

We Wrestle Not Against Flesh And Blood II

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ~ Ephesians 6:11-12

The thought relating to the Greek word for wiles is *methodia* which means deception. Paul is warning the believer that our enemies entire system of warfare is based on deception.

Satan would have us to believe that our fight is to be waged against one another, thus dividing the Kingdom and creating an civil war within the body of believers, within congregations, and even within our own families.

Our fight against principalities;

Our fight against powers;

Our fight against rulers of the darkness of this age;

Our fight against spiritual host of wickedness in the heavenly places;

The forces we are up against are powerful and numerous, all engaged in the battle against the believer. ***These forces are well organized into an efficient government or hierarchy of evil.*** The forces of evil are the powers of darkness, the powers who blind the minds of men lest they believe the truth of the Gospel and receive eternal salvation.

Evidence a organized evil government headed by Satan in illustrated for us in the book of Daniel;

Daniel 10:12-13 ..."Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13 But ***the prince of the kingdom of Persia*** withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

The spiritual forces of wickedness seeks to receive the loyalty and devotion that is due God. Therefore, they are after the spirit of man. That part of man that is destined to worship and serve God. When Jesus we being temped in the desert after He fasted for forty days, one of the temptations of Satan was;

Matthew 4:9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me. (to give your devotion to him)

Job Chapter 1 is one of the best illustrations for us to examine the nature of spiritual warfare. Please understand that nothing will ever happen to us unless God allows.

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name *was* Job; and that man was ***blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.*** 2 And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. 3 Also, his possessions were ***seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household,*** so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.

4 And his sons would go and feast *in their* houses, each on his *appointed* day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings *according to* the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly.

Satan Attacks Job's Character

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. 7 And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "***From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.***"

8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

9 So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 ***Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.*** 11 But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

12 ***And the LORD said to Satan,*** "Behold, all that he has *is* in your power; only do not lay a hand on his *person.*" So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Job Loses His Property and Children

13 Now there was a day when his sons and daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house; 14 and a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, 15 when the Sabeans raided *them* and took them away—indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

16 While he *was* still speaking, another also came and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

17 While he *was* still speaking, another also came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

18 While he *was* still speaking, another also came and said, “Your sons and daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, 19 and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

20 Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped.
21 And he said:

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,
And naked shall I return there.
The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away;
Blessed be the name of the LORD.”

In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

All battles have a setting or place where the battle is fought, and with spiritual warfare it's no different. The following verses gives us insight as to where our battle is being fought.

Galatians 5:17-26 *The sinful nature wants to do evil*, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And *the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other*, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

19 When you follow *the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear*: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. 25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. 26 Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another. (NLT)

Romans 7:18-25 And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. 19 want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. 20 But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing

wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. 21 I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. 22 I love God's law with all my heart. 23 ***But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind.*** This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. 24 Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? 25 Thank God! ***The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.*** So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, ***but because of my sinful nature*** I am a slave to sin. (NLT)

The fact that we are in a spiritual battle means that there will be trials and tribulations in our life. There is no way of escaping this fact. It is not a matter of if a trial or tribulations will come your way, it is only a matter of when.

1st Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

We know that in spite of any circumstance that comes our way, we know that it will inevitably work to our benefit "to those who love God".

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.