

#1: The Church as the New Man Engaging in Spiritual Warfare to Defeat God's Enemy and to Bring In the Kingdom of God

I. The church as the new man accomplishes God's eternal purpose:

- A) God's intention in His creation of man was to have a corporate man to express Him and represent Him:
 - ① God's creation of man in Genesis 1 is a picture of the one new man in God's new creation.
 - ② The church as the new man is the corporate man in God's intention, and this new man will fulfill the twofold purpose of expressing God and representing Him.
- B) God created a corporate man to represent Him by having dominion over all things:

[Gen.1:26](#) And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion...
[28](#) God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion...

 - ① God's intention in giving man dominion is for him to subdue God's enemy, Satan, who rebelled against God, to recover the earth, and to exercise God's authority over the earth in order that the kingdom of God may come to the earth, the will of God may be done on earth, and the glory of God may be manifested on earth.
 - ② God's intention that man would have dominion over all things will be fulfilled by the church as the new man.
- C) If man has not restored the earth from the usurpation of Satan, he has not yet achieved God's purpose in creating him:
 - ① Dealing with Satan is for the benefit of God and satisfies God's need.
 - ② Dealing with Satan requires that we pay a price that is extremely great; self must be utterly abandoned.
 - ③ In order to recover the earth from the hand of Satan, we must be wholly and absolutely for God and His purpose.
- D) The church as the corporate new man is the corporate warrior to defeat God's enemy and to bring in the kingdom of God:

[Eph. 6:11](#) Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil.
[13](#) Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

 - ① The church as a warrior is an aspect of the church as the new man.
 - ② The church as the new man is a warrior fighting against God's enemy, for the new man fulfills God's purpose to express God and to fight against God's enemy for God's dominion, God's kingdom.

II. In order to know God's economy, we need to see the spiritual things behind the physical things, the spiritual world behind the physical world:

- A) It is crucial for us to see that behind the physical scene a spiritual struggle, a struggle not seen with human eyes, is taking place.
- B) In our fighting we deal not with things that appear on the surface but with the power of darkness behind these things.

[Eph. 6:12](#) For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
- C) Revelation 12 presents a great vision concerning the war in heaven—the warfare in the universe between God and His enemy; the vision in this chapter unveils the true situation in the universe—the view that God's enemy is fighting against Him.

[Rev. 12:9](#) And the great dragon was cast down, the ancient serpent, he who is called the Devil and Satan, he who deceives the whole inhabited earth; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.

III. Spiritual warfare is necessary because Satan's will is set against God's will:

[Matt. 6:10](#) Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth. [7:21](#) Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens.

- A) If we would know how the church as the new man can be God's warrior to engage in spiritual warfare, we need to realize that in the universe there are three wills—the divine will, the satanic will, and the human will.
- B) Spiritual warfare has its source in the conflict between the divine will and the satanic will:
 - ① Lucifer's pride in his high position and beauty gave rise to an evil intention, which became the satanic will.

[Ezek. 28:12](#) Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord Jehovah, O you who sealed up perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty, [17](#) Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness. I cast you to the ground; I presented you before kings that they may look at you. [Isa. 14:13](#) But you, you said in your heart: I will ascend to heaven; Above the stars of God I will exalt my throne. And I will sit upon the mount of assembly In the uttermost parts of the north. [14](#) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.
[15](#) But you will be brought down to Sheol, To the uttermost parts of the pit.
 - ② Before the archangel of God rose up to contradict the divine will, there was no war in the universe; the rebellion of Lucifer was the beginning of all the fighting that is now taking place among nations, in society, in the family, and within individuals.
- C) God wants His creature man to deal with His fallen creature Satan; for this, the human will must stand with the divine will.
- D) As the church, our fighting is to subdue the satanic will and defeat God's enemy.

IV. The purpose of spiritual warfare is to bring in the kingdom of God: [Rev. 11:15](#) ...And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.

