

### What is Spiritual Warfare?

**Intro:** Spiritual warfare is sort of a shorthand description of the battle for our soul and the battle for the souls of others. Earlier we looked at the reality of the dark side and its leader Satan. When it comes to spiritual warfare, it's particularly important to remember that there are at least three players in each of our stories. Most people, including many Christians, tend to relegate everything that happens to us to two parties in that story: God and ourselves. When that's the case, we either end up blaming God for whatever befalls us, or alternatively, we blame ourselves. Though we should take responsibility for misguided and wrong choices we make, some of what's going on may be outside of our own doing. Many people carry guilt, shame, and hurt for things that they likely had nothing or little to do with. It's only when we recognize there's a villain in the picture that parts of our life begins to make a bit more sense. This week, you'll get an opportunity to explore spiritual warfare from a Scriptural point of view. As you do, you'll find ways to articulate that to others so that perhaps they can come to see the breadth of the playing-field as well.

**What the Bible Teaches:** Break into Groups of Four, read the following Bible verses, and discuss the questions. You may want to jot down notes and thoughts on the back of this page.

**John Eldredge, the author of *Epic*, said that his perception of the Christmas story was forever changed when he read Revelation 12:1-12 and realized its context in the nativity scene. Read the passage and answer the question, "How does the Bible describe the nature and scope of spiritual warfare?"**

**According to these Scriptures, "Where/what are the battle fronts of spiritual warfare?"**

Daniel 10:4-21; 2 Corinthians 10:2-4; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; Luke 8:11-12

**The book of Job is an account, whether parable or historical, of spiritual warfare in action. Consider the following Scriptures and answer the question, "What are some of the tools used against us in spiritual warfare? Are they all mental battles within or do they have broader aspects?"**

Job 1:1 – 2:10; 2 Corinthians 12:5-7; 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18

**According to the following Scriptures, what defense do we have against spiritual warfare? What offensive weapons do we possess?**

Ephesians 6:11-18; James 4:7; Matthew 10:1; Matthew 16:18-19 (*hint: gates are not an offensive weapon and therefore are not on the attack; so what is the offensive weapon here?*)

**What I Believe:** Take ten minutes for silent reflection and thought. Ask yourself what you believe about spiritual warfare. Use the back of this page to formulate a response to the question:

**"What is spiritual warfare?"**

Write your final response here: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Articulations:** Pair up with one other person and share your response with one another. Take five minutes each. Try to *not* look at your written statement; instead, try to tell your beliefs from your heart. This will prepare you to share whenever you are asked about what you believe.

**Therefore:** Jesus said His followers should Go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). One of the first steps in making disciples is being ready and able to share the reason for the hope we have (1 Peter 3:15), in other words, knowing what we believe, why, and then being able to share it. Sharing your faith is important. This week, find someone—it can be *anyone*—and articulate your belief about this issue. If you have an unchurched/unreached friend whom you can share with, all the better (you can always say you have a homework assignment from church and you'd like to share it with them). Be ready to talk about your experience next week over the meal at your House Church.