

“Spiritual Reality”

Hebrews 11:30

This is the tenth sermon in the book of Hebrews. It focuses on one verse; the record of what happened during the time of Joshua.

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.
(Hebrews 11:30)

It was by their faith that the impenetrable walls of Jericho were destroyed. To put it simply, if you obey God’s words, you will see miracles happen.

There is a spiritual battle around us that we cannot see. But when we obey God’s words, it is that obedience that leads to miracles. We will experience the realness of Jesus Christ and our eyes will slowly begin to see what was unseen. However, as real as God and the angels may be, we must also understand that Satan and his demons are among us, as well.

It was in his pride to become like God that Lucifer threw away his identity and became Satan. Because of this, demons are constantly at war with God fighting to take your soul. We must realize that the most important fight in our lives is a spiritual one.

Adam and Eve’s failure to obey God’s word in the Garden of Eden was because they lost their spiritual battle. But Jesus, in the Gospels, was able to heal the sick, cast out demons, and raise the dead to life because He won the spiritual battle.

Therefore church,

We cannot overcome every problem that comes to us with worldly action. This fight that we are in cannot be won by flesh and blood alone but through prayer and the word of God.

What do we need to do in order to win this spiritual battle?

1. We must stay Alert and Awake to Protect Ourselves

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

To protect ourselves we must stay alert.

God will do the work that we cannot. Being transferred from the dominion of darkness into His kingdom or dying to our old self and rising with Christ are things we cannot do with our own strength. It is only by the work of God that it is possible. God made us citizens of Heaven, therefore we must protect our faith and continue to grow in the Lord.

In the same way, God created the Garden of Eden so that man would take care of it.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.
(Genesis 2:15)

Demons will try every method possible to tempt and lure us into sin. They will attack and destroy our relationships with one another and with God.

This is why Paul wrote to the Ephesians to “wear the full armor of God” so that their weaknesses would be fully covered by the Lord.

2. We Must Protect Ourselves with the Word of God

In the same way that we create a fence to keep out thieves, we must create a fence of protection made from the Word of God to keep out the surrounding demons. These words from God will create the barrier needed to keep Satan away from our souls.

The Word of God is like food for the soul. When you consume it, your soul will not grow weak and you will not grow faint.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation (1 Peter 2:2)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)

The Word of God is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. It is by His Word that we will not stumble.

The success or failure of one’s spiritual life can be measured by whether one reads the Bible everyday. Because the Word is the nourishment of our souls, there needs to be an affection and a hunger for it. I hope that we can become people who start everyday with the Word of God.

3. We must be filled with the Holy Spirit

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:17-18)

To “understand what the will of the Lord is”, you must follow the example of a wise person. And the example of a wise person is to “be filled with the Spirit”. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is not a temporary thing, but a permanent one where the Spirit is constantly and consistently filling you.

We must be filled with the Holy Spirit at all times. Satan will always be looking for a way into our hearts and the only way to battle against Him is to allow the Spirit to rule over you and to lead you in your life.

4. Surround yourself with People of Faith

Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:25)

We must use our strength to work together. We must use our strength to join together at church in worship and in life groups.

The first duty of a disciple of Christ is to worship God. A disciple does not attend worship for anyone or anything other than God. We must understand that worshipping God is a privilege and a prerogative.

Worship is not only limited to the church. Coming together and worshipping in our life groups is important. The early church met together in homes, ate together, and discussed the word of God with one another. They worshipped together.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts. (Acts 2:46)

This type of community is important to our spiritual well being. Being together, eating, and discussing are vital to growing in our faith. If you light one branch on fire, it will quickly go out. But if you stack multiple pieces of wood together, the fire will blaze for much longer. The church is the same. The disciples of Christ will be able to accomplish much more together than they would ever be able to alone.

Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18)

Paul is telling us the secret to winning the spiritual battle for our souls.

How should we pray?

First, we must fast when we pray. In the Bible, it says the only way to overcome Satan and his demons is to not only pray, but fast from our worldly pleasures as we pray.

Second, we must pray in the name of Jesus Christ. We cannot win this battle by our own strength, but we have Jesus Christ to fight against the demons on our behalf. When we rely upon the name of Jesus Christ, we can win the spiritual battle and overcome Satan.

My brothers and sisters,

God showed us through the story of Jacob and Jericho the spiritual reality of what is unseen around us.

Because we believe that there is a spiritual world around us, we believe that God is real and that through our faith in Him we can overcome Satan.

Even though we cannot see with our eyes, we believe that God is sovereign over the spiritual realm. It is my hope that we, as a church, will continue to trust in the Lord and believe in the One who has been and will continue to protect our souls.

Sharing Time-----

1. We talked about four ways to win the spiritual battle. For the second way, just like how we put up a fence to protect ourselves against thieves, we must surround ourselves with the word of God to protect ourselves against demons. Do you believe you have completely surrounded

yourself with the word of God or are you still leaving yourself open to Satan and his demons? Take some time to discuss.

2. The fourth point of this message was to stay close with other disciples of Christ. When you look back on this past year, was there a time when you or someone in your life group went through a spiritual battle and overcame it through the power of the Holy Spirit? Share and encourage one another.

3. What part of the sermon stood out to you the most? Please discuss.