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BIB 303 NO Christian Thought

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BOOK REVIEW: 3 CRUCIAL QUESTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE, BY CLINTON E. ARNOLD.

PERCENTAGE OF BOOK READ: 100%

According to Clinton Arnold, the 3 crucial questions book is based on two assumptions. First, there are crucial questions related to the Christian faith for which imperfect Christians seem to have no final answers. Christians living in eternal glory may know fully even as they are known by God, but now we know in part. Second, each Christian generation partly affirms its solidarity with the Christian past by reaffirming “ the faith which was once delivered unto the saints”. Such affirmation is usually attempted by religious Scholars who are notorious for talking only to themselves or by nonexperts whose grasp of the faith lacks depth of insight.

Also, according to the author’s preface, ninety-seven books on spiritual warfare has been read. Most of them present some form of “ deliverance ministry” and are full of dramatic and triumphant stories. Some of these books sound alarms on territorial spirits and make suggestions about identifying them and praying against them. In spite of all that has been said about spiritual warfare over the past decade, many believers are still troubled by a set of unanswered questions. At the top of the list remains one of the most important questions of all, “ what does the Bible teach about these issues?”.

The book is broken into 3 segments or chapters: Can a Christian be demon possessed? Do we really have a responsibility to engage territorial spirits? And , even more foundational, what is spiritual warfare all about? This book attempts to provide biblical, theological and some church- historical perspectives to the three crucial questions about spiritual warfare. The author’s perspective on these

issues has not only come from significant personal study, but also from his participation in the cause of Christ- presenting the gospel, teaching new believers, and helping people to grow in their relationship with and obedience to the Lord.

The first crucial question is : What is spiritual warfare? This can be said to be belief in evil spirits and a desire to get the upper hand on them before they get it on us. For many people, this is all a little too weird to take seriously. A variety of images come to mind when demons are mentioned. Some people immediately think of strange practices they have heard about in other countries or even among immigrants in our own communities. Many Christians have come to think of spiritual warfare as a specialized form of ministry like exorcism, deliverance ministry, or certain types of intercession. While these may represent one facet of the topic, indeed, one manifestation of the battle, spiritual warfare is much broader and all - encompassing than this. Another writer that detailed the analysis of spiritual warfare in the book is Frank Peretti. He really exposed this present darkness and how to engage the darkness in battle or warfare.

The second crucial question is : Can a Christian Be Demon - possessed? The biblical, theological, and historical evidence suggests that Christians can be profoundly influenced by evil spirits- even to the extent that it can be said that they are inhabited and controlled by demons. The only sharp contrast here is that demons or Satan can not own a Christian, but can torment, afflict and inhabit them bodily. Although, the Epistles do not use the terms demonization or have a demon, to describe the experience of a Christian, the concept is nevertheless present. The ideas of demonic inhabitation and control are clearly a part of the biblical teaching on what demons can do to saints.

The third crucial question is: Are we called to engage Territorial spirits? This aspect of the method, of course assumes not only the reality of hostile supernatural beings intent on hindering the progress of the gospel, but it also assumes a demonic hierarchy with powers of greater and lesser rank

having specific geographical assignments. Just like the case of Daniel and the prince of Persia, there are always territorial spirits in every location on earth that Christians have to battle with and overcome by the sword of the Holy Spirit. To overcome territorial spirits, deal with the corporate sins of the people, discern the territorial spirits assigned to a city, and engage in aggressive warfare prayers against the territorial spirits. The biblical and historical evidence supports the idea that there are territorial spirits. These are fallen angels that wield some kind of dominion over people groups, empires, countries, or cities. They exercise their supernatural power not only to bring harm and misery, but most important, to keep people from coming to a knowledge of the one true God.

Summary:

Spiritual warfare is attacking and destroying Satan's perimeter. Every believer must begin the frontal assault. Launch the spiritual takeover of the city and the country, confronting, binding and casting down the spiritual powers ruling over every region. Proclaim the message of the gospel of Christ to every creature in the cities and the nations. Disciple the new believers through the established churches. Establish God's new perimeter where Satan's once existed. Loot the enemies camp. Entirely dispossess him of his most prized possession- human souls. Unless spiritual warfare results in solid tangible conversions that are incorporated into growing number of Churches, nothing of consequence and importance will or has happened. Another way to engage in spiritual warfare is through praise of Jesus Christ revival, as well as evangelism by the fire of the Spirit. When we pray and evangelize, the unreached would be reached, and the unchurched will be churched. Demons hate the fire of the the Holy Spirit, and that is why they do not want to remain in hell ,but to come to earth to deceive innocent and unguided people who are like sheep without a Shepperd. Thank God for discerning saints of God who will carry the fire of God to the ends of the earth.