and corporate lives (Gal 5.19-25; 2Pe 1.5-9).**
The fact that we're not raving crazy because of overt demonization does not by itself mean we are winning.
8. **All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus, and He extends that authority to His disciples (Mat 28.18-20).** We having nothing to fear from the Devil, and every reason to use the authority of Jesus to set people free from demonic deception.
9. **God fights for us when we live in obedience to Him:**
Psa 81.13 "Oh that My people would listen to Me, That Israel would walk in My ways! **14** "I would quickly subdue their enemies And turn My hand against their adversaries.
When our ways please to the Lord, God quiets our enemies: Pro 16.7, "When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him."
Cf. Psalm 3.3.
10. **The whole cosmos will finally become the kingdom of our Lord Christ, and He will reign forever (Rev 11.15; cf. Zec 14.9).** "... there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." We are not just fighting to keep our noses clean so we can go to heaven; we are fighting with the Lord to establish the kingdom in which we will reign with Him.