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The Three Battlegrounds

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Chapter 2 - The Stronghold of the Godly: Humility

Satan fears virtue. He is terrified of humility; he hates it. He sees a humble person and it sends chills down his back. His hair stands up when Christians kneel down, for humility is the surrender of the soul to God. The devil trembles before the meek because, in the very areas where he once had access, there stands the Lord, and Satan is terrified of Jesus Christ.

Who Truly Are You Fighting?

You will remember that, all the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, the judgment of God against the devil was that he should eat dust (see Genesis 3:14). Remember also that God said of man, “you are dust” (Genesis 3:19). The essence of our carnal nature - of all that is carnal in nature - is dust. We need to see the connection here: Satan feeds upon our earthly, carnal nature of “dust.” Satan dines on what we withhold from God.

Therefore, we need to recognize that the immediate source of many of our problems and oppressions is not demonic but fleshly in nature. We must contend with the fact that one aspect of our lives, our flesh nature, will always be targeted by the devil. These fleshly areas supply Satan with a ready avenue of access to undermine our prayers and neutralize our walk with God.

Before we launch out in aggressive warfare, we must realize that many of our battles are merely the consequences of our own actions. To war effectively, we must separate what is of the flesh from what is of the devil. Before we have any strategy for attacking Satan, we must make sure that the real enemy is not our own carnal nature. we must ask ourselves, **Are the things oppressing us today the harvest of what we planted yesterday?**

Agree with Your Adversary

Matthew 5:25-26 CSB

[25] Reach a settlement quickly with your adversary while you're on the way with him to the court, or your adversary will hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. [26] Truly I tell you, you will never get out of there until you have paid the last penny.

When Jesus says, “Agree with your adversary quickly,” He does not mean obey the devil. He is saying that when Satan accuses you of some sin or flaw, if the devil is even minutely right it is to your advantage to agree with him about your unrighteousness. If he accuses you of being impure or not loving enough or praying enough, he is right. The key is not to argue with the devil about your own righteousness because, before God, your righteousness is unacceptable. No matter how much you defend or justify yourself, you know inwardly that often the accusations of the devil have morsels of truth in them.

When the accuser comes seeking to condemn you for your impatience, not having enough love, or not praying enough, your response should be, “that is true, I am impatient or I do not have enough love or I do not pray enough. But the Son of God died for all my sins, even the sin of imperfect love. Jesus is my righteousness.” Submit yourself to God and ask for Christ’s love and forgiveness to replace your weak and imperfect love. Use the accusation as a reminder that you are not standing before an angry God but rather a throne of grace which enables you to boldly draw near to God for help (see Hebrews 4:16).

A vital key to overcoming the devil is humility. To humble yourself is to refuse to defend your image: you are corrupt and full of sin in your old nature! Yet, we have a new nature which has been created in the likeness of Christ (see Ephesians 4:24), so we can agree with our adversary about the condition of our flesh.

But do not limit this principle of humbling yourself only to times of spiritual warfare. This precept is applicable in other situations as well. The strength of humility is that it builds a spiritual defense around your soul, prohibiting strife, competition, and many of life’s irritations from stealing your peace.

Remember, Satan fears virtue. He is terrified of humility; he hates it because humility is the surrender of the soul to the Lord, and the devil is terrified of Jesus Christ.

Let us live a humble life because God only looks at the one who is humble and submissive.

Isaiah 66:2 CSB

[2] My hand made all these things, and so they all came into being. This is the Lord’s declaration. I will look favorably on this kind of person: one who is humble, submissive in spirit, and trembles at my word.