

# FIGHTING WHAT WE CANNOT SEE

ser4080 Spiritual Warfare, Pt 1

October 3, 2021 E & L

## i. (HOOK & BOOK) POINT OF INTRIGUE & TEXT



**PB)**

A. It was the second time, or was it the third, that I was in Washington DC with our good friend, Rob Schenck. (show photos - Capitol Building & Rob &

I will never forget it. Rob and I had taken the elevator to the Gift Shop. I could not wait to get out of the elevator, and the Capitol. Although I could not see the forces of evil—they were everywhere. When I tell you upon leaving the Capitol Building, I wanted to take a bath, that is an understatement.

The Bible says, “The thief comes to kill, steal and destroy.” **John 10:10**. What does he kill, steal, and destroy? Everything that is good. Say that with me, “Everything that is good.”

What is good besides God? (Whom he can't kill.) Good is what the Spirit of God gives to us when we're walking in the Spirit. Let's look at it!

### **Galatians 5:19-23**

<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: <sup>[a]</sup>adultery, <sup>[b]</sup>fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> envy, <sup>[c]</sup>murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> <sup>[d]</sup>gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.



**NOTE!** I love the last sentence in **verse 23**. Live by the Spirit and there is no law that condemns or sentences you...justly. Now, you may be subject to an unlawful judgment, like Jesus, but your conscious will be clear before God and your fellowman.

**B. (Back to the Capitol) The demons of pride, greed, and power were everywhere.**

Believe me, I could feel the spirits of contention, division, hatred, and jealousy. I wanted to brush them off. I felt like they were all over me.

The Bible contrasts the spirit of Satan with the spirit of God. Satan's trademark is division; God's trademark is unity. The first stirs up jealousy, hatred and contention, the latter creates oneness, love, and peace.

### ***Psalm 133: 1***

Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in **unity!**

### ***Colossians 3:13***

<sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and **forgiving** one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ **forgave** you, so you also *must do*.

### ***Romans 12:9***

<sup>9</sup> Let love *be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

**NOTE:** There should be NO agenda in love.

### ***1 Corinthians 13:4-8***

<sup>4</sup> Love suffers long (**patient**) *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself (**boast**), is not <sup>[b]</sup>puffed up (**proud**); <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own (**self-seeking**), is not provoked (**easily angered**), <sup>[c]</sup>thinks no evil (**keeps no record of wrongs**); <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity (**evil**), but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things (**always**

protects), believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things (perseveres).

**NOTE!** You've got to be Jesus to live that out. Yet are we not supposed to be CHRIST-ians?

**ILLUSTRATION #1:**

Remember when a dairy truck driver (October 2, 2006), nursing a 20-year grudge, walked into a one-room Amish schoolhouse, demanding the boys to leave, then



proceeded to shoot 11 girls killing 5? He then killed himself. The Amish community of 55,000 responded by taking an offering and giving it to the murderer's widow. ([show photo](#))

Many of the community said it was not as simple as it seemed to FORGIVE the killer. Linda Fisher said, *"It's not a once and done thing; it's a lifelong process."* Aaron Esh, Sr said the bereaved parents started to look at forgiveness as *"the one good thing that can come out of this tragedy."*

[\\*TheGuardian.com](#)

**ILLUSTRATION #2:** Isn't that what Jesus did when He died for us? By taking on our sin, shame, and stain, He stopped sin in its tracks. When we do the same, we too stop sin in its tracks. That's how we bring healing, unity, and peace. To hold a grudge and a spirit of unforgiveness is to scatter pain, division and war.

### **Romans 12: 16-20**

<sup>16</sup> Be of the **same mind** toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

<sup>17</sup> **Repay no one evil for evil.** Have<sup>[a]</sup> regard for good things in the sight of all men. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live **peaceably** with all men. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> Therefore  
 “If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
 If he is thirsty, give him a drink; . . . .

### **John 17:11 - Jesus' last prayer on Earth**

<sup>11</sup> Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep<sup>[a]</sup> through Your name those whom You have given Me, that **they may be one as We are.**

### **C. (Back to sensing the power of evil) Two other times in my life I felt an overwhelming presence of evil.**

1. One was in an insane asylum while visiting a young man who Sheryl and I knew from our Pleasantville days. The presence of Satan was everywhere.

I recalled a story my mother had previously told me of a time when she was at God's Bible School. One of their projects was to visit those institutionalized. She said she

was speaking to a woman about Jesus. The woman knew Scripture inside and out. Mom said, “The next thing I knew, the woman was chasing me down the hall spewing profanities.”

I don’t know if we’ll ever understand mental illness, but this I do know. Some who struggle with mental illness are lovely, kind people with a strong love for God. Others are evil, with the intent to do harm.

2. The other time was when Sheryl and I were living in Pleasantville. At the time there was a popular religious community in the area called The Restored Israel of Yahweh. Its leader was Leo J. Volpe. Members of his following believed that he was Jeremiah resurrected, and that he would not taste death. (He died in 1992.) The brother of one of our youths was captivated by the cult. He wanted me to meet with two of its leaders. Bill Warner and I met in our home with two of Volpe’s key men. While we were meeting, one of our teens came to the house—our home had a revolving door. She told us later she had never in her life felt such evil and literally could not come up the steps to our front door. The forces of evil were that strong.

After Bill Southry and Danny Brown left, I prayed for them daily. Sometime after we had moved to Pitman and started GCCC, we were informed that both Bill Southry and Danny Brown were both saved and are in full-time ministry, today.

Was it our apologetic of Biblical Christianity that persuaded them to come to Christ? I don't think so. I believe it was daily prayer, prayer which only God could see, that won the war and brought them to Christ.

## II. WHERE THE REAL WAR TAKES PLACE (LOOK)

### A. The real war between good and evil first takes place in the realm of the unseen.

How do we know that is true? Let's go to God's word to find our answer.

#### *Ephesians 6:12*

<sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of <sup>[a]</sup>the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

### B. Eventually, the physical will reveal the spiritual.

#### Jesus said in *Matthew 7:15-20*

<sup>15</sup> "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad

tree bear good fruit. ... <sup>20</sup> Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

People can hide who they are for a while, but eventually the evil forces that we cannot see will reveal themselves through their behavior.

Recall, the woman conversing with my mother while she was at God's Bible School who pretended to be righteous. Eventually, the demons that controlled her made themselves manifest.

**UNDERSTAND!** The Devil may be the prince of this world, but Jesus is the King. **And the Church said, "Hallelujah!"** The songwriter, Maltbie D. Babcock, wrote,

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the  
ruler yet.

This is my Father's world: the battle is not done:  
Jesus Who died shall be satisfied,  
And earth and Heav'n be one.

**C. (TOOK) How do we win the battles of life which clearly identify good vs evil?**

**(show War Room video: 3:27)**

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:6**

<sup>6</sup> But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the

secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you <sup>[a]</sup>openly.

Prayer fights the battle in the spirit world and enlists the forces of heaven to come along side of you in the fight.

### **D. Where are you, today, fighting a war that seems impossible to win?**

1. Broken marriage?
  2. Financial dilemmas?
  3. Wayward children?
  4. Addiction?
  5. Health issues?
- ... and the list goes on.**

How should we then pray? That's for next time.

## **III. CLOSING/INVITATION**

**Do you realize that Satan fights for your soul?**

Do you know how **you win**, and he loses?

Through a **prayer** and an **act of profession**.

***Romans 10:9-10*** tells us,

if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

**Admit**– your sins have separated you from God.

(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

**Believe** – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.)  
(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

**Commit** – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

**Do it today!** (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen.

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