

Expose 71 K35

Spiritual Warfare: Finding the right Balance

Good evening viewers this is Expose 247 and we welcome you to a big moment of change. So we are trusting the Lord today that we will be blessed even more than we have always been. So you sit back, grab your Bible, grab your writing pad or if you need a drink or coffee so you can grab it along as we go into God's word. So if you are here last week, I want to remind you the episodes that we have. On Saturday we talked about prayers that limit God. I hope you were able to go back and look at your prayer lives and look at your prayer points and are your prayer actually limiting the limitless God? We know that God is unlimited, but we know that some prayers can make God on your behalf to be limited.

So on Sunday we admonished you and encourage you telling you to stop praying backward. So if you missed any of these episodes, on what am talking about, or you really don't understand, we will like you to go to Expose 247 page even after this episode, so you will have time to listen to it and all the other episodes we've been doing on prayer. How many episodes on prayer now? It's about 22nd episodes. This is the 71st Episode of Expose. So we have a lots of prayer, a lot on the other series that we have done. So you take your time to go into that and listen to it. And you may want to share this with your contacts. And should you have any questions and comments, we are free to welcome them.

So we want to continue from where we stopped last week. But I will like him to do a quick recap about the last two episodes.

Well, thank you for joining us on this Knock Out Series on prayer. Now, if you've been following us on this Knock Out Series, you will actually noticed that there is a strategy that the Holy Ghost has placed before us and we are just following that strategy. You see, we began to look at prayer and then Jesus led us in Luke 18, to find out that the missing fact in the place of prayer is not God's readiness, it's the ability of men to be able to respond in the place of faith when they come to prayer.

And we saw that, from there we then notice that faith is not the problem of a Christian. Every Christian does have faith and the issue is unbelief. And from there, we went beyond unbelief and be began to look at the fact of how does unbelief encroach into a life of a Christian? And from there, as we began to investigate unbelief and the way out of unbelief, we began to look at the temptation of Christ in Matthew 4 to see how Christ navigated the attack of unbelief upon his soul.

And that actually led us to the Israelites Psalm 78 and all that where we began to talk about the topics that she just mentioned. You see, the things we've gone through, we are persuaded by the Spirit of Grace that it is a strategy for every Christian to adopt in term of walking in victory on a daily basis.

So last time, we actually stopped on Stop Praying Backward. That's where we stopped on our last transmission. And that actually took us to Ephesians Chapter 6 where we concluded that the only reason why some Christians do pray backward is simply because we are not taking our stand in the place of prayer.

If you notice Ephesians 6 that we read, before the Apostle Paul by the Holy Ghost began to talk about prayer in verse 18, have you notice Ephesians 6:18 says praying always with all prayers and supplication. But before we jumped too fast to start talking about prayer in Ephesians 6:18, he actually gave an admonition from verse 13 to verse 17 where he said, standing. Can you see that? It means you have no business in Ephesians 6:18 if you've not wrap your life through Ephesians 6:13 to 17. It means there is no point running to prayer in Ephesians 6:18 if you are not taking stand in Ephesians 6 verse 11 to 17.

So we noticed a lot of Christians are so keen of the subject of prayer, if we don't learn to stand in verse 11 to verse 17, in standing and we run all the way to verse 18 to start praying, we concluded in the last transmission, we'll start praying backward. And that's where we stopped.

So if you actually missed all those episodes, we will actually encourage you in the Holy Ghost to look out for those titles and please watch them prayerfully and meditatively.

So today, what are we talking about today?

Now, we are looking at the actually context of standing by itself. If we did say, if a Christian does not stand in the place of prayer, if a Christian does not take their stand and they begin to pray, we've seen that they will stand praying backward and the question you are asking then is what about the standing? That is what we are looking at today. How do we do this standing effectively?

Now, if you look at Ephesians 6 we are going to take it from that verse where we stopped in our last transmission.

Now, read from verse 10.

If you look at what he says, he says

Ephesians 6:10

10. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Now, of course what does this verse tells us? It tells us something that as a Christian, it introduces the notion of warfare. Can you see that? It brings warfare right into our face, in this verse 11 of Ephesians 6.

He said, **so that you can stand against the wiles of the devil.**

So two things stand out here, the first thing is our standing is not just standing in itself. The reason why we are standing is because there are wiles of the devil.

Now, have you notice, if you have a different translation, the word that was spell wiles is what you can call schemes, antics, Can you see? Now, does that not mean to you and I that all that the devil has against a Christian is not force? Some people think wrongly, people think that Satan is so powerful, that if you are not careful as a Christian, he can destroy you. Well, the Bible doesn't think so.

The Bible says all that the devil has against a Christians are antics, schemes and the reason why you have schemes against somebody is because you know you don't have what it takes to fight them. So the best you can do is to use tricks. That is why we talk of magicians using tricks. The reason magicians use trick, because we believe they don't have the real thing, as it were the spiritual force to make things happen, so for them to in a way make people think they are powerful, they have to resolve to tricks

You don't use tricks if you have what it takes to fight somebody, you don't use tricks if you know you have what it takes to distress somebody else. So if the devil could destroy a Christian why use schemes? Why use wiles? Why you tricks? Now, that tells you Satan can only use tricks against a Christian. And that tells you how far he doesn't have what it takes to fight you.

In fact the Bible tells us in 1Peter Chapter 5 it might surprise you, verse 7, 8 if you read it, the Bible tells Christians, he says resist the devil and he shall flee from you. Can you see? There is no resist the devil but you have to apply enough force so that he can leave you. The Bible says if you just take your ground, he is going to move on. It tells you how Satan cannot stand the grace, the power and the authority of God in a Christian. So what does he do? He resolves to schemes.

