

The New Testament Church
Spiritual Warfare #4 – Discernment – Hebrews 4:12; 5:12-14; 1st John 5:6-8
Pastor Paul Jehle – February 19, 2023

I A review of the *Spiritual Warfare* required in these days...

- A. Seven lies the enemy has used to keep the Church from fulfilling the Great Commission
 - 1. We exposed the lie that the measure of our maturity is our profession – *the truth is, the measure of our maturity is how much we apply the Bible and live out our faith*
 - 2. We exposed the lie that there is an impenetrable wall between the generations – *the truth is that God always joins the generations – old and young working together*
 - 3. We exposed the lie that ethnicity divides us from one another – *the truth is that the Kingdom is a tapestry of different cultures and ethnic groups*
- B. In the context of both revival and warfare, it will be critical to discern God's voice

II The Spiritual realm operates by Law

- A. The **lie** is that the spiritual realm is lawless, mystical, and cannot be discerned
 - 1. We *ignore* the enemy when we believe any "spirit" that appears to be of God
 - 2. We *obsess* when we *react* to the enemy's attacks without Biblical discernment
 - 3. But the Bible reveals a both-and rather than an either-or viewpoint of...
 - a. The Spirit (rhema) and the written Word (logos) – Hebrews 4:12
 - b. The heart (spirit) and the mind (soul) – the "spirit of the mind" – Eph. 4:23
- B. The **truth** is that *the spiritual realm (angels, demons and the Holy Spirit) operate by law and the more we understand these laws the more we can walk in and with the Spirit*
 - 1. Word "discern" – *diakrisis* – thorough judgment – "angel of light" – 2nd Cor. 11:14
 - a. 1st Timothy 4:1 – *deceitful spirits and doctrines of devils*
 - b. 1st John 4:1 – *do not believe every spirit, but test to see if they are of God*
 - 2. The law of discernment – how do we discern the voice of the Lord?
 - 3. We discern **motive** by practicing the exposure of religious / self-righteous attitudes
 - 4. God **confirms** His Word avoiding conflicts of interest (maturity) – Hebrews 5:12-14
- C. 1st John 5:6-8 – agreement in heaven and earth – *two witnesses* (Deut. 19:15; Mt. 18:16)
 - 1. Jesus came by "water and blood" – baptism and cross – confirmations from the Spirit
 - 2. Three bear witness in heaven – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (confirmation)
 - 3. Three bear witness on earth – Spirit, water and blood – confirmations – Mt. 18:18-20
 - a. **Spirit** – witness of the Holy Spirit – *discerning of spirits* (1st Cor. 12:10)
 - b. **Water** - baptism – covenant faithfulness of God's Word – Mt. 3:16-17; Eph. 5:26
 - 1. Hebrews 5:12-14 – maturity is a skill in applying the Word - wisdom
 - 2. The Word is a rudder for the Spirit – the word for mind is "canal"
 - 3. The written Word (logos) is the canal for the Spoken Word (rhema) – Ro. 10:17
 - c. **Blood** – communion with God & one another – *confirmation from believers*
 - 1. 1st Cor. 14:26-29 – *psalm, teaching, tongue, revelation, prophecy* – judged
 - 2. Proverbs 11:14; 24:6 – in the multitude of counsel – decisions, and war
- D. Declarations of Biblical Discernment:
 - 1. *We declare our desperate need to discern atmospheres by the Spirit of God.*
 - 2. *Help us, Lord to discern motives when listening for your voice in our spirit.*
 - 3. *We declare our need to practice discernment by the principles of God's Word.*
 - 4. *Lord, help us hear your voice in covennat and confirmation with trusted believers.*