

Spiritual Warfare Part 4 Principles and Practicals

Thesis: We are a people who are equipped and empowered to join Jesus in spiritual warfare for the advancement of the kingdom of God.

Note: Part of these messages come from a [handout](#) which is given to people who participate in **MTT Deliverance and Anointing**. It is an advanced class for [Ministry Team Training](#). So, I am making this material available to you as a more complete context if you want to explore more about spiritual warfare.

Because of an impression I got from the Lord and several confirmations from others, we spent 3 weeks previously on dealing with spiritual warfare.

- *Spiritual Warfare P1, 10'17'22 and Spiritual Warfare P2, 10'31'21.*

These 2 messages laid a framework and groundwork for understanding and engaging in Spiritual Warfare from a Biblical point of view.

- *Spiritual Warfare Part 3, 11'7'21.*

The third message in this series explored the topic of *dealing with the cloud of deception over our nation*.

Today, I want to share about *Spiritual Warfare Part 4: Principles and Practicals*. In this message, I want to talk about some of the key lessons I have learned through several decades of dealing with spiritual warfare.

First, I want to remind you of a message I preached back in Oct. 2018 called, *This Is a Season of Warfare*. The Lord wants to change our mindset or mental model of about this season in which we find ourselves.

This is a season of warfare. We need to change our mindset or mental models.

1. **We are in a new season. This is a season of warfare.**
 - a. **We focus on the vision set before us or on the joy set before us.**
 - i. *After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them--to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates--all the Hittite country--to the Great Sea on the west. 5 No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was*

with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Joshua 1:1-5).

1. The Lord has given us his plans, purposes, promises, and prophetic words.
2. **Fighting and overcoming the enemy are not our focus; doing what the Lord is showing us to do and possessing our promised land is our focus.**
- b. **We are learning to fight and to rule and reign with the Lord now,** because we are children of the King, members of the household of God, sons and daughters of God Most High, and partners with the Lord forever and ever.
 - i. *And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth" (Revelation 5:9-10).*
2. **As a part of the Joshua Generation, we must fight to take ground and to possess our inheritance. This is not a one-off season. We will fight until we possess our inheritance.**
 - a. In the past, corporate warfare has ebbed and flowed for us. At times, it has been infrequent.
 - b. In this season of warfare, fighting becomes the norm or more frequent.
 - c. And, the enemy will come against us.
 - i. Trying to deceive us (Gibeonites).
 - ii. Engaging in attacks and counter attacks (kings banded together to attack Joshua and his troops on many occasions).
 - iii. Using other strategies.
 - d. **Questions to ponder:** These questions are to get you thinking about and reflecting upon the Scripture.
 - i. What are some of the examples in the book of Joshua and the book of Nehemiah about warfare and battles?
 - ii. What were some of the strategies the enemy uses to hinder the advance of the people of God?
 - iii. Those questions can be a part of your homework.
3. **Change of mindset:** ongoing warfare and battles are a part of possessing the land.
 - a. **This is not a short season.**
 - i. *Joshua waged war against all these kings for a long time (Joshua 11:18).*

- ii. *When Joshua was old and well advanced in years, the LORD said to him, "You are very old, and there are still very large areas of land to be taken over" (Joshua 13:1).*
 - b. **Be strong and courageous.**
 - i. Don't be surprised, afraid, discouraged, or confused by this new reality of war.
 - ii. *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).*
 - c. **Finish the course and race which God has given to us.**
 - i. Don't stop short of what God intends for us.
 - ii. *The angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land that I swore to give to your forefathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, 2 and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars.' Yet you have disobeyed me. Why have you done this? 3 Now therefore I tell you that I will not drive them out before you; they will be [thorns] in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you" (Judges 2:1-3).*
- 4. **If we fail to understand the season, or if we have the wrong mindset, we will respond incorrectly to the attacks and battles.**
 - a. We will respond incorrectly to the intensity of this season
 - b. **Common responses when we do not recognize we are in a season of warfare:**
 - i. What are we doing wrong?
 - ii. Are we under a curse?
 - iii. Have we missed God?
 - iv. Answer: The context changed.
- 5. **Right mindset: in a season of warfare, as a part of the Joshua Generation, we expect that we will have to fight.**
 - a. **Our Champion is leading us into battle. He has given us our possession. Now, we go with him in partnership to possess our possession. So, don't be surprised by ongoing warfare.** No enemy will be able to stand against us.
 - i. *After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the*

Hittite country—to the Great Sea on the west. 5 No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Joshua 1:1-5).