So the Bible says, actually what we are standing against as it were is the schemes not even the devil himself. He's not match for a Christian.

Jesus said in Acts Chapter 1, he said all power and authority in the heavens, on the earth has been given to me, therefore go into the world and preach the gospel. He's telling you and I that we have so much potency, so much authority in the heaven and earth at work in us. So where is the devil in that equation? Nowhere to be found. So what does he do? Schemes, tricks that is all he will have to resolve to.

So really what we are actually dealing with is the schemes of the devil. And let's say this before we go on into this today because we are introducing today this notion of spiritual warfare. And you see one of the things that is so bastardize in the body of Christ is this issue of spiritual warfare.

But let's us lay foundation for what we are talking about today, before you became a Christian, if you are not born again or if you are listening to this transmission, possibly if you have not given your life to Christ, or for those of you who have given your life to Jesus Christ, before you were born again, one thing is this, you had an enemy before you gave your life to Jesus. And I will tell you, in fact you had only one enemy, before you gave your life to Jesus. And that enemy, it might surprise you was God.

Now you say, how can God be an enemy? Well, the Bible said so, for an unbeliever, Romans Chapter 5 says **we were enemy of God in our minds**. Can you see? He says we were enemy of God. In fact Romans 5 tell you **that God made peace with us through the blood of his son, Jesus**. It means if you are going to make peace with somebody, it means you were at war before. But you see, this God who actually was your enemy, it wasn't because he choose to be your enemy, you choose to be his enemy. And that is what happen to every unbeliever. How did I know that?

The reason actually why we are not going to go into all these verses, that is not our focus today, we are trying to find the balance in spiritual warfare. But the reality is as an unbeliever, who has not given his life to Christ, you made yourself God's enemy. In fact 2Corinthians 5 tells us, he says that **for God was in Christ reconciling the world**, can you see? God reconciling his enemy, the world to himself. He said, not imputing, not counting their sins against them anymore, and he has committed unto us the ministry, the word of reconciliation, saying be thou reconcile to God. It means, God is saying my enemies, can you come back home, I have already sorted my case with you. You sort out your case with me.

So what we are saying is this, an unbeliever has only one enemy and that he made this person his enemy, God. And you know what happened? Once you come in into the kingdom, once you give your life to Jesus, your enemy is switch. You have a switch of enemy. Your enemy is switch as long as you come into Christ. As long as you come into Christ, you still have enemy, but there is a switch of enemy. And that is what he is talking about.

Now the switch of enemy is, now this time around, the Bible says you need to join forces with God. Can you see? He says be strong in the Lord. Now he says, your previous enemy now is now your friend. He is now in the same boat with you. He says, you be strong in the Lord and the power of his might against another enemy. And that is what we are looking at today.

Now he says against the wiles of the devil. Now again I repeat, some Christians read this Ephesians 6:11 upside down. They think he said, be strong in the Lord and against the devil No! You have no business fighting the devil. You have every business fighting the schemes of the devil. Ephesians 6:11, he says the scheme that we are dealing with here, and that is what we see there.

You want to say something about that.

I just hope this verse, I hope our viewers are listening and is bringing an enlightenment. Because there is a way, you know we are talking about the defense, they do war strategy and learn all the tactics and the rest. Before they go to battle, they prepare and so this is the approach, plan A, plan B and they try to work the schematics, you see all those war General.

So that is what we are calling the people to the war table today. We are using Ephesians 6 for us. Let's go through everything. Let see the approach, let's see how the enemy is coming, let's see the approach because a lot of Christians in our time, actually approach the devil like force for force, because they thought he's coming with force, And so we see prayer points, we sing songs, we see battle songs like ok, stay akimbo, maintain this posture, make a loud voice, because they thought actually he is coming with them, coming with force and you want to come out with force. So you really need to open your eyes to what is in Ephesians 6, that he is coming with wiles, he is coming with schemes. That is all he has!

And like he said, anybody that is capable of making an invention, will not go about talking about schemes and everything. In the battle of the mind, it's an intelligent mind, it's a mind game that the devil is playing here. So if all you have is force, how can you use force against somebody that is coming with schemes?

So you really need to prepare yourself and know what he's coming with and you know that you are going to do it, is a battle of the mind game. It's about tactics, it's about what you know and what you don't know that can take you off balance. So you really need to understand how the game has change. The war game has changed and I hope you are listening,

Thank you for that.

Now again, the reason why the Bible says the devil come with schemes, it's because he has the schemes. And you might wondering, what are the schemes that the Bible is talking about? What are those things that devil has in his arsenal?

Now, let's say this, the devil, Satan as you might say, is not the only enemy that a Christians has. And the Bible tells us that, I think we should not be narrow minded in that regard. The Bible tells us there are lot of other enemy that we do have. For example, James Chapter 4 will tell you **that friendship with the world, is enmity with God**. So if you flip that upside down, it will mean, enmity with the world is friendship with God or enmity with God is friendship with the world. It will mean, the Bible says if you are God's friend, you've got an enemy. What is that enemy? The world systems. The world system is also a principal enemy of a Christian.

