

Not Against Flesh & Blood

A stone statue of an angel with large, feathered wings, holding a sword, set against a cloudy sky. The angel is depicted in a standing position, facing slightly to the right, with its head tilted upwards. The wings are spread wide, and the sword is held in the right hand, pointing downwards. The statue appears to be made of a light-colored stone, possibly marble or limestone, and shows signs of weathering and age. The background is a dramatic, cloudy sky with varying shades of grey and white.

A Seven Week Series on Spiritual Warfare
Week Six: Worship as Warfare

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Paul, Ephesians 6:12 NIV

Not Against Flesh & Blood

1. Creation & Chaos
2. Cruciformed Sovereignty
3. Prayer as Holy Resistance
4. Prayer in Imagination
5. Sword of the Spirit
- 6. Worship as Warfare**
7. Hell Will Not Prevail



Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:
www.christiansburgmennonite.org

“The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth [evoke] songs of joy.”

Psalm 65:8 NIV

“We should know and celebrate God with our whole person. While too many Christians neglect to serve God with the mind, others cultivate only their minds and neglect the emotional aspects of worship.”

Craig Keener, *Gift & the Giver: The Holy Spirit for Today*

“...the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

Jesus, John 4:23-24 NIV

Worshipping With All Five Senses

1. **Sight** (visuals—physical & spiritual eyes)
2. **Hearing** (music, teaching, the Spirit, etc.)
3. **Taste** (food & drink—communion!)
4. **Smell** (pleasant aromas, incense, etc.)
5. **Touch** (holding hands/raised, hugs, etc.)

“Those who tend to love and benefit from worship enter into an imaginative world the other group [those bored by it] knows nothing about. In vivid, colorful, concrete ways, they see themselves before the throne, they imagine God in all his glory, they picture themselves being overwhelmed by the crashing waves of God’s relentless love... they enter into worship “with all five senses.” And because their re-presentations [visualizing] are vivid, they are registered as real in the minds of these worshippers. So they impact them and move them profoundly.”

Greg Boyd, *Seeing is Believing* (pg.100)

The Place & Power of Worship

- Music used in OT tabernacle/temple worship
(1 Chron 6:30-32; 2 Chron 5:6-7; Psalms, etc.)
- Music & song used in NT house churches
(Eph 5:18-20; 1 Cor 14:26; Col 3:16; James 5:13)
- For private use and corporate expression
(Psalm 95; 104:33; 150; Col 3:16; etc.)
- Music & song drives away evil spirits
(1 Sam 16:14-23)
- Used to resist evil and *welcome* God's presence
(2 Chron 20:1-30; Ps 8:2; 32:7; 46, etc.)

2 Chronicles 20:15-17 NLT

¹⁵ He said, “Listen, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Listen, King Jehoshaphat! This is what the LORD says: Do not be afraid! Don’t be discouraged by this mighty army, for the battle is not yours, but God’s.

¹⁶ Tomorrow, march out against them. You will find them coming up through the ascent of Ziz at the end of the valley that opens into the wilderness of Jeruel.

¹⁷ But you will not even need to fight. Take your positions; then stand still and watch the LORD’s victory. He is with you, O people of Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Go out against them tomorrow, for the LORD is with you!”

2 Chronicles 20:20-22 NLT

²⁰ Early the next morning the army of Judah went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. On the way Jehoshaphat stopped and said, “Listen to me, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be able to stand firm. Believe in his prophets, and you will succeed.”

²¹ After consulting the people, the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the LORD and praising him for his holy splendor. This is what they sang:

“Give thanks to the LORD;
his faithful love endures forever!”

²² At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the LORD caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves.

John, Revelation 4:1-3 NLT

¹ Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this.” ² And instantly I was in the Spirit, and I saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it. ³ The one sitting on the throne was as brilliant as gemstones—like jasper and carnelian. And the glow of an emerald circled his throne like a rainbow.

“[When John says] that “a door stood open in heaven,” he is insisting... that God’s sphere and ours are not far apart, and that at certain places and moments they interlock. Sometimes the boundary between them is like a thin partition... What John sees in his vision is the regular life of heaven, the worship of God which, in that dimension, is going on all the time.”

N.T. Wright, *Simply Christian* (pg.144)

Revelation 4:4-6 NLT

⁴ Twenty-four thrones surrounded him, and twenty-four elders sat on them. They were all clothed in white and had gold crowns on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning and the rumble of thunder. And in front of the throne were seven torches with burning flames. This is the sevenfold Spirit of God. ⁶ In front of the throne was a shiny sea of glass, sparkling like crystal.

Revelation 4:6-8 NLT

In the center and around the throne were four living beings, each covered with eyes, front and back.

⁷ The first of these living beings was like a lion; the second was like an ox; the third had a human face; and the fourth was like an eagle in flight. ⁸ Each of these living beings had six wings, and their wings were covered all over with eyes, inside and out. Day after day and night after night they keep on saying,
“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty—
the one who always was, who is, and who is still
to come.”

Revelation 4:9-11 NLT

⁹ Whenever the living beings give glory and honor and thanks to the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever), ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down and worship the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever). And they lay their crowns before the throne and say,

¹¹ “You are worthy, O Lord our God,
to receive glory and honor and power.
For you created all things,
and they exist because you created what you
pleased.”

“That is what worship is all about. It is the glad shout of praise that arises to God the creator and God the rescuer from the creation that recognizes its maker, the creation that acknowledges the triumph of Jesus the Lamb. That is the worship that is going on in heaven, in God's dimension, all the time. The question we ought to be asking is how best we might join in.”

N.T Wright, *Simply Christian*

“He lifted me out of the pit of despair,
out of the mud and the mire.
He set my feet on solid ground
and steadied me as I walked along.
³ He has given me a new song to sing,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see what he has done and be amazed.
They will put their trust in the LORD.”

Psalm 40:1-3 NLT

Worship as Warfare—A *Summary*

- True worship involves the whole person—spirit, soul & body—the intellect and emotions
- Worship should involve *all* five senses if it's to have a profound experiential impact on us
- Worship is both personal and corporate, it's for the individual and the church body
- Worship drives out the enemy and expands the Kingdom of God in us and around us
- We join with heaven when we worship and we become more aware of God's presence

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