**UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

**Daniel 10:1-21**

**SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS REAL AND ONGOING**

* *“But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me for twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me after I had been left there with the kings of Persia. 14 Now I have come to help you understand what will happen to your people in the last days, for the vision refers to those days.”* (Daniel 10:13-14)
* **There is a spiritual battle that is being waged non-stop between the forces of evil and God’s Kingdom.**
* *“He said, ‘Do you know why I’ve come to you? I must return at once to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I leave, the prince of Greece will come. 21 However, I will tell you what is recorded in the book of truth. No one has the courage to support me against those princes except Michael, your prince.’”* (Daniel 10:20-21)
* **One of the biggest mistakes we can make as Christians is ignoring, or “down playing” the reality and seriousness of spiritual warfare.**
* *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.”* (Eph. 6:12)

**OUR WEAPONS FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE ARE PRAYER AND FASTING**

* *“In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three full weeks. 3 I didn’t eat any rich food, no meat or wine entered my mouth, and I didn’t put any oil on my body until the three weeks were over.”* (Daniel 10:2-3)
* **Spiritual battles cannot be won by human efforts.**
* *“’Don’t be afraid, Daniel,’ he said to me, ‘for from the first day that you purposed to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your prayers were heard. I have come because of your prayers.’”* (Daniel 10:12)
* **Learning to address spiritual warfare with spiritual disciplines is the key finding personal victory in every battle.**
* *“For although we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh, 4 since the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds.”* (2 Corinthians 10:3-4)

**GOD SUSTAINS US AND STRENGTHENS US THROUGH SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

* *“Suddenly, a hand touched me and set me shaking on my hands and knees. 11 He said to me, ‘Daniel, you are a man treasured by God. Understand the words that I’m saying to you. Stand on your feet, for I have now been sent to you.’ After he said this to me, I stood trembling.”* (Daniel 10:10-11)
* **When in our humility we acknowledge our frailty and inability to handle the spiritual battles on our own, we shift to having our dependence on God as our source of strength and victory.**
* *“’How can someone like me, your servant, speak with someone like you, my lord? Now I have no strength, and there is no breath in me.’ Then the one with a human appearance touched me again and strengthened me. 19 He said, ‘Don’t be afraid, you who are treasured by God. Peace to you; be very strong!’ As he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, ‘Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.’”* (Daniel 10:18-19)
* **When God is the source of your strength and the One you seek when you are overwhelmed by spiritual battles, He will show up and see you through it.**
* *“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.”* (Psalm 28:7a)
* *“I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.”* (Philippians 4:13)

**Connect Group Discussion**

**Understanding:**

* What does Daniel 10:1-21 teach us about God/Jesus?
* What is the main message of Daniel 10:1-21?
* Who is the man Daniel sees in verses 4-9? How do we know?
* What parallels are there in Daniel 10:5-6 and Revelation 1:12-16?

**Digging Deeper:**

* What has been your understanding of spiritual warfare? How did this study impact your understanding of spiritual warfare?
* What do we learn from Daniel about responding to divine revelation, and/or difficult messages in Scripture?
* What does Ephesians 6:10-20 teach us about spiritual warfare?
* Why is humility such an important aspect of our prayers?
* How does knowing you are “treasured by God” and the promise that He will strengthen you when you humbly seek Him help you process spiritual warfare?

**Loving Outward:**

* Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
* Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
* Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?