

Spiritual Warfare: Truth or Territory

Week 2—Truth or Territory

Key Passages for this lesson: 2 Corinthians 10:3-6, 1 Corinthians 1:25

Review—We are looking primarily at three elements:

- **Element I**—We **rely** on Scripture as the **sole source of authority on the subject of spiritual warfare** and **for information on the spiritual realm**.
- **Element II**—We have to **reject** unbiblical and man-made teachings.
- **Element III**—We have to **rest** in Christ and His finished work for us on the cross.

This lesson will focus primarily on the second element.

- Rejecting what is man-made to hold a biblical view.
- This battle is not a battle over territory rather it is a battle over truth.

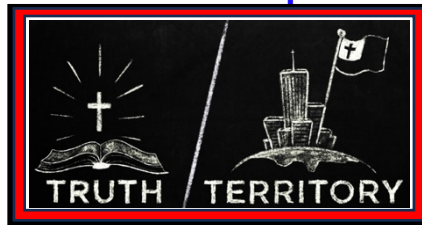
Whenever we say, “Truth vs. something else,” others can tend to get defensive because what they hear is, “I am right, and you are wrong.” That is not the point of this lesson or this series. Rather we are all brought under the jurisdiction of the scriptures as believers which we agree is the infallible source of Truth.

We are in a war to articulate truth to men rather than to gain turf or property.

This war is fought by **knowing** the truth, **believing** the truth, **proclaiming** the truth, **defending** the truth, **preaching** the truth, **sharing** the truth, and clearly **articulating** the truth as found on the pages of Scripture.

We are contrasting **two different views of spiritual warfare**—a modern methodology and a biblical approach:

Truth View



Territory View

Territory View

In spiritual warfare, we are to take back territory that Satan has claimed; cities, geographical location, people, or events. We take back territory by fighting back the forces of darkness and claiming those territories for Christ.

You and I are to undo his legal claim and claim them for Christ instead.

- Praying a Hedge of Thorns (Hedge of Protection) to protect from spiritual influence—
- Binding Satan—
- Rebuking the Devil—
- Pleading the blood of Jesus—
- Exorcism—
- Spiritual Mapping—
- Praying against spiritual strongholds—
- Prayer mantras—

These are all biblical sounding, spiritual sounding words. It's spiritual sounding verbiage that people believe actually accomplishes something in the spiritual realm.

Though they use biblical sounding language, these are not biblical techniques that are being employed.

Truth View

Spiritual warfare is a battle for Truth.

The Truth War is simply waged by **proclaiming** the truth, **defending** the truth, **preaching** the truth, **knowing** the truth, **sharing** the truth, and **articulating** the truth.

We are fighting a battle for the minds of men. It is a spiritual battle because men are held up in their spiritual darkness, in their mental fortresses, and men are hostile against God. Our job is to take the truth, to advance the truth, and to convince men what is true, to liberate them from falsehood and make them captives of Christ.

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, ⁴ for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵ We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, ⁶ and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 (NASB)

Context of 2 Corinthians—

Paul describes **how** he fought, **why** he fought, and actually **what** he fought—the key to spiritual warfare.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12 (NASB)

How do we fight the battle, and what is that we are fighting for?

- Not using the methods of human ingenuity, man's wisdom or worldly philosophies
- We are employing divine methods, divine spiritual tools in the fight for truth.
- Temptation to wage the spiritual battle in a fleshly way
- Structure the church in the most effective way that we perceive would be best in our situation or circumstance

1 Corinthians 3:3-4, 1 Corinthians 6:7-8

The Corinthians loved the spiritual gifts that were flashy and spectacular, the outward gifts, the speaking gifts—tongues, miracles, healings—those were the things that they wanted and valued—all the stuff that strikes the senses, appeals to the flesh.

The fortresses that we are battling against are speculations—thoughts, ways of thinking, ideologies (secularism, humanism, materialism, progressivism, moral relativism, liberalism, theological liberalism, materialistic naturalism, evolution, polytheism, postmodernism, atheism, modernism, rationalism....)—ALL of them leave God out!

What is the weapon that we are to use for spiritual warfare?

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE." ²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. ²² For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18-19 (NASB)

¹ And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. ² For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. ³ I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, ⁴ and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (NASB)

In the territory view of spiritual warfare, they view interviews of demons and the information gained from ex-satanists, or information gained from private revelations and words of knowledge as being legitimate and valuable sources of information on par with Scripture.

The Biblical view says the Bible alone is sufficient for this information, and all we have is given to us in Scripture. Our job is to advance Scripture and to advance the truth, and to preach Scripture, and to preach the truth.

Discussion topic:

It is true that the devil can bring things to our attention very accurately, but remember, it is never truthful. For example, the temptation of Jesus—the devil accurately quoted Scriptures, but did not agree with or accept the **truths** proclaimed by them.

Study Questions:

1. Why do we want man's wisdom or ingenuity in the matters of the spiritual realm when God himself says that His foolishness is wiser than man?
2. What or who are we at war against?