

Spiritual Warfare: Truth or Territory

Week 1—Intro. and Sufficiency

Key Passages for this lesson: 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:2-4, 1 Peter 5:8, Proverbs 30:5-6

Question I: Why talk about spiritual warfare?

There are three important questions concerning our willingness to be taught by the Scriptures alone concerning how we live and abide in Christ alone.

1. Are you ready to embark on a journey that will likely challenge the core of your beliefs on what it means to be engaged in spiritual warfare?
2. Are you willing to change your thoughts and whatever else may be revealed to you through this study if, in fact, it is made clear through Scripture that you have previously embraced any “extra biblical” practices or beliefs?
3. Are you willing to embrace Scripture as the **final word** on ALL matters in the Christian life?

There are many things that we, willingly or unwillingly, compartmentalize as though one is not connected to the other, such as “Business is business” in regards to how we treat each other. Or “Scripture is all sufficient for everything except what I have experienced.” If Scripture isn't our final word, then we are giving ourselves permission to dangerously redefine anything that comes along. That would mean that our “truths” are **changeable**. While we are probably not entirely comfortable with that statement, that would be precisely what we are living in **practice**.

Some of these extra Biblical practices are as follows:

- Praying hedges of thorns
- Binding satan
- Rebuking the devil
- Spiritual mapping
- Performing exorcisms
- Generational curses
- Claiming authority over a spiritual realm
- Formula prayers
- Renunciations

**Know the enemy.
Know thyself.
A thousand battles,
a thousand victories.**
Sun Tzu

Question II: What is Biblical spiritual warfare?

We will begin by looking primarily at three elements:

- First, we must **recognize** the Bible as the **sole and sufficient source of authority and information on spiritual warfare**.

Many Christians and Bible teachers that we will critique in this series will affirm the doctrines of biblical sufficiency; they will say they believe the Bible is the sufficient source. They believe the Bible is the authority; they will affirm inerrancy of Scripture, the infallibility of Scripture, and even the inspiration of Scripture. They would say that they use Scripture, and Scripture alone in their approach to spiritual warfare. HOWEVER, they fail to fully apply this standard, in practice, to their own lives by adopting the teachings of ex-satanists, occultists, or even interviews with demons themselves.

- Second, we have to **reject** man-made teachings on the subject of spiritual warfare.
- Third, we have to **rest** in Christ and His finished work for us on the cross.

**Recognize
Reject
Rest**

We will unpack these teachings and beliefs over the next several weeks, but we must first start with the foundation of the sufficiency of Scripture.

QUESTION III: What is the sufficiency of Scripture?

God has given to His people—in the 66 books of Scripture—all that we need for life and godliness, all that we need to live a God-honoring life that is glorifying to our Heavenly Father.

Church Growth Movement—“Mostly a marketing attempt to get lost people to come to our churches by dumbing down the Gospel, by minimizing our emphasis on sin, by entertaining, by appeals to the ‘felt needs’ of ‘goats,’ and appeals to the felt needs of even saints in an attempt to draw people into the church.”

“All these tactics are built on man’s wisdom, the world’s philosophy, and worldly ways of thinking, and not on Scripture itself, and not, certainly, on Scripture alone.”

- Biblical sufficiency does not mean that the Bible reveals all that can be known.
- Biblical sufficiency does not mean that the Bible reveals all spiritual truth.
- Biblical sufficiency does not mean that the Bible reveals everything there is to know about God (or heaven).
- Biblical sufficiency does not mean that we can’t study other books or human teachers.

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.”

Deuteronomy 29:29 (NASB)

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NASB)

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

2 Peter 1:2-4 (NASB)

Both the Apostle Paul and the Apostle Peter, at the end of their ministries, directed the church to look to Scripture as the **only** authoritative source of truth for life and godliness. (2 Corinthians 3:14-17) Neither suggested that we should look anywhere else for extra “special revelation.”

“The church needs to recover our confidence in the sufficiency of Scripture.”

Study Questions:

1. Do you yearn to know Christ better, or do you yearn for more than Scripture contains?
2. Does Scripture tell us everything about all things, so we shouldn't bother going to college before becoming brain surgeons?
3. Does Scripture contain all that we need for a life of complete satisfaction in Christ?
4. Is the devil a reliable source of truth, since he knows we long to see his ‘kingdom’ destroyed?