- b. **Fight the good fight of faith** (1 Timothy 6:12).
 - i. Fight and keep on fighting.
 - ii. *Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses (1 Timothy 6:12).*
- c. **Stay at your post; don't abandon your place or assignments** (2 Timothy 2:4).
 - i. Stay faithful and be strong in the grace that comes from the Lord.
 - ii. Soldier: *You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 3 Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer (2 Timothy 2:1-4).*
 - iii. Athlete: *Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules (2 Timothy 2:5).*
 - iv. Farmer: *The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops (2 Timothy 2:6).*
- d. **Keep on showing up in the grace and power of the Lord, and don't quit. Don't grow weary in well doing** (Galatians 6:7-9).
 - i. *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up (Galatians 6:7-9).*
- e. **Find fresh strength and encouragement in the Lord** (Joshua 1:9).
 - i. **Don't give in to fear, fatigue, discouragement, frustration, deception, disappointment, or confusion** (Joshua 1:9).
 - ii. *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).*
 - iii. *Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not*

grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. 29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint (Isaiah 40:28-31).

Some Principles and Practicals of Spiritual Warfare

1. **Key issue: We need to know what our priority assignment is. We are here to find out what the Lord is doing and to bless what he is doing, based upon a loving relationship with our God.**
 - a. If the Lord gives us insight into the enemy's schemes, then good. But our focus is not to be on the enemy, but on the Lord.
 - i. *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded (James 4:7).*
 - b. We should spend most of time focusing on the Lord. We deal with the enemy as necessary or as directed by the Lord.
 - c. Focus on the Lord and what he is doing, not on the enemy (Hebrews 12:2-3; Colossians 3:1-4). **God should be our preoccupation, not the enemy.**
2. **When God tells us to engage in warfare, how do we do it?**
 - a. **Through repentance.**
 - i. We stand in the gap and repent for the evil we discern, that we see. (Example: Daniel 9:1-19.)
 - b. **Through replacement.**
 - i. Pray the opposite of what you see or discern or experience of the enemy or his work.
 - ii. For example, in the place of the spirit of fear, pray for the release of the faith of Jesus Christ (Example: 1 Timothy 1:7.)
 - iii. Look at the apostolic prayers of the New Testament for ways to pray.
 - c. **Through righteousness.**
 - i. Right living opens the door for the kingdom of God to invade the earth. Good overcomes evil (Romans 12:21).

- ii. Years ago John Paul Jackson gave a significant prophetic word. In summary, JPJ said that the way we live opens a gate into this world for wickedness or righteousness.
 1. *Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness (Romans 6:13).*
3. **How to engage in warfare through intercession:**
 - a. Pray within your authority (Luke 10:17-20).
 - b. Appeal directly to God for his intervention, righteousness, mercy, etc. Address the enemy as the Lord directs you to do so.
 - c. Boldly ask God to execute vengeance and judgment against his enemies.
 - d. Proclaim the truth about Christ and his kingdom
 - e. Declare the reality that all powers and principalities are subject to Christ and will bow before Jesus (Psalm 29:1-2; Psalm 86:8-10; Psalm 97:7; Colossians 1:13-18; Philippians 2:10-11; Hebrews 1:6).
4. **Practical statements:**
 - a. Spend the bulk of your time rejoicing in the Lord, not rebuking the enemy (Luke 10:18-20; Philippians 4:6-8).
 - b. Run to God as our priority focus rather than duking it out with the enemy all the time (James 4:6-8).
 - c. Remember that right living according to the character and way of Christ is our armor (Ephesians 6:10fl).
 - d. Use a functional approach in deliverance or in warfare prayer: put an end to what the enemy is doing.
 - i. *Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. 43 And they were all amazed at the greatness of God (Luke 9:42-43).*
5. **We have authority and anointing** to deal with whatever the Lord asks us to address (Matthew 10:1-9; Luke 9:1-2).
 - a. **Corollary:** Our authority and anointing are ambassadorial in nature (2 Corinthians 5:20).
 - i. All authority belongs to God (Matthew 28:18-20).
 - ii. The assignment comes from God (1 Corinthians 3:5-9).
 - iii. We carry out his will on the earth as he has decreed in heaven: no more, no less (Matthew 6:10; 16:19).
6. **The principle of displacement is a key for dealing with deliverance and spiritual warfare.**
 - a. **Crowding out** (filling up).

