

Spiritual Warfare

Ascent

Spring Session, Lesson 8

Introduction

Overview of the Battle: The Enemies of the Christian

The World

The Flesh

The Devil

Understanding the Battle: Our Satanic Adversary

Satan's Biography

Satan's Obsession

Satan's toolkit

Deception

Temptation

Accusation

Our Approach to the Battle

Foolish approaches

Wise approaches

Counter his tools

Wear your armor Ephesians 6

Other Resources for the Battle

The Steps to Freedom in Christ

The Screwtape Letters, by C.S. Lewis

Digging Deeper:

Freedom in Christ Ministries, <http://ficm.org>

The Bondage Breaker, by Neil T. Anderson

“Satan’s Ten Strategies ...” <http://www.desiringgod.org/topics/spiritual-warfare>

Steps to Freedom in Christ

Freedom in Christ Ministries

ficm.org

Each step starts with a scripturally-based prayer of repentance which the freedom seeker prays as a general preliminary, asking the Holy Spirit to bring to mind the specific areas that apply to them. Then there are particular instances listed (usually with tick boxes) and a short written prayer of renunciation which the freedom-seeker will use to deal with specific areas they want to renounce. Some sections also include doctrinal affirmations which are declarations of the freedom seeker's choice and acceptance of primary scriptural truth set out in a very straightforward way.

Step 1 - Counterfeit versus Real

Cult and occult involvement, idols.

Step 2 - Deception versus Truth

Not just deceiving spirits but also common areas of self-deception and ingrained defense mechanisms that have become deception.

Step 3 - Bitterness versus Forgiveness

Forgiveness as a choice of the will, not dependent on feelings. The freedom seeker writes their own list of people to forgive.

Step 4 - Rebellion versus Submission

Common areas include family, church leaders, work and God Himself.

Step 5 - Pride versus Humility

A number of specific examples given to choose from, not all obvious.

Step 6 - Bondage versus Freedom

Habitual sins and attitudes. Sexual sins are included in this section, also specific prayer for specific problems - the Personal Inventory will often give some prior indication of what the freedom seeker will identify with.

Step 7 - Curses versus Blessings

An opportunity to cut off the effects of generational sin and curses.

The process

We cannot stress enough that this process is something that every Christian will benefit from - not just 'hard cases'. Although we delight to see victims of ritual abuse, chronic anorexics and other very disturbed people find their freedom, what excites us most is to see what happens to 'ordinary' Christians who suddenly find that they are able to connect with the truth of God's Word in a much more powerful way than ever before. We believe that churches which concentrate on helping their people find true freedom and maintain that freedom will be the ones who are ready for revival - and that's what's really on our hearts.