

Preface

These notes are to serve as a blessing and help to those studying the word with Pastor Neil Spencer. Pastor Neil does not claim to fully agree with all the thoughts, beliefs, writings, or teachings of every named source/person in these notes. The Bible is the ultimate authority & ALL believers are to be Bereans (Acts 17.10-11).

INTRODUCTION

1. We've recently been studying through an illuminating section in the book of Revelation
 1. The last couple of weeks, we've seen spiritual darkness at the zenith of it's power — remember ch13?
 1. **(PP) v3** *The whole world ... gave allegiance to the beast. 4 They worshiped the dragon for giving the beast such power, and they also worshiped the beast. "Who is as great as the beast?" they exclaimed. "Who is able to fight against him?"*
 2. **(PP) v7** *And the beast was allowed to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And he was given authority to rule over every tribe and people and language and nation.'*
 2. Then in ch14 — like a breath of fresh air — John is taken the very end of the Tribulation, right before the millennium.
 1. John is given a vision of Jesus — identified as the Lamb
 2. Showing us that the beast/dragon/anti-christ is not the ultimate victor, but that JESUS is.
 3. We're reminded of surety we have in the:
 1. Salvation of God
 2. Gospel of God
 3. Judgment of God
 3. In Ch15 -16
 1. We see in 15.1 *a marvelous event of great significance*, the last 7 plagues that complete God's wrath.
 2. The world (which is overripe for judgment) & the beast/antichrist experience the just judgment of God
 3. The world's leaders are preparing for that final battle known as the battle of Armageddon.
2. Now, after this morning, we have 3 more studies in this series before we turn our focus to the holidays
 1. We'll cover ch17-19 in the next few weeks
 2. After the new year (January), we'll consider ch20-22 — where we'll see — JESUS WINS!
 3. Preview - **(PP) 22.3** *No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. 4 And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. 5 And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.*
3. But, here's the thing, b/c we covered not 1, but 2 chapters last week
 1. We have an opportunity this morning to discuss something that I believe is of great importance to our lives presently in this church age
 2. And something that relates to what we've been studying these last couple of weeks as we've been considering the enemy — at the zenith of his power & the just judgment that is coming.
 3. That is — in Revelation we see the enemy's engagement/involvement on earth & in the lives of God's ppl for a time that is to come — here's the question — what does his engagement/involvement look like now?
4. This morning, we'll be discussing the subject of Spiritual Warfare
5. Much can be said about this theme/topic — our men's retreat this weekend — Battle Belongs to the Lord

6. This morning, three simple things:
 1. Spiritual Warfare is against the devil
 2. Spiritual Warfare requires a good fight
 3. Spiritual Warfare requires right weapons

#1 It Is Against the Devil

1. **Eph 6.12** *For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*
2. **Gen 3:15** - *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*
3. **2 Cor 2:11** (ignorant) - for we are not ignorant of his designs/tactics.
4. You need to know – **THERE IS AN ENEMY** — Warren Wiersbe says, *Unless we know who the enemy is, where he is, and what he can do, we have a difficult time defeating him.*
 1. He is a real person
 1. Spiritual being — who was originally one of God's most beautiful creatures (many believe the leader of worship in heaven)
 2. Isa 14:12-15 / Ezekiel 28.15 – in rebellion Satan became the enemy of God
 2. He is pictured as a serpent & a dragon in Genesis 3.1 & Revelation 12.9
 3. Jesus called him a murderer & the father of lies (JN 8.44)
 4. In Rev 12.10 he is known as the accuser of the brethren
 5. 2 Cor 4.4 he is called the "god of this age"
 6. 1 Peter 5:8 he is compared to a roaring lion.
 7. 2 Cor 4.4 — his goal is to keep unbelievers in spiritual bondage
 8. 1 Tim 4.1 — he is constantly promoting false doctrines.
5. Satan tempted Eve to sin in the Garden of Eden, & as Adam followed — the whole world & all of humanity fell under the curse of sin (Gen 3.16-19 & Rom 5.12)
6. A lot of ppl think a lot of different things about the devil... like:
 1. Satan is not a personal being, but rather is only a force of evil.
 2. He is equal to God
 3. He resides in and is the ruler of hell
 4. He can do whatever he pleases
 5. He is omnipresent
7. But, the Bible teaches:
 1. Satan is a personal being, with a mind, emotions, & a will (Job 1 & MT 4.1-12)
 2. He is a created being & is not equal to God (Ezk 28.15)
 3. Satan does not rule hell. Neither does Satan live in hell
 1. Hell was created as a punishment for Satan and his demons (MT 25.41)
 2. The Bible describes how he can enter heaven and roam the earth (Job 1.6-7)
 4. The devil can only do what God allows (Job 1.12)

5. He actively works against the effect of the Word of God in people's hearts (MT 13.3-4)
8. 1 Peter 5.8 tells us, *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*
9. James 4.7 tells us that when we are tempted that we should *submit to God, resist the devil, & he will flee.*
10. Satan is not omnipresent... but, well listen to this... — **Spiritual Warfare | pg 9-10**
 1. Our enemy isn't sporadic/unorganized
 2. But has a very meticulously organized evil arsenal.
11. There are two primary errors taken with the topic of spiritual warfare
 1. Over-emphasis or an Under-emphasis
 1. Some blame every sin, every conflict, and every problem on demons that need to be cast out.
 2. Others completely ignore the spiritual realm, and the fact that the Bible instructs us that our battle is against spiritual powers.
 2. The key to a Biblical understanding of spiritual warfare is finding Biblical balance.
 3. Jesus sometimes cast demons out of people, and at other times He healed with no mention of the demonic presence.
12. It's important to recognize that difficulty as a Christian is to be the expected experience.
 1. Charles Spurgeon, *Being in the battle is actually a good sign, satan never kicks a dead horse.*
 2. **Spiritual Warfare | Page 7, 1st paragraph**
 3. **John 16:33** – *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*
 4. **2 Timothy 2:1-7** – *endure hardship — 1 Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. 2 You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others. 3 Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.*

#2 Spiritual Warfare Requires a Good Fight

1. **(PP) 1 Timothy 1:18** *This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, 19 holding faith and a good conscience.*
 1. Randy Pitman — *We are made ALIVE in HIM & then thrust into battle*
 1. It's a battle against our flesh... against the world values/culture/system we live in.
 2. It's a battle against an enemy who is VERY real...
 2. *He is not after our loved ones, career, health or comfort. He is not really after our freedom, rights in this country but something much more valuable. He is after our relationship with Jesus.*
 3. God sent His Son for relationship/fellowship with us... this is what the enemy is after... what he attacks, so God gives us the right weapons for this fight.
2. The Nature of the Conflict
 1. **(PP) 2 Corinthians 10.3** *We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. 4 We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. 5 We*

destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

2. Our conflict is Spiritual — can manifest Emotionally, Relationally, & Physically

3. **(PP) Ephesians 6.12** *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

4. Collective Attack

1. General onslaught against all Christians — entertainment

2. General onslaught against all of the work of God — militant Islam

5. Personal attack – Wrestle

1. Its personal

4. Hand to hand combat

2. Its intimate

5. **Page 13, 1st paragraph**

3. It's deadly

6. The enemy studies his targets...

3. Job 1:6-12 *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.*

1. Job was studied

2. Job was hit at any & every weak point possible — what are his tools & tactics?

4. The Tools & Tactics of the Enemy

1. The Enemy's Weapons – **Ephesians 6:11,16** — **11** *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 16* *the fiery darts of the wicked one.*

2. The Wiles of the Devil these ... Fiery Darts

1. These are the cunning, crafty, strategic attacks of the enemy

2. Targets your mind — strategy... lies ...

3. Targets your body — strategy... suffering ...

4. Targets your heart — strategy... accusation/doubt/depression/fear

3. We are wrestling against them...

4. The Enemy's Tools & Tactics

1. Condemnation

4. Evil Thoughts

7. Imagination & Speculation

2. Doubt

5. Depression

8. Flesh — Greed/Lust/Envy

3. Fear

6. Temptation

#3 Spiritual Warfare Requires the Right Weapons

1. **Ephesians 6:10-18** — *10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. 14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. 15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. 16 In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. 17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.*
2. We need to know that the BATTLE is the LORD's... we are to be strong in the LORD... reminds me of David
 1. **I Samuel 17:44-47** — David & Goliath
 2. **44** The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field." **45** Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.
 3. **46** This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, **47** and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand."
 1. Never go to battle in your or another's strength
 2. Christian life is much like the story of David and Goliath... it's a battle & the enemy is bigger & stronger than us. So we call in His strength!
3. So, here in Ephesians 6... Paul is calling all Christians
 1. Be Strong in the Lord – Trust the Lord
 2. Put on the whole armor of God – Know Who you Are in the Lord & Obey the Lord
4. The Weapons of Our Warfare (Ephesians 6:14-18 – a listing of the armor of God)
 1. **Belt of Truth**
 1. The belt is that which holds everything up & everything together. Wiersbe: *Satan is a liar (John 8:44), but the believer whose life is controlled by truth will defeat him. The belt held the other parts of the armor together, & truth is the integrating force in the life of the victorious Christian. A person of integrity, with a clear conscience, can face the enemy without fear.*
 2. His sword hung from his belt **JOHN 8:32** — *The belt also held the sword. Unless we practice the truth, we cannot use the Word of truth. Once a lie gets into the life of a believer, everything begins to fall apart.*
 2. **Breastplate of Righteousness**
 1. *This piece of armor, made of metal plates or chains, covered the body from the neck to the waist, both front and back. It symbolizes the believer's righteousness in Christ (2 Cor. 5:21) as well as his righteous life in Christ (Eph. 4:24).*
 2. **POSITIONAL**: We are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus: **2 Cor 5.21**