[12:10](#) ...Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night. [11](#) And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

- A) Spiritual warfare is the warfare between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan.
- B) The kingdom of God will not come automatically; in order for the kingdom of God to come, there is the need of spiritual fighting.
- C) The responsibility of the church is to continue the warfare that Christ fought on the earth; the church must continue the victorious work that Christ has carried out against Satan.

[Psa. 149:4](#) For Jehovah takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the lowly with salvation.
[5](#) Let the faithful ones exult in glory; Let them give a ringing shout upon their beds. [6](#) Let the high praises of God be in their throats, And a two-edged sword in their hand, [7](#) To execute vengeance on the nations And punishment among the peoples;
- D) The kingdom of God is the exercise of the divine will and the overthrowing of the power of Satan by the power of God.
- E) Wherever the devil has been cast out and wherever the work of the enemy has been displaced by God's power, the kingdom of God is there.

[Matt. 2:28](#) But if I, by the Spirit of God, cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

V. "Your people will offer themselves willingly / In the day of Your warfare, / In the splendor of their consecration" (Psa.110:3a):

- A) In a spiritual sense, we are now in the day of Christ's warfare, and for this we need to be a voluntary offering, a freewill offering.
- B) In order to engage in spiritual warfare to defeat God's enemy and bring in the kingdom of God, we need an absolute and thorough consecration to the Lord; in the eyes of God, such a consecration is a matter of splendor.

Experience ①: Fighting the spiritual warfare with brothers and sisters for preaching the gospel and practicing normal church life

We know that what hinders the gospel is not the outward environment but Satan. We know that what usurps men and causes them not to love the Lord is neither human ties, nor the world, nor the flesh, but the satanic power of darkness. We know also that the reason for all the confusion, striving, indifference, and corruption in the church is naught else but Satan. Therefore, we do not deal with things that appear on the surface, but, through the position and authority of ascension, we deal with the power of darkness that schemes behind these things and reigns on the earth.

The worldly people can see only the obvious outward things: commerce, politics, industry, education, war. If you ask them the meaning of all this, they would say that they do not know. They only know to obtain an education so that they may have a good job to earn a good living. They do not have the vision of what is taking place in the universe. ...If you do not have this vision, you will be blind, not knowing what is taking place on earth or in the universe. Praise the Lord that it is not simply a matter of education, industry, commerce, diplomacy, etc., but a matter of warfare between the people of God and God's enemy. This war has been raging throughout the centuries, and it is still raging today.

For Young Working Saints

Daniel 10:11 And he said to me, Daniel, man of preciousness, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand in your place, for I have now been sent to you. And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. **12** And he said to me, Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand this matter and to afflict yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. **13** But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me for twenty-one days; but now Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I remained there alone with the kings of Persia. **20** Then he said, Do you know why I have come to you? And now I will return to fight with the prince of Persia; so I go forth, and the prince of Javan is now about to come. **21** However I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is not one who holds strongly with me against these ones except Michael your prince.

FN11-1: After the vision of Christ, an angelic messenger (he might have been Gabriel) came to Daniel in answer to his prayer. He told Daniel that for twenty-one days he himself had been fighting against the prince of the kingdom of Persia, probably an evil spirit, a rebellious angel, who followed Satan in his rebellion against God and who was commissioned by Satan to help Persia. Thus, while Daniel was praying during those days, a spiritual struggle was taking place in the air between two spirits, one belonging to Satan and the other belonging to God. Another evil spirit, the prince of Greece (Javan), was about to come. Only the archangel Michael, a prince fighting for Israel, fought together with the angelic messenger against the evil spirits. Moreover, the angelic messenger stood up to support and strengthen Darius the Mede in the first year of his reign in order that he might receive the kingdom. All this indicates that behind the physical scene a spiritual struggle, an invisible spiritual war, was taking place.

