

The New Testament Church

Spiritual Warfare #5 – Deliver us from Evil – Matthew 6:9-15; Ephesians 4:27; James 4:7

Pastor Paul Jehle – March 5, 2023

- I *Spiritual Warfare* required in these days – seven lies to keep the church ineffective
- A. Lie - maturity is our profession – *truth: maturity is how we live out our faith*
 - B. Lie - wall between the generations – *truth: God always joins the generations*
 - C. Lie - ethnicity divides us – *truth: the Kingdom is a tapestry of different ethnic groups*
 - D. Lie - spiritual realm cannot be discerned – *truth: we can discern by God's Spirit/Word*
- II How do we implement the prayer – *lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil?*
- A. The *lie* we expose today is this - *we are at the mercy of the devil, unable to live in victory*
 - 1. We think the “devil made me sin” which is the *obsession* extreme (environmentalism)
 - 2. Or, *the paranormal* is neutral spiritualism, *ignoring* Christ's victory over a real enemy
 - B. ***As Christianity has receded, the Enemy's deceptive influence has increased!***
 - 1. Orthodox doctrine teaches that Satan rules only through the sin of mankind
 - 2. He has authority through the default of the church to influence the culture...
 - C. Individually – fight our sin nature – prayer focus (Mt. 6:13) honor God and His Kingdom
 - 1. Give us this day our daily bread, and *forgive* us our debts, *as we forgive our debtors*
 - 2. Then - *suffer us not to be led into temptation... deliver us from the evil one*
- We are never taught to attack the enemy directly as individuals, but to strategically win our battles and withstand his attacks “under authority”, “in His name”, by submitting to God***
- 3. Sin is the **doorway** for the enemy... it allows him in - 2nd Cor. 2:11; Eph. 4:27
 - a. **Unforgiveness**, which leads to bitterness – Mt. 6:12, 14-15; 18:21-34
 - b. Temptation is something the enemy uses, but its sin that draws us – James 1:12-13
 - c. Demons gain entry to our mind (soul) directly by *habitual* sin or *passive* permission
 - d. Occult practices and evil saturation (porn) give permission, dulling senses to evil
 - e. Influenced by or held in bondage (sin on steroids), but not possessed (owned)
 - 4. We can be **delivered** from the evil one – James 4:7 – *submit* to God, *resist* the enemy
 - a. The degree in which we submit is the degree we can resist the enemy successfully
 - b. Confess sin, receive forgiveness, and shut the door – *practice this regularly*
 - c. If a **stronghold** (controlling habit); we *cast out the spirit* and replace it with the opposite (Mt. 12:44-45) – put off, renewed in the mind, put on – Eph. 4:22-23
 - d. Erect fences, take responsibility, and get accountability if necessary...
- B. Corporately – as the *ekklesia* – we can advance on the gates of hell – Mt. 16:17-18
- 1. This is corporate deliverance! Matthew 12:44-45 – applied to a culture
 - a. When we die to self and religious ego we can affect culture (Mt. 5:13-16)
 - b. The question is whether individuals will *grow up* and function under authority
 - 2. The only offensive weapons are the sword of the Spirit and prayer (Eph. 6:14-18)
- We assault the gates of hell under governmental authority with heavenly decrees!***
- 3. Corporate prayer meetings raise us to new levels of influence *as the ekklesia of God!*
 - a. Invisible spiritual governments can shift visible civil governments of the nations!
 - b. The **gates (temporary authority) of hell** cannot withstand the ekklesia!
 - c. The ekklesia decrees whatever is in heaven to begin to come on earth (service)
 - d. Though we may have no civil authority to change laws, we do have spiritual authority to incrementally displace the enemy by good works!

Introduction - the truths about Spiritual Warfare that I share today are not new - they are orthodox – consider the book *The Christian in Complete Armor* by William Gurnall, published in 1669 in England

As true Christianity (profession and practice) has receded among God’s people and churches...

We have seen an increase in demonic activity – “Dracula” came in 1922 and “Wizard of Oz” (1939), then “Star Wars” tv and films with “the Force be with you” – a witchcraft world view. There was Rosemary’s Baby in 1968 and the Exorcist in 1973. “I Dream of Jeannie” and “Bewitched” were household sitcoms. The 1980’s and 90’s brought more serious witchcraft that culminated with *The Craft* in 1996. *Sabrina, Charmed, Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and *Harry Potter* books and movies followed.

Now, Vampires, Zombies, Ghosts, Mediums, and Paranormal phenomenon have never been more normal... gone is talk of *Satanism*, or *the occult*, since those are negative notions about the demonic...

We are also seeing the rise of dangerously addictive mind-altering drugs... *pharmakeia*

- “A majority of Americans,
 - 71 percent, ...have personally had paranormal experiences;
 - 37 percent believe in ghosts;
 - 56 percent believe ghosts are spirits of the dead;...
- And 37 percent believe that houses can be infiltrated and haunted by demonic spirits
 - About one third of Americans have consulted their horoscopes,
- Nearly 12 percent (roughly 42 million people) have personally consulted a psychic, medium, or fortune teller... Nearly 25 percent of Americans research ghosts and haunted houses...
- Nearly 25 percent of Americans are fascinated by UFO sightings, abductions, or tales of government UFO conspiracies.”¹

- The grotesque, and images that were once thought evil, are now cute and cuddly...

- The world-view of witchcraft is a moral neutral world, “gods” are impersonal, and good vs. evil depends on the situation. Today we have the worldview of witchcraft implemented on earth. But now, people are realizing they are getting more than they bargained for...

- Consider the experience of Spielberg about the paranormal – “Steven Spielberg was undecided, but after watching the micro-budget DVD of *Paranormal Activity* at his Pacific Palisades estate, strange phenomena occurred inside his home. Spielberg had to hire a locksmith after a door to an empty bedroom, mysteriously became locked from the inside. Spielberg returned the DVD to the studio sealed in a garbage bag, intent on DreamWorks releasing the film.”²

- 73 percent of our young people have participated in contacting the dead;

- And only 28 percent claim they have learned anything about it in their church³

If we don’t move in the Holy Spirit, learning to hear His voice, guided by His Word and confirmed by other believers, the hunger in the hearts of the next generation will attempt to be satisfied by going to the enemy’s camp of a false gospel and counterfeit supernatural experiences.

¹ Johnston, Jeremiah, *Unanswered: Lasting Truth for Trending Questions*, Christian Thinkers Corp., 2015, pgs 122-123

² *Ibid.*, page 120.

³ *Ibid.*, page 125.