

# Spiritual Warfare

---

Howard Culbertson  
Southern Nazarene University



“Spiritual warfare? Isn't Jesus  
the Prince of Peace?”

---

Yes, He is. But just listen to  
these Bible verses . . .



---

“The weapons we fight with . . .  
They have divine power to  
demolish strongholds. . . We  
take captive every thought to  
make it obedient to Christ.”  
-- 2 Cor. 10:3-5



“Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 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” Eph. 6:10-12

- 
- "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7
  - "In all these things we are more than conquerors . . . (Nothing) shall separate us from the love of God" Romans 8:38-39



War imagery catches the epic proportions of what goes on in the supernatural realm.

---

*And though this world, with devils filled,  
Should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed  
His truth to triumph through us*

-- from "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" by  
Martin Luther

# A pro-active approach to being a world Christian

---

“Team members must be committed  
to intercession and spiritual  
warfare”

-- Daniel Psaute, missionary in the Balkans

# Commitment to spiritual warfare

---

1. Uses a biblical world view
  - Takes seriously Biblical warnings about an enemy
    - ▣ “Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion” I Peter 5:8



# Commitment to spiritual warfare

---

1. Uses a biblical world view (cont.)
  - Recognizes supernatural forces beyond human knowledge and control.
    - Like Job we don't behind the scenes
  - “Flaw of excluded middle”

## 2. Adopts an "at war" attitude

---

- No longer "playing it safe"
- Willingly making those sacrifices which God asks of us
  - ▣ "Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus" 2 Timothy 2:3
  - ▣ We share in God's victory -- the empty tomb -- only when we also share in God's loss: the cross.

# Commitment to spiritual warfare

---

2. Adopts an "at war" attitude  
(cont.)

- Desires to be on front lines
- Thinks like an overcomer

# Commitment to spiritual warfare

---

## 3. A tighter focus

- Guards against distractions or having “your buttons pushed”
- Recognizes the Enemy wants us entangled

# Commitment to spiritual warfare

---

## 3. A tighter focus (continued)

- Pursues what moves you toward the objectives
  - (That's why we don't smoke, drink or chew or go with the girls that do).
- Understands importance of keeping eyes on Lord, not on your abilities



# Commitment to spiritual warfare

---

4. Disciplines thoughts and actions
  - Takes sin seriously
  - Embraces spiritual disciplines that strengthen and prepare
    - ▣ “Guard your heart”
    - ▣ Welcomes accountability structures



# Commitment to spiritual warfare

---

## 4. Disciplines thoughts and actions (cont.)

- Stays alert to Holy Spirit's leadings
- Righteous living in obedience to God's Word



# Commitment to spiritual warfare

---

## 5. Makes prayer central

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective”

-- James 5:16

“Diligent, intentional prayer is crucial to every aspect of our strategy”

-- Missionary Dan Psaute

Prayer is not what we do when  
we don't know what else to do.

Prayer **IS** what we do.

---

Prayer is not what we do when  
we don't have a clue on how to  
begin.

Prayer is **how** we begin.

Prayer is not how we  
seek for a strategy.

Prayer **is** our strategy.

We are at war with demonic  
forces not because of who we  
are, but because of who we  
serve

---

# Spiritual Warfare

---

(End)

Howard Culbertson  
Southern Nazarene University

This PowerPoint presentation is available along with related materials and other PowerPoint presentations at <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/ppt.htm>

---