



Media Spotlight

A BIBLICAL ANALYSIS OF RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR MEDIA

SPECIAL REPORT

SPIRITUAL WARFARE FOR PARENTS

by Albert James Dager

There are many areas in which we engage in spiritual warfare. The battle is not easily delineated as "Christian vs. demonic forces." In fact, demonic forces are not always the immediate problem. Our own sin nature or the sin nature of those with whom we find ourselves in conflict may be the immediate problem.

Whatever the source of conflict, however, there are many battlegrounds upon which we all wage spiritual warfare daily. For example, a man holds many positions at the same time: husband, father, son, employer, employee, church elder, counselor, counselee—the list is virtually endless considering the many responsibilities that enter into his life each day. One day he may have to place heavy emphasis on his role as a counselor to a friend in trouble; the next day, or even the next hour, he may be involved as a parent in his children's school curricula; he may at the same time have to guard his family from deception entering into their lives in the form of teaching through the religious media.

The wife also has to fulfill many responsibilities toward her husband's welfare, as well as her children's welfare; if she works outside the home, she has another battleground upon which she must contend.

This study will concentrate primarily upon the spiritual warfare that faces parents—a warfare that requires constant diligence and the continual application of faith. The battleground for this warfare is the mind of your child. If you have more than one child you have more than one battleground; and the application of your spiritual warfare may be different for each one. Yet there are basic strategies which must be applied in each case, in conjunction with whatever specific strategies are required according to the wisdom and understanding that God grants you through the Holy Spirit.

KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING

In any warfare, there are some things you must know: 1) why you are fighting; 2) who you are fighting; 3) the strengths and weaknesses of the enemy; 4) your own strengths and weaknesses 5) how to employ your weapons effectively.

The advice we offer here does not consist of a lot of mumbo-jumbo mystical demon-fighting tactics. Most spiritual warfare is really practical application of God's Word to situations that threaten one's spiritual welfare.

In all areas of spiritual warfare, wisdom from God is essential. And it is ours for the asking:

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways. (James 1:5-8)

It is one thing to have a zeal for warfare; it is another to engage in warfare with wisdom. The former begets casualties; the latter begets victory.

Why Are You Fighting?

Unless we are aware of the nature of the warfare between God and His enemies we will not perceive the full reason for our engaging in spiritual warfare. God is in the process of redeeming His creation from the fall caused by Satan and his followers. Satan is working to unite humanity in order to challenge the Lord Jesus when He returns to establish His Kingdom on earth (Revelation 19:17-21).

All spiritual warfare should be engaged in with the understanding of this conflict. The effectiveness of your battle for your child's mind will ultimately determine

whether or not he will succumb to Satan's delusion and become an enemy of God.

Therefore, the reason you are fighting is to protect your child from becoming God's enemy, and to ensure that his or her eternal welfare will be in God's household.

Who Are You Fighting?

The primary enemy against whom you are fighting is Satan and his emissaries in the spirit realm who are implementing tactics designed to turn your children's hearts away from God and toward their own self-determination. It isn't necessary that they even believe in Satan or consciously determine to rebel against God. Their own sin nature draws them toward rebellion. And self-determination apart from the will of God is the enticement we must all battle. Satan's work in this area is not difficult in view of man's natural affinity toward self-love and selfishness.

But there are other enemies with which you must contend in your battle for your children's spiritual welfare. These enemies might very well consist of 1) their teachers at school; 2) their friends; 3) the media; 4) other relatives; 5) anyone with whom your children come in contact during their years under your guidance.

You should become familiar with the tactics Satan uses through others to accomplish his goals.

Teachers

In order to earn their credentials, today's teachers must undergo rigorous and consistent exposure to humanistic philosophies. Even those who teach in private schools must receive their accreditation from the secular powers that govern education in general. The vast majority of teachers in both the public and private sectors have received the bulk of their own education under a secular school system that is predominately humanistic.

Therefore, your children's teachers are good candidates for qualifying as spiritual enemies. This isn't to say that they have a conscious design or desire to subvert your child's faith (although some do), but by virtue of their secular training, unless they are truly born again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, their value system is to a large degree in direct conflict with Scripture.

Wisdom dictates that parents should get to know their children's teachers and to do what they can to affect the curricula of their school. Christian parents should also fellowship with the other Christian parents whose children attend the same school. As

