

# FRONTLINE

## WEEK 3 – BATTLEFIELDS



### \* POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- (1) **You must know your enemy:** Tendencies – patterns of behavior & characteristics of your opposition
- (2) **You must know the Battlefield** – Location & Strategies – methods & weapons
  - where will the attack be located / where will the attack come from

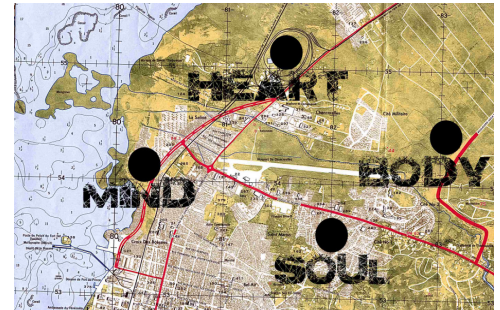
### \* WORLDVIEW (quoted from “*Not Against Flesh & Blood*” by Dr. Ed Laymance)

- (1) **What is your worldview?** A worldview is how you understand the world around you and how you relate to it. In other words, a worldview is like a pair of glasses through which you “view” the world. Your worldview is what you believe about reality – what you see.
- (2) Our **secular, Western culture** sees reality on two separate levels. One is the hidden, unseen world that is understood through religion and spiritual experiences. The other level is the natural world that is understood through science and the physical senses. Each level is mutually exclusive from the other. As a result, the spiritual, unseen world has no practical effect on the natural world. We are taught to trust only that which can be measured, tested, verified, certified, categorized, and identified; and we are taught to doubt, question, or ignore the idea of the spiritual, divine or demonic, having any impact on daily living.
- (3) A **Biblical worldview** sees life and reality through the lens of Scripture, not through culture or experience. The Word of God puts **physical** reality together with **spiritual** reality. They are not mutually exclusive. **Both are present, real, active, and affect everyday life.** Supernatural, as well as natural forces, are at work on planet earth. We live in a natural world and a supernatural world simultaneously. Clearly, the Bible does not separate the physical from the spiritual.

### \* BATTLEFIELDS

#### (1) SOUL

- EMENY = SATAN (Devil / diabolos = “opposer”)
  - He opposes everything God is and does
    - Opposite of **Romans 8:28**... “all for evil...”
  - If God is patient allowing time for us to be saved... (**2 Peter 3:14-15**), Satan is the opposite (desperate!)
    - **2 Corinthians 4:4** / The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
    - **John 10:10** – Jesus came to give us life, he the devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy
- BATTLEFIELD
  - **Location** = your eternal soul
  - **Attack** = Cast doubt & misunderstanding in the simple **TRUTH** of the Gospel / promotes the lie that you have all the time in the world to respond... “do it when you are older!” \* “being good or religious is all you need to do to get to heaven.”
- OUR RESPONSE
  - **Romans 10:9** / That if you confess with your mouth, “**Jesus is Lord,**” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
  - **1 John 5:4-5** / everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.



#### (2) MIND

- ENEMY
  - A DECEIVER at the core: He attacks the very Word/Truth of God
    - Casts doubt on clear TRUTH of God... “**Did God really say...?**” (**Genesis 3:1-5**)
    - Misrepresentation of God’s words (**twisting of Scripture**)... Temptation of Jesus [**Matthew 4:1-11** / **Mark 1:12, 13** / **Luke 4:1-13**]
  - Building up of Secular or worldly based information as only source of truth/understanding (Science, secular reasoning, etc.)

- BATTLEFIELD
  - **Location** = your mind (critical thinking: areas of belief, knowledge, & understanding)
  - **Attack** = Lies, lies, and more lies / Confusion & doubt / busy-ness & apathy
    - **John 8:44** / You belong to your father, the **devil**, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a **murderer** from the beginning, **not holding to the truth**, for **there is no truth in him**. When he **lies**, he speaks **his native language**, for he is **a liar and the father of lies**.
- OUR RESPONSE
  - Jesus said He is the Way, the **TRUTH**, and the life (**John 14:6**)
  - **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** / For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

## (3) HEART

- ENEMY
  - Satan longs for your devotion, adoration & worship / also wants you to live defeated & hopeless
    - **Isaiah 14:14** / I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; **I will make myself like the Most High**
    - **1 Peter 5:8-9** / Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
- BATTLEFIELD
  - **Location** = your heart (goals, feelings, emotions, drive, hopes, dreams)
  - **Attack** = anything to get your strength/energy/emotions to be focused on yourself, your circumstances, others things – anything but God!
- OUR RESPONSE
  - **James 4:7, 8** / Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
  - **1 John 4:4** / You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

## (4) BODY

- ENEMY
  - Satan desires for you to give in to the temptations of the flesh / bondage of sin
- BATTLEFIELD
  - **Location** = your body (physical health)
  - **Attack** = a battle for the flesh: Holiness/Godliness/Righteousness VS sinfulness/lusts/worldliness
- OUR RESPONSE
  - **Hebrews 12:1-3** / Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
  - **Colossians 3:1-10** / Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ~ EPHESIANS 6:10-11