From Tuesday afternoon last week to the Lord's day, we have participated the monthly gospel preaching activity. Every saints, including those who do not attend directly in this gospel preaching, should recognize that the gospel is the spiritual warfare. Once you wish to preach the gospel, suddenly your work become very busy or some frustrations come into your work. These come from the work of Satan behind so that you cannot participate in the gospel preaching. So for the gospel preaching, you need to have a fighting spirit and be sober unto prayers for your business life. Unless you see this warfare and the church stands as a cooperate warrior against Satan, the gospel can never be dominant in Japan. Every church of the Lord's recovery should practice their church life with a will to make gospel be dominant and put Satan to shame in Japan where currently forces of Satan are dominant.

"At June 20th, English newspaper introduced the story about a male officer of Kobe city waterworks bureau who has been punished with a pay cut because he has repeatedly left his office for about three minutes during work. The paper reported this issue with a title as "Tough working culture". According to the city of Kobe, this officer sneaked out his office for about three minutes earlier before lunch for 26 times in 7 months, starting from last September, to buy a lunch box at a neighborhood food shop. Reportedly, he told his boss that he might need to wait a long if he went there during lunch time. This English paper also introduced the responses among the internet, saying "Isn't he allowed even he went to the toilet? Must be an office slave!", "Totally Nonsense!", and concluded that "this case rekindled an argument about the nature of Japanese working culture in which people work for unbelievably long hours."

As a business person, you should know there is a severe working culture in Japan. In the background of this culture, there is Satan. In this environment, you need to work hard to extend your performance, and at the same time, you must learn to fight the spiritual warfare to limit your overtime work and to rely on God. If not, you will be exhausted in your business life and so you cannot practice a normal church life.

Experience ②: In the spiritual warfare, be humble and stand on the side of God's will

Brother Nee pointed out that in the universe there are three wills: the divine will, the satanic will, and the human will. If we would know how the church can be God's warrior to engage in spiritual warfare, we must know these three wills, these three intentions. God's will, being self-existing, is eternal, uncreated. As created beings, the angels also have a will. One of these angels, and archangel, was appointed by God to rule the universe that existed before the creation of Adam. Because of his high position and his beauty, this archangel became proud. This pride gave rise to and evil intention, which became the satanic will.

All warfare has its source in this conflict of wills. Before the satanic will rose up to contradict the divine will, there was no war in the universe. The controversy in the universe began with the rebellion of the archangel against God. That rebellion was the beginning of all the fighting that is now taking place among nations, in society, in the family, and in individuals. Throughout history there have been wars between nations, groups, persons, and even within individuals. For example, you may experience an inner warfare between your reason and your lust. All the different kinds of warfare have their source in the controversy between the divine will and the satanic will....Although there were three wills, the controversy involved just two parties—God and Satan. The crucial issue was whether man would choose the divine will or the satanic will. If the human will stood with the divine will, then God's will would be accomplished.

For Junior & Senior High Students

Ezek. 28:17 Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness. I cast you to the ground; I presented you before kings that they may look at you. **Psa. 149:4** For Jehovah takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the lowly with salvation. **5** Let the faithful ones exult in glory; Let them give a ringing shout upon their beds. **6** Let the high praises of God be in their throats, And a two-edged sword in their hand, **7** To execute vengeance on the nations And punishment among the peoples;

Lucifer became Satan, the enemy of God because of his being proud. In a spiritual battle, you need to stand on God's will and learn to be humble, in order to oppose Satan's will. Your being proud may seem to have come from yourself, but in fact it comes from Satan. When you are proud, you are led to Satan's will. In order to oppose Satan, you need to be humble and come to God.

As a junior or a senior high student, you need to praise and thank the Lord for the blessings and the status you have in the Lord. Thanksgiving and praise are posing a strong contrast against Satan's being proud, and is making Satan tremble. And God gives grace to the humble. For example, the college entrance exam was very difficult to pass, but with the prayers from the brothers and sisters and your own prayers to the Lord could finally enable you to pass it. At this time one may be proud and glorify himself. This is to stand on the side of Satan's will. Under the correct factual recognition, it is necessary for you to testify that "a person like yourself passing the university was due to the support from the Lord and the church." This is to stand on the side of God's will and refuse Satan's whispering in you. You are in the middle of warfare and you always need to be alert to the proud in you.

1 Pet. 5:5 God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.