

THIS PAPER WILL SHOW THAT SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN THE MARKETPLACE IS A REALITY THAT SHOULD BE ADRESSED.

AUTHOR: PAUL ROOS

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Introduction

This paper will focus on spiritual warfare in the marketplace. It will investigate the identification of the warfare as well as the negative impacts when left unaddressed. Lastly it will focus on the recourse Christians have to do to counter the attacks.

What is spiritual warfare?

The Bible refers to spiritual warfare as a war between two seeds.

Genesis 3 verse 15

“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel”

Matthew 13 verse 38

“The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one”

The war is a war between satan and his demonic spiritual forces on the one side and Gods children on the other side. The warfare starts with a lei. Satan is the father of the lei.¹

Rebecca Mashburn sums the warfare up as the fight for the hearts of man.² Satan and his demonic forces sow thoughts in our hearts. We have to resist these thoughts in the warfare.³

The question arises why would God allow spiritual warfare? Dennis Peacock made the point that God uses spiritual warfare as training to build our character, knowledge, resolve and spiritual mussel.⁴ Right after Jesus was baptised, the Holy Spirit had lead Jesus away to the desert where He was tempted by Satan, and had to withstand the spiritual warfare.⁵

Does Spiritual Warfare exist in the marketplace?

There is a Dualism narrative in the secular world today. The suggestion is made that the market place and the spiritual and religious world are separated.⁶ This is exactly what the enemy wants.

¹ John 8 verse 44

² Rebecca Mashburn, what is spiritual warfare, Christianity .com

³ Matthew 6 verse 31 & 2 Corinthians 10 verse 5

⁴ Dennis Peacock, Go Business 200 Student Manual Lesson 24

⁵ Luke chapter 4

⁶ Dennis Peacock, Go Business 200 Student Manual Lesson 8

With this narrative the enemy and his demons can carry on with their distraction unnoticed and there by neutralising the big role the market place can play as a ministry in building and expanding Gods Kingdom.

Dave Kahle pointed out that scripture confirmed spiritual warfare in the market place. Job was attacked by satan and lost his business , family and home. The Israelites in there apostasy often took advantage of the poor while striving after money and wealth. Jesus was also tempted by satan with offers of power and riches wile in die desert.⁷

According to Dennis Peacock companies develop a life and spirit of their own.⁸

How do you identify spiritual warfare in the marketplace?

Identifying spiritual warfare in the business place is the starting point to appropriately address it.

Ephesians 6 verse 12

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against the powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against the spiritual wickedness in high places”

Bristan and Latondra Heaven says that it is important to recognise there is a battle and to declare our allegiance.⁹ Satan’s attacks are mostly undercover and perhaps harder to recognise. If you do not recognise it, the damage that satan can cause is so much bigger. We must therefore be aware and mindful of the weapons that are being used. Examples that are given is pride, lies and self-centeredness, and they suggests that one fights back with the opposite e.g. humbleness, truth and selflessness.

Setbacks, especially when something big is about to happen for the expansion of Gods Kingdom are indications of spiritual warfare.¹⁰ Obstacles and hindrances are also a signs.

John 16 verse 33b

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart. I have overcome the world.”

Jealousy and selfish ambition are examples of spiritual warfare.

James 3 verse 16

“For where jealousy and selfish ambition exists, there will be disorder and vile practice”

⁷ Dave Kahle, Spiritual Warfare in Business. Is Evil influencing our Business and Careers.

⁸ Proverbs 11 verse 11

⁹ Bristan & Latondra Heaven, Spiritual Warfare in your Business

¹⁰ Dave Kahle, Spiritual Warfare adversity and your Business

The love of money is common in spiritual warfare in business.

Matthew 6 verse 24

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other.”

According to Dennis Peacock spiritual warfare in a business takes place on three levels: Relational, Conceptual and Executional. He further makes the statement that Relational spiritual warfare accounts for 80% or more of the warfare and that the Relational warfare can also lead to Conceptual and Executional problems.¹¹

It is important to identify a pattern of warfare in your business. After self-assessment we have identified the following warfare patterns in our business:

Relational: Conflict between management and management and labour force. A spirit of rebellion was prevalent. A spirit of competition has also had damaging effects. The competition was between individual personnel, factions and departments, but also expanded to competition between companies. This spirit of competition is a distraction of what really needs to be done for increased productivity, growth and expansion of Gods Kingdom. Gossip, an Absalom spirit, perceptions and touchy were also present.

