

## WHAT IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

This is an important question, because “spiritual warfare” means different things to different people. The term itself is not found in scriptures, but the concept is taught. Two of the most commonly associated scriptures were written by the Apostle Paul.

*2 Cor. 10:3-5—“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”*

*Eph. 6:10-12—“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you may take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly realms.”*

Our ministry’s stress upon spiritual warfare is an attempt to bring about a proper balance in Christian lives. So many Christians have become passive and fearful. Some are satisfied just to believe the right things and attend church services and activities each week. This type of lifestyle is quite different from that which Jesus had called believers. Like the apostles in Luke 9:1-2 and the seventy in Luke 10, who were told by Jesus to go out and preach and teach about the kingdom of God, and He also said they were to heal the sick and set the captives free. In Matt. 28:18-20 Jesus commissioned His disciples.

*And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you, and remember, I am with you always to the end of the age”.*

The new converts were to be taught that God wanted them to be doing the things that Jesus’ disciples had been doing. In most churches, working in the power of Christ to do extraordinary things in His name has been reasoned away, saying “God does not work that way today”. But we, and ministries like us, are reminders that God continues to work the way He did in the first century church. I thank God for New Covenant Church who encourages us to function the way they do.

For those of us who are involved and understand our rights in spiritual warfare, we actively resist the devil when his hosts harass us. We actively pursue spiritual disciplines that will make us stronger and better prepared. We actively engage the enemy when people are in spiritual bondage.

There is not one area in Christian ministry that has not become a battleground, but often there is not discernment that some form of spiritual resistance is in place. It has become common to attribute a natural or human explanation to most problems we face without considering the possibility of demonic intervention.