

POWERS AND PRINCIPALITIES

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." Eph. 6:12.

A lot of people dismiss these words as indecipherable religious jargon, with no basis in reality. A lot of believers, on the other hand, hold the words to be true, but pertaining to things that cannot be seen or understood, a metaphysical reality that transcends our sensory experience and therefore abrogates our obligation to engage in such spiritual battles. A lot of us are caught up in a diabolical disorientation, knowing full well that the state of the world, as it currently stands, is in a sorry state, and can see that spiritual forces are moving people in various and often conflicting directions, but lack the ability to discern the spirits, and therefore to avoid falling under their influences as well.

We do not war against flesh and blood- but the powers that influence and guide our brethren of flesh and blood. A lot of people will balk if you point out that they and their beliefs are under the control of various deceiving spirits, but the scriptures say exactly that, "that the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one." 1 John 5:19.

The spiritual sphere influences and acts upon the temporal sphere. The enemy comes to kill, steal and to destroy beings that can be destroyed- not immortal angels. The battle is raging in 'heavenly places'- maybe beyond sense perception- but the effects are evident here in the world in which we live.

Our Lord created us with the ability to discern the spirits and powers that cannot be seen with naked sense perception. He endowed us with reason to extend our understanding to things that cannot be seen, heard, or touched. (cf. Wis 13:5 ; Rom 1:20). Even Aristotle remarked upon this ability when he claimed that "the things that are pretty well the most difficult for men to get to know, since they are the furthest removed from the senses." (Metaphysics 1:2). We have been given the ability to understand the powers and principalities that we war against and to engage and destroy them in a logical manner.

We've all experienced the deceptions and manipulations of friends or loved ones. It's an aspect of our fallen nature- common, in varying degrees- to all mankind. We know that people trick us into acting in ways that serve their own interests at times. A lot of people are also now becoming disgruntled with mainstream media outlets and government leaders, as they become more and more aware of the deceptions and manipulations coming from these sources as well. Groups of like minded individuals use such tactics to move people into serving their common wills. But so do non-human powers. They also deceive and manipulate us into serving their various and apparently conflicting interests as they serve their leader, the "Father of Lies".

But what are these powers that transcend flesh and blood, that live on long after the flesh and blood vessels they initially inhabited wear out and die? How can we pinpoint and identify such spirits and the effects they produce in the hearts of the men they inhabit? Our Lord told us that "out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." And we, too, can see that when some people hold in their hearts, obvious, known falsehoods, to be true, these errors cause them to act and move in ways that often betray the words of their mouths.

Our Lady of Fatima warned us of "the errors of Russia". Intelligent and devout brethren have identified a few of these powers as Communism, Zionism, and Freemasonry. Each of these powers, in turn, have various principalities and authorities working in unison under them, breaking down the overall objectives of these powers into more specific, task oriented moving principles. The overall goal of Zionism may be advancing on one level, the goals of the Israeli Lobby, on another, by groups such as the Anti Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, on another by pseudo Christian front

groups (such as the Philadelphia Church of God) who consistently use deception to slander and attack the Church and her teachings of Revealed Truth.

I've studied Communism. It is an intelligent deception. Some may say a super-human deception that had a higher, spiritual origin other than Karl Marx and his 'Communist Manifesto' or work, 'Das Capital'. It has a fair amount of Truth mixed in with the errors to make it believable and embraceable. This is the tactic of the serpent- the deceiver. He's a great liar. Revelation describes him as leading the armies of 'the deceived' against the armies of God in the last days. (Rev. 19:19-20; 20:7-10). For the soul unenlightened with Divine Grace, the delusion becomes almost indistinguishable from reality and Truth.

Alot of our fellow creatures of flesh and blood under the influence of these powers are not inherently or irredeemably wicked. They are just deceived. But like all deceptions, the 'errors of Russia' can, and must be, refuted with the Truth- given to us as members of the Body of Christ. Darkness cannot stand in the presence of the Light. Nor can falsehoods be believed that have been thoroughly and consistently exposed as wrong. Their followers may indeed continue to engage in what they now know to be wrong, and may in fact, intentionally deceive others into doing the same, but the delusion of the justness of their cause will forever remain shattered.

We war not against flesh and Blood, but that the eyes of our flesh and blood brethren may be opened to the Truth. That they may be released from the delusions of the wicked one. That the controlling spirits at work within them may be cast out. Our warfare may indeed be a spiritual one, but it's waged on the battlefield of the hearts of men, and the only way to reach the hearts of men is through the senses God gave us to interact with one another.

"Our natural knowledge takes its beginning from sense. Therefore it can extend only so far as it can be brought by (reflection on) the things of the sense." St. Thomas Aquinas- Summa Theologica Ia, 12, 12. If we intend to make known the truth we know to be true- we'll have to show it and make it to be understood in a way that can be comprehended by them.

Again, there will be those, of course, who, after the truth has been presented to them, and they know it to be true, will reject the light of truth, because their deeds are dark and they love the darkness. These will willingly remain in the deceptive embrace of demonic falsehoods. In fact, these may, knowingly and intentionally, seek to lead the ignorant, the naive, the weak, and the gullible to be influenced and controlled by the same deceptive ideologies that they believe in. These will have to be resisted with force at some point, with armed struggle. While the ultimate war will always be of a spiritual nature, sometimes it will become necessary to destroy the vessels those spiritual powers inhabit, especially when those flesh and blood vessels knowingly consecrate themselves to the work of the deceiver. For this reason, Our Lord instructed His Apostles in the garden of Gethsemane, "Let he who is without a sword, sell his cloak and buy one." (Lk. 22:36).