



The spiritual conflict that has been working behind the scenes has broken into the open, and there is battle underway for the hearts and the minds of God's people. Turmoil fatigue has settled, and the persistence of the adversary is causing discouragement and despair. So, we need to guard our hearts and encourage one another. God's Spirit is moving in the earth even while evil is flourishing. And the solution is a healthy engaged Church, and we must choose the truth and stand for the truth.

⁷ And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹ The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. ¹¹ They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Revelation 12:7-11

I. SPIRITUAL REALITIES, ACKNOWLEDGED

Matthew 4:8-11 ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

- 1. Where have you tried to blend in with the crowd rather than stand on truth?**
- 2. When was a time you were too focused on not doing the wrong thing and missed a God opportunity? (i.e. being polite rather than being bold)**
- 3. How might you better equip yourself with the Word of God so that you are ready to respond in the face of temptation?**

II. "SPIRITUAL PARITY???"

Luke 10:18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."

John 12:31-33 ³¹ "Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die."

Ephesians 2:2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Colossians 2:15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. III. Realms Of Authority —

A. Men, Husbands & Fathers: Women, Wives & Mothers — Roles Of Great Significance

Genesis 2:15 (The Message[®]) God took the Man and set him down in the Garden of Eden to work the ground and keep it in order.

Genesis 2:18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Matthew 25:41-43 ⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'"

B. Spiritual Authority

Luke 10:17-20 ¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." ¹⁸ He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. ²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

- 4. Where have you seen spiritual conflict increase in the world around you and in your own life?**

IV. RECOGNIZING SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY —

A. Proactive — Worship, Learning, Prayer, Obedience (Not Inclusive Lists)

B. Reactive — Intercession, Restoration

Luke 22:31-34 ³¹ "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." ³³ But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." ³⁴ Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."

C. Spiritual Wellness & Spiritual Health, Effective Immune System

2 Peter 1:5-9 ⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

5. **What are some ways you can incorporate proactive prayer into your life?**
6. **What are some examples that you have seen in life and culture of God creating and Satan counterfeiting?**

Prayer

Psalms 34:1-10 (NIV®): ¹ I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. ² My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. ³ Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together. ⁴ I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. ⁵ Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. ⁶ This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles. ⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. ⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. ⁹ Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. ¹⁰ The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.