Spiritual Warfare

“The Seven Steps to Freedom in Christ”
2 Corinthians 10:3-5 - March 19, 2017

Our Series Together

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### Three Alarming Truths for the Church in Corinth

1. **We are in a battle of __________ proportions.** (v3)
   - Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.
   - Interesting to note: War is one of the primary metaphors used to describe the life of a Christian in the New Testament.

2. **Our __________ weapons will not be useful.** (v4)
   - We wage war according to the battle. The nature of the war must dictate the weaponry used in combat.
   - The story of Peter at Jesus' arrest (Matt 26:51-52; Jn 18:10-11)
   - Murray Harris: “Spiritual warfare demands spiritual weapons. A successful campaign can be waged in the spiritual realm only as worldly weapons are abandoned and total reliance is placed on spiritual weaponry which is divinely potent.”

3. **Our enemy is focused on spiritual __________.** (v4b-5)
   - Stronghold = fortress, a fortified space safe from attack
   - How does Satan do this? Through “arguments and lofty opinions raised against the knowledge of God.” This refers to anything that forms an obstacle to the freedom found only in Christ and therefore keeps people in bondage.
   - Romans 7:23 - but I see another law at work in me, waging war...making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work in me.

### An Overview of The Seven Steps to Freedom in Christ

“The Steps cover seven critical issues between ourselves and God. Once the issues are resolved, Satan has no right to remain. Successfully completing this repentance process is not an end; but rather, it is the beginning of growth.” (Neil Anderson)

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<td>Counterfeit versus Real</td>
<td>Renouncing (verbally rejecting) all involvement (past or present) with the occult, cult or false religions teachings or practices.</td>
<td>Fortune telling, levitation, blood pacts, Ouija boards</td>
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<td>Deception versus Truth</td>
<td>Because our faith is grounded in truth, we are to have no part in what is false. Lies bring spiritual bondage.</td>
<td>Lying, deceit, stretching truth, any falsehood</td>
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<td>Bitterness versus Forgiveness</td>
<td>Forgiving (as we have been forgiven) sets us free from our past and doesn’t allow Satan to take advantage of us.</td>
<td>Holding onto wrongdoings</td>
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<td>Rebellion versus Submission</td>
<td>To judge, resist, or fail to yield to God and His established authority in our lives leaves us spiritually vulnerable. It is an act of faith to trust God to work in our lives through less than perfect leaders, but it is what He asks us to do.</td>
<td>Government, parents, school teachers, employers, spouse, church leaders, God</td>
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<td>Pride versus Humility</td>
<td>Relying on or being more concerned about yourself, your strengths, and your recognition than God/others</td>
<td>Arrogance, feelings of superiority, stubbornness</td>
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<td>Bondage versus Freedom</td>
<td>Habitual sins of the flesh that become sources of bondage with disastrous effects on our understanding of God, relationships with others, and our identity as a child of God</td>
<td>Anger, sexual sin, jealousy, drunkenness, complaining, stealing, gossip</td>
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<td>Curses versus Blessings</td>
<td>Ancestral sin (sin passed from one generation to the next in a family) is real. This cycle of abuse and negative influence can be stopped.</td>
<td>All things mentioned above</td>
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### My Journey Through The Seven Steps to Freedom

1. **Choices that I saw as childish, innocent, or humorous, God sees as __________.**
   - Examples: Magic 8 Ball, favorite shows, music choices, humor

   1 Corinthians 13:11 - When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

   Colossians 3:2 – Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
2. _______________ is a fight with the flesh.
   - Quotes from Neil Anderson...
     o “Don’t put off forgiving those that have hurt you, hoping the pain will go away. Once you choose to forgive someone, then Christ will heal your wounds. We don’t heal in order to forgive, we forgive in order to heal.”
     o “Let God deal with the person. Let him off your hook because as long as you refuse to forgive someone, you are still hooked to that person. You are still chained to your past, bound up in bitterness…until you let go of your bitterness and hatred, the person is still hurting you.”
     o “Don’t wait until you feel like forgiving. You will never get there. Make the hard choice to forgive.”
     o “Don’t say ‘Lord, please help me forgive.’ Don’t say ‘Lord, I want to forgive.’ Say ‘Lord, I choose to forgive these people and what they did to me.’”
     o “To forgive is to set a captive free and then realize you were the captive.”
   - Matthew 6:14-15 – For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
   - Micah 7:18-19 – Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.
   - Matthew 26:28 – For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
   - Acts 3:19b – …that the times of refreshing may come
   - Simple phrase spoken often in the Tillson home: “I forgive you because God forgives me.”

3. I am reminded of why I am such an advocate of ________________
   - The Steps are an incredible, Bible-based, authority-in-Christ intensive on how to live in freedom and renounce the enemy’s schemes. Professional Christian counseling could be needed to walk more fully in this freedom (especially when dealing with sexual sin, eating disorders, substance abuse, abortion, suicidal/dark thoughts, and more). Seeking professional counseling is a declaration of health!

4. My kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids are counting on me to walk in _______________ with God and others.
   - Exodus 20:5-6 – You shall not bow down to [idols] or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.
   - As the Bible states, generational sin/curses are real. But there comes a time when you have “left the nest” long enough that you can’t blame everything on where you’ve come from. Start taking ownership and stand on the Godly heritage that is yours for the taking! It’s never too late to start again and it all starts (as it did with Israel in the OT) with repentance.
   - Galatians 5:1a – It is for freedom that Christ set us free...

Next Step Applications from Today’s Message

1) Main Application: Complete The Steps to Freedom in Christ workbook – Repent, renounce, surrender! This message was just an on-ramp to what God could show you! (Note: This is worth taking vacation days for!)

2) Share what God revealed to you with a trusted, Godly individual
   o Godly mentor, friend, or small group leader
   o Freedom and Healing Team Member(s) – Get started by contacting Mickey Ellis at mickeyellis5558@yahoo.com

3) If needed, connect or re-connect with a Christian counselor
   - If you need a recommendation, stop by the Care kiosk today or call 281.646.1903. To be confidentially matched with a professional, email Cindi at clomax@whatisgrace.org.

4) Come back next week for our All Worship Sunday – Freed people freely worship God! Come to sing, celebrate, pray, and seek Him!