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| Topic | Spiritual Warfare |
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| Speaker | Dr Peter Ng |

A lot of spiritual warfare stuff has come out of this chapter. We are going to look at what it actually says about spiritual warfare rather than lot theories that have come out and then how do we apply it. It is very practical when you apply it.

**THE CONTEXT**

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision. (Daniel 10:1 ESV)

We need to understand the last chapter was the first year of Darius and the first year of Cyrus, the Israelites were given the mandate to go back and about 10,000 of them went back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple but life was not easy. They have a lot of encounters, a lot of difficulties, the Samaritans at that time had re-occupied the land and stopped them at every turn and this was the third year and all they had manage to do is just build the altar, the rest of the temple lay in ruins and the initial euphoria of coming back and reestablishing God’s temple had already long dissipated and evaporated and Daniel was stricken in his heart at 80 something years of age and he said these words

2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. 3 I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks (Daniel 10:2 ESV)

Because he was so troubled at this great darkness that has enveloped the land, he was frightened and what the devil does is that it gives a spirit of fear that although he prays this holy task of reestablishing the temple nothing seems to work. It seems as if God does not hear you, God does not care, you are all alone, you better give up and in every spiritual conflict whether it be building the temple or serving in church or things at home these are the three things that are going to hit us.

* God does not care
* He does not hear
* And you better give up

That is what spiritual warfare is about. So therefore I wanted to summarize three things which are very important in spiritual warfare that comes out directly from this passage:

1. We are always loved
2. We are always heard
3. We are eternally secure

These are three factors that will undergird our fight.

**1) We Are Always Loved:**

On the twenty- fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river ( that is, the Tigris) 5 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. 6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude (Daniel 10:4-6 ESV)

This description is very much like the description of Jesus Christ in Revelations Chapter 1. So he has a vision of God and yet on the other hand an angel comes. So this Daniel who is beleaguered, who is confused, who is frightened, the answer to the prayer is a vision and then the angel talks to him. It is very important that the lessons that we learn in spiritual warfare comes from the angel’s response to Daniel’s spiritual warfare. First things he says,

And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11 And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling (Daniel 10:10-11 ESV)

We are always loved. **The first thing that we encounter in spiritual warfare is that the devil will tell us we are not loved**, we are sinful, God is far from you. The angel says this again

And he said, “O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage (Daniel 10:19 ESV)

In the Hebrew it is greatly coveted, greatly esteemed as God greatly loves us and wants us. Today we have something better than the vision. We actually have history, we actually had Jesus Christ died on the cross which Daniel does not have and in Romans Paul says

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. (Romans 5:8-9 ESV)

So instead of a vision we actually have history where the son of man came in the world 2000 years ago and he proved his love, by a tangible sacrifice upon the cross to show us that he loves us. Second of all through this sacrifice God gives us a spirit

and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Romans 5:5 ESV)

Not only we actually have the death of Jesus Christ, he puts a spirit and we can actually experience God’s love. Hebrews Chapter 12 gives us as amazing glimpse into the heart of God. How could Jesus Christ undergo all that suffering? It says so,

2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV)

Here we have Jesus Christ before the cross. He is in heaven. He has got total joy, total happiness, and total security. He is in with father, son and Holy Spirit, what else he would need. The Bible says here, for the joy set before. That means there is something else joy, this joy is the reconciling all of us and that is how precious he is. That is why he came to the world because of the joy of reconciling every single one of us to him. This is the glimpse of God.

**What has love got to do with spiritual warfare?**

Ephesians Chapter 6 tells us that the key to spiritual warfare is the Armor of God; we can look at helmet of salvation, breastplate of righteousness, belt of truth, sword of the spirit, shield of faith. But how do we put on this Armor of God? Three chapters earlier Paul tells us

[17](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/3-17.htm) …..that you, being rooted and grounded in love, [18](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/3-18.htm) may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, [19](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/3-19.htm) and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:17-19)

The fullness of God means to be like him in all honesty and truth, in all righteousness and in all faith. That is the Armor of God, to be like God. We become like God by understanding the enormous extent in depth and breadth of his love and the more we dig into the word, the more we meditate like the Lord Supper on his sacrifice that actually motivates us and molds us to be like God. So therefore the love of God is very important.

