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ME 780 Spiritual Warfare in Mission and Ministry

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SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN MISSION AND MINISTRY

- I. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the place of spiritual warfare in mission and ministry. During the course topics such as the warfare perspective in scripture; the role of spiritual warfare in Christian history; warfare, worldview, and world religions; spiritual warfare in contemporary world mission; and the practice of ground level and strategic level spiritual warfare will be discussed. A wide variety of teaching methods (lectures, group discussion, videos, guest speakers, etc) will be used during class sessions.
- II. **OBJECTIVES:** By the end of this course students will have:
- A. Developed substantial biblical and theological foundations for the practice of spiritual warfare.
 - B. Reflected critically on theological issues related to the subject of spiritual warfare.
 - C. Been equipped with strategies and tools for engaging in the practice of spiritual warfare.
 - D. Been exposed to a reasonable range of literature related to spiritual warfare.
 - E. Recognized the importance of spiritual warfare in their personal lives and ministries, and in the life and mission of the church.
 - F. Grown in their love for God and their awareness of Christ's victory over evil through their study of spiritual warfare.

III. TEXTS:

Clifford Arnold, *Three Crucial Questions about Spiritual Warfare*

Gregory Boyd, *God at War*

Charles Kraft, *Confronting Powerless Christianity*

Francis MacNutt, *Deliverance from Evil Spirits*

Scott. Moreau, Tokunboah Adeyemo, eds *Deliver Us From Evil*

Russ Parker, *Healing Wounded History*

Neil Anderson, *The Steps to Freedom in Christ*

Mark Nysewander, *The Fasting Key*

IV. REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Regular class attendance (at least 90%).
- B. Participate in a small group that will engage both individually and corporately in a project related to fasting and intercessory prayer (two of our most important weapons in spiritual warfare). This project will be described in more detail on the first day of class. Each group will develop an individual and corporate fasting covenant and will report to the class at the end of the semester concerning their experience in fasting (20%).
- C. Write four 5-page papers related to the key content areas of the course. See below for due dates and descriptions of each paper (80%).

V. COURSE OUTLINE

Module 1 - Introduction. Spiritual Warfare in Scripture. February 9-March 9

In this module we will be seeking to answer the following questions: Why is there an increased interest among evangelical Christians worldwide in the subject of spiritual warfare? Why have evangelicals neglected this subject in the past? What Old Testament concepts and motifs are relevant to the subject of spiritual warfare? What important developments emerge during the intertestamental period? How does Jesus' understanding of the Kingdom of God relate to spiritual warfare? How does the New Testament understand the role of Satan and demons? What is accomplished through the work of Christ in "destroying the works of the devil" (1 Jn 3:8)? What is the role of spiritual warfare in the advancement of the church as presented in the book of Acts? How do the Pauline epistles, the General Epistles and the book of Revelation present spiritual warfare motifs? What critical theological issues are bound up with the subject of spiritual warfare as presented in scripture.

Learning resources for this module:

Arnold, *3 Crucial Questions*, 17-72.

Kraft, *Confronting Powerless Christianity*, 7-26

Boyd, *God at War*, 10-293

Moreau, *Deliver Us from Evil*, xvii-xxviii, 177-199

Based on the content of the class presentations and the learning resources for this module, write a 5 page paper (doublespaced typed, 12 font size) titled "The Importance of Spiritual Warfare for Ministry Today." In your paper make sure you discuss (a) its foundations in scripture (b) its contemporary relevance (c) the need for a balanced approach to the subject, and (d) its relation to your future ministry. Make sure you interact with the learning resources in your paper. Due March 9.

Module 2, Warfare, Worldview and World Religions (March 9-April 6)

Here are some of the questions we will be wrestling with in this module: How does the biblical worldview contrast with the modern Western Worldview? Why have Westerners excluded the middle spiritual realm? How does a Christian worldview differ from animism on the one hand, and Enlightenment rationalism on the other? How should Christians view non-Christian religions in relation to spiritual warfare? What is the role of the divine in non-Christian religions (through general revelation)? What is the role of the demonic in non-Christian religions?

Learning Resources:

Charles Kraft, *Confronting Powerless Christianity*, 27-199

Scott Moreau, ed., *Deliver Us From Evil*, 3-24, 104-123, 138-172, 243-257, 276-289

Paul Hiebert, "Spiritual Warfare and Worldview," in *Global Missiology for the 21st Century*, ed. By William D. Taylor, pp. 163-178. On reserve in library.

Based on the content of the class presentations and the learning resources, write a 5 page (doublespaced typed, 12 font) paper titled "The Importance of Worldview." Make sure you include in your paper a discussion of (a) the importance of worldview in general (b) key elements of a biblical worldview and (c) your own worldview—what has shaped it, how it has changed, and how it has affected your approach to spiritual warfare. Make sure you interact with the learning resources in your paper. Due April 6.

Module 3. Ground Level Spiritual Warfare (April 6-27)

In this module we will be attempting to answer some of the following questions: What is the role of the demonic in the lives of believers? Can a Christian be demonized? How does one practice deliverance ministry today? What is the role of the demonic in relation to places and objects? What is the role of worship, intercessory prayer and fasting in relation to ground level spiritual warfare?

Learning Resources:

Clinton Arnold, *3 Crucial Questions About Spiritual Warfare*, 73-139.

Francis MacNutt, *Deliverance from Evil Spirits*, 9-277

Neil Anderson, *The Steps to Freedom in Christ*

Charles Kraft, *Confronting Powerless Christianity*, 200-216.

Moreau (ed), *Deliver Us from Evil*, 91-102.

Based on the content of the class presentations and learning resources, write a 5 page (doublespaced typed, 12 font) paper titled "Deliverance for Those who are Bound." Make sure you discuss (a) the nature and extent of demonic influence in the lives of Christians (b) your approach to ministering to those experiencing demonic bondage (c) questions and concerns you have in relation to ministering in this area. Don't forget to interact with the learning resources in your paper. Due April 27.

Module 4. Corporate or Strategic-level Spiritual Warfare (April 27-May 18)

Here are some of the questions we will be attempting to answer in this module: Are there such things as “territorial spirits”? If so, how do Christians engage them? What differences of opinion exist within the spiritual warfare movement on how to engage territorial spirits? What spiritual warfare issues are relevant to healing families, churches, communities, and nations. How does one go about bringing healing in these areas? What is the role of worship, individual and corporate intercessory prayer, fasting, representational confession, and acts of reconciliation in relation to corporate or strategic level spiritual warfare?

Learning Resources:

Clinton Arnold, *3 Crucial Questions about Spiritual Warfare*, 143-199.

Russ Parker, *Healing Wounded History*, 1-192.

Moreau, et. al, *Deliver Us from Evil*, 259-272.

Based on the class presentations and learning resources write a 5-page paper (doublespaced typed, 12 font) titled “Corporate Level Spiritual Warfare” outlining what you believe about the reality of corporate level spiritual warfare and how one goes about engaging in spiritual warfare in relation to corporate entities like families, churches, communities and nations. Be sure to interact with the learning resources in your paper. Due May 18.

