**The Finger of God**

**This Means War: Part 1**

October 22, 2023

Rev. Dr. Tony Soldano

# SERMON DESCRIPTION/BACKGROND

Whether we like it or not, or except it or not, the believer in Christ is engaged in spiritual conflict. The battle of good and evil is also a battle of life and death. Though we may have not initiated the war, we are certainly a part of it because we are God’s children. But thanks be to God that through the Lord Jesus Christ, we have victory over darkness and every wicked device. Thankfully, God has not left us defenseless, but has equipped us with spiritual weapons that are mighty for the pulling down of strongholds. In Christ, we are overcomers, and we are seated far above all principalities and powers, at the right hand of God.

# SERMON QUESTIONS & OBJECTIVES

1. What do they need to know?

* We are in a spiritual conflict.

1. Why do they need to know it?

* God desires to give His people victory.

1. How should they apply it?

* Implement God’s war strategy.

# OPENING LINE

***The battle belongs to the Lord, but the victory belongs to us.***

# CENTRAL TRUTH

***The spirit world looks for human bodies to display their nature and character and this applies to both good and evil.***

# MAIN PASSAGE

**Mark 3:13-15**

**13**And He went up on the mountain and called to *Him* those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. **14**Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, **15**and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: …

**The Great Commission**

**Mark 16:14-20**

**14**Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. **15**And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. **16**He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. **17**And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; **18**they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

**19**So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. **20**And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

# TRANSITION STATEMENT

**Spiritual warfare – “*an awareness of the spiritual dynamics taking place around us in order to engage in spiritual conflict using our God given resources”* ~Bishop Tacky**

# MAIN POINTS

1. **We are in a spiritual war. What does this mean?**
2. As believers in Christ, we are in spiritual warfare because Satan and his hoards desire to be like God and rebelled against Him to overthrow Him. Therefore, Satan desires to defile anything that is made in the image of God. As God’s children we become the target of his wrath. Furthermore, in Christ we have been given authority over the demonic realm and this places us at odds with the realm of darkness.
3. The war is all around us – whether we engage it or not
4. The war is between flesh and spirit
5. What is Satan and his demons’ purpose?

* Take people to hell
* Invade souls
* Manifest their evil
* Rooted in rebellion
* Disgrace God
* Defile that which is clean
* Question God and His nature
* Curse God
* Kill, steal and destroy
* Wreak havoc – bring about evil
* Create chaos
* Frustrate the plans of God
* Humiliate
* Confuse
* Deceive as many as possible – lie.

1. **Who are we at war with? What are demons capable of? How do they operate?**
2. We are at war with Satan and his rebellious angels who became demons because of their fall. This spiritual army consists of various ranks, authority and power. They are evil in nature and are united in the destruction of anything that is associated with God. It is a sophisticated network of intelligent but dark and demented beings. Despite their strength and abilities, they are limited, and in Christ, Satan and his army has been defeated.
3. Ephesians 6

* Luke 11: 24-26 – The story of the strongman
* What do demons do?
* They network
* They travel
* They communicate
* They attack and declare war
* They are tactical
* They reason
* They make decisions
* They fight dirty
* They look for stronger demons – they combine forces
* They look for people and places to occupy
* They think they own the “house” – squatters
* They look for clean people – what does this mean?
* Places they have been before
* They look for vulnerable people
* People who are giving access
* They come back/return.

1. Satan boasted of what he would do (Isaiah 14:12-14 – the five “I will” of Satan):

* I will ascend into heaven
* I will exalt my throne above the angels
* I will sit upon the mount of the congregation
* I will ascend above the heights of the clouds (the glory)
* I will be like God.

1. ***The root cause of spiritual warfare is pride and jealousy. Satan:***

* Attacks identity
* Wants to be worshipped – he wants the glory
* Hates all that is God and what He has created.

1. **What is your spiritual standing in Christ?** 
   1. The battle belongs to the Lord, but the victory belongs to us.
   2. The Cross and its final work

* John 19:30 (It is finished)
* Colossians 2:15 (Spoiled principalities and made a public show of them)
* It is because Jesus won the battle on the cross that we are able to engage in spiritual warfare and fight from a place of VICTORY.
* The cross is the beginning of our victory because, on the cross, Jesus put the purposes and work of Satan to an end.
* He defeated and destroyed the works of Satan and stripped him of his power over the believer.
  1. God, the Father has equipped His children, through the resurrection of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit to be more than conquerors. The Holy Spirit empowers the children of God to live a victorious life through Christ. Furthermore, the Lord Jesus Christ has provided spiritual armour and weaponry for the believer. In addition, the believer is seated in Christ at the right hand of God.
* The believer fights from a position, not for a position
* The believer is fully armed
* The believer has authority over all the ability of the enemy

* The victory has been won; we just have to walk it out.
* God is stronger:
* Michael cast out Satan – not God, because Satan is not at God’s level
* ***God and Satan are enemies, but they are not equal***
* We have weapons as believers.

# SERMON CONCLUSION - THE CALL TO ACTION

**2Corinthians 10:3-4**

**3**For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. **4**For the weapons of our warfare *are* not [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2Corinthians+10%3A3-4&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28976a)]carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,