

“WHEN DARKNESS IS FOUND IN YOUR LIGHT”

will wear them down.

1. Here is a case in point: When a believer engages the enemy for a few years with their mind based on certain false notions stemming from idealism, there are certain things that will happen.
 - a. The disciple’s zeal in ministry will wane.....
 - b. Their walk with vision will all but disappeared.....
 - c. Their work for God will become labor intensive.....
2. What happens in more cases than not is that they become full of self life and soulish zeal.
 - a. When this happens their attempts to challenge the treachery of hell’s host is powerless and they lose the battle, wondering why God failed them.
3. The idealism of the disciple, along with their youthful dreams, causes them to become victims under the dark cloud of the relentless assaults of the enemy.
4. This in turns brings them under the weight of growing frustrations and discouragement.
5. Compromise increases and with it comes iniquity and spiritual bondage.

{LESSON NUMBER 2} {6/28/2009}

“IDEALISM AND UNTESTED FERVOR UNDERMINES FAITH”

- II. The failure to obtain victory in spiritual warfare more times than not is due to untested idealism and untested fervor.
- A. Remember, idealism is the envisioning of thoughts based in an imaginary idea form such as a notion or fancy.
1. This “idea form” is not necessarily truth as God sees truth, but more times than not it is based on our “conception” of the idea we created in our minds.

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2. So, the disciple’s problem is not sin but ignorance.
 3. This ignorance in creating thoughts based in “untested idealism” are ideas in the mind that have not been evaluated as to quality and truth by that person.
 4. At this point the disciple usually will try to put Satan in a mold of idealism (a doctrinal box) and expect him to stay there.
 - a. This “untested idealism” in the believer will include such “idea forms” as false notions and fancy.
 - b. Such false notions accepted today are: demons don’t exist or just as dangerous, demons were destroyed by Jesus and are locked in hell; Satan is a toothless lion and has no power over the believer; all we need to do is to face life and pray, God will deliver us from evil; God controls this world and whatever happens is His will.
 - c. What we have here is “RELIGION” based in “untested idealism.”
 - d. Each of the above false notions are partial truths attached to lies that are false notions based on the fancy of deceived people.
 - e. And, the truth is, darkness has entered into the minds of believers and is trying to coexist in the same place as light.
- B. In our last lesson we were looking at what happens when the believer engages the enemy in spiritual warfare based on certain false notions stemming from idealism.
1. The problem we are having in warfare is the fact that Satan and his demons don’t fight fair, they simply will not stay in any doctrinal box created by man through “untested idealism.”
 2. When believers commit to spiritual warfare and fail, they usually feel deserted by God and begin to back away.
 3. The enemy is unfair, and will go for your heart, and will use your closest

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- friend or love one to attack you.
4. As our relationships are undermined, our love grows cautious.
 5. As we pray and are resisted in prayer, our faith turns weak.
 6. At this point disillusionment sets in. Why? Because the believer committed to spiritual warfare failed to discern the assault of the enemy.
 7. The result, we stand confused and unprotected against an ancient and treacherous foe.
- C. As believers, it's important to know that Jesus prepared His disciples for everything, including spiritual warfare.
1. In Matt. 10:16, before Jesus sent them out into warfare, He charged them to become wise “**as serpents**” yet innocent and harmless “**as doves.**”
 2. What we have here is a fusion of divine wisdom and Christlike innocence, and it is the taproot of all spiritual victory.
 3. We can defeat the enemy, but we must have God's wisdom preceding the warfare, and His virtue before the victory.
 - a. Wisdom is the understanding of truth found in knowledge, and the foresight to accepting it.
 - b. It also carries with it the meaning of the ability to discern what is right.
 - c. The word *virtue* carries with it the meaning of moral excellence and righteousness combined with courage and valor.
 4. The believer conducting spiritual warfare must have God's wisdom in decision making by understanding what is truth, as God sees it.
 5. The believer must also possess *virtue* which is *God's courage combined with His character (fruits)* that produces moral excellence along with righteousness, in order to effectively enjoy the hard won victory against evil spirits.

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- a. Without virtue the believer’s victory is usually short lived.
- b. Demons are notorious for causing Christians victories to turn into defeats.
- c. How? By causing them to lose courage (faith) and to believe a lie.
- d. Please remember, it takes great courage and strength to possess the land we conquer from the enemy through spiritual warfare.

{LESSON NUMBER 3} {7/5/2009}

“BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND – PLACE OF THE SKULL”

- III. Another way that Jesus prepared His disciples for spiritual warfare was to teach them not to be presumptuous.
 - A. There are no shortcuts to successful warfare; only ways to make it longer and more perilous.
 1. One of the best ways I know to do this is to enter battle blinded by presumption.
 - a. The word presumption here means *to presume or accept a lie as truth*.
 - b. Remember, untested idealism is the envisioning of thoughts based in an imaginary “idea form” such as a notion or fancy.
 - c. This “idea form” is not necessarily truth as God sees truth, but more times than not it is based on our “conception” of an idea we have created in our minds.
 2. This is deception in its highest form; because when a believer is deceived, they seldom if ever realize it.
 3. When they fail to recognize deception, it becomes an open invitation for the enemy to take them out.
 4. This is confirmed in Luke 6:41-44 AMP: **“Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye but do not notice or consider the beam**