

Spiritual Warfare

7.8.12

Ephesians 6:10-20

Sermon Discussion Questions:

- 1) In the sermon, Pastor Jim said that to look at life through the lens of spiritual warfare means to view it not as an occasional occurrence that only impacts certain areas of our life, but to see our entire life as an ongoing war. What does that statement mean? What are the implications? What areas of life do we tend to think are immune to spiritual warfare? What areas of life do we tend to see as prone to spiritual warfare?
- 2) In Ephesians 6:12, it clearly says that our battle is *not* against flesh and blood (that is, people) but is against the rulers, authorities and powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (demonic, spiritual beings). Why is it so difficult to realize this sometimes? Why do some people (or even we, ourselves) spend so much time “fighting” against people rather than addressing problems and difficulties as issues of spiritual warfare?
- 3) In the sermon, Pastor Jim quoted a theologian who said, “Because of this, it seems reasonable to conclude that the New Testament wants us to understand that there is some degree of demonic influence in nearly all wrong doing and sin that occurs today. Not all sin is caused by Satan or demons, nor is the major influence or cause of sin demonic activity, but demonic activity is probably a factor in almost all sin and almost all destructive activity that opposes the work of God in the world today.” If this statement is true, how might spiritual warfare be a part of your life? Where might there be spiritual warfare in places you never considered it?
- 4) Is anyone “immune” or exempt from spiritual warfare? What must we begin to do to engage in spiritual warfare? How does regular, fervent prayer help in the spiritual battle?
- 5) How can we prevent this way of looking at life as a war from becoming a literal witch hunt?
- 6) In the sermon, Pastor Jim noted that we’re only told to stand our ground. Why? If the victory has been won for us already, how does that change the way we approach spiritual warfare? How do we appropriate or claim the victory already won for us as we encounter spiritual warfare?
- 7) Is there anyone with whom you need to share this message? How can you make a point of doing that this week? What practical things can you do this week to engage in spiritual warfare with your family? Is there anything else God has placed on your heart through listening to the sermon or working through these questions?