

## Spiritual Warfare

Daniel 10:1-21

10/19/03

### Intro

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Daniel chapter 10 is one of the only chapters in the entire bible that gives us insight into the world of spiritual warfare. It shows us that there is real warfare between spiritual forces of wickedness and those of the Lord.

**These are important insights because we need spiritual victory like never before. This chapter, along with other important verses give us the insight we need so we can be victorious in spiritual things.**

**These, then, are insights into spiritual warfare and how to have victory.**

### **I. Prayer is a powerful weapon**

#### A. Daniel's prayer began the conflict

- It was when Daniel prayed that God sent an answer.
- When the disciples could not cast out a demon they brought him to Jesus...

**Matthew 17:21, "But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."**

**James 5:16-18, "The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then**

**he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.**

#### B. His prayer was hindered

- Not the prayer itself, but the answer.
- **An angel was dispatched immediately, but was resisted by the prince of Persia for 21 days (Vs 13)**

#### C. We must continue in prayer

- These verses should encourage us to pray and to continue in prayer, knowing that even while we pray, there is spiritual warfare going on that is unseen.

**Luke 18:7, "Now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?"**

### **II. We wrestle against principalities**

#### A. Choose the right battle

- The flesh is not our battlefield, we have a distinct disadvantage.

**Matthew 26:41, "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."**

**Illus – I used to teach a class called “Advanced Leadership Training,” and one of the most important points was how to handle conflict. A leader should never battle in the flesh, he will most assuredly lose.**

B. Choose the right weapons

- The weapons of spiritual warfare are not of the flesh.
- Paul teaches us a valuable lesson on this to the church in Corinth...

**II Corinthians 10:3-7a**

- Don't use worldly means to accomplish a spiritual end (spiritual purpose).

**Illus – When talking to spouses who struggle with criticism, I try to get them to see that they are using the flesh to try to bring about change that is godly. This doesn't work.**

C. We do battle our own flesh

- There is a battle within every person regarding their won flesh.

**Romans 7:18, “For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.”**

- The flesh and the spirit are at enmity with one another.

**Galatians 5:16-17, “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.”**

**III. The Victory is Ours**

A. When the battle is the Lord's

- God does assure that victory in spiritual conflict is ours if we know the key.
- The key is not doing battle on our own.
- This was David's confidence when he faced Goliath.

**1 Samuel 17:47, “Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands.”**

B. It is He who Strengthens Us

- In verses 16 and 18, the angel touches Daniel and he is strengthened.

**Illus – When things were the worst for David, the scripture tells us that he strengthened himself in the Lord.**

- One the great truths of scripture is found in Nehemiah 8...

**Nehemiah 8:8-11 - The joy of the Lord is my strength...**

- He strengthens us also by His Word.

**Colossians 3:15, “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.”**

C. Our part is faith

- Because Satan is the father of lies, it is lies that he utilizes most commonly in spiritual battle.
- Truth, therefore, is the greatest weapon against him.
- **Jesus said that it is the truth that will set us free.**

**John 8:31-36 – If My Word abides in you...**

**II Timothy 1:12, “for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.”**

Conclusion

**We are in spiritual battle, but the truth still remains, “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”**