And then, again, so that we don't get distracted or derail. I might just give a kind of summary of what the world system is all about. It is that mentality or ideology that tells you that this world system is all there is. This material world, everything that you see, that is why 1John 2:15 says **if anybody loves the world, the love of the Father is not in that person**, and he gives us a snapshot of what the world system is all about. He said these are the things that in the world. Watch this. The love of lusts of the eyes... everything is about what I see, is just what I see. That is all about it. I mean I live for what I see. I do everything for what I see with my eyes. And he says lusts of the flesh, I do everything for what I feel, and the pride of life. So that is what the world system is all about.

We are in a struggle at the moment, where we have all these things that we see, things that we feel, these things are attacking the mindset of a Christian. The Bible says, the world system, living for all you see, living for all you feel, the Bible says that is your enemy as well, that is not even the devil, is also your principal enemy. And again, that is not our focus today.

And the Bible talks about the fact that there is a struggle as well, with that human nature, the flesh. The Bible talks about the flesh lust against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh. And he said, these things are at war, so that you will not do the

things that you wanted to do. So again, we see another enemy of the life of a Christian. So it means, call the devil some slack, there are some other things, we are dealing with as enemy according to the scriptures. So again, we don't want to get distracted with all that, let us just focus on what this particular verse has to say to us today.

So again, as a Christian, don't forget the major thing you are dealing with are the schemes and the antics. And here is the scripture ready to expose what those things are to us today.

Now look at the next verse which is verse 12.

Now, I want you to look at this slowly. He said something, he said,

12. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Now the question you want to ask today is, why would this verse 12 exist in Ephesians 6? What is the Apostle Paul by the Holy Ghost trying to drive out?

Now, don't forget we are trying to find the balance today in terms of spiritual warfare. And why we will he says we wrestle not against flesh and blood? And the reason why he will say we wrestle not against flesh and blood, is because he kind of believes, that the people who are listening to this Ephesians 6 or those who are reading might be misconstruing the whole point about what he is talking about. So where did this flesh and blood thing come from?

Now, let's find out. Follow us as we track this in the Holy Ghost.

Look at Ephesians Chapter 6, look at verse 1. This man was coming from somewhere, there was an issue on ground in this Ephesians Chapter 6.

Now if you don't want to misinterpret the scriptures, if you want to do what is call proper Hermeneutics of the Word. You have to do the Bible in context, contextualization of the scriptures is everywhere, that way you will not misinterpret what the mind of God is in a particular verse of a Bible.

Now, see what the Chapter 6 is all about.

Can you read from verse 1,

Now watch this,

Watch the whole background, the foundation of this Ephesians 6. Most Christians are always says we don't wrestle against flesh and blood, now, why does that exist in verse 12 of Ephesians 6?

Ephesians 6:1

1. Children obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Now that sounds pretty much like interpersonal relationship.

Go on,

2. Honour thy Father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise.

Have you notice this is all still about relationship. About connections. Family relationship.

Go on please,

3. That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

4. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

This is still strictly interpersonal family relationships.

Go on please,

5. Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ.

Ok now, there is a switch now. From talking about family connection. He is gone to the work place, your job. Can you see that? Servant and master now. Now, it's about relationship, but he is gone from family to business relationship.

6. Not with eyeservice, as men pleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

7. With good will doing service as to the Lord, and not to do men

8. Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free

9. And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

So he told employees what to do their employers... Now, let's use the modern day context so that we can get it. He told employee what to do their employers. Now, he is going to tell employers what to do to their employees. Now, again this all borne down to interpersonal relationship.

9. And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

Now, how does that sound? All these verses are all about how you connect to people. Your family, your mother, your father, your children, again your employee, your employer. It seems it's all talking about natural interpersonal relationship.

Now watch this.

10. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Now how does that sound? I mean, we began from verse 10 today which was talking about taking your strength in the Lord and against the wiles of the devil. Now, why the switch? Why start talking about natural interpersonal family relationships, employer-employee relationships. All the way from Ephesians 6 from verse 1 to verse 9, and in verse 10, you make a switch to make it sound like we are talking about Satan?

Now, this is where the whole point is.

Now watch this! that is why in verse 12, he says for we wrestle not against flesh and blood. Here we get the background, the reason he's saying to them that the reason why we don't wrestle against flesh and blood, that I know I told you from verse 1 of Ephesians 6 how to connect with your family, how to make sure that you don't actually make each other angry. How to maintain cordial relationship between father, mother to the children and children to the parents. I know I told you how employers should deal with employees. I know I told you how employee should work with employers. And it all seems like is natural, it all seem like is just on the level of relationship. I know I said all that.

But notwithstanding, when things begin to happen in those relationship, when things begin to happen in those connection, notwithstanding, I don't want you to forget there is a spiritual dimension to things, don't get carry away that I gave you pragmatics steps, I gave you practical steps on how to deal with relationship. I told you what to do with relationships in the natural. I told you how to make sure that you don't offend

your employees. I told you how to deal with your employers, I said all that. But don't get carry away with what I said, actually there is a spiritual dimension to things.

That is why I now said to you in verse 12, that is not all about flesh and blood. It's not about your employers. It's not about all your employee, it's not about your servants. It's all about your master. It's not just about your Father and other children. There is a spiritual dimension to things, and I want you to be aware that is not all about flesh and blood.

Now, this is where the whole point is, about spiritual warfare. And this is where the whole dichotomy is when it comes to spiritual warfare for some people in our current world. See, there are two opposites to these things, there are two sides to it. There are some people who believe that when you are dealing with relationships, when you are dealing with people, it's all natural, it's all just basic. You just have to work out the practical steps of how to deal with father, mother, children, employer, employee, and just make sure that you bring it to the table and be practical about it. Please don't talk anything spiritual here, this is not about spirituality, this is about solving things pragmatically. Let's talk about how servants should walk with their masters. This is all natural, it's all physical. There are some people who are of that school of thought.

