

## Biblical Spiritual Warfare.

### 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

I know that you expect me to give the Devil what for this morning, or even make him the main focus of this most important topic but I am not going to do that. The Devil is a secondary player in this. We are the major players. I want to talk to you this morning about open doors. There is always someone responsible for leaving the door open in your house. Have you ever heard your mother say shut the door your letting the flies in, or your dad say what do think were doing here, cooling off the entire neighborhood!!

The open door that I want to talk about today is the doorway to the mind. The New Testament usage of the word warfare had a lot to do with conquering the flesh and taking charge over the mind.

- The devil may attack our mind, and he may attempt to energize the flesh against us, but if we will keep our minds and our flesh under control of the Holy Spirit we can avoid a lot of unnecessary warring with the devil.
- Demon spirits have no power to bring about destruction unless they can find an open door in our lives that hasn't been shut like unconfused sin, unresolved anger, and a mind that hasn't yielded fully to Christ.
- Thank God for the ministry of the Holy Spirit!! He brings conviction to our lives before the devil builds a stronghold in our thinking. But it is still up to us to shut the door and keep it closed forever. You know what our problem is? We are good at carrying around our garbage. Example: Monk made the new recruit carry garbage up the mountain.
- So, what happens when we ignore the Holy Spirit? What if we allow sin, willfully permitted temptation, or wrong attitudes to continue in our lives,

unconfessed and unchanged? Answer: We leave large gaping holes that the enemy can attack us through.

- The truth is, most spiritual destruction is totally avoidable, but only if we will listen to the pleading of the Holy Spirit and obey His warnings to us.
- Remember, demon spirits cannot destroy without an open door. In other words, we give them permission through our disobedience and shifting blame. That is as old as Adam and Eve. Remember when God caught them red handed eating from the tree of life. Adam said to God, “The woman you put here with me-she gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it.”
- Regardless of how many demon spirits have been assigned to destroy you, you must cooperate with the enemy’ suggestions before temptation can over take you. This means we are responsible and we cannot shift blame.
- In order for the demonic attack to have worked affectively you had to have cooperated in some way. For example: You can scream that the devil is after your money until you are blue in the face. But if you fail to balance your check book or irresponsible in paying your bills, you open the door for that financial attack.
- You can cry out that your marriage is under attack, but if you speak harshly to your spouse, never spending time with them and have not made your marriage a priority in your life, you have just thrown the door open for the enemy to come in and have his way.
- Don’t get me wrong, there are genuine surprise attacks from the devil that catch believers off guard. Sometimes the devil really attacks their finances, there health, marriage, especially if they are devoting themselves to what ever God wants from their lives.

- These attacks usually come at a critical point in ministry or when you are working on your marriage, or reclaiming your finances and trusting God by tithing.
- Even Jesus came under attack. Mark 4:35-41. A violent wind seemed to come up out of know where to capsize the boat and kill Jesus and His disciples. Notice verse 37, “A furious squall CAME UP, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.”
- Notice it said, “it came up.” This means that Jesus and the disciples were not expecting a storm. Remember, most of the disciples were fisherman before they were disciples. There would have been no way they would have went onto the water with the knowledge of a storm coming.
- The devil knew that if Jesus made it to the other side he was going to lose ground. Remember, Jesus freed a demon possessed man as soon as he got off of the boat. The fact that this attack happened just as Jesus was on the brink of a major miracle is not uncommon.
- IF this happened to Jesus then we can be sure it will happen to us. If you are under an attack from the devil and you are holding on for dear life, **DON'T GIVE UP!!!!** Your miracle is on the way!!! It's just around the corner!! **DON'T GIVE UP!!!**
- We must mentally and spiritually prepare ourselves to deal with demonic attacks. We are to “put on the whole armor of God” and take authority over the wind and waves that come against our lives, our families, our businesses, or bodies—just as Jesus took authority over the wind and waves that came against Him.
- So what do we do if and when we come under attack? First we must make sure we have been diligent to cover all the bases by obeying the Holy Spirits

promptings in the various areas of our lives. Then make sure you haven't left any open doors left open. Then just like Jesus, you rise up and take authority over the wind and rain. A believer never goes looking for a fight, but if the fight is brought to him through no fault of his own then we deal with it through the authority given to us through Jesus Christ!!!

- Lastly, when the wind and waves ceased that night, the Word says that "Then the wind died down and it was completely calm." So when everything was said and done, Jesus matched a great storm with a great calm.