

## “WHEN DARKNESS IS FOUND IN YOUR LIGHT”

does not want the believer to continue to abide in darkness.

- b. This is seen in John 12:46, **“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.”**

*{LESSON NUMBER 11} {9/6/2009}*

### “DARKNESS IN OUR HEART – AREAS OF FUTURE DEFEAT”

XI. From our study we should recognize that before we do warfare, that the areas we hide in darkness are the very areas of our future defeat.

A. How often the battles we face will not cease until we discover and repent for the darkness that is within us.

1. If we are to be effective in spiritual warfare, we must be discerning of our own hearts before we try to discern a demon in someone else.
2. Our first course of action must always be, **“Submit yourselves, therefore, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”**
3. Peter was ignorant of the areas of darkness within him, and his ignorance left him open to attack.
  - a. But the question each of us must ask is, Do you know the areas where you are vulnerable to satanic assault?
  - b. We should realize that the greatest defense we can have against the devil is to maintain an honest heart before God.
4. When believers comes against the power of the devil, they must do it from a heart in submission to Jesus.
  - a. The believer must be submitted to the Lord, for only the Lord Jesus is their true advocate.
  - b. In order for us to submit to the Lord we must not be “proud” for the Bible says in James 4:6 that, **“God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble”**.
  - c. When we engage in spiritual warfare we certainly don’t want God

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opposed to us!

5. Please remember as you prepare for warfare, **VICTORY BEGINS WITH THE NAME OF JESUS ON YOUR LIPS; BUT IT WILL NOT BE CONSUMMATED UNTIL THE NATURE OF JESUS IS IN YOUR HEART.**
6. The outcome of Peter’s experience was that after Pentecost, when God used him to heal a lame man, a new, humble Peter spoke , **“Why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk?”**
  - a. The darkness in Peter was displaced with light, the pride in Peter was replaced with Christ.

### **“ESTABLISHING OUR HEARTS”**

B. As I begin to close out this lesson on “When Darkness Is Found In Your Light,” I want to close by teaching on the importance of establishing our hearts.

1. Jesus gives us a clear example of the established heart in Matthew 7:24-25: **“So everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts upon them [obeying them] will be like a sensible (prudent, practical, wise) man who built his house upon the rock. V25, And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.”**
2. This man heard the Word and acted on it– his heart was established in the Word, and not on an “idea” that had become a false concept to live by.
3. Jesus implies that this man was wise because he built his house upon a rock.
  - a. The rock is the Word of God, and this man built his house and laid his foundation on the rock of the Word.

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4. Jesus said that when the flood came, that man’s house would not be shaken; it would not be destroyed. Why?
  - a. Because his foundation was on the Word, and you cannot shake a man whose heart is established in God’s Word.
  - b. It is an unmovable position.
5. The second man Jesus describes in Matthew 7:26-27 is a foolish man:  
**“And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not do them will be like a stupid (foolish) man who built his house upon the sand. V27, And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell– and great and complete was the fall of it.”**
6. This man was foolish and stupid because he heard the Words of Jesus but did not receive them in his heart.
  - a. The result was likened to a man who built his house without a good foundation.
  - b. The foolish man’s house was without a foundation when the flood came, **“it fell–and great and complete was the fall of it.”**
  - c. The foundation of any man is the heart, and that heart is linked directly to the way a person thinks.
7. Luke 6 says that the wise man **“dugged deep”** in the rock and laid his foundation.
  - a. Have you ever tried to dig into a rock? It isn’t easy, but it can be done.
  - b. Digging into the rock is comparable to living by faith and getting your heart established in God’s Word, it’s not easy.
  - c. Satan will not lay down and let you get established in the Word; he comes immediately to take it away before it can take root.