

21 DOP – Week 3 – Spiritual Warfare

Good morning, everybody! Welcome to church. How many of you are happy to be here?

Tell the person next to...you lookin good today!

I'm Bobby and I am incredibly grateful for you being here today. I want you to know....I wish I could look into each of your eyes, your presence matters! It's a big deal to me that you are here. And it's a big deal to me when you are not here.

If this is your first time...come join the family. We are a little crazy...but we like to have a lot of fun. We like to honor the Lord. We have room for you.

We have a special guest with us today...come on up here Brad. This is my good friend Brad Lenderman. He and his wife, Kristi, lead Hope Through Him in the country of Honduras. They are doing some amazing work for the Lord. They have an incredible story.

Brad share for 2 minutes. Take some time after service and connect with Brad and his team.

We are still in the middle of our annual 21 days of prayer and fasting. This is a time we set aside to focus on prayer and fasting.

A time to recenter our lives around the basics of following Jesus. This is our final week. Jump in if you haven't yet. Let me add this as well...if you started with us and have had a setback or messed up.... make a commitment for the next 7 days!

For the first two weeks we looked at the model of prayer called the Tabernacle Prayer. If you didn't get to be a part of that, go jump on the podcast and you can get all caught up.

I have been using this model throughout my time with the Lord each day and it has been so refreshing!

We looked at that model just to help us in how to pray. Getting us comfortable with believing in the power of prayer and that I can have confidence when it comes to prayer.

I know that today God has given me a word to share with you....so let's jump in.

One thing that I love to do is coach. I've coached football, basketball, and baseball. I love it. I love the relationships, but I really do like the strategy and the game planning. One thing I really enjoy is watching film of whoever we are playing.

The reason I like doing this is because I like finding their weaknesses. If you have a point guard on your team who can't dribble with their left hand....I'm all over it! We are

going to cut your right hand off and make you go left. We are going to pressure you all game.

If you have a weakness on defense...I'm going to find it, and then I'm going to emphasize it! That's the place we are going to attack. I love that process...because it aids in being victorious.

Here is what I believe the Bible teaches...You and I have an opponent who is watching our "game film" trying to come up with a plan to defeat you.

1 Peter 5.8 | Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.

So, in other words...there is spiritual warfare going on for your life. For your children. For your family. For your friends.

I hope today opens some eyes. I hope today brings you to a better understanding of this war that's raging. You didn't ask for this. You were born into this battle. Good vs. Evil.

Spiritual warfare is a reality of this life. From Genesis to Revelation, the scriptures paint a picture of a cosmic battle that is largely unseen. 3 Facts.

1. You have a real spiritual enemy

The devil is real. 50% of all Christians don't believe the devil is real. (It's a symbol)

If you were out to win a battle, wouldn't you try the old...ahh he's not even real. If he can deceive you into believing that he's not even real, then that's an easy win.

He's actual and factual. He's not just a force. He hates you.

He wants to destroy your marriage, your career, finances, your life.

He is subtle, strategic, and smart.

2 Cor 11.14 | And no wonder! For Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

Revelation 12.7-9 | ⁷ Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels also fought, ⁸ but he could not prevail, and there was no place for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was thrown out—the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him.

He's the universe's public enemy number one, the chief opponent of God and his people, and the leader of uncounted demonic forces. Jesus says he's been a murderer

from the beginning, and he's engaged in an all-out war against the forces of good in the universe.

We have an enemy—and if we're going to stand firm against him, we need to know whom we're up against.

Satan is not God's opposite. He is God's opponent.

Satan is not omnipresent, he can't be present everywhere at the same time.

He is not omnipotent. While he does have power, and is truly powerful, he is not all-powerful. There are limits to his power and ability.

He is not omniscient. He may know a lot, but he does not know everything. He is not equivalent with God.

2. The weapon of that enemy is deception

The devil wants to destroy you. Your family. Your children. Your friends.

John 10.10 | A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

The enemy seeks to destroy God's people, and to deny that is to invite defeat.

Satan works in the art of deception. He works hard to get you to believe something that is not true.

When people believe something to be true they will often respond to that truth with their words and actions.

When you consider many of the cults, false teachings, and false belief systems that exist in our society, they all flow out of Satanic deception.

I believe this is his greatest work in the hearts of men. He wants to keep people separated from the truth because as Jesus said, you will know the truth and the truth shall set you free.

The enemy is after your trust in God.

Ok...I'm with you. There is an enemy, and he wants to destroy me. What now?

God has given you 3 weapons for the battle.

1. Scripture

Matthew 4.1-11 | Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ Then the tempter approached him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." ⁴ He answered, "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." ⁵ Then

the devil took him to the holy city, had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. **For it is written: He will give his angels orders concerning you, and they will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.**” ⁷ Jesus told him, “**It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God.**” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ And he said to him, “I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus told him, “Go away, Satan! **For it is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.**” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and began to serve him.

Jesus used Gods Word to deny and destroy the enemy.

You got to know the word. Don't stop reading. Feed yourself. Don't depend on me to feed you once a week on Sundays.

If you ate food the same way you read your Bible...how hungry would you be?

If you put gas in the car every time you read your Bible, how far would you get? (standing on the road looking for a ride)

The battle plan is right here. Use the weapon of the Bible. The second weapon God gives us...

2. Son

Luke 10.17-19 | ¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons submit to us **in your name.**” ¹⁸ He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like lightning. ¹⁹ Look, I have given you the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy; nothing at all will harm you.

Philippians 2.9-11 | For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him **the name that is above every name,** ¹⁰ so that **at the name of Jesus** every knee will bow— in heaven and on earth and under the earth— ¹¹ and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The name of Jesus has power. It's a badge we get to wear.

We proclaim. We speak. We announce that the name of Jesus is stronger.

Not only does his name have power, but his blood has power.

Sin is what gives the enemy power. What conquered sin...the cross!

Because of the blood of Jesus, we can be set free.

Revelation 12.10-11 | The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have now come, because the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been thrown down. ¹¹ They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

Because Jesus has the victory, those who follow Him share in His victory.

3 Battle Strategies

1. Submit Daily

James 4.7-8 | ⁷ Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Submit and then resist. Come in the name of the Lord, not in the name of Bobby.

2. Close any open doors that give the enemy access.

2 Corinthians 2.10-11 | ¹⁰ Anyone you forgive, I do too. For what I have forgiven—if I have forgiven anything—it is for your benefit in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ so that we may not be taken advantage of by Satan. For we are not ignorant of his schemes.

Be honest about your weaknesses. Do what you have to do in order to close those doors. The enemy will not relent.

Ephesians 5.11 | ¹¹ Don't participate in the fruitless works of darkness, but instead expose them.

Expose the sin and darkness in your life.

(Movies you watch, places you go, addictions that you think is just a bad habit)

Search me and know and see if there is any offensive way in me...

If the enemy came up with a plan to defeat you, what would he use?

3. Confront the enemy every day

Bad news...You were born for a battle. Good news...you were born to win.

1 John 4.4 | ⁴ You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

Satan is not afraid of you, but he's afraid of who's in you.

Not today Satan!!

Isaiah 54.17 | No weapon formed against you shall prosper...

Romans 8.28 | ²⁸ We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Conclusion:

There is a war for your allegiance.

Prayer is not only communion with God, it is also confrontation with the enemy.

You don't have to wear 666 to be a worshipper of the devil... just keep going through life rejecting the commands of God to repent and believe.

Get in your war room and battle the enemy who wants to destroy you.

Response Time:

Salvation

Communion