

Spiritual Warfare

Demon-influence spectrum

- Michael Pocock from Dallas Seminary:

- 1) Opposition or (mine: 'Hearthold')
- 2) Influence
- 3) Oppression
- 4) Obsession
- 5) Control
- 6) Possession
- 7) Death

Demon-influence with Saul

- 1) 'Hearthold' – Saul disobeys the Lord (15:3, 9)
- 2) Influence – lies, deceit, denying wrong (15:13, 20 vs. 16:7)
- 3) Oppression – evil spirit torments him (16:14-16 vs. 16:13)
- 4) Obsession – he becomes obsessed with killing David (18:9)
- 5) Control – used by the hands of evil (24:17 and 26:25-27:1)
- 6) Possession – gets in to witchcraft, singular path of evil (28:15)
- 7) Death – Saul ends up taking his own life (31:4)

What is the heart?

- Command center of our whole being. It's condition is why we do all that we do. Proverbs 4:23
- Pride – perfectionism, selfishness, judgemental, competitive, built, bitterness, possessive, unforgiveness
- Rebellion – Control, unteachable, violence, perversion, self-delusion, self-willed (i.e. Saul)
- Rejection – loneliness, fear, depression, lust, insecurity, fantasy

Letting our guard down

- Through a traumatic event
- Through unmet expectations in an intimate relationship
- Being sinned against
- Pornography
- Media messages – explicit or implicit - that are contrary to the kingdom of light
 - Netflix – what shows are appropriate vs. how strong an attack do you want?

*** Reaction to the above things...often our reaction is conditioned and habitual – how our parents reacted, not thought out

- Sin (thinking, speaking, doing against God and/or conscience)
- Through negative thoughts
- Imagination of a life outside the kingdom of God
- Searching for pornography

How to guard the heart

- Stop living in the past – 2 Cor 5:17
- Forgiveness – Matt 6:14
- Confession and repentance – 1 John 1:9
- Claiming your inheritance – Romans 8:29-31
- Even speaking truth to the spiritual world. (You can't trust God story) 2 Cor 10:3-5, 2 Cor 13:5
- Be filled with the Holy Spirit through private and public worship and thankfulness in *every* situation - Ephesians 5:18-20
- Be ready to proclaim the gospel and proclaim it - Eph 6:15
- Fellowship with other Christians – Heb 5:17
- Word of God meditation – Col 3:16
- Pray for each other always - Ephesians 6:18