And there are some other people who are on the opposite side of the spectrum. You know these ones, they see the devil under every rock. Everything is demonic, everything is Satanic. Everything is spiritual. They are what we call, superstitious Christians. These are the extremes. Instead of them working out the practical steps of how masters should work with their servants, instead of talking about how father should relate with their children or how children should connect with their father, everything to them is spiritual. The Apostles Paul said, Jesus doesn't belong to any of those camps.

He is saying Jesus cannot be found in any of those camps. Those who are, everything is demonic and for those who say No! There is nothing spiritual, everything is natural. Let's look at it. He says, No! you cannot as a Christian be found in either extreme. What is he telling Christians? He is telling a Christian I will tell you the practical steps how to deal with your relationships Ephesians 6 verse 1 to verse 9

But also I want to tell you not to get carry away with those practical steps. There is a spiritual dimensions to things. And that's why he said in verse 12, we don't wrestle against flesh and blood. So this is the balance of spiritual warfare that the scriptures is bring to us today.

So we can see in this book of Ephesians Chapter 6 that we see the reconciliation of the two warring factions. The one that take everything as ... and that is the true gospel of grace, the true gospel of the cross, that is what it does. Breaking down every wall of partitions, most wall of partitions will not even be... is ideology, is not even about tribes. Even what make up tribes is about ideology, what people believes, so we have the factions that believe, that see everything from the lens of the natural. Everything is just natural and if they solve anything, they only resolve to psychology. They resort to philosophy, human reasoning, they less appeal to emotions when they are going through things. Let's appeal to emotions. So they bring in what they have learnt and you know human kinetic, human behaviors and everything come to play and there is there whole full recourse, and they deprive themselves and they work on that alone.

So sometimes, rubbish the work of grace, rubbishing the work of the spirit. Sometimes there will no need for spiritual intervention in this, why should we call it our true nature, we can talk common sense, we can do logic, we can reason it out, let's take practical steps to solve the problem. You see, they sound sensible and you know, they are things that are getting thing done.

And we have the other aspect that they look through everything through the prism of spirit and spirit and spirit. Even some times they begin to hide things, things that they abrogate their duties, responsibilities, everything is demonic and hide under the thing. So they go and hide under prayer, things that they should really take charge of, and they hide under prayer and feel like they are doing some things. And they silence some critics, some people that are bringing their attention to some things, would you look into this and look this way. They just silence it, and they are looking at everything through the spiritual reins.

But we can now see in that Ephesians 6, the whole of that Chapter we see the reconciliation of the two. So you cannot stay on one side. You cannot just say I want to be practical without being spiritual. You cannot say I want to be spiritual without being practical. So you are going to approach life issues, your everyday life issues, things that just look... just common day relationship, just going to the office, or you going to school or whatsoever it is, or just being an employee, being a citizen in a country. You have the combine approach because we are talking about the war game because if you don't have the combine approach, approaching it in one way, you know you are being defeated in the other side.

So you cannot afford to say I have master one aspect, am already known for one, so Ephesians 6 is calling you to the combine effort. Finding the balance in spiritual warfare, that is what he is saying.

And then some people who are feeling that the spiritual is not relevant, we can do without the Bible and everything, we can see, you can't be more practical than this. From verse 1 to 9, you can't be more practical about human relationship than this. Because some people felt the scriptures is so just esoteric, is something you can't even grab. And it does not help in everyday life. They can't see the importation, they can't see how practical it is. So you can see all these ones covering how the father should relate... in fact he says father don't provoke your children, what to say, being practical and also he went spiritual at the same time,

Until the people begin to adopt the culture of the kingdom, because now we see the excellence of the kingdom culture above every other culture. Because we see some people will run from the east to the west, they fell like they are tired of the barbaric in the east, they will run into the west, they are feeling like. Some of the slacks they saw, some of the gap holes here, they come into the west. And when they come to the west, they found that it's not always green like they thought. So if you don't want to be jumping from one extreme because some people can be jumping from the extreme of Ephesians 6:1-9, the physical and they feel like oh! I have got it all wrong and then go to the other wing. (That it's not about flesh and blood and they go superstitious)

So you can be jumping from the culture but you need to embrace the culture of the kingdom that really combines, there is nothing... because he was saying... you know some culture will never even talk about the children at all. They feel like, Ok, they only address the children this is what you should do for your parent, they don't talk about the father as if the father cannot come to the place of provoking the children, so they believes... you know some culture are like that. They just feel like every problem is the children, they feel is the children, it's the children that has all the responsibility. So if anything goes wrong, is the children that should have been this or that but we see the scriptures combining everything, combining more better than all the culture put together. And that is what we are calling you to.

Thank you for that,

Now please viewers all over the world, we are trying to use the searchlight of the spirit to find the balance in spiritual warfare. And the Bible is simply saying that we cannot afford to fall into either side of the dish. The dish is simply, the Bible says you need to be practical about your life. You cannot be superstitious. It means you cannot be chasing the devil behind every rock when it comes to your destiny. Be practical! And how we deal with out children, how we deal with our parents, how we deal with our employers and how we deal with our employees. Those were the four major categories that Ephesians 6:1-9 talk about.

