

Areas of Spiritual Warfare In The Family

Definition of Spiritual Warfare: The comprehensive battle between Satan and Christians; The battle entails Christians seeking to grow in spiritual maturity and making disciples for Christ while defending themselves against Satan and his forces who seek to hinder the process.

Key Point: To be successful in the battle we must learn the devices of our Enemy; We can expect him to show up when we are growing spiritually, invading his territory with the Gospel, exposing his lies, repenting and making a clean break from worldly or sinful living patterns or when we are preparing for a great work to the Glory of God.

I. How Satan Attacks the Family:

- A. Satan seeks to tempt us to resist **submission to Authority** whether it be a person or God's Word. (Genesis 3-4:/Romans 13:1-3)
- B. Satan seeks to tempt us to **be envious of family members** resulting in conflict within the family. (Genesis 4)
- C. Satan seeks to tempt us to get involved in **sex outside of marriage** due to lack in marriage or singles struggling. (1 Cor 7/6/1Thess 4:1-9)
- D. Satan can get a foothold in the family where **anger** is not resolved. (Ephesians 4:26-27)
- E. Satan can tempt us with unresolved **evil desires** in our hearts. (James 1:13-14)
- F. Satan is involved when we walk in earthly, natural, **demonic** wisdom leading to confusion, disorder and every evil thing within the family. (James 3:13-15)
- G. Satan can tempt us to love the **world** by presenting us with the lust of eyes the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. (1John 2:15-17, 5:19)

II. We are called to grieve our sins, humble ourselves, to be sober-minded and to be alert in order to handle the attacks of Satan. (James 4:9, 1Peter 5:8)

- A. Grieve-to have genuine sorrow over your sin; to have genuine remorse over your sin.
- B. Humble-to place one's self under the authority of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; to place one's self as slave to our master Jesus Christ.
- C. Sober-Minded- to be clear-headed, to be self- restrained; to have minds kept from anything that will cause confusion as we anticipate the attack of the devil.
- D. Alert- to keep watch for the attack of the devil in times of trouble.

III. We are called to submit, draw near to God, cleanse our hands, and purify our hearts in order to handle the attacks of Satan. (James 4:7-10)

- A. Submit- to place and arrange yourself under our Lord Jesus Christ by getting back in the position God has called you to function in; to bring self under the control of our master Jesus Christ.
- B. Draw near to God- turn to God and expect Him to turn to you.
- C. Cleanse our hands- make clean, removal of the impure thing; remove our bodies from activities whereby it is being used as a an instrument for unrighteousness; turning away from living in opposition to the divine will.
- D. Purify our hearts- to cleanse our minds, wills, affections, and consciences from defilement; to have moral virtue, in our minds, wills, affections, and consciences; turning away from being divided in loyalty; turning away from being divided in interest; turning away from wavering between God and the world's system.

IV. Way To Resist the Devil within the Family:

- A. Each family member is to submit to God-ordained authority accordingly. (Romans 13:1-3, Hebrew 13:17, Ephesians 5:22-24, Ephesians 6:1-3)
- B. Husbands and wives are not to deprive each other of sexual satisfaction, single family members are not to seek satisfy sexual satisfaction outside of marriage; Get married if one cannot control self accordingly. (1 Corinthians 7:1-5,8-9, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8)
- C. Families overcome anger by being thankful in all situations knowing it is God's will for each of them to be thankful because God will cause all things to work together for each of their good, that is your ultimate sanctification into Christ Jesus our Lord. (1 Thessalonians 5:18, Romans 8:28-30) (This applies as family members belong to Jesus Christ)
- D. Families overcome evil desires by adjusting their desires to fit the situation by accepting the state God has allowed and embracing God's sufficiency in the moment leading to developing contentment. (Philippians 4:11-13, 1 Timothy 6:6-12)
- E. Families must make the most of their time seeking to learn and walk in the will of the Lord through pursuit of His wisdom accordingly. (Ephesians 5:15-17, James 1:5-8)

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- F. Families must pursue to love God and love other family members accordingly. (1John 4:20-21)