

# Spiritual Warfare 1

## Evangelism

### Introduction:

Whenever we engage in Kingdom Expansion, we are going to engage in Spiritual Conflict, or you might say "Spiritual Warfare" When Christ was announced of his birth in Bethlehem, King herod used by the devil tried to stamp him out, by killing every man-child under the age of 2.

The devil always attacks the beginning of great things. He will target it's infancy before he has to face it's maturity.

This is the same case of our lives in Christ... The devil will hit hard in the first stages of your growth as a Christian, Oh! The trials of a new convert.

Illustration of birth of new turtles of the coast in the pacific, out of thousands of hatched turtles, only a small percentage make it pass the deadly crabs, the hungry birds and the awaiting fish.

### Mark 4:2-4

3 "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it.

### Spiritual understanding of that is...

Luke 8:11-13

11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, **lest they** should believe and be saved.

The devil despises the beginning of great people, great works and great vision.

### The devil worked overtime in attempts to destroy the early church....

### The church was already attack in several ways...

1). **Acts 2** - The mockery of the day of Pentecost – 3,000 got saved

2). **Acts 4** The Persecution and imprisonment on Soloman's Porch Healing of the Begger – About 5000 got saved

3). **Acts 5** The Hypocrisy in the church through Annias and Saphira – Caused a great reverence in the church

4). **Acts 6** – In the midst of multiplying numbers, great division arose in the new church about neglect, and favoritism - The result of that...They set people in order the results followed.

#### **Acts 6:7**

7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

The early church in it's infancy suffered spiritual violence, but the violence took it by force....

We pick up the story of the first marter, Stephen who was killed for the faith. He was only 2 or 3 years in the Lord.

#### **Acts 6:8-12**

8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.9 Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. 10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke. 11 Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God."

#### **Text: Acts 7:57-8:4**

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

#### **Acts 8**

8:1 Now Saul was **consenting** to his death.

#### **Notes**

Now after the death of Stephen, his killers were not remorse, they felt no shame, this is the how the enemy works, he is not sorry for the damage that he starts. Notice the attitude of Saul... "was consenting to his death"

**Consenting in the greek** - To think well, to feel gratified, the death of Stephen was an inspiration, Jesus warned them that our persecutors, might feel that they are doing God justice.

At that time a **great persecution** arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

3 As for Saul, he made **havoc** of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.

Notes – Saul was busy, making trouble of the church, throwing them into prison. Notice the word "Havoc"

**Havoc** – to make as filth, to degrade or to soil. He was busy campaigning against the church, making it look dirty and filthy by his accusations. We must be careful how we talk about churches. We might be talking about the Bride of Christ.

This is Spiritual Warfare, when the devil accuses the church, makes havoc of the church, and many times people of bend and break under the pressure, but if we are going to contend and be successful in the midst of spiritual warfare we must respond like the saints of the book of acts...

4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

The greatest comeback or retaliation in the midst of spiritual warfare is – Evangelism.