But he says even as we are practical about these things, even as we discuss the issues about interpersonal relationship and we bring it to the table, he said let not carry away with the practical natural side of it, he said we still don't wrestle against flesh and blood. He says, please these things have spiritual dimension. And this is the balance that the Holy Spirit is bringing to every Christians. Let us not fall into either extreme. And that is what we are simply saying today. There is a spiritual dimension to it.

Now, have you notice one thing, which is really what actually bothers me to some extent, am not sure if you could see that also in Ephesians Chapter 6. It seems to have started from a natural point of view. I mean it's amazing, if you are going to talk about this wrestling against flesh and blood, why did the Apostle Paul by the Holy Ghost not start about hey! People this is spiritual, let's talk about the reason why I said is spiritual. Let's talk about the practical or the natural ways of dealing with things.

It seems this is coming in agreement with 1 Corinthians 15:54 that says first is natural then spiritual. It seems that he address the natural dimension of things, he seems to say that as Christians, we should not bury our head in the sand, we should be involve in the society, we have to engage the society. We have to engage our employee, we have to engage our employers. We have to engage our children. We have to engage our parent and we have to engage them and in a way we are pragmatic about it, but at the same time as we are doing all that, we shouldn't get carry away with the fact that there are spiritual dimensions to things. And that is the balance he was talking about.

Go back to verse 12 of Ephesians, if you notice, he said we don't wrestle. Now we know the reason why the Apostle mentioned flesh and blood. The reason was from verse 1 to verse 9 of Ephesians 6, he had been talking flesh and blood. That is why he tried to bring a balance to what he said from verse 1- 9 by saying well, it's not all about flesh and blood. It's not all about those relationship I told you about. It's not all about the people in those relationship, there are spiritual dimensions.

Now watch this, verse 12 of Ephesians 12

He said,

For we wrestles not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of darkness of this world and against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Now this really sound a bit strange because all these things, where are they coming from? Are you saying that in all those father-son relationship? Are you saying in all those employers-employees connection? Where did you find all these spiritual

wickedness in high places? All these principalities and power? Where did they all come from? From all those things? Oh yes! Oh Yes!

In fact, the Bible did tell us, don't forget one thing, he says the whole world lies under the power of the wicked ones, that is what he says. For all those who are unbelievers, for all those who are not saved. The reality of the scriptures is, they are being govern by the devil. Don't forget Jesus said something to the Pharisee, he said you are of your father the devil and his will you will do.

Now, I mean you are wondering in all these relationships of verse 1-9, where did Apostle Paul get principalities and powers from? Where did he get spiritual wickedness in high places? Where did he get rulers of darkness of this world? Yes, they are out there. They are there and that's what he simply saying that even though you are dealing with all these relationships, I have given you practical steps on how to deal with them in the natural, I don't want you to forget, there are spiritual dimension. And he mentions all these things that actually could be at play, could be at work in all these relationships.

Now, what are the evidences you have for this? When Peter in Matthew 18 call aside Jesus, and Peter said to Jesus you will not die, you will not go to the cross. Jesus said to Peter, don't forget that Jesus and Peter were in the lord-disciples relationship. Jesus was the master, the rabbi, the king of glory, the teacher, and Peter was a disciple and yet Jesus said get thee behind me Satan. Can you see that? Here is the balance, he saw the fact that what Peter said to him was the influence of the devil.

Now let's say this, for most people who think spiritual warfare starts from where you start your prayer points. Because some Christians have that funny notion, strange notion and think until we gather in prayer meetings, until we hold hands with another brethren, and we begin to fire prayer, we think that is when we start to do spiritual warfare. Well, that cannot be far from being wrong, that is so far from reality. Because if you notice, I want to call your attention in the spirit to Ephesians 6, the Apostle Paul never stated talking about prayer until verse 18 of Ephesians 6.

He had been talking about spiritual warfare from verse 10 up to verse 17. Prayer never came into the equation until verse 18 of Ephesians 6. It will mean then that to you and I, that spiritual warfare did not start or doesn't really start when you start praying in verse 18. It starts from those relationships. It starts from the father-son, it starts from the master-servant, it starts from the employer-employee.

So let's not get it twisted, your warfare in the spirit, doesn't really start when you start praying. It starts right from your job. It starts right from the home. It doesn't really start from prayer and that is what we notice in that Ephesians Chapter 6.

Now, verse 12 tell us,

for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world and against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Now, again we trying to find the balance in spiritual warfare. Before we look at another testimony in the scripture very soon or quickly. Let us make this conclusion on this verse 12. You cannot afford to live solely or completely in Ephesians 6:1-9. You cannot afford to stay there and habitate in verse 1-9.

And also, you cannot afford to completely live your live in Ephesians 6:10-12. You can't stay there. Where do you stay? You live in both. You live in both arena at the same... you are as natural and practical as it can be and you are as spiritual as it can be. The balance is what the gospel of Christ is calling you and I into.

Now, let's go to Ezekiel 28 and find out, don't forget we are trying to find the balance in spiritual warfare.

Ezekiel 28 is an Old Testament scriptures. It gives us an insight of how the scriptures, how the Lord expect us to engage when it comes to spiritual warfare and finding the balance. You can read from verse 1.

Now, I want you to watch this slowly.

Ezekiel 28:1

1. The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying

2. Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, thus saith the Lord God, because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God.

Now watch that! He said you are a man. You are natural. And again, watch this. Here come a second testimony of how the Lord himself will actually teach us to find the balance in spiritual warfare.

Here he said to this man you are a prince of Tyrus, and you are just a man. You are not God, you are not spiritual as it were. You are just a mere man. So don't forget, here is attacking the natural.

3. Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee.

4. With thy wisdom and with thine understading thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures.

Don't forget he is talking to the prince of Tyrus now.

5. By thy great wisdom and by thy traffick hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches

6. Therefore, thus saith the Lord God, because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God.

7. Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness

8. They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shall die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas.

9. Wilt thou yet say before him that slayeth thee, I am God? but thou shalt be a man, and no God, in the hand of him that slayeth thee

The scriptures keep telling this prince of Tyrus you are just natural. There is nothing spiritual about him.

Now you see, you might be wondering why are we reading this? It's just a Christian this man is natural. You see, again is telling just you and I, for example when it comes to nation building there are some Christians that say you know what? Let's us just be praying or the government, let's pray for them. Let's bind every devil affecting government. Let's bind every demonic powers and those Christians then bury their head in the sand and instead of them taking practical steps of governance in making sure that they rule their family effectively, on their jobs they are effective or in terms of politics, they are effective. Such Christians decide to just deny reality and everything is just spiritual.

This one is saying to this prince of Tyrus. God said, you are a man, there is nothing... it's all just natural. There is nothing spiritual about this. God kept saying to this man you are natural. He told Ezekiel, to take the lamentation and say, all these is just natural. Can you see? God deals with it, natural.

Go on with verse 10.

Now watch this,

10. Thou shalt die the deaths of the uncircumcised by the hand of strangers: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord God.

If you look at verse 9, he said you are a man.

Look at verse 11,

Now, watch the change of grammatical tense of the spirit.

Look at verse 11.

11. Moreover the Word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

Moreover...

The reason why he says moreover is this, even though I said the prince of Tyrus is a man, even though I said this is all natural. Moreover! God is saying I don't want you this Ezekiel to sleep in that revelation of Ezekiel Chapter 28 from verse 1 to verse 10. Ezekiel don't stay in that revelation of verse 1 to verse 10. Don't habitate there. Even though I said this man is a man, it's all natural and things must happen to him naturally. Strangers will come into his town and all that. He said moreover, Can you see?

You can technically say this Ezekiel 28 from verse 1 to verse 10 is just mirroring Ephesians Chapter 6 from verse 1 to verse 9.

Now see the moreover...

11. Moreover the Word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

12. Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

13. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

Look at verse 14.

14. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of god; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Now, this is spiritual. See an angel! This is spiritual. Now the same Tyrus, the same town. But how come the Lord God began to tell Ezekiel this man is natural and he says moreover, can you see? Don't stay there. Moreover! Let's look at it from the spiritual angle.

Now you see, it will mean then for a Christian, for you if you are going to find the balance in spiritual warfare, we need to understand Ephesians 6 from verse 1 to 13 and we need to understand Ezekiel 28 from verse 1 up to verse 15. Does it not sound to you and I, it sounds a bit strange now, that it seems they are both starting from the natural. Ephesians 6 from the natural, Ezekiel 28 from the natural before they went moreover to the spiritual.

It will mean then for a Christian, for you that you believe in the power of spiritual warfare, the scripture is saying you cannot use the excuse of the spirit to be found wanting in the natural. That is what he is simply trying to tell you. That you need to make sure you engage the situation naturally speaking. You need to make sure you give it all it takes naturally speaking. You need to give it all it requires naturally speaking but always put a moreover on top of it. And say well, moreover now, moreover let's look at this from the angle of the spirit. And that is what he calls the balance in spiritual warfare.

And that's what we can see again Ezekiel 28. Ezekiel 28 talks about the king of Tyrus, and he says you are a man, you are natural and again he goes from verse 12 and says moreover, moreover, you are an anointed cherub. You are an angel that covers the seat of God.

And you see, the reason why the scriptures gives us this warning when it comes to spiritual warfare, is because for those who actually fall into this side, where they begin to... you know in a way see everything as being natural, what happen is we can allow the devil to take advantage is because what Satan does is, in fact somebody said something, the greatest trick of the devil is to convince people he never existed. He said we cannot afford to be on that side.

And again he said, you cannot just all start from verse 12 of Ezekiel 28, you cannot start your life from verse 10 of Ephesians 6. You can't just jump into verse 10 and leave out verse 1 to 9. If you do you become a superstitious Christian and not a spiritual Christian. And that is what he is saying there.

So today we are bringing you from whatever side you belong to the moreover, the moreover part. You know there is no point staying alone on that side anymore, whether you stay more on the side of the physical or the spiritual. We are bringing you that there is other part to it. For we instance of where people believe they could not be community pillars. We see people approach that is just one sided.

We see people praying against trafficking and just doing prayer around those places and everything, you know they just want to pray and pray alone. Praying in the park and say with this... some they just go into that place, and say Ok, we are going to use the money, we are buying the building off for those people, we are rehabilitating and everything like that, no word of prayer, no word of Ok let's pray for the heart of those people that are involves and engage in it and everything so everybody is just facing one side. So to an hammer every problem is a nail for all those believe that let's pour more money into it, let use phycology, let's talk them into what they should be doing. We can just talk to them and everything. And we see all the humanitarian crises, people are having different kind of approach and we know that there is no really an headway.

And so we are calling us that, whatever we are doing, whichever side we are, the one we are good at, because you might have become expert, you know some people have years of doing this. So when they want to call them, they call them for even fund raising, they can bring people up for collaborations and the likes, but we are calling you to the moreover. You stop walking in suspicion, walk in discernment. It might look like is the same but they are not the same... calling you that there is another part to it, that you need to understand.