Conceptual: Communication between labour and management. True believe in the organic production concept. Fear, doubt and productivity was also identified.

Executional: Natural disasters e.g. hail, frost and heat damage. Break down of equipment in critical stages. Cash Flow constraints and excessive growth.

It is important to note that every adversity is not necessarily spiritual warfare. One should look for the root cause of problems and not just the symptoms.¹²

How can a Christian business counter spiritual warfare attacks?

The best way to counter spiritual attacks is to prepare for it.¹³

Ephesians 6 verse 13 to 18 tells us to put on every piece of Gods Armor for the spiritual warfare:

BELT OF TRUTH. This is the Word of God, that is the source of truth. The rest of the Armor hooks onto the truth. The more we study the Bible the closer we move to God and the stronger we get to

¹¹ Dennis Peacock, Go Business 200 Student Manual Lesson 8

¹² Matthew 3 verse 10

¹³ Ephesians 4 verse 27 & James 4 verse 7

resist attacks. Build and align your business according to biblical principles. Build strategically with a biblical climate and character.¹⁴

BREAST PLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. By living a just life and by obeying God, we are less open to satan to attack. The same applies for a business. A business must operate in a righteous manner within the principles and laws of God, and the laws of the authority it operates under. By doing this a business will close openings for satan to attack. Take authority over a rebellious spirit. Create a disciplined environment where people are held accountable.¹⁵

SHOES OF WILLINGNESS TO TESTIFY THE PEACE OF THE GOSPEL: The vision and culture of a business must be aligned and grounded in the gospel and freely expressed and testified. This vision must be available to all.

Habakkuk 2 verse 2

“And the Lord answered me, and said , Write the vision , and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.”

Joseph Cortes comments that in a business without a vision people let go and this lack of discipline opens the door for spiritual attack.¹⁶

Proverbs 29 verse 18

‘Where there is no vision the people perish, but he that keepeth the law happy is he’

The foundation of the gospel lets us stand stronger against attacks.

SHIELD OF FAITH. Satan tries to weaken our faith through lies, insults and temptations.¹⁷ A prayer strategy with a prayer team praying for a business is important to take authority over satan in the business.¹⁸ Thomas Castello points out the importance to stay calm and focused in faith.¹⁹

HELMET OF SALVATION: This protects our thoughts with knowing no matter what satan lies to us about we are saved.

SWORD OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: We use the Holy Spirit to protect us, but also to attack and destroy satan. Dennis Peacock expressed that in a Christian business the Spirit of God must have free access over the actions, operations and profits of the business.²⁰ The Holy Spirit is our counsel and mentor.

¹⁴ Dennis Peacock, Worldview for the Marketplace, Living and Working Strategically

¹⁵ Matthew 18 verse 15-17

¹⁶ Joseph A Cortes, Spiritual Warfare

¹⁷ Olivia Woodford, How to pray when under spiritual attack

¹⁸ Matthew 18 verse 20

¹⁹ Thomas Costello, How to keep your focus on the spiritual battle

²⁰ Dennis Peacock, Go Business 200 Student Manual Lesson 4

Always consult God before we act and ask for the gift of discernment. The Holy Spirit also calms us down and gives us peace when satan tries to put lies in our minds.

1 John 2 verse 27

“But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie- just as it has taught you, abide in him”

A final comment; preparation for spiritual warfare is a growth process, and we must use training as a leverage. It is especially important to train our leaders (sons), so that they grow to a point where they become unconscious component in their warfare.^{21 22}

Conclusion.

It can be concluded that spiritual warfare most certainly exists in the marketplace. It is important to identify the specific spiritual warfare patterns in your business, and then prepare and train for resistance.

James 4 verse 7

“So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you”

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❖ Scripture was taken from the Holy Bible NIV and NKJV

²¹ Deuteronomy 6 verse 6 to 9

²² Dennis Peacock, Go Business 200 Student Manual Lesson 22