- i. *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 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. 6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete (2 Corinthians 10:3–6).*
 - ii. With God helping us we seek to close entry points, tear down strongholds, and deal with hooks of the enemy (John 14:30).
 - iii. See Colossians 3:1-17 or Romans 12:9-12 for practical exhortations about holy living-- what we say "yes" to and what we say "no" to with the help of God's Spirit.
- b. **Casting out.** (See examples in Matthew 8:16; 9:32-33; Acts 16:16-18.)
- i. **Here are the basic steps in the deliverance encounter.**
 1. **Manifestation**
 - a. After we see the enemy manifest, and the Lord gives us permission to deal with it, we proceed to cast it out or cut off its assignment in the name of Jesus.
 - b. Common phrases: "I command you to leave this person in the name of Jesus." "Unclean spirit, I command you to come to the surface and come out in the name of Jesus." "I command whatever spirit is causing this to stop in the name of Jesus, and I cut off your assignment in the name of Jesus. You must leave this person or situation in the name of Jesus."
 2. **Silence or stop what the enemy is doing**
 - a. Once demons are engaged, they may want to converse or to use other distracting tactics. Get down to business. Command them to be silent or to stop.
 - b. Common phrases: "I command you to be silent in the name of Jesus." "I forbid you to speak in Jesus' name."
 - c. Use a functional approach: put an end to or stop whatever the enemy is doing (Luke 9:42-43).
 3. **Expulsion**
 - a. Command the demons to leave.

- b. Common phrases: "I command you to get out in the name of Jesus!" "You cannot have this person or situation any longer; now go, in the name of Jesus!"
- c. **When we engage in spiritual warfare and deliverance, remember what Jesus told us:**
 - i. *When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick (Luke 9:1–2).*
 - ii. *After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go... (Luke 10:1). "Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you...'" (Luke 10:9). The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." 18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:17–20).*

Ministry Time: Spiritual Practice: Interactive Gratitude

1. Intro:

- a. Giving thanks is a way to fuel our joy by attaching our brains to the Lord and acknowledging his love for us.
- b. In Romans chapter 1, Paul the apostle says that the minds of human beings have become darkened because of a refusal to be grateful to God.
- c. *"He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God" (Psalm 50:23).*

2. Interactive Gratitude.

- a. **Practice giving thanks and listening to the Lord.** In this exercise, write the impression that comes to your mind. Start with something that makes you grateful. Then, record your impression of God's response.
- b. **Express gratitude** from me to God for something good in my life or my day. Write it down in a simple way. *Dear God, I am thankful for...*
- c. **Imagine God's response** to my gratitude and write it down. What might He be thinking, feeling, or saying back to me, especially about who I am to Him?

3. Share with someone about your gratitude and what you imagine or heard God's response to be.

Addendum:

[Scripture Reading Plan for Christmas 2021](#)

Calvary Family Devotion

***The Gospel of Matthew* and the Advent Season**

November 28 – December 24, 2021

During the Christmas season, we want to continue realign with the ways and words of Jesus. Together, we will seek to connect with the Lord and to hear what God is saying through *The Gospel of Matthew*. We will also read and reflect upon other verses associated with the First and Second Coming of Christ. Our salvation is rooted in the life, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and return of the Lord Jesus.

In this Calvary Family Devotion, we will explore God's Word together through:

- Reading the Bible on a daily basis
- Memorizing Scripture (let the Lord highlight to you a few verses for you to memorize)
- Using questions to help us reflect on what God is saying to us

Doing these activities as a church family allows the Holy Spirit to speak to us corporately. We believe that God speaks to us in many ways. Our part is to make room, to cultivate the capacity to let the seed of God's Word find good soil in our hearts. The challenge before us is to give God time in our schedules, room in our minds, and access to our hearts through intentionally devoting ourselves to God's Word. Let's press into the presence of the Lord by encountering God in his Holy Word.

The Challenge

We will use a daily reading plan that covers *The Gospel of Matthew* and other verses associated with the Advent of Christ.

