

Hell's Spells – Chapter 3 Teaching Guide

Spiritual Warfare and Guarding the Eye Gate

Introduction

“Any person who refuses to acknowledge the reality of spiritual warfare has been effectively enchanted by the power of hell's spells. You are not just in a fight, but you are in the fight of your life...” (p. 39)

Many believers live as if spiritual warfare is optional or distant. However, Scripture makes it clear that every believer is already in the battle, whether they realize it or not.

Key Scripture

Ephesians 6:12

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

Teaching Point

There are **no spectators** in spiritual warfare.

The sobering fact is that **we all wrestle**.

Paul does not say *some* wrestle.
He says **we wrestle**.

Teaching Movement 1

Understanding the Nature of the Fight

The Meaning of “Wrestle”

The Greek word translated as *wrestle* is **pale**.

Definition:

A close-combat struggle in which one opponent seeks to gain victory by controlling the neck of his adversary.

In Ancient Wrestling

- The fighter who controlled the neck controlled the opponent.
 - The neck determines where the head turns.
 - Where the head turns determines what the opponent sees.
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Teaching Illustration

If your opponent controls your neck:

- They control your **perspective**
 - They control your **direction**
 - They control your **ability to fight**
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Spiritual Application

The enemy wants to control **what you see** and **how you see it**.

If he controls your vision:

- He shapes your **perception**
- He influences your **thinking**
- He affects your **decisions**

This is why much of spiritual warfare is fought through **what we allow ourselves to look at**.

Teaching Movement 2

Guarding the Eye Gate

The Three-Part Nature of Man

Scripture shows that human beings are **three-part beings**.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The Three Parts

Spirit

- Connects us to God

Soul

- Mind
- Will
- Emotions

Body

- The physical vessel that interacts with the world

The enemy often attempts to influence the **soul through the body**, especially through the eyes.

The Eye Gate

The Bible teaches that the eyes are closely connected to the inner life.

Matthew 6:22

“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.”

The eyes function as **windows into the soul**.

Because of this, a large part of spiritual warfare involves **guarding what we look at**.

If the enemy gains access through the eyes, he can plant:

- Temptation
 - Comparison
 - Envy
 - Lust
 - Fear
 - Deception
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You Cannot Afford to Yield Access

Believers must guard their **eye gate**.

What we repeatedly look at eventually shapes:

- Our **thoughts**
- Our **desires**
- Our **beliefs**

This is why Scripture repeatedly warns us about what we allow before our eyes.

Teaching Movement 3

Learning from Job's Example

One of the clearest examples of guarding the eyes is found in Job's commitment to purity.

Job 31:1

“I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?”

Teaching Point

Job made a **covenant with his eyes**.

A covenant is:

- Intentional
- Serious
- Binding

Job understood something powerful:

What the eyes linger on, the mind begins to imagine.

So he decided **in advance** what he would refuse to look at.

Teaching Movement 4

The Battle Over Perception

The enemy also works aggressively in the area of **perception**.

Definition of Perception

Perception is a way of regarding, understanding, or interpreting something.

It belongs to the same family as **reception** or **interception**, meaning something that is received or taken in.

In spiritual warfare, the enemy wants to get you by the **spiritual neck** and cause you to perceive things incorrectly. (p. 42)

If he can distort your perception, he can distort your **decisions**.

How the Enemy Manipulates Perception

Satan attempts to distort how believers interpret circumstances and reality.

Teaching Points

Satan wants you to either:

- Be **swollen with pride**, or

- Be **bound by insecurity**

Both are forms of deception.

He will also attempt to persuade you that:

- **Wrong is right**, and
 - **Right is wrong**
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Illustration: Loss of Perception

It is dangerous to develop the wrong perception when piloting an aircraft.

If a pilot loses spatial awareness, they can become disoriented and unable to determine direction. That is why aircraft rely on **gauges and instruments** to guide the pilot when perception fails.

Personal Illustration

When I was young, I lost perception while diving in the **Black River in the low country of South Carolina**. The water was so dark that I became disoriented and could not determine what was up or down.

The enemy attempts to create the same type of **spiritual disorientation**.

He will use:

- Pressure
- Stress
- Confusion

to erode your perception.

In our daily lives, we do not have gauges or instruments to guide us.

Because of that, we must depend on **the Holy Spirit** to aid us in perception. (p. 43)

Teaching Movement 5

Discernment: Greater Than Perception

As believers, we possess something greater than perception: **spiritual discernment**.

When we allow God to empower us with discernment, several things happen.

Discernment Enables Believers To

1. Differentiate truth from error, right from wrong, and pure motives from impure ones.
2. Better identify deception in others.
3. Have divine insight when evaluating testimonies that claim to be from God.
4. Recognize inaccuracies in biblical teaching and prophetic messages.

Discernment becomes a powerful **protection against deception**.

Discernment in Spiritual Warfare

Discernment is an effective **weapon** in spiritual warfare. (p. 44)

While the enemy works to distort perception, the Holy Spirit gives believers the ability to **see through deception**.

Key Takeaway

Spiritual warfare is often fought not on battlefields but through **attention and perception**.

If the enemy can control **what you look at** and **how you interpret what you see**, he can influence your thinking and decisions.

But when believers guard their eyes and walk in **spiritual discernment**, deception loses its power and truth becomes clear.