

Before Spiritual Warfare
March 26, 2006

I. Introduction

- A. Illustration: Ever think that some things are really beyond our comprehension? Read e-mail of "a billion"
- B. Read: "Wife Charged with killing Tennessee Minister" (March 25, 2006)
 - 1. Conclusion: We are in a war!
- C. Jesus was born in warfare, lived in warfare, and died in warfare.
 - 1. **Mt. 2:16** -- Herod put to death male children in Bethlehem
 - 2. **Mt. 4:1-11**, Jesus battling with the devil in the wilderness.
 - a) devil could not make Jesus jump from the pinnacle of the temple, or push him off. Jesus overcame the enemy, by using the Word and by just standing... we can overcome as well.
 - 3. **Mt. 26:36ff** -- Jesus battles in the Garden of Gethsemane
 - 4. Wilderness and Gethsemane were times when the devil stood face to face with Jesus to test and tempt him.
 - a) IN between these two things, the enemy came at him much more subtle... through people's mouths.
 - b) In first Gulf War, more soldiers were wounded by "friendly-fire" than by the hands of Iraqi soldiers.
 - (1) Rarely do we feel are see the spirits that attack us, and though we do not fight flesh and blood, the enemy had no qualms about using "flesh and blood" as pawns, playing on their insecurities, and selfishness to attack, discourage, or hinder others.
- D. We read of spiritual battle in Eph. 6:10-12
 - 1. Jesus made a distinction between the spirit, and those used by the enemy.
 - a) Peter could not and cut off the ear of the servant. Jesus put it back on and blessed when attacked, healed when come against and demonstrated forgiveness, mercy, and patience towards the people involved, yet destroyed the enemy by letting them nail Him to the cross for us. He loved those the enemy used against Him.
 - 2. How can we do this?
 - a) Jesus won the battle, but he was not rebuking the devil in the Garden.
- E. We can look at Eph. 6:10 and see FINALLY.
 - 1. We need to see that finally means that he has been leading up to something.
 - 2. FINALLY = loipon, it remains, henceforth... in light of
- F. Watchman Nee on Ephesians
 - 1. Sit
 - 2. Walk
 - 3. Stand

II. Preparing for WAR!

- A. Sit: Learning the position you have in Christ.
 - 1. 1:3 - He has blessed us in heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
 - 2. 1:6 - grace... he has freely given us
 - 3. 1:7 - we have redemption through his blood, forgiveness of sins... he lavished on us.
 - 4. 1:9 - He made known to us the mystery of his will
 - 5. 1:11 - In Him we were chosen
 - 6. 1:13 - You were included in Christ.
 - 7. 1:17-19, Paul prays for them
 - a) He wanted them to know the hope to which he has called them
 - b) the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints
 - c) His incomparably great power for us
 - 8. 1:20 - Jesus is seated at God's right hand in the heavenly realms
 - a) (This is not up in the sky, but the unseen realm)
 - 9. 1:22 - God placed all things under his feet and made him to be head of everything.
 - 10. 2:6 -- You are seated with Christ

11. 2:8 - you are saved
12. 2:13 - now you are brought near
13. 3:10 - now the wisdom of God is manifest
14. 3:14-19 - Paul prays for them
 - a) Out of his glorious riches to strengthen them with power
 - b) rooted and established in love
 - c) ma grasp the love of Christ and know the love that surpasses knowledge

B. Walk

1. 4:1 - live a life worthy of the calling
2. 4:2 - be completely humble, gentle, patient, love
3. 4:3 - keep the unity of the spirit
4. 4:17 - Don't live like the world
5. 4:19 - lost sensitivity
6. 4:22 - put off the old self
7. 4:24 - put on the new self
 - a) v. 25 - put off falsehood and put on truthfulness
 - b) put off anger and stealing, put on work and giving
 - c) put off unwholesome talk --- build others up
 - d) put off grieving HS -- put on kindness, forgiveness
8. 5:2 - live a life of love
9. 5:3-7 -- uncleanness, immorality must be put off
10. 5:18 - put off drunkenness -- filled with HS
11. 5:22-33, marriage and family relationship
12. 6:1-4, children and parental relationships
13. 6:5-9, bosses and workers

C. Finally... henceforth...

1. Too many first begin to try to do spiritual warfare before they do Ephesians 1:1 - 6:9
2. God wants us to get the foundation, before Eph. :6:10.