

# SPIRITUAL WARFARE

As a Christian, we have three basic enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil (Galatians 5:17, Romans 7:18, James 1:14-15, Romans 12:2, 1 John 2:15, James 4:4, 1 Peter 5:8, Ephesians 6:10-12, 2 Corinthians 2:11). As a church, we should approach issues addressing all three of these areas just as Jesus teaches us to pray about in his model prayer (Matthew 6:5-15).

We have a process designed to help our group members with specific spiritual warfare and recovery issues. In our process, we spend time asking the Holy Spirit for guidance and praying through different categories of sin and struggle while reminding ourselves of the truth of the gospel.

## **A Few Thoughts about Demons and Spiritual Warfare:**

1. Even a cursory reading of the NT shows that demons and their activity is real. (physical- mute Matt 9, mute & blind Matt 12, epileptic Matt. 17, superior strength Luke 8 & Acts 19, can speak Acts 19, mental- Luke 8, social- Luke 8, spiritual powers- Acts 16)
2. The Bible does not shy away from spiritual things or mentioning demons, but it is never demon focused. The focus of the NT stays firmly on Jesus and the gospel. Any form of helping people through spiritual warfare issues that does not keep this focus is wrong and misses the point - Jesus.
3. Demons are real. They can really oppress and harm people.
4. If we as the church don't help these people, who will?

*The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." –Luke 10:17-20*

Jesus is doing this constantly, setting people free from demonic influence (happens through gospel proclamation, walking in community, repentance, prayer, etc.) As a church we have designed an intentional process for Christians dealing with significant spiritual issues (spiritual warfare, odd behavior, habitual sin, etc.).

Our process is not about our ability, cleverness, or strength. It is about Jesus. It is about his Holy Spirit working and setting people free. This doesn't have anything to do with our spiritualness or our ability to say all the right words. We rest in the name of Jesus the conquering King, who in the cross has already disarmed the enemy and put him to public shame triumphing over him and leading us in triumphal procession behind Him. (Colossians 2:15 & 2 Corinthians 2:14)

***If you would like to set up a time to walk through this process please contact one of our pastors or fill out the Care Form on our website.***