



## Marlboro Heights Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.

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# SHIFT

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By way of REVIEW:

**Spiritual Warfare** is the ongoing battle for the heart, where the Truth we believe must align with the Righteousness we live.

- Truth must move from being available to being believed, to be lived
- Righteousness must move from being Positional: Right Standing to being Practical: by Progressive Sanctification

Revelatory Truth: Spiritual Warfare is effectively engaged when Truth believed aligns with Righteousness lived.

The TARGET of Warfare:

**Spiritual Warfare** involves recognizing that the heart is the adversary's target because it is vulnerable to perceptual and emotional propositions that appeal to the flesh.

The believer's heart is the target of the adversary because:

- The heart is where **Truth** is received
- The heart is where **belief** is formed
- The heart is where **behavior** is governed

Proverbs 4:23 says, *“Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.”*

It is what captures the heart that will ultimately control one's life.

## The VULNERABILITY of the Heart:

The heart is vulnerable when:

- Truth is **known but not embraced**
- Conviction is **felt but not followed**
- Righteousness is **confessed but not practiced**

Flesh is not just physical; it is the **internal inclination** to live independent of God's Truth. The scriptures depict flesh as more than the skin that dresses the body, but the sinful tendencies that believers are influenced to follow when they fail to walk by the Spirit. According to **Galatians 5:16**, although saved, believers are prone to give in to the lust of their flesh when they fail to walk by the Spirit. This verse reads, ***"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."***

We should know that according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, unveiled through His death for our Salvation and his resurrection for our justification by faith, we are the Righteousness of God in Christ. Our Nature in Him comes with a character and lifestyle that must be developed and matured in a world that is daily affected by the fallout of the Fall in the Garden. Our Salvation through Jesus Christ establishes God's full acceptance and approval of us despite the fact that we daily contend against but yet commit sins, which keep us falling short of His Glory. **Romans 3:23** says, ***"For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God."***

From your lane of life, would you agree that every believer starting with you, daily commits acts of sin? (If so, why? If not, how is it possible to avoid committing acts of sin?)

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Because we live in a world that is contrary to the righteous Nature that we have in Christ, none of us will escape the propensity to commit acts of sin until we are beyond the presence of its influence. **Ecclesiastes 7:20** says, ***"Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and never sins."***

This Truth brings to light that while sin's penalty, power, and ultimate punishment have been defeated through the finished work of Christ, its influence in the lives of believers is yet present. Its presence occupies a place to proposition us, catering to certain tendencies that promote our proneness to commit acts of sin.

**In your lane of life, is there a piercing grief that presses your heart sore, that stems from your desire to live sin-free, that you cannot dismiss and cannot defeat?**

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**The pain of conviction is the evidence of a heart that belongs to God.  
The WARFARE Within:**

Every believer finds themselves in the middle of the Warfare of desiring to do good and doing evil and desiring to do right and doing wrong.

- This is not the absence of Salvation but the evidence of a New Nature at war against the old influence.
- The struggle with sin is not proof of spiritual failure, but the evidence of spiritual life. Romans 7:14-25

**From your lane of life, why is this the inevitable reality for us all?**

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