



The weekly newsletter article of Parkside Chapel

LIFENEWS



ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE

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I wrote a few months ago about the armor of God and some teachings that are propagated around them. In the past months, I have seen many social media posts about spiritual warfare. In light of this, I wanted to comment on Jesus' prayer in John 17:11- 19. This prayer was primarily over the disciples but has application for us now.

"I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my

joy within them. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified."

Jesus prays for the disciples as they continue to live in the world without Him. His concern for his disciples and us comes through this prayer. Jesus mentions that none of the disciples has been lost except Judas. This should assure us that Jesus is serious when He says in John 10 that no one can take us out of his hand.

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First note on spiritual warfare:

Jesus is able to protect us. Just as Jesus kept the eleven, He is able to keep you throughout the journey of life. Often, when we hear about spiritual warfare, this causes trepidation and fear. We are concerned that the dark forces in the world are strong and will defeat us. However, the picture of Jesus in the Book of John is one who is powerful enough to destroy the forces of darkness.

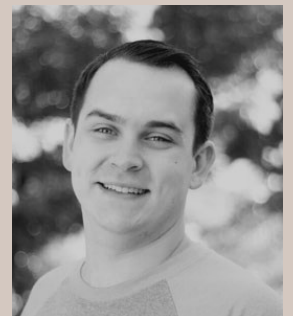
Second note on spiritual warfare:

God the Father is protecting us. Just like in John 10, we are shown to be in the hand of Jesus and the hand of God the Father. Jesus prays for protection for his disciples. He explicitly prays that they are not taken out of the world. We should not expect that God will remove us from the world and its darkness; our expectation should be that God will protect us from the darkness. So that God indeed leads us through the valley of the shadow of death. God is with you through difficult and dark times... even spiritual warfare, and can protect you from any power in the world.

Third note on spiritual warfare:

God's Word is given to sanctify us. As we live in a dark world, the will of God is for us to be more like Christ. As we go through this life, we are not to simply be protected but to be sanctified through the Word of God. As we face spiritual darkness, the solution for us can be found in the Word of God and his protection. We should not be looking for spiritual protection and answers from other sources but from the revelation of God found in Scripture.

In conclusion, Jesus' prayer anticipates that the disciples of Christ will endure hardship, including spiritual warfare. Jesus gives us the solution of resting in the protection of the Father and the Son. We must trust our shepherd to protect and defend us in the most challenging times. As we live in this world, we should be focused on the Word of God, which transforms us to be more like Christ.



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