



We Live in a World at War

Week 2 - April 26th

Getting Started

1. “Have life circumstances been easier as a result of being a Christian?”
2. “Have you ever looked at a struggle or a painful situation and wondered if there was more going on than just what you could physically see?”

Scripture

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground...” Eph. 6:12-13

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.” 2 Cor. 2:3-4

Digging Deeper

What is really going on here?

Good grief—life is brutal! Day after day it hammers us, till we lose sight of what God intends towards us, and we haven’t the foggiest idea why the things that are happening to us *ARE* happening to us.

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)

God intends life for us, life that is full and free and to the brim. However, right now that life is opposed Satan, our enemy, quite literally is a thief whose whole goal is to destroy and kill this new life in Christ we are striving for.

WE ARE AT WAR

The world in which we live is a combat zone, a violent clash of kingdoms, a bitter struggle unto the death. I’m sorry if I’m the one to break this news to you: **you were born into a world at war, and you will live all your days in the midst of a great battle, involving all the forces of heaven and hell played out here on earth.**

Until we come to terms with *war* as the context of our days we will not understand life. We will misinterpret 90 percent of what is happening around us and to us. Before he promised us life, Jesus warned that a thief would try to steal, kill, and destroy it. How come we don’t think that the thief actually steals, kills, and destroys? You won’t understand your life, you won’t see clearly what has happened to you or how to live forward from here, unless you see it as *battle*. A war against your heart.

We have an enemy. In this clash of kingdoms called Christianity we must remember our place in the battle: **The story of your life is the story of the long and brutal assault on your heart by the one who knows what you could be and fears it.**

Next Steps

How would you live differently if you believed this?

What response does this raise in you?