



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel  
John 8:48-59  
From Sermon 3.3.24

Read *John 8:48-59*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: In these numerous exchanges with the crowds and the leaders, it would appear that the battle is between man and the God-man. But something bigger and more profound is taking place—namely spiritual warfare. In His 1<sup>st</sup> Coming, Jesus doesn't wage war the in ways and manners of Satan or fallen man. He uses truth and sound doctrine. Therefore, our fight should never be worldly.

1. What is Spiritual Warfare? The epic, age-long battle between the spiritual forces of God and the devil. It's a dimension we cannot see\*, but as believers often feel. Its combatants are spirits—angels and demons. Satan is always trying to thwart the plan of God, derail true believers, and keep unbelievers from hearing the Gospel truth. See also *2 Kings 6:15-18, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, & Ephesians 6:11-12*

[\*Sometimes the devil or demons have manifested in physical form. Sometimes the angels have made themselves visible or even manifested in human form. Can you think of some examples of either?]

1a. How long has it raged? Since the fall of Lucifer from heaven and his taking 1/3 of the holy angels.

1b. When does it finally end and how? While there is a reprieve on earth during Christ's 1000-year reign, this is only to show the wickedness of men's hearts absent an outside agent. When Satan is released from the abyss, he immediately launches a new war and moves the nations to rebel against Christ. Jesus then destroys the universe and all unbelievers and casts both Satan and the demons into the Lake of Fire. See *Revelation 20:7-10*

2. What's unique about Jesus' battle with the evil realm vs. ours. He could see both dimensions simultaneously. He has the power to rebuke, deliver, and condemn the demons and the devil. We do not. See *Luke 8:30-31*

2a. In His human test of temptation, however, Jesus used the Word, the Word, the Word to battle the evil one. See also *Matthew 4:3-11*. Since we do not have His power or spiritual vision, this is our model for spiritual warfare. See also *Ephesians 6:17*

3. Has there been a time, a season, or even just a moment in your life when you were keenly aware of the spiritual battle occurring all around you? What did you do? What would you do differently now? Various persona answers.

4. Like a good soldier, how do we prepare in advance for and then fight this spiritual battle? Prayer, sound doctrine, consistent life, & donning our spiritual armor daily. Discuss.

5. Read *2 Corinthians 10:3-5*. How are we NOT to fight? We need to stop seeing people as the enemy and rather as blind captives. We avoid sinking to their level of insult and injury. We are not to be confronting demons or conversing with angels.