

The Spiritual War in Your Home, Part 9 | how your family is to engage demonic forces in general

I. Christians are commanded to draw near to God.

- Hebrews 7:25; James 4:8
- We engage demonic forces by intentionally moving toward Christ-likeness. Retreating from sin by running to Christ is always the best course of action in Spiritual Warfare.
- When we try to move away from what we view as unacceptable behavior, but we do so without moving toward God, we're still in sin. We're still following our own orders with our own best interest in mind. God's will must be our destination.

II. Christians are commanded to draw near to God.

- I Corinthians 10:4; I Corinthians 6:18; I Timothy 2:22
- God's will for our lives is that we engage demonic forces by *retreating* from sin.
- Joseph was a perfect example that retreat is always the best course of action when it means retreating from thoughts and words and actions that displease the Lord.
- However, don't forget the first point. In order to truly flee the Lust of the Flesh and the Eyes and the Pride of Life, we need to be running toward God. God is the destination and sin is what we leave behind.

III. Christians are commanded to draw near to God.

- James 4:7; II Peter 5:8-9
- When we draw near to God, we will be moving away from sin, and **therefore** . . . we will actively be resisting Satan because we'll be doing the exact opposite thing he wants us to do. And James tells us that the Devil will actually flee from us as we enter into the light of God.
- Resisting Satan is nothing more nor less than a battle of wits — a war of clarity versus delusion. We either believe the great deceiver or we believe the Way the Truth and the Life.

IV. Christians are commanded to draw near to God.

- **We must be born again to escape possession. We must also be born again to have access to the weapons we need to fight this battle.**
 - II Corinthians 6:14-18; I John 4:4; Matthew 12:43-45
 - Entering into a relationship with God cuts the ties of *Belial* (one of the names of Satan). I love how idols are destroyed in the presence of God. I love how demons tremble before the Lord.
 - If the man were to be filled with the Holy Spirit, there is no way the demon would even want to be there let alone actually be able to have any claim in the man's life.
- **We must pray.**
 - The Disciples' Prayer in Matthew 6
 - We cannot hope to gain the power we need to fight our spiritual battle without prayer.
- **We must search, know, understand, and believe the Scriptures.**
 - The Temptation of Christ in Matthew 4
 - Anything and everything Jesus said would have been perfect and the very Word of God, and yet He chose to quote from the Old Testament Scriptures in His rejection of Satan.
 - How foolish we are to try to resist temptation in any other way.
 - Satan is going to lie to us. He lied to himself, to God, to Eve, to Jesus . . . we need to accept that the greatest deceiver to ever live is going to lie to us. And — since our hearts are already so easily deceived — we would be universal fools to think that Satan won't overcome us.

- **We must bathe ourselves in Truth.**
 - John 8:44-47
 - You will never find the answers your family needs anywhere but in God's Word.
 - "Every issue we face, Every question we have, Every doctrine we believe, Every ideology we entertain, Every relevant position we consider, We must always ask one question: 'What do the Scriptures say?'" -Dustin Bengel-
 - What's true is true. Only the Truth will set us free. It doesn't matter what the most respected parenting expert says and it doesn't matter what you feel if those things contradict the Bible.
 - How will we know what is true and what is false if all we do is fill our minds with Satan's propaganda machine and neglect to consume the Scriptures?
 - When an individual or a family losing in their spiritual war, that individual or a family is failing to know, understand, and believe the Bible.
- **We must see life through the lens of the Gospel.**
 - I Timothy 6:11-16
 - Our ability to flee sin and pursue righteousness is rooted in Christ, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Who invites us to live with Him forever in unapproachable Light!
 - That is the Gospel. That is our power to overcome sin.
- **We must have faith that God will keep His promises.**
 - John 14:26
 - The Christian life really does require faith in everything. It's not just believing that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection saves us from sin and to God, it's having faith that how He commands us to live — as counter-intuitive as it may feel — is, in fact, the best way.
 - And the only way we can have this faith is through the power of the Holy Spirit Who indwells all believers.
- **We must speak and live righteously.**
 - I Corinthians 9:24-27
 - It's amazing to me that so many people believe that a person can become a Christian but remain in their sin.
 - Yes, we're invited to come to Christ as we are, but we're not allowed to stay as we were. Just like being possessed by demons makes us more sinful, being filled by the Holy Spirit will make us more righteous.
 - We need to exercise our spirits so that we may attain conformity to Christ. We must flee sin, we must pursue righteousness. Anything else is a lie of Satan.

Romans 11:14; Ephesians 2:1-10; II Corinthians 10:4-6; I Corinthians 10:13