



THE INVISIBLE WAR

PART 4

Sermon Overview

Christians have been at war with Satan from their very moment of salvation. In this war, he sends his agents to hinder your life of faith and separate you from God's power. God promises, however, that the Holy Spirit is greater than Satan's plans. We must be serious-minded about Satan's traps, and not allow for spiritual drunkenness to open a door of attack.

PART FOUR

1 Peter 5:8-9 says:

⁸ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

1 PETER 5:8-9

LION'S ROAR

There are three occasions when a lion roars loudly:

- 1.) When a Competing Lion Strays Into Its Territory*
- 2.) If It Gets Caught in a Thunderstorm*
- 3.) After He Has Caught His Prey*

Christians have been at war with Satan from their very moment of salvation. In this war, he sends his agents to hinder your life of faith and separate you from God's power.

God promises, however, that the Holy Spirit is greater than Satan's plans.

SPIRITUAL SOBRIETY

Living in disobedience to the Word of God is spiritual drunkenness.

It numbs your senses and makes us unable to see things from God's perspective. We must be serious-minded about Satan and his traps.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

In the book of Joshua, Joshua follows up the victory at Jericho with disobedience to God's word. This cockiness and refusal to consult God lead to military defeat at Ai, and treaties with the Gibeonites, sowing the seeds for future discord in Israel.

David, likewise, allowed for idleness and spiritual drunkenness to open a door to sin with Bathsheba.

SIFTING OF WHEAT

Luke 22:31-33 describes Peter allowing his pride to open a door to Satan:

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."*

LUKE 22:31-33

This sifting began with Peter's denial of Christ, and continued as he wept bitterly in fear and self-doubt. Unlike Judas, however, Peter repented, believing the truth that God accepts and renews repentant sinners. Having repented, Peter would go on to strengthen his brothers in the church.

NOT A PAPER TIGER

1 John 5:18 says:

We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.

1 JOHN 5:18

Satan cannot sever our union with Christ; he is powerless to steal our salvation. He can, however, devour everything else in our lives if we give him an open door.

We must heed the words of Paul and James to “put on the full armor of God,” and “resist the devil.”

CONCLUSION

The vast majority of Christians are unproductive for the Kingdom of God. They are saved, but their Christian walk is going nowhere. We must not get bogged down in focusing on our felt needs and problems, but instead apply God’s Word to our lives and become an army that makes the devil tremble.