

Reclaiming Spiritual Warfare

1 Timothy 1:18-20, Ephesians 6:11-12

1. Reorient to 1 Tim study
 - a. Where we've been
 - b. Main theme – AIMING FOR LOVE
 - c. Today's focus passage, part 2 of Prayer talk, going deeper on 1 tim 1:18-20
2. 1 Tim 1:18-20 ¹⁸This 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, ¹⁹holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, ²⁰among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.
 - a. Lots going on here.
 - b. And waging the Good (spiritual) warfare
 - i. Supernatural realm assumed
 - c. Satan
 - d. Blasphemy
 - e. What it means to hand these 2 guys over to Satan
3. So to begin we need to back up a good bit and lay the groundwork. Define and investigate our terms and topics. This will benefit us not only to understand this passage, but also to better understand the topic of spiritual warfare in general!
4. **PRAY!**
5. The Supernatural is REAL
 - a. Bible is founded from beginning to end on the reality of a supernatural realm
 - b. And this has been the predominant cultural assumption throughout all human history in every culture until quite recently here in the west.
 - c. If so, why are we so skeptical?
 - d. Functional Naturalism!
 - i. With the rise of the "Enlightenment" age last 300 yrs or so.
 - ii. Much of this has been positive!
 - iii. But baby has been largely thrown out with the bathwater
 1. Supernaturalism thrown out with all superstition
 2. Founded on the a-priori assumption that the physical/natural world IS ALL THERE IS
 - e. You may be a functional naturalist if:
 - i. You are immediately skeptical when you hear about a miracle happening
 - ii. If you struggle to believe that prayer really does anything
 - iii. If you feel silly praying for anything that actually intersects your physical life (healing, etc)
 - iv. You feel silly or stupid talking about your belief in God
 - v. If, when push comes to shove, you this it's up to you to look out for you
 - f. We've been largely deceived!

- i. Those who are deceived by definition don't know they are deceived (otherwise they wouldn't be deceived)
 - g. Greatest trick the devil ever pulled...
- 6. However the overwhelming weight of evidence (rational, epistemological, cosmological, moral, experiential) points toward the existence of a supernatural reality.
 - a. For more look into Reasonable Faith teaching series
- 7. And the Bible constantly affirms and teaches the existence of the supernatural realm
 - a. God
 - b. Humans made in his image who have a spiritual dimension
 - c. And another type of created spiritual being: angels.
 - i. Just like humans, some are benevolent, some are evil -- demons
- 8. Brief cosmic background timeline
 - a. Before anything, God.
 - i. John 1:1
 - b. Then God creates everything. Much discussion about specific order, timeline.
 - i. Psalm 90:2
 - Genesis 1:1
 - c. But at some point God creates angelic beings (seemingly before he created the Earth, and definitely before he created humans)
 - d. Chief angel was named Lucifer – seemingly the highest, most brilliant angel ever created
 - i. named Lucifer – the brilliant one
 - e. So much so he decided he didn't want to worship God, but rather wanted to be his own god. Decided God wasn't REALLY good, and didn't really have others' best interest at heart. Better to throw off his tyrannical rule and do life yourself.
 - f. LUCIFER REBELS AGAINST GOD! (now becomes called by the name Satan or Devil, the opponent, the adversary, the accuser).
 - i. ORIGINAL SINNER! Seed of all sin. This great truth claim. The Great lie.
 - ii. God's not really good. Doesn't have your best interest at heart.
 - iii. Isaiah 14:12-14
 - Luke 10:18
 - Job 1:7
 - Isaiah 45:18
 - g. So persuasive that he convinced large percentage of angels to follow him in this rebellion (possibly 1/3rd)
 - i. Revelation 12:4
 - ii. These are the demons. Fallen angels. Rebels.
 - iii. All united in rebellion against God's reign
 - 1. Remember, not a war of EQUALS – all created beings. Not equal forces with Good or God. Even satan created. Not omni- ANYTHING.
 - 2. But indeed powerful.
 - h. War in heaven.
 - i. Satan and his rebel angels (demons) lost, cast to Earth.
 - ii. Mankind originally created to be the rulers over this world (under God).

