

Christ Has Already Won

Spoiler alert for the end of the world: God wins. He has already won.

Colossians 2:15

He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Think about this verse:

Disarmed →

Put them to open shame →

Triumphing →

In Him →

This isn't like a sports game where we pick a side and cheer them on. This isn't the kind of war we train for in hopes of turning the tide. Our role is not to wage war on the darkness, but to stand firm and shine the light of Christ to the world.

Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

So why a class on Spiritual Warfare?

We don't need to learn how to win the battle; we need to know how to stand in the victory Christ has already won *for us*.

Exodus 15:2-3

The LORD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.
The LORD is a man of war;
the LORD is his name.

Over the next few months, we will discuss heavy topics that touch on dark themes. But God did not give a spirit of fear, but of strength. As we move forward each week, remember that we have a warrior God who has already defeated the enemy, and we walk in His strength, not our own.

2 Timothy 1:7

for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Cover One Another

The topic of spiritual warfare can itself invite resistance. Scripture tells us that the enemies of God seek to divide and discourage God's people, especially when they are seeking to stand firmly in Christ. But we are not alone, our protection against God's enemies is relational: We pray to Jesus for his covering, and we faithfully cover one another in prayer.

Ephesians 6:18b

To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints

Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!

Each week, we will fill out a prayer card, give it to another in the class, and receive someone else's prayer card. We will pray throughout the week for the person whose prayer card we receive and check in with them at least once. This can be in person at church, an intentional meetup, or sending a quick text.

If at any point during the class you do find yourself experiencing attack, please reach out to me or one of the pastors for additional support and prayer.

What is Spiritual Warfare?

Spiritual warfare is the ongoing tension between God's kingdom and a fallen world, lived out in our obedience, prayer, and resistance to lies. While it is not ubiquitous, spiritual attacks can manifest in many forms, from subtle influences to full-on demonic oppression.

This study will be broken up into three parts.

Part 1 - Understanding the Spiritual World: Authority, Boundaries, and Freedom

- Religious Landscape of the Old Testament
- Altars & Sacrifices
- God's power vs. pagan power
- Spiritual freedom, oppression, and possession

Part 2 - Standing Firm: Life in Christ's Authority

- Identity Before Authority
- Reclaiming Surrendered Ground
- The Armor of God
- Spiritual Disciplines for Strength and Discernment
- Seeking Accountability

Part 3 - Shining Light: Participating in God's Work Through Prayer and Intercession

- Interceding For Others
- The Power of Prayer
- Supporting Others in Spiritual Strain
- How and When to Escalate

What this study is **not**:

- Deliverance training course
- Demonology class
- Attempting to reveal forbidden knowledge

Preparing for Next Week

There will be preparation assigned each week for the following class. You do not have to complete these to attend class, but it is to your benefit to complete what you have time for. Feel free to break it up throughout the week, do it all at once, or just do as many as you can in your given time allotment.

To prepare for class next week, read the following passages and write down a few observations for each passage about the altar. This isn't about right answers or deep insight, just jot down what you notice and what stands out in each passage. Who builds the altar? What is it used for? What similarities and differences do you notice?

Genesis 8:20-22; Genesis 22:9-14; Exodus 20:22-26; Numbers 23:1-12; Judges 6:25-27; 1 Kings 18:22-39; Jeremiah 11:12-13; Matthew 23:18-20;