

**Reading:** James 4:1-12

**Topic:** Power Struggles

**INTRODUCTION:** Most of the conflicts on \_\_\_\_\_ and even in the heavens can be traced back to people and beings desiring to have \_\_\_\_\_ and control.

## I. POWER STRUGGLE IN THE HEAVENS:

### ***A. The Fall Of Lucifer:***

1. The angelic hosts that God created to give \_\_\_\_\_ and worship in the Heavens were led by three main archangels – Michael, Gabriel and Lucifer, each of which had a specific \_\_\_\_\_ to fill.
2. The Word of God describes what happened to Lucifer who though he already had a position of \_\_\_\_\_ wanted more \_\_\_\_\_ and control. Is. 14:12-17
3. This desire for more \_\_\_\_\_ and control led to the casting out of this anointed archangel from the Heavens, and he became Satan upon the \_\_\_\_\_.

### ***B. Power Struggle & Spiritual Warfare:***

1. When God created man and woman and placed them here upon the \_\_\_\_\_ they were given by God the dominion or the \_\_\_\_\_ and the control over the earth. Gen. 1:27,28
2. Unfortunately when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sinned, they put themselves under the \_\_\_\_\_ and control of Satan thus giving up their own position of \_\_\_\_\_ and control on the earth.
3. Satan had the \_\_\_\_\_ and control over the earth until Jesus Christ, who is God manifested in flesh came and began to cast out demons, preparing the way of \_\_\_\_\_ and deliverance. Jn. 12:31-33
4. After the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Satan no longer had total \_\_\_\_\_ in the earth and Jesus gave \_\_\_\_\_ over the devil to the Church. Lk. 10:18,19
5. Satan does not relinquish his power without a \_\_\_\_\_ and that is why believers are to equip themselves for the battle as Satan tries to take back control and \_\_\_\_\_ over their lives again. Eph. 6:10-13
6. In the Book of Revelation, we read of a future time when Satan will lose even his place to \_\_\_\_\_ in the heavens and he will be cast down and confined to the \_\_\_\_\_. Rev. 12:7-12

## II. POWER STRUGGLES UPON THE EARTH:

### ***A. Old Testament & History:***

1. When one \_\_\_\_\_ the Old Testament and also the history of the ancient kings and kingdoms, it becomes evident that much of what transpires is really a \_\_\_\_\_ struggle for control of lands and peoples.
2. Most of the conflicts for many generations were battles for control and \_\_\_\_\_ over regions until the time of the Babylonian empire, when one King gained the \_\_\_\_\_ and control over the world.
3. The time of empires lasted for generations – the Babylonian, the Medo-Persian, the Greeks, and then the Roman Empire which was in \_\_\_\_\_ when Jesus Christ came.

### ***B. The People of Israel:***

1. When God chose the time to deliver His people from the bondage of Egypt, He chose a \_\_\_\_\_ called Moses to be the one to \_\_\_\_\_ the people out of Egypt and to the Promised Land.
2. Most people submitted themselves to the God chosen leadership, but there were \_\_\_\_\_ when other men wanted to take the \_\_\_\_\_ and control away from the God chosen leader and give it over unto themselves. Num. 16:1-4

3. This \_\_\_\_\_ struggle did not end well for the people who came against the God appointed leader of His people, and a severe judgment from the Lord revealed God's displeasure with \_\_\_\_\_. Num. 16: 31-35
4. When one reads the history of Israel and Judah in the time of the Kings, the struggle for \_\_\_\_\_ and control manifests itself many times. 2 Chr. 22:1-12

### III. NEW TESTAMENT:

#### **A. Jesus Christ & His Kingdom:**

1. When Jesus called His disciples to follow Him, and spoke about His coming \_\_\_\_\_ their minds became obsessed with their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in that new kingdom. Mk. 9:33,34
2. In one case a mother of two of the disciples came herself to request special \_\_\_\_\_ and position in the new Kingdom for them. Mt. 20:20,21
3. Jesus repeatedly had to \_\_\_\_\_ to get the understanding into His disciples that His Kingdom was not about position and \_\_\_\_\_, but about serving with humility. Mt. 20:24-28

#### **B. In the Church:**

1. It would be nice to think that there would be no \_\_\_\_\_ hungry people in the church, but sadly, that is not the case. Jas. 4:1
2. The desire for \_\_\_\_\_ and control is part of the fallen nature – part of that character of Satan who rebelled against God, and it leads to \_\_\_\_\_ and confusion in the work of God. 3 Jn. 1:9,10
3. Many of the problems that arise within churches are a result of \_\_\_\_\_ struggles as people strive to gain \_\_\_\_\_ and control and build their own personal kingdoms.

#### **C. Humility & Submission:**

1. The key to unity and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit of God is when people are daily praying people who are filled with the Spirit of God and walk in \_\_\_\_\_ before Him. I Pt. 5:5,6
2. God has established lines of order both in the \_\_\_\_\_ and in the \_\_\_\_\_ for the benefit, blessing and protection of everyone, and when people \_\_\_\_\_ to this order, blessing follows. Heb. 13:17
3. When people gain the \_\_\_\_\_ to see God glorified and to see souls saved, the focus becomes God-centered and not self-centered, thus leading to an atmosphere of \_\_\_\_\_ and expectation.

**CONCLUSION:** One of the many manifestations of the fallen nature is the desire for \_\_\_\_\_ and control over others, but when we are born again and obtain the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, humility and submission produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.