1. Satan appears to Adam and Eve as a serpent, convinces them to join his rebellion against God!
 2. Somehow Satan given dominion over this world once he convinced mankind to join his rebellion.
 3. Fall in the Garden. Mankind cursed. Earth cursed.
 4. When they fell and joined Satan's rebellion, apparently they also ceded him rulership over their earthly domain.
- i. This world is Satan's Kingdom – the World's System – the Kosmos
 - i. United in its rebellion against God's rule.
 - ii. United in sin.
 - iii. The pursuit of self
 1. Stuff, status, sensuality
 2. Self-rule apart from God.
 - iv. And it leads only to misery, destruction and death.
 - j. GOD'S GREAT DELEMA
 - i. How to quell the rebellion at its source, the argument/claim that God isn't ultimately good, or have our best interests at heart
 - k. Rather than blast demons and humans from existence....
 - l. God becomes a man, defeats Satan on the cross!
 - i. FOREVER defeating his core propaganda lie – that God isn't good
 - ii. Forever proving to all who will see that God indeed is better than we could ever imagine. He's sacrificed ALL HE HAD in order to win us back. Because he loves us.
 - iii. The cross forever puts this subject to rest.
 - m. Eventually, Jesus will return as the Rightful King of the Universe, destroy Satan and his Kingdom.
 - n. Renewed heaven and earth come together, finally and forever under his benevolent reign. Death and destruction gone forever. Mankind raised to new life, the Curse reversed.
 - i. And redeemed mankind again rules the earth WITH Jesus!
 - ii. Terribly beautiful symmetry here!
 - o. WE LIVE HERE
 - i. Jesus begins to plunder the Kingdom of Satan
 - ii. Stealing his kingdom away from the inside.
9. Who's on the offensive?
- a. The church!
 - b. Gates of Hades
 - c. **Matthew 16:18... I will build my church, and the gates of hell (Hades) shall not prevail against it."**
 - i. Address interpretive / translational issues!
 - ii. Some translations said overcome, conquer
 - iii. Leading to a defensive, fortress mentality.
 1. Thinking the Church's main goal is to stay safe hiding behind our walls

- d. Gates / Defensive == Satan on DEFENSIVE, Xians on OFFENSIVE (counterintuitive precisely because Satan has been so largely successful in deceiving us!)
 - i. Satan's Kingdom won't be able to prevail against the onslaught of the church!
 - ii. We're on the attack!
- e. Mark 3:22-30 – Binding the strong man.
 - i. **Mark 3:22-27** ²² And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons." ²³ So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶ And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. ²⁷ In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house.
 - ii. **Luke 11:21-22** ²¹ "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. ²² But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder.
 - iii. The strong man is satan!
 - iv. His house is the Earth
 - v. His possessions are the people of the earth, under the Kosmos
 - vi. Jesus came from heaven to Earth (Satan's house!) in order to attack and overpower Satan and plunder his possessions.
 - vii. Jesus came to BIND THE STRONG MAN – by overcoming him with greater power unforeseen – his death on the cross and his resurrection from the grave.
 - viii. So then, Jesus' followers are to rush in and PLUNDER THE STRONG MAN'S POSSESSIONS!
 - ix. To carry his flat screen TV right out his front door.
 - x. Christians are making offensive raids against the kingdom of Satan, who himself is on the defensive.
 - xi. By bringing the liberating Good News of the Gospel to those under Satan's bondage.
 - xii. Make no mistake, Satan his on his heels here. Sure he's not vanquished yet. Defeated by Christ, he still prowls with ferocity because he knows his time is short.
 - xiii. Our mission is a dangerous one. He has minions. And though beaten he fights still.
 - xiv. He holds MANY eternal human souls in bondage to sin and death.

f. SO WE MUST FIGHT

i.

10. The Armor of God

- a. Ephesians 6:11-12
- b. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the

cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places

- c. *Panipolia*
 - i. **Pan - Hoplon**
 - d. Hoplites / Phalanx
 - i. Developed by the Greeks, adapted by the Romans
 - e. Individually mainly Defensive
 - f. Corporately OFFENSIVE
 - i. YOU PLURAL!!!!
 - g. Protect half self, half neighbor, rely on YOUR neighbor.
 - h. Defend yourself in close quarters from attack
 - i. Then lock in TOGETHER and attack the enemy as a coherent group.
 - j. Hoplites were NOT professional soldiers. Regular folks who joined up to fight when needed.
 - k. Greatest strength not in their individual skill, but rather in the simple force of the united group pressing forward together. Eventually causing their enemy to fall backward, a fatal vulnerability.
 - l. This is us.
 - m. But again remember the contours of spiritual warfare.
 - i. NOT like human wars.
11. How are we to fight?
- a. Spiritual cruise missiles?
 - b. Angelic ABombs?
 - c. Nope, those won't work on spiritual beings. Seems like they fight primarily through arguments / truth claims.
12. Satan's main tactics
- a. Not melting your face off
 - b. Truth claims / lies
 - i. Tempts you to agree with him about what is true
 - 1. To believe his lies
 - 2. He is brilliant still – way smarter than any human
 - 3. He knows the most effective, most powerful lies are the ones mixed with some truth. That's how he gets you to swallow them. Then the fishhook sticks deep.
 - 4. And he has you. You're under his control. His subject of His kingdom.
 - c. 2 Cor 10:³For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ
 - i.
 - d. For believers specifically, he knows he has to go further. Knows that what Jesus offers is liberation from his kingdom and royal standing in God's Kingdom. Never to be revoked.
 - i. So he knows he has to frustrate and sideline believers.
 - 1. Temptation, accusation, condemnation, division

- ii. Temptation to sin (primarily in agreeing to his lies), then follows with the suckerpunch of accusation and condemnation.
- iii. God's way is repressive, sin is the path to life.
- iv. You sin
- v. WHAM – look at you! Look what you did! Sinner! You've broken God's law!
- vi. WHAM WHAM – you're a BAD person. A sinner who sins. Scoffs at grace. See you're not REALLY a child of God. Look what you did! You don't DESERVE to be forgiven.
- vii. Better put your tail between your legs and slink into the corner.
- viii. Better give up fighting. Sidelined. No threat to me and my kingdom.
- ix. And on a corporate level, his tactics are similar
 - 1. Temptation, accusation (of brothers and sisters in X!), condemnation, DIVISION.
 - 2. In division, Satan gets a double win!
 - a. Not only does he take Christians off the offensive, but he gets them to actually fight against one another!
 - b. He just has to sit back and watch us fight HIS WAR FOR HIM
 - c. BOOOOOOOO

13. So Finally -- what does it mean to hand over Hymenaeus and Alexander to Satan?

- a. Apparently they were some of those spreading false teaching in this Ephesian church.
- b. Perhaps the main leaders.
 - i. In 2 Tim 2, Paul says their false teachings threaten the church body, spreading like gangrene (v 17).
- c. This is serious! And in 1 Tim 4:1 Paul says
 - i. "Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ²through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared..."
 - ii. Paul says ultimately this is coming from the teachings of DEMONS, working through willing false teachers.
 - iii. Spreading lies, fighting to protect the Kosmos!
- d. What's more, Paul, when he was there before confronted them, and when they would not repent, exercised church discipline with them by putting them out of church fellowship.
- e. So that they would experience the type of bondage and oppression from the World's system.
- f. But even here, the AIM / goal is LOVE.
- g. 1 to protect the church body from division and disease
- h. And always with the goal of leading the unrepentant brother to repentance!
 - i. And restoration to fellowship!
 - ii. So they can learn not to blaspheme

14. 2 Tim 2:23-26 ²³Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. ²⁴And the Lord's servant^(e) must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring

evil, ²⁵correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

- i. Never said they're killed or lost their salvation. But disciplined (given the consequences they ultimately seek in living apart from God's will and truth) by the darkness of the world's system, alone and apart from life-giving fellowship, so that it might bring them to their senses (last ditch effort!) and lead them to repentance.
 - ii. Repentance and restoration is always the aim!
 - iii. Not the unforgivable sin.
 - iv. Paul himself used to be a blasphemer (1 Tim 1:13)!
- b. The power of the cross has SHATTERED Satan's ultimate weapon, sin and death
- i. Now, NO ONE is ever too far gone.
 - ii. EVERYONE can always repent and be reconciled with Christ (and his people)
 - iii. Indeed, this is the main goal of our spiritual warfare.
 - iv. The aim is love.

