



The TRUTH About – Spiritual Conflict 08th August 2021 Mark Wiltshire

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

1. Last Sunday we learnt that ‘truth’ is important because it establishes a foundation for confidence, certainty in decisions and relationship strength.

“You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death to you.”

C.S.Lewis

2. Why is truth a spiritual issue?
3. Is there a spiritual world? If your answer is ‘yes’, do you think that this spiritual world affects us?

Engage:

4. Read [Revelations 12:7-9](#)
5. Why is the Bible a critically important source of truth?
6. What does conflict produce?
7. What does spiritual conflict imply?
8. What could happen if we do **not** anticipate spiritual conflicts?
9. **3 forces that constantly wage war against every believer:**
 - *The World* – Read [1 John 2:15-17](#)
 - *The Sun living in us* – Read [Galatians 5:16-17](#)
 - *The Devil* - Read [1 Peter 5:8-9](#)
10. Does loving the world produce spiritual conflict?
11. Referring back to [1 John 2:15-17](#), what does this scripture tell us about the world?
12. Why does ‘love’ always require ‘commitment’?
13. **Loving the WORLD produces:**
 - 2 Types of **Craving** - Physical pleasure/Everything we see
 - 2 Areas of **Pride** - Achievements/Possessions
14. Are any of these cravings or pride issues blocking your own relationship with God?

Framework:

15. The sin living in us produces spiritual conflict:

- God's desire – That we will "LET" the Holy Spirit guide our lives - Read [Galatians 5:16-17](#)
- We all have a sinful nature; no-one is born a saint!
- The sinful nature has deep cravings and produces evil - Read [Galatians 5:19-21](#) (this is one reason why we fast regularly)
- CONSTANT fight - NOT an occasional argument!
- The Holy Spirit will produce good fruit in our lives - Read [Galatians 5:22-23](#)

16. What happens if the sinful nature wins?

17. What happens if the Holy Spirit wins?

"Above all, don't lie to yourself. The man who lies to himself and listens to his own lie comes to a point that he cannot distinguish the truth within him, or around him, and so loses all respect for himself and for others. And having no respect he ceases to love."

Fyodor Dostoevsky

18. Read [1 Peter 5:8-9](#)

19. What does this scripture tell us about the enemy?

20. What does this scripture tell us about those strong in faith?

21. Read [Ephesians 6:10-12](#)

22. What are the enemy's strategies?

23. What are the 4 spiritual domains identified in this scripture?

24. **4 Known (Conflict) Strategies:**

- **Direct Attack:** Head on conflict may include personal accusation, creating doubt, may be an attack on a group. Usually a direct attack needs 4:1 superiority.
- **Indirect Attack:** The attacker looks to change ground rules, focus on other areas or issues, could mean family or friends are attacked rather than the main target.
- **Division:** Divide and Conquer, splitting a relationship or group of people - often fuelled by pride or offence.
- **Containment:** The goal is to stop movement, surround the person or situation, keep them busy on distracting things, create delay.

25. What are your defences against the enemy?

26. Read [Ephesians 6:13-18](#)

27. How can you overcome spiritual conflict?

- **Be Close to Christ** - Disciplines (Prayer, Fasting, Unity), Holy Spirit
- **Be Clear on where Conflict comes from** - World, Sin, Devil
- **Be Conscious of the Enemy** - 'Strategies & Signs' (Lies, accusation, manipulation, Fear)
- **Be Completely Prepared** - All our God-given Protection

28. The truth is that spiritual conflict will impact every person, what is the source and what is the solution?

- ***If you have been overwhelmed by spiritual conflict, it's time to reset.***