

Spiritual Warfare 101

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- I) Spiritual warfare is both [*resisting*] and [*calling out*] false gods.
 - II) Preparation for warfare.
 - III) The consequences of war.
 - IV) Summmmary
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I) You cannot call out false gods until you see them.

Let's begin with SCRIPTURE:

Where in the bible are false gods mentioned?

hints:

- Gen 3:5-6 (self)
- Gen 31:30 (figurines)
- Num 22:41 Baal
- Jer 7:18 Queen of heaven
- Acts 19:23-26*

(* I find it curious that Paul did not suggest making statues of himself, Mary, Jesus, etc. That would have doubled the statue makers business, and everything would have been amicably resolved!)

Next let's look at LIFE:

Why is a singing star called an idol?
is that idolatry???

Why are actors and actresses called 'stars'?

This title is a reference to an acient practice:

a start is heavenly body (see Genesis 37:9, Rev 12:1)

In the ancient world, one would become a god by taking one's place among the heavens, hence the constellations of Hercules, Orion, Perseus, Casseopia, (& etc)

Then, there are 'the gods' themselves,Mercury, Venus, Mars, Saturn, Jupiter, (and later: Neptune, Uranus, and Pluto)

This is why entertainers are called "stars". They are being presented as 'gods'.

The real question is "WHY are they worshiped?" (Most of them were originally paupers. Many of them still, even with their wealth, have little to no education.)

... yet we hang on their every pronouncement ...

What other modern false gods are there?

Money, power, control, chaos (Nietzsche, Heidegger, rock & roll,), hedonism (Playboy magazine and the porn world), high fashion, pro and anti government causes, culture, racism ... see Gal 5: 19:21 along with the revival of once vanquished spiritual practices associated with certain musical forms (withcraft, devil worship, paganism etc)

Finally, there are spiritual practices that either DON'T acknowledge God as supreme, or that devote glory to OTHER GODS as well (Isaiah 42:8)

- any more?

THERE ARE STILL A LOT!!!

Sports, gambling, self adornment, pretty much anything that begins with 'self' ... there are a lot!

II) How does one prepare for Spiritual warfare:

The preparation is ... clever ...

Eph 6:11-17

Truth:	is a belt, it holds us together
Righteousness:	is a breastplate - it protects us from accusations
Salvation:	is our footwear, try taking a journey without shoes
-- note: our feet are 'shod' (modern: shoe-ed) with	
... "the preparation of the Gospel of peace "	
preparation? hmmm... (Colossians 4:6)?	
Faith:	is a shield! what does that mean?
Salvation:	is a helmet - probably the most necessary piece of battle gear!
The spirit:	is a sword - "...which is the word of God"

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... what is "the word of God"?

I will offer my definition:

IF you took every word that God has ever said, and every word that he will ever say, and put them all into one place,

- **you get "Christ" John 1:1**

If you take a certain part of Christ, and write it down in a book, **you get "The Bible"**, or:

"The Word of God"

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III What are the consequences of Spiritual Warfare?

Well, when entering into any fight, you must be prepared for the consequences.

First: be careful what you claim:

"And the king of Israel answered and said, Tell him:

Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off."

I Kings 20:11 (translation: don't put on your armor *boasting* – as if you were taking it off!)

Warfare is serious! It is no joke!

Persecution and martyrdom are real possibilities.

“And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.”

(Hebrews 11:36-38 [KJV])

The Hebrew Prophets were driven into the desert by an angry populace who couldn't stand...
- spiritual warfare.

IV: Summary

What is spiritual warfare?

"Thus saith the Lord"

- that's it, it's a dangerous tool, use it wisely:

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. (Matthew 10:16 [KJV])

I pray that this is of some help to whomever reads it.

Peace.