

ARE YOU AWARE OF SPIRITUAL BATTLES AROUND YOU?

Romans 8:7 ... "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be."

An important teaching topic in the Christian church is the existence of spiritual warfare. This topic may seem puzzling to you, or questionable because you do not see God's army fighting the legions of satan. I understand. There is much in our relationship with God that is entirely spiritual. You cannot see him, and probably have never heard his voice. (Be careful, as many have claimed to hear the voice of God but the Bible warns us that satan is an imposter and can perform many supernatural things...such as speaking to us verbally.) Only Christ took the form of a man. The Father and Holy Spirit remain as spirits. That part is understandable because we are told that when we accept Christ as our Savior, his Holy Spirit dwells within our souls. Only a spirit can do that.

God and satan have been fighting battles since the day that Lucifer (satan's angelic name) was thrown out of heaven for rebelling against God. That war will end when Christ returns and banishes satan to hell. Until then, you and I have to be careful not to be drawn into the battle, because we do not have the power to fight satan. Despite how hard we try to avoid the war between God and satan, we can become collateral damage on occasion. We can get caught in the crossfire when we get too close to satan and too far from Christ. And, although we may not be able to fight satan alone, we can deny him access to us and deny his attempted authority over us.

If you have not noticed the war between God and satan, then your ignorance of that war is a sign that you are not a committed follower of Christ. If you are a believer and still have not observed that war, it is probably because you are trying to straddle satan's world and God's kingdom. You are trying to get the best of both: God's love and a future in heaven, but also satan's temptations. If that is you, then you are a carnal Christian; someone who wants to follow Christ, but finds satan's offerings too good to pass up. You are like a child who enjoys the colorful wrappings of a gift instead of the gift itself.

Take heed of carnality and avoid it. It can pull you away from God and make you a tool of the devil. The Holy Spirit dwells within you to give you the power to repel satan's attacks, temptations and lies. But that power is only available if you are fully committed to Christ. A carnal Christian lacks that power.

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