

The Nature of Our Battle

October 11, 2009

I. Review: How to live in balance in spiritual warfare:

1. Be aware but not impressed.

2. Ask the Lord for discernment; recognize demonic activity and resist:

- Refuse to be passive; give attention to the problem and deal with it.
- Resist (be active) "I resist you in the name of Jesus."

1 Peter 5:9 But resist him, firm in your faith,

James 4:7 Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

3. Seek to know the truth, for it will set you free (John 10:10).

- About God (don't study the devil until you first study about God)
- About the devil
- About who you are in Christ

4. The biggest issue in spiritual warfare is the human will.

- God isn't wrestling with the devil; he has already defeated him.
- Believers wrestle with the devil (Eph 6:12).
- We are called to enforce the victory won for us through the cross

1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

Rev 12:11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

1 Cor 15:57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

II. Occult Definitions:

A. Occult = "that which is hidden."

- B. Derek Prince: the occult is anything that is spiritual or supernatural that is not to God through the mediator (the man) Christ Jesus.
- C. Ancient religions were rooted in the occult. These religions were called "Mystery Religions" because of secret rites experienced by the initiated.
- D. Babylon is thought to be the beginning place for occult religions and their traditions. God brought complete destruction to ancient Babylon (Jer 50).
- E. The Bible describes the existence of a religious system in the end-time as "Mystery, Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots, and Abominations of the Earth" (Rev. 17:5)

III. Rebellion against God is the root of the occult.

1. Man in the garden sought hidden knowledge. "Your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God" (Gen. 3:5)

Man rebelled against the command of God.
Forbidden knowledge brought him under the authority of darkness.

2. After the flood, man attempted to set up his kingdom and religious system. "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach heaven," (Gen. 11:4)

Man sought to establish himself as God.
The heavens were made the object of his worship.

IV. Babylon

- A. Used 294 times in the Bible.
- B. Theme Scripture from last week refers to cleansing ourselves from the influence of Babylon.

2 Cor 6:16-7:1 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate, says the Lord. and do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you. And I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me," says the Lord Almighty. Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

- C. The name is derived by the Hebrews from the root *balal* ("to confound") and has reference to the confusion of tongues at the Tower (Gen 11:9). Thus the biblical writer refutes any God-honoring connotation of the name. (from *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary*)

V. Babylon in the Bible

- A. Gen 11:1-9 The Tower of Babel was man's attempt for unity and protection from being scattered throughout the earth. God's opinion of this was that this would give man the ability to do the impossible.

Gen 11:6 The Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.

It is believed that this was the beginning of the occult; coming-out of Babylon

- B. Gen 11:31-32 Abraham's father was leaving Ur of the Chaldeans (Babylon) to enter the land of Canaan; and dies on the way.

31 Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife; and they went out together from Ur of the Chaldeans in order to enter the land of Canaan; and they went as far as Haran, and settled there. 32 The days of Terah were two hundred and five years; and Terah died in Haran.

- C. Gen 12:1-3 Abraham was called by God to leave Babylon and follow God's direction (To the land which I will show you). This constitutes the Abrahamic covenant.

- D. Prophetic end times Scriptures regarding coming out of Babylon:

Isa 48:20-22 Go forth from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldeans! Declare with the sound of joyful shouting, proclaim this, send it out to the end of the earth; Say, "The Lord has redeemed His servant Jacob." They did not thirst when He led them through the deserts. He made the water flow out of the rock for them; He split the rock and the water gushed forth. "There is no peace for the wicked," says the Lord.

Isa 52:10-12 The Lord has bared His holy arm in the sight of all the nations, that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our God. Depart, depart, go out from there, touch nothing unclean; go out of the midst of her, purify yourselves, you who carry the vessels of the Lord. But you will not go out in haste, nor will you go as fugitives; for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

Jer 51:44 "I will punish Bel in Babylon, and I will make what he has swallowed come out of his mouth; and the nations will no longer stream to him. Even the wall of Babylon has fallen down!

Rev 14:8 And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, " Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality."

Rev 16:19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.

Rev 17:1-7 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality." 3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, 5 and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, " BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." 6 And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered greatly. 7 And the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

Rev 18:1-5 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory. 2 And he cried out with a

mighty voice, saying, " Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. 3 "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality." 4 I heard another voice from heaven, saying, " Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues; 5 for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

VI. The occult has its beginnings in idolatry

1. The occult is the worship of other gods.
2. Idolatry opens the door to the hidden powers of darkness.
3. These powers are demons (Ps. 106:35-38; I Cor. 10:20)
4. These demonic forces allow themselves to be used.
5. The price for these is the enslavement of the individual.

Entering into an occult involvement is bowing down before other gods. This unholy alliance opens the door to the supernatural.

VII. Through the occult has come the counterfeit of the true

1. There is a genuine outpouring of the Holy Spirit which is supernatural. (Joel 2:28, Acts 1:5,8).
 - a. In the true baptism one receives the Holy Spirit.
In the counterfeit one receives an unclean spirit.
 - b. The Holy Spirit energizes the person.
The unclean spirit brings passivity to the person.
 - c. Jesus Christ is the baptizer in the Holy Spirit.
The counterfeit works through mediums, séances, occult "games, "etc.
2. There are true supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 12:1-11)

There are counterfeit gifts of the unholy spirits.

The occult powers focus on the mind whereas the true comes through the spirit and are ministries of the Spirit. The ministry of the true does not require passivity or trances, etc.

3. The Gift of Discerning of Spirits Uncovers the Deception of the Occult

The gift of discerning of spirits gives supernatural insight into the secret realm of spirits. The Holy Spirit reveals the kind of spirit that is activating a person who is manifesting supernatural knowledge or power. Pray for this much needed gift to be manifested in your life. Pray that the counterfeit will be exposed and the truth will reign!