

The Mystery of Spiritual Warfare

Season 2 Episode 6

INTRODUCTION:

When you think about Heaven, how do you picture it?

- Do you picture it as one place?
 - The Bible says that in the beginning God created the *Heavens* and earth.
- Is it a peaceful place?
- There are surely places in the heavens that are like green meadows next to still waters. But there are also places that are like hardened battlefields.

What image comes to your mind when you think of angels?

- Are they flying around in Heaven strumming harps?
- Do you picture them looking and acting like a mailman?
- The word angel is translated as messenger in Scripture.
 - They're bringing a set of orders to the front line under threat of fire from the enemy.

TALKING POINTS: Teaching Session 1

All prayer, in one way or another, is spiritual warfare.

- When you pray, you've enabled God to answer that prayer through whatever sovereign act He sees fit.
 - He can command His angels to render aid.
 - He can respond through the work of His Holy Spirit.
 - He can move upon the heart of a man, changing his direction.
 - Prayer can cause God to send signs, wonders or miracles your way.
 - Prayer can do all of these things and countless others.
- Your prayers cause God to act and the enemy to react.

There is a constant battle going on in the invisible world all around you.

- You have a part to play in that battle.
 - God created us to be part of that battle the moment he told us to subdue the earth.
 - The mission is to overcome evil with good.

Paul encourages the church of Ephesus to put on the full armor of God.

- Ephesians 6:10-13 says, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."
- The full armor of God consists of the spiritual tools necessary to defend ourselves when we're being attacked by the enemy, and to press forward on the offensive when it's time to take ground.
 - The sword, the breastplate, the helmet, the shield, the belt, the shoes, are what you take out to the battlefield when you pray.

TALKING POINTS: Teaching Session 2

Understanding the structure of the heavens.

- 2 Corinthians 12:2 says, "I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven."
- What do scholars say about the heavens?
 - The first heaven is generally agreed to be earth and its' atmosphere.
 - The third heaven is generally agreed to be the abode of God—"our Father in Heaven."
 - The second heaven is a matter of debate.
 - » The viewpoint you'll most often see is that the second heaven is outer space—the place where you find the planets and solar systems.
 - » Another argument is that there is no such thing as a second heaven.
 - » I believe the second heaven is the place that spiritual battles between angels and demons take place.

The second heaven:

- The second heaven is the place where the archangel Gabriel fought the Prince of Persia for 21 days before being able to break through with a message for Daniel.
- The second heaven is perhaps the place where Satan presented his case over Job to God. The second heaven is a no-man's land—literally—where angels and other spiritual beings must push through to reach us, here in the first heaven.
- Second heaven is the heaven that God created for demonic beings to inhabit—it's the abode they left in Genesis when they found the daughters of man pleasing.
- The second heaven is a battlefield. But it's not our battlefield. It belongs to God.
 - Psalm 115:16 says, "The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's, but the earth he has given to man."

TALKING POINTS: Teaching Session 3

Spiritual warfare isn't anything you should be afraid of.

- You have to have faith in both the God you're praying to and in your authority as a son or daughter to ask.
 - You were made to pray for the sick and the result of that prayer should be that they become healed.
 - You were created to pray for the demonized and the result should be that they are delivered and set free.
 - You were made to pray for the brokenhearted and the result be their hearts become mended through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Terrestrial warfare (here on earth).

- The demonic presence you're commanding to leave a person is here on earth.
- God has given the earth to man.
 - » God has given the physical earth and the first heaven to man.
 - » The first heaven is the spiritual dimension that exists here on earth.
 - » When a person is demonically oppressed that spiritual being is in our jurisdiction.

A power or principality located over a geographic area is a second-heaven entity and the Bible is clear that we should leave those beings to God.

- We don't stand by and do nothing, we address our prayers to God.
- You can rebuke the spirit of abortion over an individual suffering with that kind of oppression, but you can't rebuke the principality of abortion that's over a particular city.
- That principality has the right to be over that city until the hearts of the leaders of that city are changed.
 - You pray for God to change the hearts and minds of the leaders in charge of those cities.
- When the high places in the natural realm are changed, the second heaven powers and principalities are removed and Godly powers and principalities are set up.

Ephesians 6:12 says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

- In context, Ephesians 6:12 shows us the importance of putting on the armor of God.
- The armor of God prepares us for spiritual warfare.
 - We wrestle with Satan's infantry every day.
 - We don't wrestle with Satan himself.
- We need to prepare ourselves for battle through the use of the Word, our faith, maintaining an atmosphere of peace, the understanding of truth and righteousness and of course, with the full realization that Christ has saved us from the everlasting effects of hell—a place that was created for Satan and his minions—but not us.

Five Biblical reasons not to engage beings in the second heaven during spiritual warfare.

- First, Christ never did.
 - As a man on earth, Jesus modeled for us perfectly what terrestrial, or earth-based, spiritual warfare looks like.
 - He healed the sick, cleansed the lepers, cast demons out of the demonized, and destroyed evil and its side effects everywhere He encountered it.
 - Even when Satan confronted Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus never rebuked Satan himself. He countered Satan's lie, with the Word of God. He went to a higher authority.

- Second, the Bible warns us in Jude not to “heap abuse” on celestial beings.
 - Jude 1:9 says, “But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”
- Third, Psalm 115:16 says: “The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord’s, but the earth he has given to man.”
 - You don’t want to take that battle on yourself. You’ve been given your battlefield. Stay on it.
- Fourth, in Luke 10:19, Jesus says this: “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.”
 - This verse is a metaphor for the devices the enemy uses to hurt us. Jesus gave us the authority to overcome and destroy those tactics.
 - Jesus made a point to refer to creatures that moved along the ground. He didn’t give us authority into the second heaven, He gave us authority over the things that moved along the ground.
- Lastly, we are not in place yet to either command or judge angels—whether they are angels of light, or angels of darkness.
 - One day, when the Bible says that we will be seated in heavenly places, we will judge angels. But that’s not now. Here’s what Scripture tells us about ourselves right now.
 - Psalm 8 says that in mankind, God has made them a little lower than the angels. It continues to say that God has made us the ruler over the works of God’s hands, and that He has put everything under our feet.

CONCLUSION:

God created you as both a physical and a spiritual being. Through His Son Jesus he placed in you the very DNA of deity. He’s given you spiritual gifts and attributes to operate in both the physical and spiritual world... simultaneously. This works by exercising the gifts God has given you and the rights you have as a son or daughter of God. Every time you pray, you’re exercising those rights. Every time you lay hands and ask God to heal someone you’re using the tools God has given you. Those tools aren’t just tools, they’re weapons. You’ve been given weapons that destroy the works of the evil one. They don’t destroy the evil one—that task is left to God—they destroy the *work* of the evil one.

Now that you have a better idea of what the field on which this battle takes place looks like, let’s now prepare ourselves for that battle. Let’s put on the full

armor of God. Therefore, in the name of Jesus, we buckle ourselves with the belt of truth around our waist, we put on the breastplate of God's approval and righteousness which clearly identifies who we belong to. Let's prepare our walk by putting on the shoes of good news and peace, which is both the Gospel and the manner in which we represent it. We then pick up the shield of faith that is more than enough to extinguish all fiery darts of the enemy. We then place on our head the helmet of salvation, without which every battle would be in vain. And finally, our weapon of choice, the sword of the spirit. That's the Word of God. That's what allows us to take ground. It's the weapon for which the enemy has no defense.