Then you need to come out of your comfort zone because you have been comfortable in one side and come to the other side, not just to cross over to the other side and walk with both understanding. Both understanding is what the scriptures advocate when it comes to spiritual warfare. Engage in the natural and engage in the spiritual simultaneously at the same time.

But you see before we actually carry on in this Ephesians 6, don't forget we are looking for the balance in this spiritual warfare.

Let us look at something, have you notice that from this Ephesians 6 from verse 1 to verse 9 talking about relationship, have you notice that it will seem that there are some Christians who believe the fact that even when you have relationship with people and somebody is attacking you, they say somebody is demonic and is attacking them with demons. Somebody is using spiritual powers to attack them and whatever it is, well the Bible then leaves such Christians who are facing such situation in their family or

in their relationship, he doesn't leave you the options for you to begin to believe that you are wrestling against flesh and blood.

Because for such Christians who begin to then in a way to fire prayer at those people, well the Apostle Paul is not saying by the Holy Ghost he's not actually aware that the problem you are having is not coming from your relationships. Of course he mentioned relationships, father, son, mother, children, parents in the Lord, he talked about all of these, he talked about employers, employees. He is not denying the reality that people can be under attack from such relationships. He is not denying that reality.

But the reality he is bring out in verse 12 is saying that he's still not justifying the fact that is flesh and blood attacking you. He is simply saying, those people are mere tools. That is what he said. He said the attacks are coming from principalities, they are coming from powers, they are coming from rulers of darkness of this world. They are coming from spiritual wickedness in high place. That is where the real attacks are coming from.

Any person that is a channel in that attack is just a mere tool. And that is what we see here. So it means, it doesn't matter under which attack we actually come under. It doesn't matter whatever the situation is in any of our relationships. The scriptures still emphasizes that we are not fighting flesh and blood. And that is what he is simply saying there.

So it's good for us to understand that so that, we can maintain a right perspective. Don't forget Satan all he has are schemes. That is what he has. Because you see for most Christians before they even get to the place of prayer in verse 18, we've already fallen flat for the schemes. And the reason why we are here today on this Knock Out Series is to tell you that the major battle that you have, the major warfare that you have is against the schemes of the devil and not the devil himself.

And if that is the reality, it means Satan then would try as much as possible to actually deceive us and put us in the wrong warfare. So we need to understand the balance, unless we get the balance, we are susceptible to being deceive by the enemy. So our real warfare is against the deception. And if you listen to what we are saying today, if you find the balance in warfare, it will be hard for the devil to deceive you.

Like we've be saying that one of the schemes and wiles of the devil is just to blind you to the other side. Not making you to realize, that is the real warfare.

Now you see, before we actually finish up today, there is a particular verse I want you to read with us, 1Peter 5:7&8

And then am going to read that from the NIV translation so that we can actually get what it says

Verse 7, 8 and 9

1Peter 5:7&8

7. Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you

8. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour

9. Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

I will read from 1Peter 5:7, 8, 9.

Look at this

This is the Amplified, its call Amplified Bible the classic edition, not NIV now.

1Peter 5:8

Watch this, I will take it slowly

He says

Where he says **Besober**, the original Greek word for that sober is the same word we use for balance. He says

Be well balanced.

Can you see that word?

Be well balance, be vigilant, be courteous at all time for the enemy of yours, the devil roams around like a lion looking for whom to devour.

It will mean that for a Christian, our major warfare seems to be the fact that the enemy will have you not to be balanced. In fact he says be well balanced. Can you see? Amplified says be well balanced. We always say be vigilant. But what is that vigilant? The Bible says be well balanced. It means, the devil want to make sure a Christian doesn't find balance. He will rather make sure a Christian is thinking is fighting flesh and blood or he will make the Christian to think is all about flesh and blood or in the opposite side, he will make the Christian think well there is no flesh and blood involve, it's all about the spiritual, it's all about being superstitious. The devil will always try to make sure that we don't find the balance, because in the power of deception is the strength of the enemy.

And that deception is what we have come to knock out today that as a Christian you cannot afford not to find the balance in spiritual warfare. If you don't, 1 Peter 5:8 says if you are not well balance, you are already open up to the devil, if you are not well balance. And that is what we see there.

We really need to pay attention to what we are saying today because if it will affect the way you relate from today's henceforth. Because you can look at something and you look at a person, if you are just one sided, you begin to see the person as a devil and just say is all like devil and is not the person and sometimes you see the person just like a person naturally and you don't even see the spirit that it could be the devil. A classical example apart from what was share in Ezekiel is about Peter too, then the verse before then it was the conversation he had with Jesus and Jesus was telling him, the flesh does not reveal this to you and just a while later, it has to be the devil is speaking through you, the same person.

So until we understand this and then being balance with this, you know balance view on this, you will not just be able to attack one way and begin to see just the person, or see the organization or see the country. You know some people, they are just blinded to the other side, they even walking in fright, they did not even know how to walk in both ways, how to walk when these other party showing and so they are being denied, they do not get the full benefit of it. And they are getting being overtaken, overcome, because the devil is hiding under that their blindness.

So today we've come to open your eyes through the scriptures using the Word of God, just like the Psalmist said the unfolding of your Word bring light. And so we are trying by the Grace of God to unfold some of these scriptures to show you... so we encourage you to go back into all these verses and look at them again, should you have any questions, or any comments or any things that need clarification about what we shared today about the warfare thing, because warfare is very important. Some people are just waiting, let us start praying, let us start firing... well, prayer did not even start till verse 18. Warfare start before the prayer, that is what we can see in Ephesians Chapter 6.

