

The New Testament Church
Spiritual Warfare #2 – Joining the Generations – Malachi 4:1-6; 1st Peter 5:5-9
 Pastor Paul Jehle – February 5, 2023

I Why are these lies considered Spiritual Warfare?

- A. Two errors the Bible emphasizes – *ignore* the enemy; or be *obsessed* with him
 - 1. Seven major areas of deception that the Church must overcome to *birth the Kingdom*
 - 2. The first was the gap between our profession and our practice -
 - 3. The “gap”, or lie of the enemy today is the artificial separation of the old and young
 - a. Not either old or young; but Mt. 13:52 - *treasure things new and old*
 - b. Minimally, the Kingdom comes with *three consecutive generations* (Ex. 2:24)
- B. How did Satan initially deceive Eve and Adam in this regard?
 - 1. Genesis 3:1-7 – Satan utilized the sin of division with God and each other
 - 2. Adam and Eve’s posterity produced two lines – godly and ungodly
 - 3. Three seeds of temptation are a generational pattern – see also 1st John 2:16
 - a. The woman (and man) knew it was good for food – lust of the flesh – pleasure
 - b. They also knew it was pleasant to the eyes – lust of the eyes – power
 - c. They finally knew it was desired to make one wise – pride of life – pride
- C. The lie: *we must isolate the generations since old and young can’t work together*
 - 1. Up through World War II, it was common to join the generations in our nation
 - 2. *Entitlement* has given rise to centralized power and pride, we are ripe for collapse
 - 3. Though there are times to separate (but not divide) generations, false reasons are:
 - a. Our Children are too familiar with their parents – see all their faults
 - b. Grandparents can’t relate to their grandchildren – a cultural gap
 - c. Older church leaders hold on to dead tradition and methods; but younger ones can’t work within that structure – to grow, we must go with the young!

II Malachi 4:1-6; 1st Peter 5:5-9 – The Truth: *Joining Generations brings a Kingdom blessing*

- A. Malachi, writing after the returns (450 BC or later)...
 - 1. The people said *why is there a delay in God’s restoration promises?* (chps 1-3)
 - 2. Truth: Delay from our perspective is due to preparing God’s people to be light
 - 3. The curse of darkness is generational, gaps in old and young continuity
 - 4. Solution: in the midst of crisis, *the turning of hearts from father to children blesses*
 - 5. Example: Psalm 127 – youth are arrows for the adults to use as weapons of war
- B. 1st Peter 5:5-9 – Shepherding the Church in the midst of spiritual warfare
 - 1. Jesus is the great Shepherd – vs. 1-4 – pasture the flock, as overseers (not lords)
 - 2. Younger submit to older, all submit to one another in humility in this order
 - 3. Why? God resists the proud, gives grace to the humble – He will exalt in due time
 - 4. Be sober (serious), vigilant (watch, on-guard) – the devil seeks whom he may devour
 - 5. Resist him (withstand) – together – in humility in His armor – joining the generations
- C. Let us agree with God and decree the following to walk in His truth...
 - 1. We affirm that God’s plan in His Kingdom is to join the generations as a team
 - 2. We decree that Fathers and mothers will oversee their children in love
 - 3. We decree that children will know that their safety is in submission to parents
 - 4. We decree that the older generations in church will oversee the younger around them
 - 5. We decree that the younger will seek out the older for wisdom and advice