

“WHEN DARKNESS IS FOUND IN YOUR LIGHT”

{LESSON NUMBER 1} {6/21/2009}

“SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN THE BELIEVER”

- I. Before committing to spiritual warfare there is an old proverb worth heeding. It reads: “Age and treachery will always defeat youth and zeal.”
 - A. Before anyone engages in spiritual warfare, they should know that Satan and his hierarchy are ancient and should be considered an extremely treacherous foe.
 1. The believer’s problem is not the lack of authority or anointing from God to commit to spiritual warfare.
 2. But it seems that their strength in most cases lies in “*idealism*” and “*untested fervor*”.
 - a. The word “idea” means a thought or concept that potentially exist in the mind.
 - b. Idealism is envisioning the thought in the idea form such as a notion or fancy.
 - c. This idea form is based on their concept of truth, and if it happens not to agree with God’s truth, then they have a problem.
 3. Untested fervor is the intensity of emotion that has not been evaluated as to the quality or truth of the idea.
 - a. Emotions add force and power to an idea.
 - b. But, if the idea is a fancy based in untruth, that does not agree with the Word of God, then that believer is inviting “darkness” into their life.
 4. So, all of the above brings us to say, untested idealism is ideas in the mind of a person that have not been evaluated as to quality and truth by that person.
 - B. When the above happens in a believer it won’t be long before the enemy

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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.