

DIVINE FAVOR MINISTRIES

“WE WRESTLE...”

The form of wrestling found in the ancient civilizations around the Mediterranean Sea (Greece and Rome) was the most intimate form of combat, fought hand-to-hand and frequently naked. (Wikipedia [1])

So, it is not surprising that the Apostle Paul used the term “wrestling” in Ephesians 6:12 as an illustrative metaphor for the warfare of the Spirit-filled Christian.

But WHO are we wrestling? Paul is very clear: when we find ourselves in a struggle, it is NOT of this natural world; it is *“not against flesh and blood.”* It is not against our spouses, or our children or our parents or the preacher or our boss or the guy who just cut us off in traffic or was rude to us in the mall or any other obvious individual.

Oh, it certainly FEELS like those are the people out to steal our joy, because we are so close to them, we can see them, we can hear them – we can interact with them (and they with us) through our five natural senses. And our brains (of flesh) are dialed into them as a person and therefore our brains immediately identify them as the cause of our conflict. Their “intimacy” marks them for our retaliation and disdain.

But Paul’s caution is to not be so quick to react. Paul’s friend and Jesus’ half-brother, James (1:19), admonishes us to *“be swift to hear, slow to speak and slow to wrath.”* In the lexicon of our culture, James is telling us to “hit the ‘pause’ button!”

Paul then identifies our real enemies: *“principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, spiritual wickedness in high places.”* Our real enemies are unseen spiritual beings that are animating those who are closest to us, relationally or in proximity.

Paul goes on in Ephesians 6:13-17 to instruct us NOT to fight naked, but to put on the full armour of God and then go to prayer (Eph. 6:18): *“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit and watching with all perseverance and supplication for all saints!”* That however does not negate who he had just identified as our adversary – the one Peter identified as “the Devil who roams about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may destroy” (1Peter 5:8).

Part of that “warrior” prayer effort (“ALL prayer and supplication in the Spirit”) can reasonably be understood to be the casting out of the demonic forces Paul had just enumerated using all kinds of prayers and supplications. Jesus had given His disciples the authority to heal the sick and cast out demons (Matthew 10:1, Mark 6:7-11, Luke 9:1) and Paul himself cast a demon out of a young girl in Acts 16:16.

Are Jesus and Paul not encouraging, yea, commanding, us to be bold in attacking the spiritual forces in the heavenlies? “Wrestling” indicates they are commanding us to do so.

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Consider a few questions:

- ? Does Satan want his demons exposed for what they are doing? NO!!
- ? Does Satan want his demons prevented from what they are doing? NO!!
- ? What would Satan do to keep his demons from being hindered from what they are do?

Of course, Satan does not want to be exposed or hindered from the havoc he is creating, and he will do anything to keep that from happening! He will minimize, marginalize, obfuscate and ridicule anything and everything he does to keep the spotlight off of him and his fiends.

To that end, he has created a plethora of Simon the Magicians (Acts 8:9-24) that have polluted the doctrine and practice of spiritual deliverance to the point that mainstream preachers want nothing to do with it. However, we are not allowed to “throw the baby out with the bathwater.” We are called to wash the impurities out of the doctrine and continue practicing what Jesus authorized us to do in His name.

Satan will also recast what he is doing into a more respectable discipline like therapeutic counseling and medical prescriptions to keep the Church involved in the fray, but in a less confrontational and more “sophisticated” and “learned” way.

Let us be quick to emphatically state that Divine Favor Ministries does not discount the benefits of such methodologies for some individuals. We have, however, personally spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on therapies and psychological medications with little to no effect. We NEVER recommend that anyone come off any such treatments as we work with them on biblical deliverance.

The purposes of this Teaching Letter are:

- To go back to the Bible and take a sober look at what Jesus and Paul taught,
- To consider how biblical deliverance could be provided in your life or ministry,
- To evaluate the stance of prayer as being **against** the enemy and not “for” the subject.

In closing, is there anyone in your life who you love dearly, but who has rejected you?

An adult child? A spouse? A close friend?

Have you tried to talk to them only to make matters worse?

Does it seem like they just cannot hear you? Hear your heart??

THAT’S BECAUSE THEY CAN’T!

A spirit of deafness may well be intercepting everything you are saying, twisting it around and feeding lies back to them about you, your intentions or motives.

Until you attack the spirits that have your loved one in bondage, you will wear yourself out mentally, emotionally and spiritually, and end up with a spirit of depression on yourself.

[1] Boyle, A. "[The Everyman Encyclopædia - Volume 12](#)". J.M. Dent & sons Limited - 2008. Retrieved 1 August 2017. “At first the wrestlers wore tight-fitting shorts - a girdle - but in later times they wrestled naked...”