

1 John sermon Sun March 9

SO FAR IN OUR FIRST JOHN SERIES: John the apostle has written to *believers* so they can become strong disciples of Jesus! Disciples who have an intimate personal *fellowship/KOINONIA* with God the Father, Jesus His Son and the Holy Spirit...ALONG WITH ALL OTHER Children of God!

LAST WEEK: We learned our Fellowship/Koinonia with God is SHORT-CIRCUITED if we are chasing after the world that is full of sin...

SIN HAS BEEN DEFINED BY JOHN AS THREE KINDS OF SIN: Lust of the Flesh, Lust of the Eyes and the Boastful Pride of Life!

We can only get a handle on sin in our life if we “Remember to Surrender” to the Holy Spirit who abides in every believer

ADDITIONALLY, we find our strength in Jesus, who was tested in all types of sin, *but victorious in all His own temptation by Satan!*

Here is our text from last week and another VERSE for this week!

1John 2:15 *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.*

¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that *antichrist is coming*, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

The “Last hour” or “Last days” are terms used by New Testament writers to describe the time-period between the FIRST and SECOND coming of Christ Jesus, so that we are to “BE READY” at all times for Jesus return and “MAINTAIN” our

Blessed HOPE in Jesus until He does return (or we are absent from our body and then present with our Lord)!

The phrase **ANTI-CHRIST IS COMING, EVEN NOW MANY ANTICHRISTS HAVE APPEARED** is a warning to stay away from those antichrists who were present in John's Day...*Those false teachers who are even more present in our day...AND those who may still come in the future!*

Someone who is an ANTI-CHRIST is anyone seduced and empowered by SATAN:

1. Who denies the Father and the Son AND is one who denies Jesus as "the Christ" (The Messiah sent by the Father) (1 John 2:22)
2. Who does not acknowledge or confess Jesus (1 John 4:3)
3. Who denies that Jesus came in the flesh (2 John 1:7)

HERMENEUTICAL POINTS:

1. **John speaks of THE Anti-Christ empowered by Satan as ALREADY present when John wrote 1 John around 90 AD** *Additionally John states **AntiChrist was past AND present when he wrote,** 2 John 1:7 *For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. **This is the deceiver and the antichrist.****
2. **The term Anti-Christ is ONLY used 4 times in the Bible and all by John in his epistles and never in Revelation.** *However, the term "Beast" is used 32 times :)*
3. **John has also taught us that children of God are in the world,** but we are not of the world (John 17:14-17). This place is Satan's playground temporarily, **BUT GOD HAS A NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH COMING** Rev. 21
4. **REMEMBER: THIS WORLD is opposed to God** and you cannot love God and love the World at the same time... Satan lives to pull you back into a love affair with things of THIS WORLD...*Don't take the bait, **YOU CAN DO THIS...because greater is He who is in you, then he who is in the world!***

This is also why a believer cannot be POSSESSED by Satan, only attacked...And why God gave you just the right armor to protect you ALONG with H/S!!!!

SO LET'S TALK ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE!

I was under spiritual warfare trying to put this sermon together 😊

1. It took twice as long as any other sermon I ever wrote
2. This led to severe stress in trying to get it done
3. You, as a church, will be under spiritual warfare today as I will need about 6 hours today to unmask Satan, the King of ANTICHRISTS 😊

SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS DEFINED AS any type of attack from Satan and/or the other THIRD of angels who IN PRIDE rebelled against God and were kicked out of heaven, before the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden are all behind spiritual warfare. **Isa. 14, Ez.28**

Fallen angels are called demons in the Bible, **Matt 25:41**

They currently live to:

1. Keep **Non-Believers** from Christ
2. Destroy **Believers FELLOWSHIP** with God since they can't touch your salvation or **RELATIONSHIP** with God
3. **Seek to put your faith in park**, so you are useless for Christ in advancing His Kingdom on earth, because they can't take your faith away!

Eph. 6:10 Finally, **be strong in the Lord** and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ **Put on the full armor of God**, so that you will be able to **stand firm** against the **schemes of the devil**. (Running away from spiritual warfare will get you shot in the back 😊), ¹² 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**. ¹³ **Therefore, take up the full armor of God**, so that you will be able to **resist** in the evil day, and **having done everything, to stand firm**. ¹⁴ **Stand firm** (Trust God to fight for you while you seek to make peace/Battle belongs to the Lord) **therefore, having girded your loins with truth** (Prepare for action), **and having put on the breastplate of righteousness** (Guard your heart), ¹⁵ **and having shod Your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace** (Readiness to share Gospel of PEACE at all times); ¹⁶ **in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith** (Wet faith leather shields and snuffs out lies and accusations), **with which you will be able**

to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ *And take the helmet of salvation, (I trust in Christ so I WIN! 😊), and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (My only offensive weapon is God's Word that caused Satan to flee when quoted by Jesus),* ¹⁸ *With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, (How often am I to pray?), and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, (Pray for yourself when under attack and Pray for others under attack),* ¹⁹ *and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel...*

We could spend 6 months studying spiritual warfare, but I only want to give you enough to help explain 1 John and the early church's battle against SATAN and his Antichrists...along with enough information to protect you when spiritual warfare comes your way...

