

FOUNDATIONS 101 – SPIRITUAL WARFARE – VICTORIOUS PRACTICES

The SETTING – No _____ allowed. First century mentality was not one of inclusion or acceptance. The opposite was true. Of all people who championed the cause, Saul (soon to be Paul) was at the forefront. That is, of course, until he encountered Christ on the Damascus road. His first excursion into his newfound passion and calling was a disaster. The champion of the Jewish cause walked straight into the dark cave of Judaism with a spotlight in hand. It wasn't pretty, and it wasn't smart. God relegated him to the back side of the desert for around three years so He could work on the one He would use as no other. Paul would get a real good look at Jesus and come back understanding things he never thought possible. The Great Commission, "Go into ALL the world and preach the Gospel to EVERY creature" would fall squarely on the shoulders of Paul. He would become a "man without a country." He would go to the places he never would have gone to love and accept people he never would have given the time of day. Everything he prided himself in would be put away and he would embrace daily death for the cause of eternal life. Divisions would cease in his heart and he would stand up to any and all who continued the mentality in Christendom (Peter would feel his strong rebuke concerning circumcision). When we get to the pivotal passage on Spiritual Warfare, Ephesians 6:10-20, Paul has masterfully laid a foundation whereby the reader would understand that, in Christ, it would be Satan who should stand in fear, not the believer. Now, in Christ, a mighty army marches forth, an army united under their common Head standing ready to obey His every beck and call. The forces of darkness tremble at the concept of _____ allowed. That's the setting, and that is our call.

Today's lesson is about the "who we are in Christ" before next week's lesson on "what we can do because of Christ."

The Reality of Spiritual Warfare:

Three foes you will face: The flesh, the world, the devil (evil in this present age).

For full victory, faith is a requirement. Nothing God says on the subject makes rational sense. It goes against the grain and conventional wisdom. The flesh and the Spirit are contrary to one another.

The flesh requires fleeing (II Timothy 2:2). Conventional wisdom tells us to be strong and face it head on. "Don't let it beat you. You are better than that."

The world requires faith (I John 5:4). Faith is trusting God only. It is believing in the unseen in a world that is seen. Giants in the valley are real and they are usually very daunting. Conventional wisdom waits for another champion to face Goliath. Faith

knows that God is able through the smallest of His servants, no matter the stature of the problem we face.

The devil requires us to fight (Ephesians 6:9-18). But, the spiritual world is scary – REAL SCARY. Everything about us wants to run and hide, or at the very least do everything to stay away from the fray. “Don’t provoke the spiritual realm” is conventional wisdom, and it carries a great deal of truth from the natural sense. If you decide to be a victor instead of a victim, the battle is on, and it is not a battle for the weak of heart. It requires much preparation and even more faith. But God calls us to it. We must decide whether to obey. Rewards and riches immeasurable await the victors in the life to come. Will you “lay up” or will you “lie down?”

GOD’S GOT YOUR BACK and SO DOES THE REST OF THE BODY OF CHRIST!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- I. Understand Your Position in Christ.
 - A. Blessed with all Spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3)
 - B. Chosen in Christ before creation (Eph. 1:4)
 - C. Holiness and blamelessness in Christ (Eph. 1:4)
 - D. We are adopted children of God, God determined this (Eph. 1:5)
 - E. Accepted in Christ (Eph. 1:6)
 - F. Redeemed (Eph. 1:7)
 - G. Forgiven (Eph. 1:7)
 - H. Beneficiaries of rich grace (Eph. 1:7)
 - I. Abounding wisdom and prudence in Christ (Eph. 1:8)
 - J. Spiritual discerners of the will of God (Eph. 1:9)
 - K. A promise of ultimate unity in Christ (Eph. 1:10)
 - L. Heirs with Christ (Eph. 1:11, Rom. 8:17)
 - M. Christ Glorifiers (Eph. 1:12)
 - N. Sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13)
 - O. Paid for and sealed (Eph. 1:14)
 - P. A calling full of hope (Eph. 1:18)
 - Q. A rich and glorious inheritance (Eph. 1:18)
 - R. Exceeding greatness of power available (Eph. 1:19)
 - S. An advocate at the right hand of God (Eph. 1:20, I Jn. 2:1)
 - T. Far above all principality, power, mighty force, and dominion (Eph. 1:21)
 - U. Far above any name that can be named in earth or heaven (Eph. 1:21)
 - V. Above all things in Christ (Eph. 1:22)
 - W. We are the fulness of Christ as a body (Eph. 1:23)
 - X. Alive in Christ (Eph. 2:1, 5)
 - Y. The curse of sin is broken and dissolved (Eph. 2:2-3, 11-12)

