

THE ANGELIC CONFLICT

Lesson 346 – July 8, 2012

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Good Morning!

Let's Make a Mental Shift

To get ready for biblical study, your first shift is a mental shift. You make this mental shift by concentrating on God and His Word. The bible is not a piece of literature. It is a lighthouse for your life. The Word of God is not subject to interpretation. The only correct interpretation of Scripture is the one God intended.

/2PE 1:20-21

Know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own (private) interpretation, and no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men carried along by God the Holy Spirit spoke directly from the exact thinking of THE God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture did not come from the source of man and thus is not altered by the error of man...it is the exact thinking of a God who never changes. Because God never changes you can count on Him...His thoughts and His Word never change...His thoughts are reliably predictable...and ever useful.

/INVITATION TO RESTORATION

Make a Spiritual Shift

The second shift, before your study of the Word of God, is a spiritual shift. You assess your soul condition. <WHAT IS YOUR SOUL CONDITION?>

God wants you to be restored from your sinful condition whenever you commit personal sins, and He gives you the perfect provision through His promises. You make a spiritual shift by taking advantage of God's RESTORATION provision by admitting your personal sins to God the Father...a promise like Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verses 22 and 23...

/EPH 4:22-23

*...in reference to your former manner of life (prolonged carnality), you lay aside the (power of the) old self (and its sin nature), which is (continually) being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, //and that you be renewed (again through the restoration of rebound) in the spirit of your mind (through the filling of the Spirit) ... *

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/SILENT REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ\

Please take a few moments in silence, to fix the eyes of your soul on the Lord Jesus Christ, as He gets you ready to know His exact thinking...

/OPENING SONG

Friend of a Wounded Heart\

/OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...\(0:30)

We're grateful Heavenly Father for the privilege of studying the absolute truth...the Word of God...

BLANK

We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...Amen.

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Pastor Rory Clark

My name is Pastor Rory Clark. You're listening to lesson three hundred and forty-six of the Angelic Conflict series. Welcome to a ministry designed for serious students of the Word of God.

/TODAY'S STUDY

**The CREATOR Wants You to Know God the Holy Spirit Powers Your Education **

We continue our study of the second of the twenty-one categories of doctrine that are part of the Angelic Conflict.

<ANGELIC CONFLICT 21 C's SLIDE>

All twenty-one categories of doctrine begin with the letter C. We're studying the C called CREATOR.

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Tick tock. What time is it on the CREATOR CLOCK? It's six o'clock.

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE>

The CREATOR is knowledgeable. God wants you to be knowledgeable, too.

/HEB 11:1

Now faith (the Word of God) is the assurance (reality) of things hoped for (we have confidence in), the conviction (proof) of things (ouk...absolutely) not seen.

At every step of your spiritual education, God the Holy Spirit is monitoring your volition and through His divine power is making real in your soul the messages sent from the Word of God by your Pastor from his pulpit. When you use your volition to allow biblical messages to penetrate...you can have confidence in the unseen to the point that the invisible future is a vivid reality in your soul.

I think of my friends who are going through health issues right now...who continue their battles with cancer. I think of the things one of my best friends is going through, knowing that two people very close to him are in the fourth stage of cancer. I think of circumstances which one congregation member describes as “things going on...” I am aware that many of you are a bit disoriented right now by the things that are going on in your lives. It's easy, during the summer months, to wander away from the doctrines of the Word of God, just like the believers at Ephesus did in Paul's day...Revelation, Chapter 2, Verse 4 says...

/REV 2:4

'But I (the Lord Jesus Christ) have this against you (believers at Ephesus), that you have left (wandered away from) your first love (the truth of the Word of God)... '

The believers at Ephesus were serious students of the Word of God and then circumstances led them to wander away from their sustenance. The kids are out of school for a lot of you parents, and it ruins your routine. It has you longing for September. A lot of you are dealing with deaths in the family. Some of you have welcomed new family members, babies, into the home.

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Some of you are caring for your children's children at a time in your life that you expected to be "easy street." And although your patience isn't high right now, the little Cretans are actually giving you something to care about. Still, you have to kick your energy up to levels that you didn't think were in you. You're actually surprising yourself. Still it wears on you like the ninety straight days of 100+ degree temperatures every day for three straight months here in Phoenix.