3. **PRACTICAL:** As we live righteously; our heart is guarded against attack

4. *Our positional righteousness in Christ, without practical righteousness in the daily life, only gives Satan opportunity to attack us.*

3. The Sandals (the shoes of the gospel)

1. *The most victorious Christian is a witnessing Christian.*

2. The soldiers of that day wore sandals like soccer cleats... w/out a firm fitting — lost...

1. We need to be rooted & grounded in the GOSPEL.

2. That we have PEACE w/ God b/c of JESUS (RM 5.1)

3. But also the point of this — this gospel is what we're going with... wherever we go, we go w/ the good news of Jesus — *The most victorious Christian is a witnessing Christian.*

4. The Shield

1. Not a small round shield but a big shield 2x4 in size

2. The edges were constructed so that an entire line of soldiers could interlock with one another & fight together... It would quench all the fiery darts of any enemy.

3. Faith mentioned here is not so much about when get saved, but as you trust God with your day to day life.

2 Corinthians 5:7

4. *Faith is a defensive weapon that protects us from Satan's fiery darts. In Paul's day, arrows, dipped in some inflammable substance and ignited, were shot at the enemy. Satan shoots "fiery darts" at our hearts and minds: lies, blasphemous thoughts, hateful thoughts about others, doubts, and burning desires for sin. If we do not by faith quench these darts, they will light a fire within and we will disobey God.*

5. The Helmet

1. The helmet refers to the mind controlled by God.

2. Reminds us that we are forgiven of our sins, but also what Christ has done so that we want to live for him.

3. *When God controls the mind, Satan cannot lead the believer astray. The Christian who studies his Bible and learns the meaning of Bible doctrines is not going to be led astray too easily.*

6. The Sword

1. When Paul spoke of the "word" of God, he used the Greek word *rhema* not the more familiar word *logos*.

2. *Rhema* – "a saying" or a particular verse or a number of verses...

1. **Hebrews 4:12** – word of God is living and active... word there is *rhema*

2. Learning how to "rightly divide the word of truth" **2 Tim 2:15**

3. This is one of our offensive weapons to attack against the enemy.

4. **Luke 4** - think of Jesus ... how it fought the attacks of the enemy

1. He used the word when he was tempted.

2. It is written....

5. **(PP)** The better you know the word of God the easier it will be for you to detect Satan's lies and reject his offers.

6. 1st offensive piece, this is our weapon — ineffective as a soldier w/out this weapon, the more time you use it the better you are at it.

5. The armor of God is the eternal truth of God found in the Scriptures, so to put on the armor is to **apply** Biblical truth to your life.
6. But also, this...
 1. **(PP)** *In one sense, the “whole armor of God” is a picture of Jesus Christ. Christ is the Truth (John 14:6), and He is our righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21) and our peace (Eph. 2:14). His faithfulness makes possible our faith (Gal. 2:20); He is our salvation (Luke 2:30); and He is the Word of God (John 1:1, 14).*
 2. **(PP)** *This means that when we trusted Christ, we received the armor... Once and for all, we have put on the armor at the moment of salvation. But there must be a daily appropriation. When King David put off his armor and returned to his palace, he was in greater danger than when he was on the battlefield (2 Sam. 11). We are never out of reach of Satan’s devices, so we must never be without the whole armor of God.*
 3. Look at how Paul closes this...
7. v18 *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...*
 1. Greatest Weapon of ALL – PRAYER
 2. Pray Always – attitude of communion with God
 3. Pray in the Spirit – led by the Lord
 4. Watchful in Prayer – be alert; serious
 5. Perseverance in Prayer – steadfastness & persistence
 6. Supplication for all the Saints
 1. pray for others...
 2. remember 10 steps to happiness
8. Quotes
 1. **(PP)** *The neglect of prayer is one of the main reasons for the weakness of many Christians as well as the modern Church as a whole. Brian Broderson*
 2. **(PP)** *My heart has no deeper conviction than this, that prayer is the most efficient spiritual agency in the universe next to the Holy Spirit... I could as soon think of living without eating or breathing, as living without praying.” Charles Spurgeon*

CONCLUSION

1. So this morning my hope is to *awaken* us to the reality that
 1. There is a WAR going on!
 2. Our opposition is real & our conflict is personal
2. That the battle is the Lord’s & that the Weapons of our warfare are powerful!
 1. A key to the understanding of Spiritual warfare is that God is so much mightier than our enemy.
 2. Jesus is the victor.
 3. Don’t focus so much on the enemy, but keep your focus on Jesus alone...
3. He is the author and finisher of our faith!
 1. Spiritual Warfare is against the devil
 2. Spiritual Warfare requires a good fight
 3. Spiritual Warfare requires right weapons