



Spiritual Warfare: The Battlefields

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Sermon Doctrine

Spiritual warfare is the believer's battle to submit to Christ, mortify the flesh, and stand in His finished victory—declaring His lordship in a world enslaved by sin and deception.

Key Text – Ephesians 6:12-13

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.”

Who Is At War? Two Kingdoms

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son. Col 1:13

Kingdom of Light: the kingdom of God

ruled by Jesus Christ the King; operates through love, hope, and faith, entered through faith in Jesus.

Kingdom of Darkness: ruled by Satan; operates through deceit, fear, and rebellion. All people are born as sinners here, doing the will of Satan. The focus is self worship, “you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”



**The Battlefields:
Internal
External**



**1) The Real Battle:
Not Against Flesh and Blood**

Matthew 16:21-24 – Jesus & Peter

21 From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, *and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.* 22 Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, **“God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You.”** 23 But He turned and said to Peter, **“Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”** 24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, **“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.**



2) The Real Power: Not Ours, But His

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage battle according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are **destroying arguments** and **all arrogance** raised against **the knowledge of God**, and we are taking every thought captive to the **obedience of Christ.**”



3) The Real Enemy: Sin and the Flesh

The Battlefield – The Two Natures

Romans 7:14-25 – The Flesh

Romans 8:1-13 – The Spirit

Romans 7:22-23

“For I joyfully agree with the law of God in the inner person, but I see a different law in the parts of my body waging war against the law of my mind, and **making me a prisoner of the law of sin, the law which is in my body’s parts.**”

Romans 8:1-2

“Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus. **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.**”



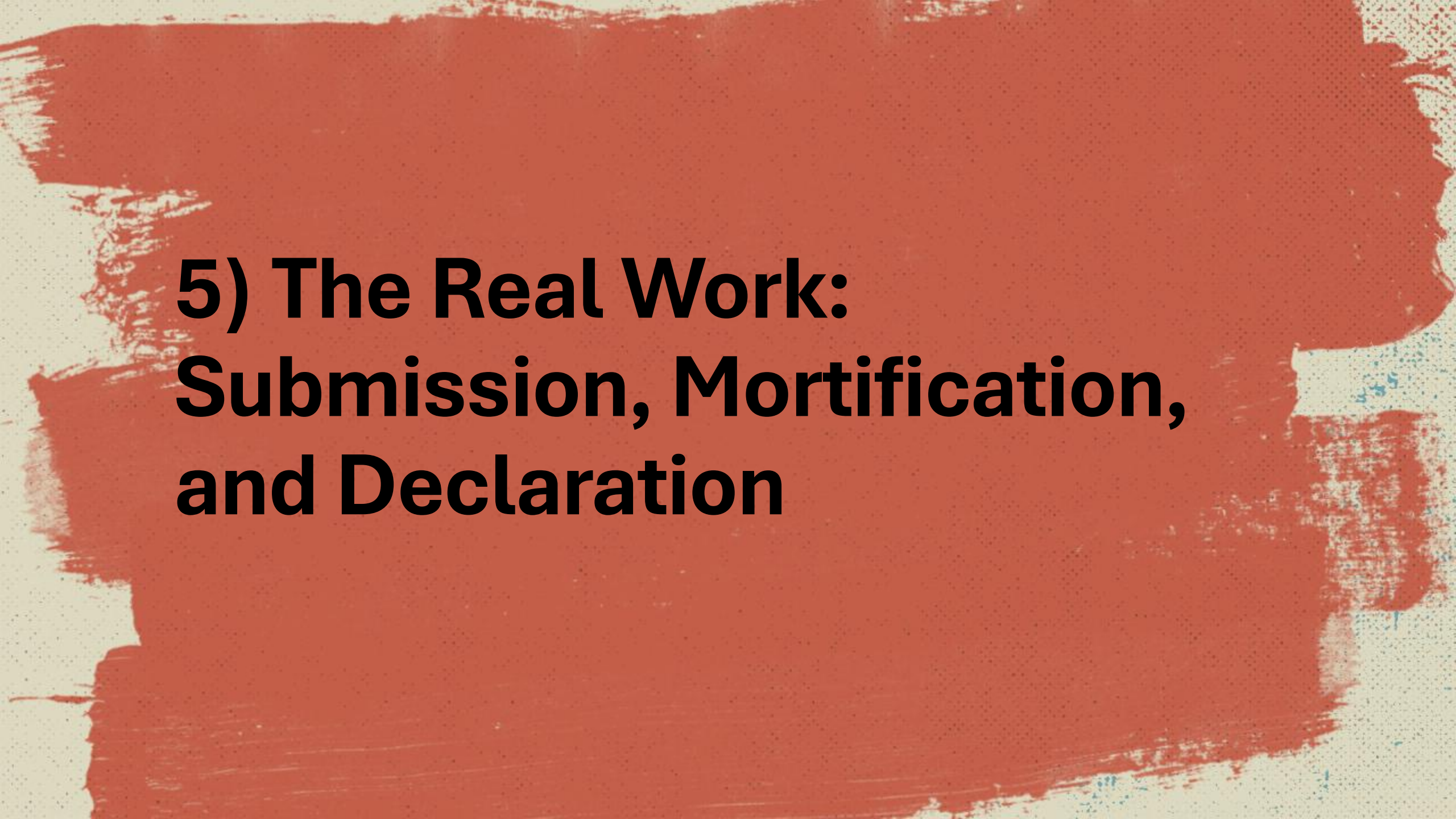
4) The Real Victory: Christ Has Won

Colossians 2:13-15

When you were dead in your wrongdoings and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He made you alive together with Him**, having forgiven us all our wrongdoings, having canceled the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. **When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.**

John 19:30

Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, **“It is finished!”** And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.



**5) The Real Work:
Submission, Mortification,
and Declaration**

Romans 8:13

...if you are living in accord with the flesh, you are going to die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

John 6:29

This is the work of God, *that you believe* in Him whom He has sent.



6) The Real Mission: Ambassadors of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”



**7) The Real Hope: Jesus
Reigns – The War is Won**

Revelation 11:15

Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.'

Romans 16:20

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Psalm 2 - Kingdom of Darkness

The kings of the earth take their stand
And the rulers take counsel together
Against the Lord and against His Anointed,
saying,

“Let us tear their fetters apart
And cast away their cords from us!”

Psalm 2 - Kingdom of God

He who sits in the heavens laughs,
The Lord scoffs at them.

Then He will speak to them in His anger
And terrify them in His fury, saying,
“But as for Me, I have installed My King
Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”

Psalm 2 - Kingdom of God

Now therefore, O kings, show discernment;
Take warning, O judges of the earth.

Worship the Lord with reverence
And rejoice with trembling.

Do homage to the Son, that He not become
angry, and you perish in the way,

For His wrath may soon be kindled.

How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

Ephesians 2:1-10

2 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked **according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.** 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Ephesians 2:1-10

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us **with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,**

Ephesians 2:1-10

7 so that in the ages to come He might show the **surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.** 8 For by grace you have been saved **through faith;** and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For **we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus** for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Ephesians 3:8-10

8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to **preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ**, 9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; 10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known **through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.** 11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out **in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom** we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.



The Battlefields: Internal External

Ephesians 3:14-21

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.