15. Applications for us now at TG?

- a. Reclaim a Supernatural Worldview
 - i. One extreme is hyper spiritualism where you see a demon under every rock and Satan behind every tummy ache.
 - ii. But the other extreme is arguably far more insidious and detrimental to the fight – forgetting that there's really a war on!
 1. The FOG of American spiritual landscape
 2. Satan's forking his TAIL off to make us forget he exists, lul us to sleep in the killing fields, get us to lay down our arms and pursue ANY OTHER ENDEAVOR.
 3. WE NEED TO WAKE UP
 - a. Were doped up and groggy. So convinced that we just want to go back to sleep!
 4. CHRIST CAN Wake us up!
 5. Eph 5:14: Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you
- b. Develop a Wartime Mentality
 - i. Vs a peacetime mentality
 1. Serious. Not flippant. Serious about our lives, our goals, our mission. Our priorities. Even our play!
 2. Willingness to suffer
 3. Willingness to help war effort!
 4. Don't demand comfort or personal preferences
 5. Everyone involved in war effort – great struggle!
 - ii. Band together with other brothers and sisters – have each other's backs!
 1. Trench warfare!

2. Combat Comradery
- iii. Don't be surprised when you're attacked or opposed.
 1. Indeed, if you're not getting hit, you may not be in the fight!
 2. My experience
 - a. Last 2 weeks!
 - i. Never so discouraged or depressed
 - b. Extreme sense of Wanting to give up, constantly assailed with defeating and condemning thought:
 - i. You're such a failure
 - ii. Everyone can see it
 - iii. You don't have any business in ministry
 - iv. You're a failure with a long history of failures
 - v. Planting this church isn't going to change that
 - vi. Trying to start a new LG isn't going to change that
 - vii. You're a fraud. And if you keep going, you're going to be humiliated.
 - viii. You're worthless.
 - ix. Accomplishing nothing of real consequence
 - x. Better to quit. Better to back out now while you still can.
 - c. It was only THURSDAY that it dawned on me that I was teaching on Sp Warfare tonight!
 3. Satan is always most vicious when he feels threatened.
 - a. When you're pushing too close into his territory
 - b. Too close to carrying off ANOTHER of his TVs – another soul, another STRONGHOLD keeping in 10,000 souls!
 4. So Spiritual attack is actually Satan's backhanded compliment!
 - a. You must be a threat!
 - b. AMEN (not necessarily yay... but AMEN!)
- c. Fight Lies with Truth
 - i. battleground is TRUTH – arguments/beliefs
 1. We need to know TRUTH (Scripture)
 2. We need to know how to identify lies and fight them with truth
 3. Today there's paradoxically greater access to the Word of God than ever before – and also unparalleled profound Biblical illiteracy and ignorance
 - a. IN THE CHURCH
 - b. Some of this comes from popular wave elevating experience OVER truth
 4. We need to KNOW the truth if we're to be able to identify lies and counter them with truth
 - a. Counterfeit money training
 5. The most powerful and effective lies are the ones mixed with some truth.
 - a. THAT'S how he can get us to swallow it!

- b. That's how the barb can get SO STUCK deep in our throats
 - c. THAT'S how he can even convince us to fight against attempts to get the barb out since we think we're protecting the truth!
 - d. But Jesus shows us exactly how to fight against Satan when he did in the wilderness.
 - i. Thought he more than anyone ever has reasons to be hurt by and to be angry at Satan
 - 1. His first "child" – who led a personal rebellion against him PERSONALLY
 - ii. Didn't punch him in the gut.
 - iii. Didn't zap him with some kind of spiritual lasers.
 - iv. He countered each lie with scripture.
 - e. Need to know our bible.
 - f. God will help us.
 - g. But also seems to be true that "the Spirit will not recall what our mind has not installed"
 - i. Scripture reading!
 - ii. Scripture memory!
 - 6. Star Trek got it half right when the Borg said Resistance is Futile
 - a. Actually resistance WITHOUT REPLACEMENT is futile!
 - b. Not enough to just resist a lie, must REPLACE it with truth
 - ii. Let's fight HARD against division within the Body of Christ – Tallgrass AND OTHER churches – other units IN THE SAME ARMY
 - 1. Do everything we can to maintain the unity of the Spirit within the Bonds of peace
- d. Pray both Defensively and Offensively
 - i. Prayer = our MAIN weapon
 - ii. When you're on your own, DEFEND YOURSELF – STAND FIRM.
 - iii. Goal is being able to withstand attack by enemy
 - 1. Pray for strength and truth to fight.
 - iv. Then when you're with others/church, ATTACK
 - 1. Prayer
 - 2. For God's kingdom to advance into enemy territory!
 - a. Your neighborhood
 - b. Workplace
 - c. Even family
 - 3. Pray for the power of God to boldly carry out the mission of carrying the good news to those in captivity.
 - 4. His power will free them, but he entrusts US with the mission!
 - v. Pray also for protection against the enemy's schemes.
 - 1. Protect your brother beside you
 - 2. God doesn't promise us complete insulation from spiritual attacks
 - 3. We ARE in a war. If you're not being kicked, you're probably not in the fight!

