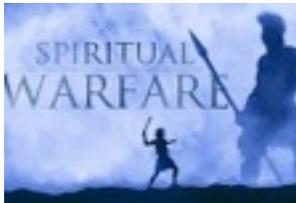

CONSECRATION 2016

Week 2 ★ **January 10 - 17, 2016**

The Reality of Spiritual Warfare



Your fight against the kingdom of darkness is real. Your adversary, the devil, as the Bible calls him, and his demonic forces are not a myth or a figment of someone's imagination. They are real beings that dislike the human race. As the Bible says, they go about seeking whom they may devour or destroy. This is why it is extremely important to know how to protect yourself against their assaults.

Most of the attacks that the devil will come against you with will occur in your mind. The mind is the battleground. He knows that as a man thinketh so is he (Proverbs 23:7). The mind is then the controlling center for your life. If he can deceive your mind, he can begin to manipulate your entire life.

By casting doubt in your mind, through unbelief of the scripture, his desire is to build a stronghold where he can launch attacks against you for the rest of your life. There is no doubt about it, the mind is the strategic center where the battle is won or lost in spiritual warfare.

He wants to find an entrance into your life. If he finds that entrance, you may be heading for a major conflict. Having said that, I am sure that you can see that it is important for you to keep every door closed to him. The Bible tells us not to give place to the devil. The meaning of that word *place* in the Greek is opportunity. Don't get me wrong. Your adversary will put up quiet a fight even where he does not find an entrance into our lives. This is why it is so important that we know what the Word of God says about spiritual warfare.

Ephesians 6:12 tells us that "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places". Understanding the word *wrestle* in this verse is crucial to understanding how intense spiritual warfare can become. The word refers to struggling or hand to hand combat; fighting somebody at close range.

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Ephesians 6:12

The word was also used to describe a large building like the Roman coliseum. Having seen this place some years ago, a tour guide showed us where the gladiators and warriors were taken after being beaten. Some died during the competition, some died later on (even though they won the



fight), some died behind the coliseum where they were being take care of. So the word *wrestle* included some of the games that these athletes participated in; like boxing. It was different from what we see today. These boxing type matches where so brutal that it was required that they wear some type of protection on their head.

Paul wrote this verse in Ephesians 6:12 and I believe that the first and most feared combat sport that he was referring to was boxing. In this brutal and barbaric sport, boxers of old wore gloves that were riveted with steel and spiked with nails. Sometimes the steel wrapped around their gloves was so sharp that it became like the blade of a knife and could make deep cuts in the opponents skin. In addition to this, the gloves were extremely heavy so that they made every punch more and more damaging. Something else that made this sport so dangerous was that there were little to no rules for combat.

Week 2 Prayer Objectives:

A Spirit of Evangelism in The Body Of Christ

The Salvation of Our Children and their Commitment to God

Deliverance of the church building and Body out of debt

When we read the scripture in light of this, we see the type of warfare that we may be up against. Wherein our opponent will fight by no rules whatsoever. It is truly by any means necessary. In the book of Revelations 12, we are told that they overcame him by the

blood of The Lamb and by the word of their testimony. We understand that the blood of the Lamb is talking about the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. By saying the word of their testimony, the word *logos* is used here in the Greek. *Logos* means something said, something uttered, or something written that was previously thought in the mind. So if our fight is going to be effective, there are two things that we must do. We have got to guard the loins of our mind and declare ourselves covered by the blood and sacrifice of Jesus.

During this week, refrain from beef and perhaps some of you may want to go further and chose something else that is also important to you and sacrifice that during the remainder of our time of fasting and praying. This would be certainly recommended. Please limit your juice intake to 16oz of 100% juice or gatorade at your midday mealtime. We ask that you eat your one meal a day after 6PM, after weekly services, and prayer times. Please come and meet us in prayer on Mondays at 7PM and Fridays at 7:30 PM. I will be seeking to speak a prophetic word over the house and all of you that are there. Pray that the Lord will bring the church out of debt. When we speak of the church, we are not just talking about the building (though this is important), but the members of the house need to be free from debt. ~ **Pastor Earl and Denise Goings**