They are ready to say let's firing and everything. And some we want to feel like Ok when it come even to the place of prayer, they said forget about your employees, forget about your work, we are ready to fight the devil now. Well, if you have listen to us and what we shared in Ephesians 6, it started with all of those ones, even the relationship matters. How you do in your place of work, how you do, all those things, you know you can be community pillars, and for you to be relevant, at least bringing the gospel light and shining in those places, you need to be fully understand, be fully

aware of both sides and how you can bring...and then if you are fully aware of both side, you have both solutions in you.

So he is calling us, it's a higher responsibility for us to be balance in spiritual warfare. It's hard to be an expert on one side, but he is now calling you to go and learn this side and you have the grace to combine and live the life of both. And you don't one knowledge subdue the other, how you can hold the two together. That is why some people says Ok, they are against all these western education because they've seen all the flaws about it, they feel like you cannot hold the spiritual and hold this together at the same time. So really, to some people they cannot do it. And we found some people that have done that, that you can excel in both.

I have seen some people who don't believe in God and they just wonder why will a Christian who is a nation builder, a Christian who is well learned, who is highly educated, highly intelligent, they wonder why do you then believe in demons? They call it cognitive dissonance. Well, they said is a psychological problem call cognitive dissonance. How can you be highly intellectual? Highly intelligent, you are successful in business, you are successful as an academics person and at the same time, you believe in all these spirituality, they said that must be cognitive dissonance.

Well for such people Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6 says yes! as a Christian you believe you are dealing with flesh and blood and you believe again you are not dealing with flesh and blood. It takes a Christian to combine both opposite revelations in his mind. I mean, verse 1 to 9 were dealing with flesh and blood and verse 12 says you are still not dealing with flesh and blood.

It takes someone as a Christian to take both opposite ideologies in the same person. And that's how to find the balance in spiritual warfare.

And this is your New Testament identity the New Testament identity and responsibilities. because people taught, New Testament, the challenges, some people have feel like the thing is so water down, there is nothing much to do, just shout grace and is not like the things of the Law, and they feel like there isn't' much to do with the New Testament. There is a lot to do, the struggle for balance, the responsibility for balance. We are not fighting flesh and blood, we are fighting flesh and blood all at the same time.

You can be useful, you can allow the light of God be unhinder in you and that is what Paul was saying, if you remember some of the past episodes we had about Paul that he was like, he was able to minister to both ways when he was constraining himself in fasting, so he can be all things to all men.

So some people with the light they have, they cannot even enter into the academic world and even be engage. How can you? People that you cannot even talk with... Yes, am good at knocking at door. There are some doors you cannot just knock based on your level, but is calling us that you can hold all together, and Apostle Paul is such an example of that.

So when it comes to the Law, he cannot just rubbish him, in all those places, he can talk with King Agrippa, he can talk with the prisoners in that place and that kind of thing. And that is the heavy responsibility on us as a New Testament Christian now that for us to be able to hold the two together. You know in that both, we are so relevant, we are so useful and we can bring the spiritual into the natural, and the natural into the spiritual. And yes nothing of them is fighting each other in. We deal with flesh and blood, we don't deal with flesh and blood simultaneously. That is what he is calling us into. Find the balance in spiritual warfare.

In finding the balance, is a very serious thing because even in science, in chemistry they really want to find the exact weight. A lot goes into finding the balance, how do you know this, some steps produce this and this.

So we are calling you to do the hard work. It is a hard work of finding the balance and that is your job, it's your responsibility. He says be sober, be well balance. (1Peter 5:8) (Amplified Translation)

If you look at that word be well balance. So you can be balance and not be well balance. So he is a level from being balance to be well balance. And he says not well balance is the very thing that Satan is looking for (1Peter5:8). That is really what Satan is all about. That is the schemes of the devil.

And that is the only thing he fight with. So stop using your force and stop approaching force and stop about if I shout the loudest, and if we make the screaming, and I can do this and do this one, you have to even understand that the game has change now. It's about tactics and it's about wiles, it's about you blinding you to the other side. That is the wiles of the devil.

And so today you are going to open your eyes and open your eye through the scripture to see the other side and not just seeing the other side, you are walking in both, you are bringing the supernatural into the natural and natural into the supernatural and holding it well together.

Before we close, viewers just like she said, if you will notice very well, I know a lot of people know Ephesians 6 very well, especially for those that deal in spiritual

warfare, is one of the most often quoted verses “for we wrestle not against flesh and blood” people quote that.

If you notice that word when he says “for we wrestle not against flesh and blood,” if you notice the previous before then, he says we are not ignorant of the wiles. It will mean then the devices of the devil is to divide our lives either to put us in verse 1-9 or to put us in verse 10 all the way down there.

He says we know what the schemes are, Paul said I know what the schemes are, let's us not be ignorant for we don't wrestle against flesh and blood. So we must make sure that we actually stand against the schemes, and what is the scheme? That particular place tells us, the scheme is actually box you into that or that. So we don't want to stay in either, we must find the balance and that is what today's transmission is all about.

So today we encourage you and charge you to kick yourself out of the box, whichever box you are. To be able to hold your own in both.

And so we welcome you again to continue this episode with us tomorrow 9am UK time as we continue on this series, we are on Knock Out season on prayer and we still continue as the Lord leads us on prayer.

So till we see you tomorrow 9am UK time

What do you want to say?

Well, stay in tune and God bless you.

Bye