Spiritual Warfare Paper

Assignment 5-2 for ST5534 Systematic Theology 1

Jarret Hutchison

Spiritual warfare is an interesting topic and one that I feel doesn’t get a lot of attention now a days. My personal experience with spiritual warfare within ministries is that many act as if it is not relevant or they act as if the only people who have to deal with it are leaders or elders who are the “gifted ones” as Wayne A. Detzler puts it. I have also personally attended some pentecostal churches that make it out to be a big show. Within all of these views it is hard for someone to take a proper grasp on the topic of spiritual warfare.

Spiritual Warfare is emphasized in many aspects but as Wayne A. Detzler says there are three main prerequisites when coming to this topic. Those three topics include prayer becoming a significant activity of our lives, saturation with the scripture and confront satanic influence with God’s word. Spiritual warfare is definitely biblically grounded but is often taken out of context with people. I was having trouble putting it into words but I believe that Detzler does a great job with spiritual warfare when he says “it is important that our very beings are saturated with the thought Processes of the Holy Writ. Only then can we detect deviations in our society as being from the Evil One. Only then can we apply Scripture to the issues of the spiritual warfare as the Lord did in Matthew 4:1-11.”[[1]](#footnote-1) I always try to point out the importance of knowing God’s word and I warn my small group all the time about how tricky the devil can be. I use the example of Eve in the garden with the serpent probably way too much but it gets the point across that we need to know what Gods says. Eve was not solid on what God said and we see that play out when she tries to quote God but throws in the extra statement “neither shall you touch it lest you die.” Eve ended up making a big mistake with just getting a few words wrong and it makes me wonder how much more the devil tries to twist God’s word nowadays to trip us up.

I take the stance that spiritual warfare is not taken seriously enough and that we need to be preparing ourselves. The Bible actually brings up many reasons to be cautious and prepared when it comes to this topic but one specific verse that always comes to mind is 1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”[[2]](#footnote-2) I have seen far too many friends fall away from God because they are not prepared when struggles come. I would suggest a few steps to people that are trying to find a biblical means of practicing spiritual warfare which include being in prayer consistently, meditating on scripture by writing memory verse on flashcards and hanging them through out the house as well as really sitting down with a mentor and going over your studies. I believe the mentor should be someone that you can trust to spur you on in Christ like a pastor or seasoned member of the church. I would also like to say that being in prayer consistently is something many do not see as practical but what I mean by it is that one should be going to God in prayer in all circumstances. I heard it said once before that prayer should be as natural to us as breathing is and that is what I am trying to get at when I say consistently.

1. Myths About Spiritual Warfare, Wayne A. Detzler (Reformation and Revival 4, 1995) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The MacArthur Study Bible, English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)