

# Examining Our Relationship with The World

# Spiritual Warfare

World, Flesh, and Devil

Scripture warns us of the World 100 times  
more than it warns us of the Devil.

# Spiritual Warfare

The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue.

(Ps. 33:16-17)



## We Miss the ESSENCE of the World:

- The World is the “SYSTEM” of answers that just make sense to us
- The World is a system of answers that are independent of God.

Every element of our own self-reliance must be put to death by the power of God. The moment we recognize our complete weakness and our dependence upon Him will be the very moment that the Spirit of God will exhibit His power.

(Oswald Chambers)

## Real Dangers in adopting the World's Answers:

Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.

They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat.

Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them. (Ps. 115:2-8)



## “Natural” Gifting

- It cultivates boasting and the sense of the Heroic  
Everyone is necessarily the hero of their own  
imagination. (Franz Kafka)

And Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning. And it was told Samuel, “Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he built a monument for his own honor. (1 Sam. 15:12)

# “Natural” Gifting

- It cultivates boasting and the sense of the Heroic

Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your great name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! (Ps. 115:1)

# “Natural” Gifting

- It cultivates boasting and the sense of the Heroic
- It fosters scorn
- It discourages the less gifted

How is your identity formed by natural gifts too much? With pride and scorn or despair?

How is your identity formed by YOUR sense of the heroic?



## Common Sense Solutions:

### Abraham and Ishmael

Ah, stubborn children,” declares the Lord, “who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit ... who go down to Egypt, without my direction, to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh! Therefore the protection of Pharaoh shall turn to your shame. (Is. 30:1-3)

# Common Sense Solutions:

The essential nature of the World is: **The kingdom  
without the King**

# Common Sense Solutions:

What common-sense, “Ishmael,” solution is teasing you right now?



# Today-ism

Imagine there's no heaven, It's easy if you try  
No hell below us, Above us, only sky  
Imagine all the people, Livin' for today

# Today-ism

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
And hearts are brave, again, and arms are strong.

The world is scared of the future because of death; and it hates the past because it wants freedom from restrictions.

# Answer to the Deepest Issues of Life:

The World is about: Salvation

Wherever our greatest longing, that is the battlefield of our greatest “worldly” warfare.

The heart of the world is: *Salvation without the Savior*



# Answer to the Deepest Issues of Life:

Contend, O Lord, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me! ... Say to my soul, “I am your salvation!” (Ps. 35:1, 3)

## Time with God

- If you examine this current season of your life, what do you most want?
- What shortcuts is the world alluringly offering you?
- What desires is the world trying to create in you?

