

Seasons of Spiritual Warfare Series
Part 2C: Things We Must Practice Regarding Spiritual Warfare

I. Today' Introductory Scriptures

(Genesis 4:7b) "...sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." (NASB)

(Luke 4:1-2a, 13) Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. ... And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

(John 14:30b) "... for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me ..."

(Galatians 2:20) I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (ESV)

(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)

II. Things We Must Practice: In Seasons of Spiritual Warfare Due to Outreach & Breakthrough

(Note: Four Main Areas of Spiritual Warfare Below – There Are Others)

A. Temptation: A Primary Purpose of Satan's Kingdom (Both God's Purpose & Satanic / Demonic Purpose)

(Matthew 4:3) And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

(1 Thessalonians 3:5) For this reason, when I could endure *it* no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.

(Matthew 26:40-42) And He *came to the disciples and *found them sleeping, and *said to Peter, "So, you *men* could not keep watch with Me for one hour? ⁴¹ Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁴² He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done."

1. Know & Quote the Scriptures Out Loud: Active vs. Passive.

(Matthew 4:4) "... but He answered and said ..."

(Matthew 4:7) "... Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written ..."

(Matthew 4:10) "... Then Jesus *said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written ..."

(Psalm 119:9) How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

(Galatians 5: 19-21) Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

2. Pray & Fast – Matthew 17:21 [But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."] (Isaiah 58)

3. Confession, Accountability & Mutual Prayer – (I John 1:1-10; 2:1-2) We really need this ...

(James 5:16) Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Read *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer; Chapter 5: "*Confession and Community*")

4. Get In the Spirit Daily: Encounter God. (Galatians 5) (Read Scripture, Worship Aloud, Pray in the Spirit) ("Seven Days without Prayer Makes One Weak / Week") Note: Reading Scripture Contemplatively is Prayer

B. Conviction vs. Condemnation – We Struggle More than We Know / Founded in Pride Not Grace

(Romans 8:1) There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

(Romans 10:2-4) For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

³ For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

(Revelation 12:9-10) 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. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. (When We Lose at Door #1 – We Must Win at Door #2) (Contrast Satan in the Opening of Job vs. Christ Our Eternal Intercessor)

(Hebrews 7:24-27) but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. ²⁵ Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. ²⁶ For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; ²⁷ who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. (See also 1 John 2:1-2 in Context) (*Prisoner of War Principal.*)

C. The Phalanx Principle – “Strike the Shepherd...” (Note: Paul repeatedly ask for Prayer from Churches) (Matthew 26: 31) Then Jesus *said to them, “You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, ‘I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED.’” (Pray for the 5 Ministry Couples of GCF. Pray for the Leadership of ARC. Pray for GCF. Pray for MV churches.)

D. A Kingdom Divided -
(Matthew 12:25-26) 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? (See also Luke 11:17 – “... laid waste ...”) (Revelation 12:10) ... the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

E. Offense vs. Defense – A Critical Balance (Our Cultural Christian Context) We Must Take the Offensive. “*The Best Offense is a Good Defense & the Best Defense is a Good Offense.*” (John 17:19) (2 Corinthians 1:3-7) (**Read Aloud Ephesians 6:10-20**) “A Time to Pray & a Time to Say” (Three Ministries of All Christians) (Matthew 4:19) “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (See also Matt. 8:22 & Luke 24:5) (Matthew 28:18-20) ... Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them ... “*There is a Time to Pray & a Time to Say.*”

F. Beware of Making Your Perspectives Your Reality – Greek & Modern Idolatry (Plato vs. Christ) (John 17:17) Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. (Remember the Satanic Kingdom is in the Lie.) (John 8:31-34) So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue (μένω) in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free?’” ³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. (See Isaiah 55:6-13)

Note: “Emotions Make Great Servants – But Lousy Masters.”

Note: Train Metaphor. (Faith in the Facts vs. Faith in Your Feelings) Feelings will Yield / Obey in God’s Time.

G. God’s Sovereign Ways & Purposes – Exercise Faith (Trust) – Why We Need an Enemy
(Romans 8: 28) And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. (Read in Context)
(1 Thessalonians 3:3-4) so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this. ⁴ For indeed when we were with you, we *kept* telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know.
(1 Peter 4:12-13) Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing.... (Philippians 4:4) (James 1:3ff) (Romans 5:1-5) **Experience...**