

SPIRITUAL FORCES: ACCESS POINTS

September 10, 2017 | Pastor Keith Jenkins

This is part three of our Sunday morning series on “Spiritual Forces”. The application of this teaching was influenced by what was happening in Pastor Keith’s and Coco’s life as their adult daughter, Keisha was battling a severe medical battle. He first wanted to thank everyone who had been praying for her and for being so supportive during their trial. Ironically this gave him some insight into this area of teaching as he walked with this family through this season. So let’s jump back into our series on spiritual warfare entitled, “Spiritual Forces”.

Pastor Keith began by laying this foundation for our lesson. He began by looking specifically at what Jesus came to destroy:

1 John 3:8b The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”

The devil’s work, mission and objective:

John 10:10 ...the thief does not come except TO STEAL, and TO KILL and TO DESTROY. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly)

When was it that you became acutely aware of this active opposition? Randy opened the series and mentioned 1 Peter 5:8, let’s begin there as a recap:

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober (self-controlled, well balanced and self-disciplined), Be alert and cautious at all times, that enemy of yours the devil prowls around like a roaring lion (fiercely hungry) seeking someone to devour

- “be sober (self-controlled, self-disciplined)”
- “be alert, vigilant, cautious AT ALL TIMES...” (We must not put our guards down)
- “the devil prowls around, seeking someone to devour”

* Prowling around looking for an opening and advantage; a weakness to exploit

* Looking for “someone” who is NOT self-controlled/disciplined, watchful/vigilante

4 COMMON ACCESS POINTS

Pastor Keith used the illustration of a DOOR. This door is symbolic; doors give us access to buildings of all types. The devil needs a door, an ACCESS POINT to gain entrance into our lives. There are doors of entry that the enemy uses to attack and to bring destruction into our lives.

WHAT DOOR is he coming through?

- negative habits
- substance abuse
- your children
- past wounds
- a trauma/tragedy
- a particular sin you struggle with

"Anything and anyone not submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ is available as a weapon used by Satan"

"There is a "SPECIFIC WEAPON" being employed against you and those you love!"

Note: There is no way to cover all the Access Points the enemy is using in this lesson...they are as unique as we are as individuals. BUT there are some common tactics that are "tried and true"

Common Doors SATAN will Knock On

1. PRIDE - INFLATED SELF-INTEREST, THE ORIGINAL SIN OF THE DEVIL IN THE GARDEN.

- CS Lewis in Mere Christianity devoted a chapter to it called "The Great Sin"
- Pride is listed first among the 7 deadly sins
- Pride is about "SELF EXALTATION", a Pre-occupation with self

"Heaven is about Jesus and His glory NOT us!"

SATAN'S original sin was pride! Self-exaltation

Isaiah 14:12-15

"I will ascend to the heavens;

"I will raise my throne above the stars of God;

"I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.

"I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;

"I will make myself like the Most High.

* Pride leaves us UNCOVERED and in OPPOSITION TO God

James 4:6-8 God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

We cannot resist while in Pride...we become his allies!!!

Every blessing from the Lord comes through humility, not luck!

Prayerlessness reveals our pride; "I don't need your help or counsel"

"The more we get...blessings, power, money, opportunities...the more humble we should be"

PRIDE CHECKLIST:

- Refusal to submit, yield or compromise
- Always finding faults in others
- Not easily reconciled, won't extend grace
- Won't admit mistakes or wrongdoing, argumentative
- Jealous, competitive always comparing
- Pre-occupied with SELF

"My opinions", "My voice needs to be heard", "I need to be seen, respected, consulted, considered and honored".

Philippians 2:3-4 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others".

2. THE DOOR OF DIVISION...THERE IS POWER IN UNITY AND ONENESS

Matthew 12:25 "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand."

"divide and conquer/rule"...Latin...(aimed to breaking apart social/political groups to gain an advantage) knowing individually they have less power than the one implementing the strategy.

Matthew 18:19 "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven."

Agree: To make ONE sound, as a family, as a church...etc.

Spirit birthed unity (keep guard and watch over/strive to protect)

Eph 4:3 "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Strife - competing interests

James 3:16. For wherever there is jealousy and strife/selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

Churches shake cities through ONENESS:

Acts 4:32-34 "All the believers were ONE IN HEART AND MIND. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales"

3. THE DOOR OF FEAR

2 Tim 1:7 "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."

Ps 56:3-4 "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise— in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me'? (David Captured by the Philistines)

"Often acting courageously is NOT the absence of fear, but action in spite of fear...this can be our greatest demonstration of faith in God"

FALSE EXPECTATIONS APPEARING REAL...

- At it's worst FEAR causes us to disobey the Lord
- At a minimum FEAR limits us and we live beneath our privilege
- We must confront & overcome our FEARS with FAITH in God

"HIS presence WITH US....is the greatest weapon against fear/worry"

Mark 4:35-41... in the midst of EVERY storm, HE IS IN MY BOAT!

His presence, sustains, empowers & emboldens me

Is 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

4. SATAN PUTS GOD'S HEART FOR US UNDER QUESTION

Gen 3:1-5 "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.""

- "You will not certainly die", (The lie) so God lied (he's not trustworthy)
- "For God knows that when you eat...eyes open and you will be like God", (The lie) God is withholding GOOD from you

Mark 4:38b... teacher, DO YOU NOT CARE that we are perishing?"

He has already DEMONSTRATED His extravagant love for us...just look back...at the cross when you doubt or waver

Romans 5:6-8 "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"

We serve the one who has all power & authority

Matthew 28:18, 20. "Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me".

"and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did Jesus come to destroy? What is the devil's mission and objective? Lastly what does 1 Peter 5:8 challenge you with?
2. Look at the section titled "four common access points". Pastor Keith used the illustration of a "door", adding that Satan need access to our lives through a door. What are some of these doors and what else did we learn in this section?
3. The first of the "common doors" is pride. Discuss what we learned in this section.
4. The next common door is "the door of division". What does the scriptures, and maybe an experience from your past, tell you about this area?
5. The third common door is "fear". Scriptures speak very clearly on this subject. What do you see and what have you experienced in your own life? Lastly what is the greatest weapon against fear and worry?
6. How does Satan put God's heart under question for us? This began in the garden millenniums ago, but it still goes on today. On a personal note this one was tough for me; for the evil one to call Gods very words and his heart into question and how easily we are deceived. Look again at Romans 5:6-8 and let's believe God to seal this in our hearts when the evil one brings accusations against our Father's heart for us!