**2) We are Always Heard:**

Amelia Earhart was the first woman who actually flew across the Atlantic Ocean. She started a whole generation of female pilots after that and recently there was a CNN article that came out that showed that people thought she had crashed and died in 1937, she was never heard again but they found some bones in this island just north of Australia and they now established that these are the bones of Amelia Earhart. During that time she actually didn’t crash she landed on an island. From that island she sent 100 radio messages, but not a single one was responded to and soon her engine died as the fuel went out, the aeroplane was washed into sea and they never founded her, but found her later on. Isn’t it sad to be stuck on an island for a month after month after month until you slowly shrivel up and die of dehydration or malnutrition? But this is not the case. If you look in the word here in Daniel it says

Then he said to me, “Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words (Daniel 10:12 ESV)

So the angel tells him that from the first day he got on his knees and started to pray to God, God actually heard that prayer and the reason why the angel comes, so it is because of that exact pray. There is a delay in establishment of the temple but that is not because God does not want to establish it but because there is a spiritual battle. This is the explanation

The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, 14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.” (Daniel 10:13-14 ESV)

So the Prince of the kingdom of Persia is basically a demon, it is a spiritual warfare and although angel wants to come and minister to Daniel on the first day, he is prevented from 21 days because of this spiritual battle but the thing to note is that all the devil can do is to delay the answer. He cannot stop the answer.

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” (1 Peter 3:12 ESV)

So God will hear you when we are in trouble, when we are struggling with temptation which is a spiritual battle that goes on within our hearts, the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, his ears are open to their prayer.

O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name. (Daniel 9:19 ESV)

**Why does God act and hear?**

Because we are his people, His church and that is important.

(Revelation 8:1-5 ESV)

When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

In heaven the creatures and everyone is praising God all the time but God calls an intermission and intermission is for half an hour. What is that intermission for?

2 Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. 3 And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, 4 and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.

This is what happens. Our prayers are like sweet incense to God. They rise up to his nose, He smells it and the result is

5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

That is what our prayers do. They go up to heaven, get processed and they send lightning down that actually changes our world.

**3) We are Eternally Secure**

And he said, “O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage.” And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me (Daniel 10:19 ESV)

This is the message and people are bit surprised, is this spiritual warfare. He just described to me that he had difficulty bringing the message to me he have been fighting with the Prince of Persia and he comes to me and he says peace be with you. I thought we should be doing something.

Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come. (Daniel 10:20-21 ESV)

There is a series of demonic forces which could be fighting. Notice what he does not say. He does not say, I am fighting the Prince of Persia, I am fighting the Prince of Greece, I need your help, I need a prayer circle, and I need all of you to really bind the prince. The angel does not say that, it is absolutely astonishing. We have got a whole bunch of theology that comes out from Peter Wagner for example on territorial spirits and Ron Phillips, Cindy Jacobs and they are all talking about these spirits. They say these are all demons that are in charge of various nations. So therefore we must spiritually map all the nations before we fight.

Omar Cabrera is an Argentinian pastor, before he starts a campaign what he does is he checks into a hotel and for three to four days he allows the Holy Spirit to cleanse him. He feels that he leaves this world and then he has to identify into another realm where spiritual warfare takes place, the attacks of the enemy become very fierce. He has seen some spirits in their physical form. He has to learn their names, break their power over the city. It takes four to five days, sometimes more. **Is this spiritual warfare?** **Is that what Daniel was asked to do?**

*"Spiritual mapping plays the same important role that intelligence and espionage play during war. It reveals the conditions behind enemy lines. . . . [It] shows us the enemy's lines, location, number, weapons, and above all, how the enemy can be defeated* (Caballeros, "Defeating the Enemy)

So if we pray hard enough the Lord will tell us the name of our enemy. This is the kind of theology that has come in. **Is it true?**

Then we have the prayer walk, the prayer walk comes with a fact that if you actually have territorial spirits therefore you must have one territorial spirit over this city. So therefore we use to be walking around every room to cast the demons from the room because the demons infest the room because it is all territory. So in order to establish God’s rule we walk all over the place and we claim it for God. **The problem is how you are going to claim North Korea and walk there.** You walk there in the name of Jesus, they will lock you up and then all the missions’ fund that we spent on you would be wasted.

The important thing is to come before the presence of God, not the presence of any leader, because with the power of God we can prevail.

People and some pastors also think that so many things are infested by demons. How can we be evangelical pastor and preacher and Christian and be infested by the devil. That is not possible. So the problem with spiritual warfare has been devolved so far away from scripture that we think the demon and Jesus Christ are at the same level at the arm wrestling and this is an insult to God.

