



# Thoughts on Spiritual Warfare

## Revelation 12 – Heavenly Spiritual War

A vision in the heavens revealed by the reigning Christ for His holy church. It details a spiritual war in the heavens. That war is often identified by scholars as akin to Isaiah 14:12-15 & Ezekiel 28:12-17 where Lucifer, the bright star, is cast out of heaven and now known as Satan, the deceiver. There is a war in the heavenly realms over God's holy church and the eternal destiny He has declared.

## War on Earth

That war often takes place on the earth, in the hearts of people and then between people. Satan is a liar, murderer and thief who only comes to steal, kill, and destroy (Jn. 10:10).

Spiritual warfare can only be discerned by revelation. The unseen spiritual world is at play, though often dismissed through earthly eyes, as fantasy. Much distortion and delusion are wrapped around the war taking place; therefore, we must root everything we think we are discerning in scriptural revelation – not emotions, impressions or unsubstantiated ideas.

The scripture can and will guide us to see above the chaos, and above relationships that can be deceiving (as we love people we can give them a pass, excuse or even be lulled into defending against a clear scriptural guideline). The more we are grounded by the scripture the greater the likelihood we can discern the schemes of the enemy. We must become aware of the devil's schemes (Eph. 6:11, 2 Cor. 2:5-11).

## WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

*"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves." Mt. 7:15*

Sadly, one of the ways Satan creates chaos and destruction is by the way he manipulates the lives of people when allowed to create strongholds. A wolf in sheep's clothing can often look like someone who seems to be very spiritual, harmless, and caring but inside they are deceitful and are adept at hiding their true nature. It is often difficult to discern who is legit or who is operating as a true believer. It's hard to tell what is light or dark – true or false. In the battle we face every day a real enemy prowls around seeking whom he can devour (I Pet. 5:8).

How can you discern - what do you look for to help you recognize someone who is under the direction of the enemy? Remember the battle is not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers (Eph. 6:12).

1. They use emotions to get what they want
2. They want what they perceive you have – they love power and themselves
3. They refuse correction and respond to criticism with anger (pride at play)
4. They do not exhibit the fruit of the Spirit (this is a fail proof way of detection) (Gal. 5:22-23). A wolf will display their sinful nature often when attacked or refused what they desire.
5. They masquerade in innocence (hiding, shifting stories when challenged) (II Cor. 11:14, Mt. 7:15, Rev. 2:20 Spirit of Jezebel).
6. Use accusation when threaten to be exposed (Rev. 12:10).
7. Lies – Satan is the father of lies, doing so to pervert truth and ultimately destroy (Jn. 8:44).
8. Pride or arrogance (Isa. 14:12-15, I Tim. 3:6).
9. Rebellious (akin to pride) – parallel to witchcraft and arrogance to idolatry (self-trust and control of people, things and even God I Sam. 15:23).
10. Will use scripture to block challenges or to lead against the ways of God (Mt. 7:1, 7:15-20).
11. Unforgiveness or bitterness (Eph. 4:25-27).

## HOW TO LEAD THROUGH SPIRITUAL CONFLICT

1. Discern (through prayer) what is happening from the scripture. Is the challenge spiritual immaturity (as in I Jn. 2), ego/flesh (Gal. 5) or something higher in the heavens.
2. Discern the target. Why is the enemy attacking now? What is his end goal and what might Jesus be doing over and through the battle for His Holy Church. After Jesus' temptation the scripture says the enemy left him waiting for a more opportune time. Ask why is this moment of attack opportune?
3. As the Spirit gives revelation and discernment and it has been tested by other "elders", be bold for the protection and reverence of the church. Satan will try to back the leadership down by accusing arrogance, control, uncaring, judging, etc. When you confront a wolf in sheep's clothing, the response will be not be one of humility and repentance. The response will be with anger, bitterness, and often turn criticism back on you. Their main goal in life is self-preservation and will not let anyone get in the way of their authority. A wolf will appear meek in front of an audience but will show aggression when confronted.
4. Refuse to allow the evil one to use the scripture to block the elevation of holiness and purity that we are called to live.
5. Look for the maps of the enemy and the provision of Jesus (Eph. 1 – He is head of the church and Eph. 5 – He nourishes His church.).
6. What indicators from the list of identifiers of the kingdom of hell can you discern? Remember to be clean but clear and call out all of Satan's footholds. Paul does call out for the protection of the Holy Church (I Cor. 5).
7. Trust in the Lord's majesty and declared victory. That trust will mean you will not need to stoop to gossip, accusation or any other of the weapons of this world. Trust and use the weapons of Eph. 6 and the rich Kingdom reality (as Paul does in I Cor. 5).
8. Winnow! Winnowing is the process of exposing and uncovering so the Spirit can blow through and remove what is unclean or unworthy (Luke 3:17). Winnowing is allowing the Spirit to blow through versus the leader getting hooked in the fight. Call out what is Kingdom reality and allow the Spirit to move!
9. Remember the fruit of the Spirit is always the character of holy leaders (Gal. 5). Those qualities allow us to stand as Eph. 6:13-14 instructs.

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