EPH. 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, (Humans) but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

SATAN HAS MANY TITLES THAT GIVE YOU A CLUE AS TO WHEN YOU MIGHT BE UNDER SPIRITUAL ATTACK AS OPPOSED TO RUN OF THE MILL EVIL IN A WORLD THAT IS FALLEN AND FULL OF ALL KINDS OF BAD STUFF...

The father of lies, The deceiver, The destroyer, The serpent of old, The Tempter, The author of confusion, The Liar, Our Adversary, The Enemy of God, The Devil, The god of this World, Beelzebul, The Wicked One, The Prince of the Power of the Air, A Roaring Lion who seeks to Devour, The Imposter ETC. ETC... AND MASKERADES AS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT!!!!!!

He is not to be taken lightly or underestimated, HOWEVER... DON'T BE AFRAID...BE ENCOURAGED! 😊

Satan and all demons have already been defeated by Christ and their fate is sealed in the lake of fire to come by Jesus our KING 😊 (Rev. 19:20, 20:10), **While all believers are secure in Christ eternally and stand with NO CONDEMNATION because of Christ Jesus (ROM. 8:1)**

There are some principles of spiritual warfare I don't want you to miss

1. If you are NOT experiencing spiritual warfare, it could be because you are a neutered believer posing no threat to Satan (Why would Satan waste his time on you if you are NOT being obedient to Jesus)
2. If you are NOT experiencing spiritual warfare, it could be because your flesh is already on fire and doesn't need any help from Satan...If this is you, REMEMBER TO SURRENDER to the Holy Spirit who gives you victory over deeds of the flesh (**Gal. 5**)
3. If you are NOT experiencing spiritual warfare, it could be because your local church could be ineffective for Christ and poses no threat to Satan!
4. If you are NOT experiencing spiritual warfare, it could be because your blaming a person for the drama you are experiencing, instead of the Powers of Darkness behind the person. We don't war with "flesh and blood" HOWEVER, flesh and blood can be used by Satan to accomplish his evil plans...**THINK JUDAS, when Satan entered his heart to betray Jesus**
 - A. Satan can use "others" to create confusion or discord in your relationship with another person so you are tempted to hate them when we are called to AGAPE them!
 - B. One of Satan's favorite tactics is to use someone close to you, even a family member unwittingly for the purpose of stopping your ministry... (**Remember Peter**)

Matt. 16:22-23 *Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You." ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."*
5. Remember, Jesus was tempted by Satan on our behalf, so we have someone to talk to, someone who has fought our battle of sin and won, Someone who will talk to you anytime/anywhere for as long as you like!
6. Remember, spiritual warfare comes when you are at your weakest moment, at your most vulnerable time and place and Satan usually attacks you with your favorite sin...OR BY FEEDING YOUR PRIDE!!!!.. **EPH. 6** *and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance*

PRIDE is the one sin, if you conquer it, you will probably be PROUD you did it 😊

7. Remember, If you are NOT in the WORD, you could be caught with your pants down (I mean, with your armor down). You can't go to battle without a weapon, and this is the weapon God has given you...**Suggestion, read our owner's manual EVERY DAY!!!!**
8. Remember, PRAYER is the glue that holds everything together where you can call on the Calvary, The Holy Spirit!...and PRAYER is how you stay in Koinonia with God the Father and the Son Jesus Who can fight the battle for you, if you just STAND FIRM!
9. **ANOTHER STEVE PET PIEVE!** **Don't ever say...** *"God will never give you or test you more than you can handle"* **because it is NOT IN THE BIBLE!**
1 Cor. 10:13 *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*

Your victory is ALWAYS in Christ...NEVER in yourself...That's why we are instructed to stand firm as we trust in God's timing and sustaining endurance!!!

10. **If you ARE experiencing spiritual warfare, congratulations...**It is an affirmation that you are threat to Satan and more importantly, you are a PRODUCTIVE DISCIPLE FOR JESUS CHRIST! 😊
AND...the rewards of serving Christ in faith are eternal and beyond your ability to comprehend when you finally see Jesus face to face! 😊

Heb. 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*