Screw Tape Letters the Preface written by C.S. Lewis says these words

*“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail the materialist and the magician with the same delight.”* (Preface, p.3)

So basically what Christians do is we think he is a roaring lion, is always in our sights, we are obsessed with him or we think he is an angel of light and therefore is never in your sights. Let us see how it translates. You have marital conflict between husband and wife and she is totally convicted, it is his fault. He is influenced by a demon, a spirit of strife, he needs deliverance. And the husband thinks she is crazy. This is the simplistic rendering of a marital problem and so therefore instead of going to a counsellor you go to a pastor and he is all to happy to try to cast something out which was never there in the first place and so therefore you think you have a solution, so after he has casted out then you have a perfect husband. **If that is the case we all should better line up.**

**What about prayer?**

A lazy guy did not got a promotion then he got bitter and then he made worse his work and then he got fired and then he got depressed and you pray for him, So instead of people praying to cast out spirit of alcoholism, spirit of bitterness, spirit of depression they should tell him to be more hardworking.

This kind of theology has made us actually stupid and we are not looking up to the real things. Yes there is a spiritual battle behind but the solution involves getting the real factors in your life rather than this simplistic ideas.

Another aspect is not to look at the spiritual aspect at all. A CNN interview of one of the Donald Trump supporters and she said,

*This is the kind of person who must lead out country. God can use this man. He used a harlot…its all about what God can do, God can use this man ..it’s all about of the plan.*

Yes God can use a harlot, God can use a donkey that is not the point, the point is that ethics of a man that what his life is about.

And he said, “O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage.” And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me(Daniel 10:19 ESV)

Why does he say that? The same words were said to Joshua before he entered the Promised Land, a bit battle to clear the Promised Land.

Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. Joshua 1:6-7 (ESV)

Because every aspect of the spiritual warfare is conducted by God. Every instance of Old Testament warfare was preceded by the Ark of God going out in front. When they had to capture Jericho they march around seven times, blew the horn and then the walls came down. Spiritual warfare involves God; the focus is never on the enemy. There is a cosmic battle

Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come. 21 But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince. 1 “And as for me, in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to confirm and strengthen him (Dan 10:20-11:1 ESV)

So it tells you that behind political events is a cosmic battle. We are not involved as ghost busters but the vision is told and the vision is told in Daniel 7, there will be four different empires one after another, the vision is fought out with Persia and then Greece coming in and then the rest of Daniel chapter 11 talks about the Division of Alexander’s kingdom into four different parts and all the political intrigue with the king of the north fighting the king of south, the whole thing is there, political event that actually happens and finally the antichrist is the Antiochus Epiphanes, he comes and he directly impacts the people of God and then the vision he reveals to him in verse chapter 11

And the wise among the people shall make many understand, though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder. 34 When they stumble, they shall receive a little help. And many shall join themselves to them with flattery, 35 and some of the wise shall stumble, so that they may be refined, purified, and made white, until the time of the end, for it still awaits the appointed time. 36 “And the king shall do as he wills. (Daniel 11:33-36 ESV)

The way you live out your life is dependent on the way you look at history. Our view of history is foundational. If history is an assortment of random events then whatever happens to you is actually a waste of time because it is all random, it does not make sense anyway and so therefore what should we do. We should eat and drink and for tomorrow we die, but as the vision tells you history is not a series of random events, however evil they may be. History is preordained, predetermined every single step. That is why God brings this prophecy to tell Daniel each empire will come, each empire will cause turmoil when trouble. The trouble if you look at all this, there is no longer Rome, there is no longer Greece. All that happens in the stage of human history is that we arrange the furniture but different people sit on the furniture. Every kingdom that comes is just a rearrangement of furniture but God allows the rearrangement. An important thing that impacts you is that when this rearrangement of furniture comes we have a role to play. When that comes, when turmoil comes upon our nation some of us will stumble and receive no health we will be killed, some will join themselves with flattery which means they will leave the ranks of the Christian church. Some will stumble so that they may be refined and purified and made white which mean some will suffer persecution, affliction but through this they will be made stronger.

We have got this funny idea in spiritual warfare, if I pray hard enough and I love God enough I am going to be bullet proof, nothing bad will happen to my family, nothing bad will happen to my life, nothing bad will happen to my nation, may be the things happening to this country is because we have not prayed enough. Do you think Daniel not prayed enough and still bad stuff happens and it will happen.