4. Jesus promised in this world YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLES – but take heart, because I have OVERCOME the World (Kosmos!)
 5. But it is GOOD to pray for protection from the plans of Satan.
 6. For protection around the minds of fellow brothers and sisters either from being attacked, or (more commonly) for the strength and boldness and ware withal to fight back well with truth.
 7. Pray also for opportunities to boldly carry the message and love to lost around you.
 8. Pray for BOLDNESS to see and take advantage of those opportunities.
- e. Live on Mission Together
- i. Look for opportunities to help plunder Satan’s Kingdom
 - ii. Jesus binds the Strong Man, but we carry our the loot
 - iii. Help rescue lost folks around you.
 - iv. Share with them the true good news of the Gospel!
 - v. Be willing to follow the Spirit’s promptings
 1. Talk to that neighbor
 2. Help your hurting coworker
 3. Look for chances to offer truth, take a risk
 4. This is a war! And we’re on the great rescue mission.
 5. Lets press in and help save our fellow man!
 6. That’s the core mission of this church.
 7. To help people know the truth, and escape the Kingdom of Darkness through trust in Jesus, who died for them.
 - vi. That’s the core mission of Tallgrass
 1. LIFE Groups – acronym already set up for a Spiritual Warfare lifestyle
- f. Study this more
- i. *Satan and His Kingdom* by Dennis McCallum
 - ii. *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis
 - iii. *The Unseen Realm* by Michael Heiser
 - iv. “WE ARE NOT ALONE IN OUR PLIGHT” devotional article by Dave Geldart
 1. <http://newhopeks.org/newsletter/31/we-are-not-alone-in-our-plight>

CHOPPING BLOCK – Good stuff that got cut

1. our struggle is not primarily against flesh and blood
 - a. Remember the truth that (contrary to what Satan will tell us), flesh and blood is NEVER the real enemy
 - b. If you're looking at a person, remember they're not the enemy.
 - c. Let these lies SPECIFICALLY fill you with holy rage toward the great Deceiver

2. Why did Satan get JC crucified if it just defeated him?
 - a. The Mystery hidden for the ages!
 - b. Christ defeated Satan's original argument against god's goodness by combining his mercy and justice in his own selfless death on the cross
 - c. Satan didn't see it coming!
 - d. Prophetic gap between suffering servant and messiah king
 - i. Didn't see it would be ONE person who would come TWICE
 - ii. SS=Is 53, PS 22
 - iii. MK = Is 9, 61
 - e. **1 Corinthians 2:7-8** ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
 - f. **Colossians 2:15** He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

3. Remember We're Not Alone
 - a. And remember, its not only satan and the demons that are real, God and his angels are real too!
 - i. We may rarely be directly aware of them (though scripture is clear that CAN happen)
 - ii. But we can take courage that we're not fighting alone.
 - iii. Elisha and the Angel Armies!!!
 1. 2 Kings 6: 15-17 ¹⁵When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.
 2. ¹⁶"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."
 3. ¹⁷And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.
 - iv. And Daniel 500 years before Christ, began praying earnestly to God, overwhelmed and no answer for 3 weeks!
 1. Then 3 wks later an Angel appears to him! How interesting this interaction!

2. Daniel 10:12-13 "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.
- v. Even when things seem dark, confusing, or overwhelming. Even when you pray and hear nothing, feel alone. God and his Angels are fighting fiercely with us. So much happens we don't see. Perhaps one day we'll hear the stories of just what we were in the middle of, unawares. And how our prayers and faithfulness were central to massive heavenly battles raging all around us!
- vi. We are not alone in our plight! Amen Amen.
- vii. Resource: Devotional article: "We are not Alone in Our Plight" by Dave Geldart
 1. <http://newhopeks.org/newsletter/31/we-are-not-alone-in-our-plight>