- Z. Greatly loved by God, partakers of mercy (Eph. 2:4)
- AA. Seated in the heavenlies (Eph. 2:6)
- BB. Trophies of grace (Eph. 2:7)
- CC. Saved by Grace (Eph. 2:8)
- DD. Not Spiritual boasters (Eph. 2:9)
- EE. God's masterpieces (Eph. 2:10)
- FF. Saved for good works (Eph. 2:10)
- GG. Fully accepted in the family (Eph. 2:11-13)
- HH. Card carrying members of the body of Christ (Eph. 2:14-18)
- II. Fellow citizens and of the household of God (Eph. 2:19)
- JJ. Christ is our foundation (Eph. 2:20)
- KK. We are the habitation of God and His Spirit (Eph. 2:22)
- LL. Full partakers of the promises in Christ (Eph. 3:6)
- MM. Boldness and access to God (Eph. 3:12)
- NN. The might of God's Spirit strengthens us (Eph. 3:16)
- OO. Filled with all the fulness of God (Eph. 3:19)
- PP. Exceedingly abundant power in us (Eph. 3:20)
- QQ. More than conquerors through Christ (Rom. 8:37)
- RR. No condemnation (Rom. 8:1)
- SS. Free from the law of sin and death (Rom. 8:3)
- TT. Recipients of the prayers of the Spirit of God (Rom 8:26-27)
- UU. His work in us is never ceasing (Rom. 3:28-30)
- VV. Un-chargeable (Rom. 8:33)
- WW. Un-separateable (Rom. 8:35-39)
- XX. And so much more.....
- II. Walk in the Permissible
 - A. Authority is only actionable when the person in authority is under the authority of the jurisdiction in which they function (A Franklin police officer has no authority in Davidson County).
 - B. I Peter 5:5 – 9, James 4:5-10
 - C. Eph. 6:10 - 11
- III. Trust your Protector
 - A. I Samuel 17:45 – 47 (David's statement to Goliath)
- IV. Initiate the Power of the Holy Spirit.
 - A. The baptism of Christ and subsequent filling of the Holy Spirit preceded all his works, including standing against satan.
 - B. Jesus told the disciples in Acts 1:4-5 to wait for the Holy Spirit before they began their ministry of changing a world.
- V. Refuse to be the Prey (be the victor and not the victim).

- A. Romans 8:37 “more than conquerors” – hyperkineo – super-power
- B. Kinetic energy - energy that a body possesses when in motion.
- C. Psalms 91 READ!!!!!!! And meditate.
- VI. Issue a Proclamation (I am more than a conqueror through Christ).
 - A. Quit using the terminology of defeat. “I’m only a sinner saved by grace”
Actually, you are a saint, fully forgiven, fully pardoned, and now a child of God through faith in Christ. Use your lips to proclaim who you are in Christ. This is not pride in you. It is pride in your new position in Christ.
- VII. Addict yourself to Prayer.
 - A. I Thess. 5:17, Eph. 6:18, Psalms 18:3
 - B. Jeremiah 33:3
- VIII. Claim God’s Promises for your life.
 - A. Memorize Scripture (Psalms 119: 9 – 11)
- IX. Live daily to Please God.
 - A. Romans 12: 1-2
 - B. Psalms 34:1-4
- X. Operate with a Purposed heart.
 - A. Psalms 37:1-9 (Read all of chapter at home. Awesome!!!!)
- XI. Utilize Patience in daily living.
 - A. Romans 5:1-8
- XII. Be wary of Pride.
 - A. God resisteth the proud but gives grace to the humble. (I peter 5, James 4)
- XIII. Rest in God’s Peace.
 - A. Phil. 4:7
 - B. John 14:27