The Schedule

Our reading and reflecting upon God's word together will go from November 28 – December 24, 2021.

The Gospel of Matthew

The Gospel of Matthew “is the story of Jesus of Nazareth, recorded by the apostle Matthew as a compelling witness that Jesus is the long-anticipated Messiah, who brought the kingdom of God to earth and is the prophesied fulfillment of God’s promise of true peace and deliverance for both Jew and Gentile” (ESV Study Bible).

“The story of Jesus doesn’t begin with Jesus. God had been at work for a long time. Salvation, which is the main business of Jesus, is an old business. Jesus is the coming together in final form of themes and energies and movements that had been set in motion before the foundation of the world.

“Matthew opens the New Testament by setting the local story of Jesus in its world historical context. He makes sure that as we read his account of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we see the connections with everything that has gone before. “Fulfilled” is one of Matthew’s characteristic verbs: such and such happened “that it might be fulfilled.” Jesus is unique, but he is not odd.

“Better yet, Matthew tells the story in such a way that not only is everything previous to us completed in Jesus; we are completed in Jesus. Every day we wake up in the middle of something that is already going on, that has been going on for a long time: genealogy and geology, history and culture, the cosmos—God. We are neither accidental nor incidental to the story. We get orientation, briefing, background, reassurance.

“Matthew provides the comprehensive context by which we see all God’s creation and salvation completed in Jesus, and all the parts of our lives—work, family, friends, memories, dreams—also completed in Jesus. Lacking such a context, we are in danger of seeing Jesus as a mere diversion from the concerns announced in the newspapers. Nothing could be further from the truth” (Peterson, E. H. *The Message*).

The Advent Season

Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning “coming.” Many churches observe a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of Jesus at Christmas. The Latin word *adventus* is the translation of the Greek word *parousia*, which references Christ’s Second Coming. Christians believe that the season of Advent serves a reminder that Christ has come and that he will come again. Advent for 2021 actually begins on Sunday, November 28.

Reflection Questions for Dialogue or Journaling

1. Preparation: Come to God's Word with a listening, attentive, and attuned ear and heart. Ask the Lord to meet with you and speak to you as you spend time with him in his Word.
2. As you read the *Gospel of Matthew*, what is God revealing about himself to you?
3. What are you learning or discovering as you spend time reading *The Gospel of Matthew*?
4. What is getting stirred up in you as you read? Share or journal what you are thinking or feeling.
5. What is the Holy Spirit asking you to do or how are you feeling led to respond as you read?
6. Where is your love for Christ manifesting in obedience? Where are you falling short through disobedience? Don't just think in moral terms. Think, too, in missional terms. What has God asked you to do or say that you are disobeying habitually? Ask God for forgiveness. Identify and make intentional efforts to do what the Lord is asking you to do.

Scripture Reading Plan for the *Gospel of Luke* and Advent Scriptures

Date	Read	Additional verses
11/28/21	Matt. 1	Hope: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 1:26-38; Isaiah 7:10-14; Matthew 1:18-24
11/29/21	Matt. 2	
11/30/21	Matt. 3	
12/1/19	Matt. 4	
12/2/19	Matt. 5	
12/3/19	Matt. 6	
12/4/19	Matt. 7	
12/5/19	Matt. 8	Peace: Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11; Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 3:1-6
12/6/19	Matt. 9	
12/7/19	Matt. 10	
12/8/19	Matt. 11	
12/9/19	Matt. 12	
12/10/19	Matt. 13	
12/11/19	Matt. 14	
12/12/19	Matt. 15	Joy: Isaiah 9:6-7; John 1:19-34; Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; Philippians 2:1-11
12/13/19	Matt. 16	
12/14/19	Matt. 17	
12/15/19	Matt. 18	
12/16/19	Matt. 19	
12/17/19	Matt. 20	
12/18/19	Matt. 21	
12/19/19	Matt. 22	Love: Malachi 3:1-5; Romans 8:18-25; Isaiah 52:7-10; Revelation 21:1-14
12/20/19	Matt. 23	

12/21/19 Matt. 24
12/22/19 Matt. 25
12/23/19 Matt. 26
12/24/19 Matt. 27-28 **Light:** Isaiah 9:1-6; John 1:1-18; Titus 2:11-14