

House On The Rock Life Group Study outline 2021

November: Spiritual warfare

Week 1 – Why spiritual warfare?

Introduction

Edwin Starr wrote that song “War”, popularised by Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker in the “Rush hour” movies. While it was the subject of comic relief in the movie, the original lyrics are anything but comical. In human terms, war means destruction, heartbreak, tears and loss of lives. In Edwin Starr’s view, no one in their right minds would celebrate the idea of war. In fact, he writes, “the thought of war blows my mind”. Yet we Christians speak about spiritual warfare; often with no fear, and even a sense of anticipation. Why is this? To be clear, we are not talking of a physical war that leads to the loss of human lives. There is a reason why this war is different – the parties, the battlegrounds, the spheres and dimensions are different. Even the “prize” is different. In this war men do not fight, women do not fight – the Sons of God fight. It is not a fight for physical territories, political advantage or economic gain. It is a battle for something altogether more real, yet unseen; something more lasting, yet difficult to touch. Why spiritual warfare? Let’s find out!

Pilot text

Eph 6:12-13 12 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. 13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Col 2:15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

1 Tim 1:18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.

- What comes to mind when you think of warfare?
- Why “**spiritual**” warfare?
- What is this war about – what is under contention?
- What are some key truths about our warfare that we can learn from the pilot scriptures?
- Take home actions
 - Consider what areas of your life in which your peace is being compromised. Write a list of these areas and prepare to do *spiritual* battle this month to take back that which belongs to you.