

Connect Group notes 12.5.25

Don continued our new series on Sunday – *Living in a Spiritual World*

He reminded us about the series he started last week, and that we inhabit a spiritual world. As Christ followers we need a healthy awareness of the realities of this, and an ability to discern the natural from the supernatural.

Perhaps we need a paradigm shift if this is not something we are used to or feel comfortable believing. Jesus' ministry involved the breaking of demonic strongholds, and Don encouraged us that this is a part of our ministry too if we are his disciples. (see Mark 1:38-39, Acts 10:38, 1John 3:8 and Luke 11:14-20). We don't have the luxury of saying we don't really want to think about this.

Discussion Points

1. - What are our thoughts/feelings about being called by Jesus to minister in breaking demonic strongholds?
 - How did Jesus do this?
2. Don talked about the fact that as Jesus followers we are in a war.
 - If we really believed this each day how might our lives and behaviours look different – in how we pray, interact with others, pursue the Lord?
 - How might we notice this war either globally or individually on us in subtle, or not so subtle, ways?
3. Don referenced and read Ezekial 28:1-11. This scripture talks about the fictional King of Tyre (referring to Satan) . Satan is described as a beautiful created being “you were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and beauty in the day you were created”. C.S. Lewis states “*It was through pride that the devil became the devil*”. Don commented that pride by nature is competitive and it always leads to enmity.

- How did Satan's pride and grabbing for power from God affect the first humans and subsequently the whole of mankind?
- Do we see this kind of pride at work in our lives, and what are the possible consequences if we don't repent of it?
- Why is it important for us to allow God to bring us into positions of authority and influence in his timing?
- How do we rest and trust him with this?

4. There are many names in scripture describing Satan. One of these is slanderer/accuser (Rev 12:10). The word 'devil' is diabolos' and it means a *slanderer*.

Ephesians 4:27 warns us not to give any place to the devil in our lives.

- How does allowing 'looseness' in our truth telling allow Satan a foothold in our lives?

Don encouraged us that we don't need to be afraid of the supernatural, but to recognise our authority in Jesus.

"Greater is he that is in you, than he who is in the world" 1 John 4:4

PRAY and Apply

Review the scripture about the armour of God, Ephesians 6:11-18.

- Ask God to show you what he wants you to give extra attention to in your life where you might be vulnerable to the enemy.
- Ask the Lord to give us eyes to see, ears to hear and a heart to understand where we need to discern the supernatural in our lives.

