### Questions for understanding the *Basics of the Faith...*

# WHAT IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

## by Stanley D. Gale

**TO THE READER:** A good learning technique is to answer the following questions BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, you can refine your answers based on your reading. Then, when your group gathers, each can discuss his or her view and you can either affirm or modify what you wrote.

1. Assuming you believe in angels and demons, where are they right now? What influence do you think they are having in your life?

If our chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever, then what is the chief end of angels? (6-8)

In what way do demons rebel against God? In what way do they serve God's plan and purpose? (e.g., Job 1:12; 2 Cor.12:7)

- 2. Read Genesis 3:1-13 and 4:1-16 carefully. When man sinned, there were five areas of his being that changed. The first one is given here; can you figure out the other four? (9-12)
  - Man fell **Spiritually**: Our relationship with God was broken.
  - Man fell \_\_\_\_\_\_: Our relationship with ourselves was broken.
  - Man fell \_\_\_\_\_: Our relationship with each other was broken.
  - Man fell \_\_\_\_\_: Our relationship with the creation was broken.
  - Man fell \_\_\_\_\_: Our relationship with our bodies was broken.

How does Satan oppose God in each of these areas in the Genesis 4 passage?

How do these passages show us that spiritual warfare is part of everyday life for us?

3. Read John 8:42-44. Whose family does the non-Christian belong to, and what is their chief end? (12-14)

- 4. Read Matthew 4:1-11. When Jesus was confronted with temptation, how did He handle it? What example does Jesus give us to handle our temptations? (14-19)
- 5. Read Isaiah 53:4-6 and 1 Peter 2:24. Jesus, our Divine Warrior, suffered wounds that led to His death. We are "healed" by those wounds. Which of the areas mentioned in guestion 3 did He heal? (14-19)
- 6. Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-12, especially the end of verse 6. What should be our battle plan against Satan? (19-27)
- 7. Read Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 5:18, and 1 Corinthians 10:5. According to these verses, what does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? (27-34)
- 8. Pastor John Piper has made the great statement: "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." Satan wants to hinder us from glorifying God. What does he do to keep us from being satisfied in Him? (34-37)

After going through these questions, read the text and fill in the answers in preparation for class. Write down other questions you might have here ...

### **APPLICATION**

Read through the section "Spiritual Weaponry." (27-34) In this section, Dr. Gale gives many suggestions on how to combat Satan's onslaught. Satan has already lost, but he won't stop fighting until he is finally put away at the end. Once you have read and re-read this section, make a plan to begin implementing these warfare tactics until they become a normal part of your life. What are Satan's primary tactics and how is each one met through "standing" in Christ?

#### For Further Study

Why Do We Pray, Stanley D. Gale. P&R, 2012.

Warfare Witness: Contending against Spiritual Opposition in Everyday Evangelism, Stanley D. Gale. Christian Focus, 2005. Overcoming the World: Grace to Win the Daily Battle, Joel R. Beeke. P&R 2005. Spiritual Warfare: A Biblical and Balanced Perspective, Brian Borgman and Rob Ventura. Reformation Heritage, 2014.

See Dr. Gale's list of other suggested works on pages 37-38.

Find these and more at www.pcabookstore.com.