

Seasons of Spiritual Warfare Series
Part 1A: Things We Must Know Regarding Spiritual Warfare

I. GCF in a Season of Spiritual Warfare: Due to Season of Outreach & Breakthrough

Therefore – Temporarily Interrupting Gifts Series

(Proverbs 16:9) The mind of man plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps. (See also Psalm 119:105)
(Matthew 4:1) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (Context)
(Matthew 16:18) I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. (See also Rev. 12:1-17 as Eternal Now) (See 1 Peter 5:8-11 at Message End)

II. What We Must Know – Regarding Spiritual Warfare (In addition to the fact that it increases Seasonally)

(2 Corinthians 2:11) ... lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices. (NKJV)

(2 Corinthians 2:11) ... so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs. (ESV)

(Note: “devices” in NKJV & “designs” in ESV = “schemes” in NASB, HCSB & NLT)

A. Three Inextricably Intertwined Enemies of God’s Church and Its Members (See Ephesians 2:1-3, Etc.)

1. The Sin Nature – The Old Man; The Flesh; The Adamic Nature
2. The World System – This Present Evil Age, Etc.
3. Satan and His Kingdom

B. Three Types of Beings in Satan’s Kingdom –

1. Satan (Adversary); Devil (Slanderer / Accuser); Serpent; Dragon; Prince of the Power of the Air; Beelzebul; Apollyon; Abaddon; Etc.
 - a. Not Omniscient, Omnipresent, Eternal or Any Other Divine Attributes – Allowed for a Purpose
 - b. Opposite God in Purpose & Character – But Not in knowledge, Wisdom, Power, Presence, Etc.
 - c. Angels – Cast Out of Heaven with Satan (See Rev. 12; Etc.)
 - d. Demons – Disembodied Spirits (Do Not Possess, but Inhabit) (Explain)

C. Spiritual Warfare & Temptation Are Allowed for a Limited Purpose & Season (Romans 8:28) etc.

D. Three Battle Grounds

1. The Heavenly Places & The Earth – (Ephesians 6:10-20) (Luke 10:18) (Revelation 12)

(Ephesians 6:10-12) (Ephesians 6: 10-14ff) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

2. Our Minds - Includes: Affections, Thoughts, Feelings (Moods & Emotions)

(2 Corinthians 10:3-5) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, ⁴ for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵ *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, ...

3. 7 Institutions of Government – Individual, Family, Church, Education, Economic Systems, Media, Civil Government

E. All The Enemies Schemes, Strategies & Attacks Proceed from His / Their Nature – (Three x Three)

1. Pride – See Genesis 3; Ezekiel 28:12-17; Isaiah 14:1ff
2. Rebellion – Isaiah 53:5

3. Unbelief: Many Manifestations – Attacks in Gen. 3 & Matt. 4 on Identity, Truth & God’s Character
(2 Corinthians 4:3-4) And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (See also 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 above.)

4. Division – Accuser Slanderer, Unforgiveness, Gossip, Offense (God’s Purposes)

(Matthew 12:25-28) And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, “Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶ If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷ If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? For this reason they will be your judges. ²⁸ But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (See also Mark 3)

5. Fear –

(1 Peter 5:8) Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

(2 Timothy 1:7) For God has not given us a spirit of timidity (fear), but of power and love and discipline.

6. Deception / Lies – (See 1 Kings 22:22-23 & 2 Chronicles 18:21-22)

(Revelation 12:9) And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

(John 8:44) You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

7. Murder – Anger, Hatred, Unforgiveness, Malice, Resentment (See John 8:44 above)

(Hebrews 12:15) See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; (NASB)

(Hebrews 12:15) See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; (ESV)

III. **Next Week – Things We Must Do Regarding Spiritual Warfare**

(Ephesians 6:13) Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore...

(1 Peter 5:8-11) Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. ¹⁰ After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you. ¹¹ To Him *be* dominion forever and ever. Amen.