Some of you are dealing with the disappointments of rejection, the dashing of your dreams. Some of you are reading cosmic books that cause you to question in your soul whether you really are having fun in your marriage. Some of you are young, and afraid of your unknown future. Some of you have to sit idly by as your nearly grown children make stupid decision after stupid decision, knowing that you can suggest to free will but you cant coerce it. Welcome to God's world. Some of you are involved in leading and inspiring roles, and it's disappointing as you see what the next generation has to offer. Hang in there. You make a difference. Some of you think that alcohol is your friend, and you can't wait to get home to give your soul to it, thinking somehow that this is the time when it will be a faithful friend and ease the pains of life. One of these days soon it will own you if you don't turn from it, and you'll wonder how it happened so suddenly. Well it didn't! Alcohol is a false mistress. Ask your liver. Some of you long for a companion, thinking it will be the solution for your loneliness. It won't be. That's too big a burden for a human to handle. Some of you are abused and mistreated by family members and it has been occurring for so long that you can't muster the strength to put a stop to it. Some of you are experiencing one nagging injury after another. Some of you wonder what your future will be like. Some of you have suffered trauma. Some of you are in court battles because people to whom you were kind and generous have taken you advantage of you. A parent has betrayed some of you. Those to whom you have given your heart are physically and verbally abusing some of you. Some of you have lost a parent unexpectedly and it has robbed you of your confidence and your equilibrium, not to mention your health. Some of you have too much month at the end of the money. Some of you are struggling to get your education and you can't wait until it is over.

As Thomas Paine once said, "These are the times which try men's souls."

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It's easy during these times to forget your first love. It's easy during these times to wander away from the truth and the comfort of the Word of God. To go off on your own...to feel sorry for yourselves. It's easy during these times to wonder where God is and to think He has somehow forgotten you or betrayed you.

As your shepherd, I feel the burden of your pains on my shoulders. I am constantly remembering you, my sheep, in my prayers and I lift up your names and your countenance as I go boldly before the throne of grace in prayer for you. Press on my sheep...your God is on duty for you. Psalm 46, Verses 1 and 2 remind us...

/PSA 46:1-2

God is our refuge (a shelter from danger) and (God is our) strength (He gives us courage to press on), a very present help (omnipresent help... especially) in (your times of) trouble.//Therefore we (believers in Christ) will not fear (the sin that cuts off thinking), though the earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea (when perils come)...

The Lord Jesus Christ is with us...the Lord Jesus Christ is the one who keeps on shepherding us...the Lord Jesus Christ knows us...He is our ROCK...He is our fortress...He is our guide...He is our provider...He loves us beyond measure...He is our respite.

During these times I reach for inspiration from the Word of God and from those who write about it...like from this poem...Slow Me Down, Lord...

/SLOW ME DOWN, LORD

Slow me down, Lord!
Ease the pounding of my heart
By the quieting of my mind.
Steady my harried pace
With a vision of the eternal reach of time.\

/SLOW ME DOWN, LORD

Give me,
Amidst the confusions of the day,

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The calmness of the everlasting hills.
Break the tension of my nerves
With the soothing music
Of the singing streams
That live in my memory.\

/SLOW ME DOWN, LORD

Help me to know
The magical restoring power of sleep,
Teach me the art
Of taking minute vacations
Of slowing down
To look at a flower;
To chat with an old friend
Or make a new one;
To pat a dog;
To watch a spider build a web;
To smile at a child;
Or to read a few lines from a good book.\

/SLOW ME DOWN, LORD

Remind me each day
Of the fable of the tortoise and the hare
That I may know the race is not always to the swift;
That there is more to life
Than increasing its speed.\

/SLOW ME DOWN, LORD

Let me look upward
Into the branches of the towering oak
And know that it grew great and strong
Because it grew slowly and well.\

/SLOW ME DOWN, LORD

Slow me down, Lord,

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And inspire me to send my roots deep
Into the soil of life's enduring values
That I may grow toward the stars
Of my greater destiny.\

Even the religious writers get it right every once in a while... that poem has been inspiring me since high school.

Take a five minute break.

/BREAK

Blessed be the Name of the Lord
Somewhere\

Welcome back!

God wants you to be educated! God the Holy Spirit is powering your spiritual education. Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 16 says...

/ROM 8:16

*(God) The (Holy) Spirit Himself (with His ten ministries to us) testifies (confirms along) with our (human) spirit that we are children of God... *

That you, as believers in Christ are children of God, is a reality that is too easy to forget. Yet we have two witnesses that can give a testimony of this reality in the Supreme Court of Heaven... God the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity... and you, through your human spirit. God the Holy Spirit comes with divine power to our rescue as our Paraclete...

/JOH 14:26

*But the Helper (parakletos), (God) the Holy Spirit, whom (God) the Father will send in My name (the name of the Lord Jesus Christ), He will teach you (the) all things (of the Word of God), and (He will) bring to your remembrance (under pressure) all that I said to you. *

Pressure is a time for RECALL... for the use of wisdom... *sophia*... to bring forth from your memory centers all the truth you have been storing up in recent days so that you can direct those truths against the current pressures of your lives. Contentment and calm is the heritage of the saints... you

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believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. The calm provided by the Word of God, powered by God the Holy Spirit is truly what sets us apart and makes us different from those who have no hope...those who have no choice but to be “stressed” in trying times...those who have nowhere to go but deeper into the depravity of themselves. It is the truth of the Word of God that sets us free from the tyranny of circumstance. John, Chapter 16, verse 13 says...

