

# OPEN HEAVEN

Part 5 • July 21, 2024 • Pastor Jason Smotherman

Open Heaven is the mandate that we are not merely servants but invited to be friends with God

## **JOHN 15:15**

*<sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.*

The war we wage is 3-fold.

## **1. The War of the Spirit**

### **EPHESIANS 6:12**

*<sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

## **2. The War of the Flesh**

### **ROMANS 6:23**

*<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

## **3. The War of Religion**

### **ACTS 7:51**

*<sup>51</sup> "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.*

## **THE WAR OF THE SPIRIT**

Our weapons need to be rooted in the fruit and expressed in the gifts.

### **The Fruit of the Spirit**

#### **GALATIANS 5:22-23**

*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

### **The Gifts of the Spirit**

#### **1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-11**

*<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup> For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.*

#### **1 PETER 4:10-11**

*<sup>10</sup> As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: <sup>11</sup> whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

#### **EPHESIANS 4:9 -15**

*<sup>9</sup> (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,*

# THE WAR OF THE FLESH

## Flesh's weapons

**Sin** – missing the mark, a word used to describe all unrighteousness

**Transgressions** – knowingly crossing the line, stepping over God's way - Judas

### ACTS 1:25

*<sup>25</sup> to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."*

**Iniquities** – premeditated – planned choices originating in heart rebelling against God. Great example is Lucifer rebelling in Heaven

### EZEKIEL 28:18

*<sup>18</sup> By the multitude of your iniquities,  
in the unrighteousness of your trade  
you profaned your sanctuaries;  
so I brought fire out from your midst;  
it consumed you,  
and I turned you to ashes on the earth  
in the sight of all who saw you.*

**Abominations** – vile, evil, wayward state of a person's heart expressed in evil actions (i.e. homosexuality & divisive conduct such as gossip, slander, and rebellion)

### PROVERBS 6:16-19

*<sup>16</sup> There are six things that the LORD hates,  
seven that are an abomination to him:  
<sup>17</sup> haughty eyes, a lying tongue,  
and hands that shed innocent blood,  
<sup>18</sup> a heart that devises wicked plans,  
feet that make haste to run to evil,  
<sup>19</sup> a false witness who breathes out lies,  
and one who sows discord among brothers.*

### LEVITICUS 18:22

*<sup>22</sup> You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.*

### LEVITICUS 20:13

*<sup>13</sup> If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.*

## Holy Spirit's weapons

**Salvation** – Through Jesus have grace through our faith. Faith is belief walking through the door of trust.

**Sanctification** – The process of walking with Jesus, He loves us too much to leave us where He found us.

**The Baptism in the Holy Spirit** – Fruit, gifts, and purpose found in the freedom in the Person of the Holy Spirit

### ACTS 17:28

*<sup>28</sup> for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring.*

**Praise** – We shake the foundation with praise.

### JOHN 12:32

*<sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."*

**Declaration** – Declaring our identity in Christ in the face of the attacks from our flesh and the enemy. All the promises of God are yes and amen. They are for me and they are finished.

### ACTS 7:56

*<sup>56</sup> And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."*

## THE WAR OF RELIGION

The movement of the Holy Spirit will always confront the atmosphere of religion. They cannot exist in the same space. The Holy Spirit will not invade a space that He is not welcomed, thus religion and its spirits are hard to root out. Deliverance through the vehicle of repentance is needed to win this battle. We need "Stephens" who will confront so "Paul's" can live.