You read Acts 5, the first miracle happens showed a healing of man who was a lame and then persecution breaks out and the first persecution breaks out they throw them in jail and you have actually the angel coming at night, the angle springs them from prison, takes him out, you go and tell them the gospel, they get out and they share the gospel. The same time they take them back and the Pharisees and the authorities actually beat them with a leather whip. Question, the spirit of God is powerful enough to get you out of prison but not powerful enough to save you from a beating.

**Is that right?**

No, because after the beating

Acts 5:41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

In a prayer Christian’s life sometimes you get out of prison and sometimes you get beaten half to death but the end result is God’s name is glorified and will be made worthy.

At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble; such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt (Daniel 12:1-2 (ESV)

No matter what troubles you go through but the end result is still the same, it is within God’s control.

The vision and the prophecy tells us that this is not a dream world ride. In the real ride of life it is going to be rough, it is going to be tough, it is going to be scary but the end result is going to be the same, God will bring you to everlasting life and if you knew the final outcome that you are eternally secure that is the most important factor in spiritual warfare that will make you persevere, nothing else will make you persevere. So you get onto a roller coaster, you strap on and you know that if you keep the strap on in the end however rough the ride is you will make it in the end and that is what God is telling Daniel through this vision.

Jesus sent out his disciples to evangelize share the gospel throughout the land of Philistine and they came back. They were excited about casting out the demons. They have never seen one in their lives. Jesus looked at them and said

18 And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. 20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven (Luke 10:17-20 ESV)

They missed the point, it is not the point that you are able to cast out demons, the point is the most important battle that is got to be won is the one that involves your eternal salvation that is what you should be rejoicing in.

The fighter pilot and a drone pilot are both flying plane but the drone pilot has no skid in the game as he is driving from home and he will never die. So he will drive bravely. Once God preserves you and tells you, you will never die, you will rise again then you will be free to be bold to be brave and to live your life out as it should have been lived, not covering protecting yourself and only going half way for Jesus Christ because the rest of the way is too difficult. The whole idea is to give you eternal salvation and to tell you that you are saved. Jesus says,

He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. (Colossians 2:15 ESV)

Jesus has disarmed them.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7 ESV)

Because Jesus rose from the dead, he defeated the last great enemy and no matter what happens we are eternally secure and when you go into battle and you know that you will never ever die, it is like playing video game, you can rise again. And that is the most powerful reassurance in our lives.

**Spiritual Warfare Challenge**

We see turmoil in our country from financial troubles, we see people totally divided. Make no mistake, every single piece of turmoil that infests us in this country is predetermined by the power of living God. There is nothing that happens to us that is beyond his control. The prophecy that Daniel tells us that these times will come and God will be in control and the challenge for spiritual warfare is what Daniel writes.

Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand (Daniel 12:10 ESV)

There are all two kinds of people in the world today, Daniel tells us. One is the wicked who cannot understand and the other one are the wise who can understand.

And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever (Daniel 12:3 ESV)

In the dark land which is predetermined, this turmoil is predetermined; as the land goes darker the wise will shine brighter and brighter and brighter. Christians, if you are living in Malaysia today this is your opportunity that in a darkness of this land they are going to look at people who can start to shine whatever little thing that you do in love for another Malaysian, a kind word that you say and the gospel that you bring, you are going to shine like the brightness of the sky above. Paul ends with these words,

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. (2 Corinthians 10:3-6 ESV)

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. (2 Corinthians 10:3-6 ESV)

When we fight it is not with bazooka and drones, with spiritual warfare. What do we fight? What are the strongholds of the devil?

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, (2 Corinthians 10:5 (ESV)

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ (Colossians 2:8 ESV)

That is the spiritual warfare we now encounter. We tear down strongholds, we come to the world, which are trapped by the idea of mysticism, the idea that there is no God, all religions are equal, cash is king, I can live a good life, and there is no need for God. God is there to serve me, these are the things that trap our fellows and **our job in spiritual warfare is to tear down those strongholds.** The biggest hold the devil has is on the mind of a person and we have to tear it down.

23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, (1 Corinthians 1:23 ESV)

When we preach Christ, the people will think we are crazy but these people are the wicked. But when you preach Christ those who are called will come to the wisdom of God.

but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24 ESV)

**Preaching our Christ crucified and that will be our victory in spiritual warfare.**