

Spiritual Intelligence!

Ephesians 6:11-12; Ezekiel 28:11-17

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

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Introduction:

- When we first heard of COVID-19, we knew little about this “novel” coronavirus! But in the course of 10 months we have learned quite a bit about the virus, how it is transmitted, and how to treat it. The increased medical knowledge gives us the mental edge in fighting COVID.
- When it comes to our spiritual battle, we have the advantage of...
 - The Power of God at our disposal.
 - The Protection of God
 - The Father limits our exposure to the enemy.
 - The Son provides the armor we need to stand against evil.
 - The Holy Spirit energizes our spiritual weapons and seals us.
 - Spiritual INTELLIGENCE
 - Military intelligence is essential for winning a physical war
 - Spiritual intelligence enables us to be prepared for the spiritual battles we face.

Spiritual Intelligence: Three Essential Pieces of Information

A. The NATURE of the conflict. Ephesians 6:10-11

- Ephesians 6:10-12-- *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”*
1. **We are in a “wrestling” match with the spiritual forces.**
 2. **It is a LIFE or DEATH struggle**—1 Peter 5:8
 - 1 Peter 5:8-- *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”*

B. The IDENTITY of our foes. Ephesians 6:11-12

- Ephesians 6:11-12-- *“But put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”*
1. **NOT “Flesh and blood”, that is human beings.**
 - a. **The unregenerate man is blinded by Satan**—2 Corinthians 4:3-4
 - 2 Corinthians 4:3-4-- *“But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”*
 - b. **The unregenerate man has been taken captive to do his will**—2 Timothy 2:24-26
 - 2 Timothy 2:24-26-- *“And the servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.”*

- c. **The unregenerate man, however, is accountable for their own actions.** Cannot use the defense, *“The devil made me do it.”*

2. Five Spiritual Enemies

- a. **Main adversary is “the devil”, also known as Lucifer, Satan, Beelzebub “the prince of demons”**

1) **People today make light of the devil.**

2) **Jesus Christ believed in a real, personal devil.** Luke 10:18; John 8:44

- Luke 10:18-- *“I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”*
- John 8:44-- *“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”*

3) **Who is the devil or Satan?**

a) His career is recorded in Ezekiel 28:11-17.

- Ezekiel 28:11-17-- *“Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, “Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering; The sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you from the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of the fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; And I destroy you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. You lifted up your heart because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze on you.”*

(1) He is a created being.—v. 13

(2) He was anointed as the guardian or covering cherub. He lived in the very presence of God, guarding the very holiness of God.

(3) He was the most perfect being God ever created.—vv. 12 and 15

b) His downfall—PRIDE Ezekiel 28:17; Isaiah 14:12-15

- Ezekiel 28:17-- *“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.”*
- Isaiah 14:12-15-- *“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation of the farthest side of the north; I will ascend about the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depth of the Pit.”*

4) **While Satan is the “prince of the power of the air” or the “god of this age”, he is NOT equal with the true and living God. He does not possess...**

a) Omnipotence. He’s not all powerful. God the Father limits his activities.

b) Omniscience. He doesn’t know everything but has learned through observation

c) Omnipresent. He cannot be everywhere at once.

5) **Because of his limitations he is joined by other fallen angels or demons.** Revelation 12:9

b. **Four Categories of Demons—Ephesians 6:12**

- Ephesians 6:12-- *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”*
- 1) *“Principalities”* or rulers of angels/demons
- 2) *“Powers”*—those who exercise authority under the principalities
- 3) *“The Rulers of the darkness of this age”*—Demons that infiltrate various political systems and carry out their mission through human government.
 - a) God established human government; and Satan seeks to work through it.
 - b) Daniel 10 reveals that demons infiltrate human governments. Daniel 10:13
 - Daniel 10:13-- *“the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia”*
- 4) *“Spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places”*—totally evil, wicked demons involved in the most wretched and vile immoralities.

C. The OUTCOME of the war! Jesus Christ wins!!!!

1. **On the Cross, Jesus Christ defeats Satan and his demonic forces.**

a. **Satan’s power over mankind, the fear of death, was broken at the cross and subsequent resurrection of Christ.** Hebrews 2:14-15

- Hebrews 2:14-15-- *“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through the fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”*

b. **Jesus Christ, on the cross, publicly triumphed over the demonic realm.** Colossians 2:15

- Colossians 2:15-- *—“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”*

2. **Satan’s final doom is recorded in Revelation 20.**

a. **Before Christ’s millennial kingdom begins, Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit for 1,000 years.**

- Revelation 20:2-3-- *“hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and He cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should not deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.”*

b. **Afterwards he will be loosed for a season to again deceive the nations for the final battle against God.**

c. **Satan and his forces will lose the final battle, and he will be cast into hell.** Revelation 20:10

- Revelation 20:10-- *“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”*

3. **While Satan and his cohorts are a formidable foe....**

a. **We do not need to fear them!**

b. **But we do need to respect them!**—Jude 9; 1 Peter 5:8

- Jude 9-- *“Yet Michael the archangel, in contending for the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.””*
- 1 Peter 5:8-- *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”*