

WORD 2022

Fathers

Atmosphere – Awareness - Anticipation

Mothers

Investment – Involvement - Interaction

Look Around!

You

ATMOSPHERE AND AWARENESS



What do believe?

- **Luke 13:22-23** Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he went, always pressing on toward Jerusalem. 23 Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few be saved?" NLT
- **Luke 13:23-28** He replied, 24 "Work hard to enter the narrow door to God's Kingdom, for many will try to enter but will fail. 25 When the master of the house has locked the door, it will be too late. You will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Lord, open the door for us!' But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' 26 Then you will say, 'But we ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' 27 And he will reply, 'I tell you, I don't know you or where you come from. Get away from me, all you who do evil.' 28 "There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, for you will see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, but you will be thrown out. NLT
- **Matthew 7:13-14** "You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. 14 But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

- **Ideologies** - the body of doctrine, myth, belief, etc., that guides an individual, social movement, institution, class, or large group.
- **Progressive Christianity**
 - Progressive Christianity interprets the Bible through the lens of culture; it does not critique the culture through the lens of the Bible.
- **We Know Better....**
 - This is a battle and strategy from the enemy of our soul from the very beginning!
 - The mindset that we know better than God, that the plain sense of the words of the Bible cannot be trusted.
- **Paul's Admonition**
 - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 We do live in the world, but we do not fight in the same way the world fights. 4 We fight with weapons that are different from those the world uses. Our weapons have power from God that can destroy the enemy's strong places. We destroy people's arguments 5 and every proud thing that raises itself against the knowledge of God. We capture every thought and make it give up and obey Christ. NCV

- Our battle is both spiritual and intellectual as we engage in spiritual warfare with demons and their ideologies.
- **1 Timothy 4:1-2** Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons. NLT
 - It is not only the temptation of sin that pulls people away from God; it is also the deception of error.
- **2 Corinthians 11:3-4** But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent. 4 You happily put up with whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach a different Jesus than the one we preach, or a different kind of Spirit than the one you received, or a different kind of gospel than the one you believed. NLT
 - His greatest concern, then, was not that they would completely deny Jesus but that they would believe in a different Jesus. He was not only concerned with their moral integrity; he was also concerned with their doctrinal purity.

Nothing New Under the Sun

- What, exactly, was the nature of Satan's lie to Eve? His opening words said it all: "*Has God really said ... ?*"
- To paraphrase, "Eve, can you really trust His words? Does He really mean what He says? He is lying to you! He said you will die if you eat from this tree, but you most certainly will not die. *That means that your first step to enlightenment is to recognize that this God is not who He seems to be and that His intentions are questionable. I know better!*" (Genesis 3:1-5).
- The mindset that we know better than God, that the plain sense of the words of the Bible cannot be trusted, that the old, proven paths are not proven at all, that the very God of the Bible must be recreated if He is to live up to our enlightened standards. **We know better!**
- What we are left with is simply **our religion**—a faith and a bible and a god that we have created in our image, based on our values.
- Augustine summed it up nicely: "If you believe what you like in the Gospel, and reject what you don't like, **it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself.**"

Winning the Battle in the Mind and in the Spirit

I. The Word of God!

- I believe that the Bible is inspired, infallible, and inerrant.
- Hebrews 4:12 *"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."* NLT
- Growing in knowledge is important, but knowledge without relationship is dangerous. That was one of the big issues Jesus had with the Pharisees. They had biblical knowledge but their heart was far from God.

“The Bible says”

2. Reliance on the Holy Spirit (Natural – Supernatural)

- **John 14:15-17** "If you love me, obey my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. 17 **He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth.** The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

John 16:7-15 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. 9 The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. 10 Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. 11 Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

12 "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. 14 He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'
NLT

Was the God of the O.T. a God of the Supernatural, was Jesus life on earth supernatural, the book of Acts, the acts of the apostles, was that supernatural?

Cessation - the fact or process of ending or being brought to an end:

- **1 Corinthians 13:7-13** Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 **but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.** 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. 13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. ESV
- **1 Corinthians 14:5** Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up. ESV
- **Has God changed? Do we any the less need the power of the Holy Spirit today?**

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 We do live in the world, but we do not fight in the same way the world fights. **4** We fight with weapons that are different from those the world uses. Our weapons have power from God that can destroy the enemy's strong places. We destroy people's arguments **5** and every proud thing that raises itself against the knowledge of God. We capture every thought and make it give up and obey Christ. NCV

1 John 4:4-6 My dear children, you come from God and belong to God. You have already won a big victory over those false teachers, for the Spirit in you is far stronger than anything in the world. **5** These people belong to the Christ-denying world. They talk the world's language and the world eats it up. **6** But we come from God and belong to God. Anyone who knows God understands us and listens. The person who has nothing to do with God will, of course, not listen to us. This is another test for telling the Spirit of Truth from the spirit of deception. Message

3. Power and Purpose of Prayer

- **1 Thessalonians 5:16-22** Always be joyful. **17 Never stop praying.** **18** Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. **19** Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. **20** Do not scoff at prophecies, **21** but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. **22** Stay away from every kind of evil. NLT

Ephesians 6:10-20 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. 14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. 15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. 16 In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. 17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. **18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. 19 And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan** that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. 20 I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should. NLT