/JOH 16:13

“But when He, (God) the (Holy) Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide (instruct) you into all the truth (of the Word of God); for He will not speak on His own initiative (from the source of Himself), but whatever He hears (from the Father’s plan and from the Lord Jesus Christ’s thinking,), He will speak (report); and He will disclose (report back) to you what is to come (in the future).”

When the pressures of adversity and prosperity and impending physical death are weighing you down, God the Holy Spirit is at the ready to provide you with the truth that settles your soul. Turn in your bibles to First Corinthians, Chapter 2, Verse 6...we’ll take it to verse 16...God the Holy Spirit is in charge of your spiritual education...His divine power, omnipotence, powers your spiritual education...

/1CO 2:6-7

Yet we do (keep on) speak(ing divine) wisdom among those who are mature (perfect...believers with +R); a wisdom (divine thought), however, not of this age nor of the (thinking of the) rulers of this age, who are passing away;//but we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery (the mystery doctrine of the Church Age), the hidden wisdom which (THE) God (the Lord Jesus Christ) predestined (as an asset) before the ages (in eternity past) to our glory (for the purpose of our reflecting God’s perfection from our imperfect bodies)...

/1CO 2:8-9

...the wisdom which none of the (prince) rulers of this (Church) age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory (Jesus Christ...THE God);//but just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN (empiricism isn’t the way to get to know God) AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD (rationalism isn’t the way to get to know God), AND WHICH (things from God’s Plan) HAVE NOT ENTERED THE

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HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM (through faith perception).”

The rulers of this world operate on rationalism and empiricism...meritorious systems of perception...believers operate on faith.

/1CO 2:10-11

For to us (believers in Christ) God (the Father) revealed them (His Plan) through (God) the (Holy) Spirit; for (God) the (Holy) Spirit searches (the) all things (of the Word of God), even the depths (deep things) of God.//For who among men knows the (faith) thoughts of a man except the (human) spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of (the Plan of) God (the Father) no one knows except the (Holy) Spirit of God.

/1CO 2:12-13

Now we (believers in Christ) have received, not the (human) spirit of the world (Satan's cosmic system), but the (Holy) Spirit who is from (the source of THE) God (the Lord Jesus Christ), so that we may know (permanently) the things (bible doctrines) freely given to us by (and under the authority of) God (the Father),//which things (bible doctrines) we (as Pastors) also speak (communicate), not in words taught by human wisdom (intelligence), but in those (words) taught (to us) by (God) the (Holy) Spirit (Himself), combining spiritual (phenomena) thoughts with spiritual words (categorical comparison).

How are you in the matter of your education? Are you ignorant, powered by human thinking and human viewpoint? When we are stressed as believers, that is typically what happens. Or are you educated, powered by the filling of God the Holy Spirit who fills up your deficiencies?

/1CO 2:14-15

But a natural man (the soulish man...the psuchikos man...the unbeliever) does not accept (acquire) the things (from the Word of God from the source) of the (Holy) Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him (He has no frame of reference for them); and he (the unbeliever) cannot understand them (bible doctrines), because they are spiritually appraised (by the human spirit, which the unbeliever does not have).//But he who is spiritual (the believer in Christ who is filled with the Spirit) appraises all things (every bible doctrine), yet he himself is appraised by no one (who is an unbeliever).

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/1CO 2:16

For WHO (what person) HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD (Jesus Christ...bible doctrine), THAT HE WILL (be qualified to) INSTRUCT HIM? But we (believers in Christ) have (and keep on having) the mind of Christ (the Word of God).

Look at First John, Chapter 2, Verse 27...

/1JO 2:27

As for you (Church Age believers in Christ), the anointing which you received from Him (the baptism of the Spirit) abides in you, and you have no need for anyone (who is a false teacher) to teach you; but as His (God the Holy Spirit's) anointing teaches you about (the) all things (of the Word of God), and is true and is not a lie, and just as it (the filling of the Spirit) has taught you, you abide in Him (in RESIDENCE with the Holy Spirit).

/1JO 2:28-29

Now, little children, (continue to) abide in Him (filled with the Spirit), so that when He (the Lord Jesus Christ) appears (at the Rapture), we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.//If (1) you know that He is righteous (and you do), you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born (again) of Him.

Relax believers. You don't have to drive your lives. God the Holy Spirit is at the helm. He is your power source. He has educated you in advance to handle the challenges you are facing right now. Go into your soul, and pull out the truth that is in it and you will relax in a moment-by-moment rest.

/HEB 4:1

Therefore, let us (believers in Christ) fear if (we fear anything), (fear that) while a promise remains (available) of entering His rest (by recalling doctrines under pressure), any one of you may seem to have come short of it (forgotten to use the provision).