

## INSIGHT

Although the Holy Spirit God gives those who have been baptized for the forgiveness of sins is technically not a force within us, It is encouraging to know, in light of last weeks study, that He is the greatest force at work in any human being.

Your relationship with God, as far as He is concerned, is secure:

*"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*  
*Rom 8:38-39*

And this love God has for us is in our hearts, by the Holy Spirit God gives us when we decide to be born-again:

*"And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."*  
*Rom 5:5*

There is no evil spirit strong enough to drive God's Spirit away from you. Christians are protected by His Spirit from demon possession and empowerment of Satan. However, that doesn't guarantee that no matter what we do we will be offered this kind of protection.

It is possible for a Christian to grieve the Holy Spirit and even cause Him to leave you!

Consider these two passages: ***Ephesians 4:30-32*** speaks of the Holy Spirit as a Person that may be grieved by the behavior of Christians. This state is always especially unfortunate since the Holy Spirit is the One who seals believers "for the day of redemption."

***1 Sam 16:13-23; 18:10-11*** tells of how Saul, King of Israel, was tormented by an evil spirit after the Spirit of God left him. This evil spirit even caused him to try and kill David.

## ***Spiritual Warfare: Seeing the Unseen Forces at Work Within Us...***

### **Key Text:**

**James 1:13-15**

*"When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."*

### **Theme:**

This passage illustrates the temptation process used by Satan. God doesn't tempt anyone, you are tempted when you are dragged away and enticed (lured) by *your own evil desires*. Satan deceives you through these *cravings* and fools you into thinking you will be satisfied (Prov 13:4). This temptation process fits directly into the template of Ephesians 4:18-19. Temptation is part of the devil's strategy. It starts outside before it gets inside us. The temptation in the Garden of Eden illustrates this process very clearly.

### **Application:**

*Here are some practical suggestions:*

1. **Check the focus of your desire.** What actions will this desire lead me to? What will I do if I let this consume me? Are the actions right or wrong? It is a wise and honest man who see where his desires are taking him, but it is a spiritual man who will change the path!
2. **Check the strength of your craving.** Would I get past any obstacles from God to satisfy my craving? Are wise and godly people counseling me against this action? Am I avoiding spiritual events or people? Pray for wisdom *and* seek the counsel of people who are spiritually mature (Prov 12:15)
3. **Examine the possible consequences of your desire!** Who will be affected if I fulfill this craving? How will they be affected? What spiritual or biblical justification do I have for bringing this consequence into their lives? What will be the consequences in my own life?

**May the Lord richly bless you!**

**SERMON OUTLINE**

## Spiritual Warfare: *Seeing the Unseen*

### I. Forces at Work Against Us

*Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Ephesians 6:11*

1. The devil is real and powerful!
2. He rules the world.
3. He tries to entice you though your own desires!
4. Jesus has ALL authority!

### II. Forces at Work Within Us

#### A. Your desires are used against you.

1. *James 1:13-15*
2. Some desires pretend to be good!
3. Satan baits the trap and hooks you on!

#### B. The deception of emotions. (*Rom 8:5,6*)

1. The Pleasure Principle
2. When you think you stand...
3. The Pleasure Principle Process

#### C. Satan uses pain against you.

1. Satan used pain against Job.
2. Pain can make you angry against God..
3. Pain weakens the faith
4. The flaming arrows of the evil one...

#### D. Satan even uses religion against you!

1. Hypocrisy, gossip and innuendoes...
2. Self-righteousness...
3. Idolatry...worshipping anything except God.

#### E. Satan uses families against themselves.

1. Family conflicts...
2. Professional "helpers"???
3. When religion "gets in the way"...

### III. JESUS WILL RULE!!!

- A. He will not allow Satan to tempt you beyond what you can bear *1 Co 10:13*.
- B. He has saved you from your body of sin!  
*Rom 7:24-25*

Have you ever really wanted to do something you knew was wrong? Would you like to share it with the group?

### *See To It*

***Romans 6:12-14***

- 1- How do you let sin reign in your body?
- 2- What kind of instrument do you become by acting upon the desires of your body?
- 3- What does grace vs. law have to do with sin being master over us?
- 4- Carefully apply the suggestions given on page 1 to your desires! Go over some of these personal questions.

### *Seeing It Closer:*

***Galatians 5:16-18; 24-26***

- 1- Where is the spiritual battle fought? Name the opposing sides involved.
- 2- Why is Law mentioned again in verse 18? How is Law involved in all this business?
- 3- How does Jesus teach us to deal with the passions of the flesh? Doesn't the word *crucify* bring about a good word picture of how we need to deal with the problem?
- 4- What are some outward sign of following our desires rather than the Spirit? (vs 19-21 and vs 26)

### *Getting To It:*

"Among them we too all formerly lived in the **lusts** of our flesh, **indulging** the **desires** of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His **great love** with which He loved us, *even when we were dead in our transgressions*, made us **alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the *heavenly places*, in Christ Jesus, in order that in the ages to come He might show the **surpassing riches** of His **grace** in *kindness toward us in Christ Jesus*."

**Eph 2:3-7**

## SMALL GROUP STUDY

### Warm-up: