



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	New Season, New Warfare (1) – Understand the Warfare	SPEAKER	SP Dan Foo
THEME	New Season, New Warfare	DATE	5 & 6 Jan 2019

MESSAGE SUMMARY

UNDERSTAND THE WARFARE

Warfare based on the 5 basic fronts: the schemes of the evil one, giving space to the evil one to work against us, demonic strongholds in our lives, shakings in the demonic world around us and failure to surrender to the Lordship of Christ.

The Lord has already given us victory in this war against the evil one. We have already won because Christ has given us the authority to overcome all the power of the enemy and nothing will harm us (Luke 10:19). Nonetheless, each of us remains in this 5-fold war front until the day He returns.

THE 5 BASIC FRONTS

The 5 basic fronts of this warfare includes:

1) Schemes of the evil one

We need not be devil-conscious. However, we should not be ignorant of the schemes of the evil one. We should continue to focus on the Word and on the Holy Spirit as we are aware of his schemes as:

- Accuser (Rev 12:10)
- Deceiver (Rev 12:9)
- Liar and murderer (John 8:44)
- Condemner (Rom 8:33-34)
- Devourer looking for ground in our lives to oppress us (1 Pet 5:8)

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy." John 10:10a

2) Giving Space – Ground to the evil one to work against us.

While the devil cannot harm nor touch us physically, he is always looking for legal grounds. As such, Ephesians 4:27 tells us not to "give place-ground-foothold-doorway to the devil."

SP gave biblical examples: Saul provided space for the enemies to harass him because of his unrighteous anger (1 Sam 18:8, 10a); In his anger, he sinned. Solomon provided space for the enemies to harass him because he moved away from the covering of God as he did not walk closely with God (1 Kings 11:4-6) and his ways no longer pleased the Lord (Prov 16:7).

As believers, we are told to "not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom (we) were sealed for the day of redemption" (Eph 4:30).

As we work on cultivating spiritual disciplines, regularly de-clutter the baggage that we carry emotionally and attend RTF for breakthroughs in our lives, we will not provide the ground for the evil one to work against us. The Lord has given us a free will. We reap positive outcomes in our lives in the form of blessings as we seek to obey and please the Lord in our ways. We reap negative outcomes in the form of curses when we continue to grieve the Holy Spirit.

3) Demonic Strongholds in our lives

Strongholds refer to mind-sets, thought patterns, ideas, attitudes and beliefs that are contrary to the true knowledge of God. They present themselves in the form of: Arguments/Imagination/Every pretension/ High thing (*hypsoma*) – "wisdom" that does not come from heaven but is earthly, natural, and of the devil (James 3:15). They may sound logical, but are not from the Lord.

Strongholds are established:

- As consequences of generational iniquities (Exo 20:5, Gal 3:13-14). Familial spirits that repeat itself to cause consequences of generational sins.
- Because of the fractured-wounded soul. We hurt others to the degree of our unhealed wounded-ness, unresolved issues and/or unmet needs.
- Because of all personal habitual sins (Gal 5:19-20).
- As all sins directly involving the evil one (Exodus 20:4-5, Deut 18:10-11, Isa 47:13-14), like involvement in the occult or astrology.

4) Shakings in the demonic world around us

This happens in 2 basic situations when the believer:

- Makes a significant decision towards God (and godliness). For example, to grow spiritually, to deal with sins, to make changes in life towards godliness, to stop flirting with pornography.
- Brings the kingdom of God into lives and situations.

5) Failing to surrender to the Lordship of Christ

From Matthew 12:43, we learn that unclean spirits seek out dry places. When we are not under the Lordship of Christ (empty house), we are under the sway of the evil one (1 John 5:19b).

Surrendering to the lordship of Christ involves submission (Romans 12:1) and servitude (Luke 6:46-48, Acts 27:23 and 1 Kings 17:1b). In submission, we try to sync every aspect of our lives with God. Our servitude is demonstrated by our obedience as we hear and do what God says.

CONCLUSION

In this world, there will be trouble. However, the church shines brighter during the end times as we continue to overcome the evil one by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of our testimony and we do not love our lives to death as we surrender to the lordship of Christ in our lives. Although we continue to wage war against the evil one, we do so with faith conviction that Christ has already secured the victory and we can emerge as overcomers!

QUESTIONS

1. Recall the five fronts of spiritual warfare. In what ways have you seen the schemes of the evil one at work in those around you?

2. Which one of the 5 spiritual fronts are you particularly vulnerable to and why?

3. What plans do you have in this new season to engage the warfare? How can the cell group stand together with you?