

Perfecting in the Word Ministry



"The Battle of the Mind!"

Ephesians 6:10-13

Sunday Evening Message

Perfecting in the Word Ministry

Sunday, November 23, 2014

Text:

Ephesians 6:10-13

- ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
- ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
- ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.
- ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Introduction:

The Rhema for this evening, as inspired through the anointing of the Holy Spirit, comes to us with a word concerning the Christian warfare in which many of us are engaged. Saints, some of you may have heard of the "**Battle of the Bulge?**" But I'm not talking about the extension of our stomachs, due to excessive intake! I'm talking about an actual war which occurred seventy years ago on the continent of Europe.

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Background:

From a historical perspective, the “Battle of the Bulge” (December 16, 1944 – January 25, 1945) was a major German offensive campaign launched through the densely forested Ardennes region of Wallonia in Belgium, France and Luxembourg on the Western Front toward the end of World War II in Europe. Hitler planned the offensive with the primary goal to recapture the important harbour of Antwerp. The surprise attack caught the Allied forces completely off guard. United States forces bore the brunt of the attack and incurred the highest casualties for any operation during the war. The battle also severely depleted Germany’s war-making resources.

The phrase “Battle of the Bulge” was coined by contemporary press to describe the way the Allied front line “bulged” inward on wartime news maps and became the best known name for the battle.

The battle is significant in the course of World War II because it is seen as Hitler’s last major offensive in the war. While the battle was intended to split Allied lines and force negotiated peace, American forces, led by General Dwight D. Eisenhower (the Supreme Allied Commander), were able to contain the battle and inflict heavier losses on the German forces.

In the wake of the defeat, the German losses in the battle were critical in several respects: the last of the German reserves were left severely depleted of men and equipment, the Luftwaffe had been shattered and the remaining German forces in the West retreated to the defenses of the Siegfried Line.

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In this war of attrition [the act or process of weakening and gradually defeating an enemy through constant attacks and continued pressure over a long period of time; the act of weakening or exhausting by constant harassment, abuse, or attack <a war of attrition>], about 610,000 American forces were involved in the battle; 89,500 were injured, including 19,000 killed (49,500 wounded, 23,000 captured or wounded). German casualties were between 67,200 and 100,000 (killed, missing, captured, or wounded). British casualties were 1,400 (200 killed, 969 wounded, 239 missing). Also, 3000 civilians were killed. This was the largest and bloodiest battle fought by the United States in World War II.

Though the battle is often remembered for its influence on the end of the war, the “Battle of the Bulge” was also a horrendous experience for the forces that fought the battles. Veterans on both sides witnessed atrocities, from German massacres of civilians to fellow comrades freezing to death. The “Battle of the Bulge” is a momentous battle of World War II, not just because it brought about the end of the German army and the Nazi reign, but also because of the profound effect it had on soldiers who fought in the icy Ardennes.

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I. The War in Our Members

Children of God, (this afternoon) I want to speak to you from the subject:

“The Battle of the Mind!”

Saints, there is a war waging in our members and in our mind; that states: “When I would do good, evil is present with me!” In fact, Apostle Paul (in his letter to the church at Rome) has acknowledged it to be a law!

[Romans 7:14-25] ~ For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh;) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. [verse 21] For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

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Saints, war has been declared! And the battle is being waged on the home front of your mind! Like the “Battle of the Bulge,” we are in a war in which the outcome will determine where we will spend eternity! In this relentless war of attrition (against our very souls), the forces commanded by the army of Satan has waged an all out offensive against both our carnality as well as our spirituality! And “[our] adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, [is] walketh about, seeking whom he may devour,” so we must “be sober, [and] be vigilant!” [1Peter 5:8] Will you let him devour you? Or will you fight with all your might to contend against his advances? Did you know that the battle is first won on the battlefield of the recesses of your mind (your subconscious state); and then it’s more easily won in the physical realm?

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II. The War in Our Minds

Saints of God, do you sometimes have situations in your dreams where you are confronted with a fight? While in your dream, do you feel as though you are actually engaged in a fight with someone or something that is oppressing you, as though it were compared to the reality of your waken hours?

In the battle of your mind, a war is waged in your subconscious recesses, which engages you with challenging situations that force you to confront this seemingly “carnal-minded” situation. But in actuality, this engaging set of circumstances is in fact a well orchestrated spiritual war; which has implications of wickedness in high places: the high places of the spiritual realm!

[Ephesians 6:12] ~ For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

When you awaken from your dream, do you feel exhausted: like you have just finished a hard-fought fight in the natural realm? Then I'm here to tell you that you were engaged in spiritual warfare that has not only manifested in the natural, but has also played out in your subconscious mind.

[1Peter 1:6,7,13] ~ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ ... Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

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[Romans 12:1,2] ~ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

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III. It's Time to Go to War

So how should you proceed from this evidently very engaging battle of the mind; which contends against you, both in the present as well as in the spiritual world? Should you simply continue night after night plundering along in your abysmal misinterpretation of this dynamic encounter, or should you instead come to a conscious decision to fight with your God-given weapons? The choice is yours to make! It's up to you to decide! But know this: the battle will continue to wage against you, no matter whether or not you perceive or acknowledge the fight to be temporal or spiritual!

[2Corinthians 10:3-6] ~ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

[2Timothy 2:3,4] ~ Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

[1Timothy 6:12] ~ Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

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[Ephesians 6:13-18] ~ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

Saints, the outcome can only end in one of two decisions: defeat or victory! The defeat of the mind ends with the realization that you are unable to contend with the battles waged by the trials, tests, tribulations, and persecutions of your maturation process in the Lord! Victory means that you have persevered against all odds (and everything known to man and spirit), and have emerged as a champion in the army of the Lord!

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Conclusion:

Saints of God, it's time to take a stand and fight the devil and his forces, and defeat them at "**The Battle of the Mind!**"

[James 4:1-8] ~ From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. [verse 4] Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [verse 7] Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

[James 1:8] ~ A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

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Veterans in the Army of the Lord, victory requires that you:

- Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you! [James:4:8]
- Cleanse your hands and purify your hearts! [James:4:8]
- Be stable in your thoughts, and not double minded! [James:1:8; James 4:8]
- Stop walking (or thinking) in the flesh! [2Corinthian:10:3]
- Fight against the spiritual things (distractions) in your life! [Ephesians:6:12]
- Pull down the strong holds in your life and in the subconscious recesses of your mind! [2Corinthian:10:4]
- Cast down sinful imaginations! [2Corinthian:10:6]
- Cast down every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God! [2Corinthian:10:6]
- Bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ! [2Corinthian:10:5]
- Be ready and equipped to revenge all disobedience, when you subject yourself to obedience! [2Corinthian:10:6]
- Resist the devil, and he will flee from you! [James:4:7]
- Remember: the battle is not yours, but God's! [2Chronicles:20:15]

In order to victorious in “The Battle of the Mind!”

