

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

SPIRITUAL WARFARE: RECRUITED

Matthew 7:13-14 *Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

There are three categories by which God discloses His truth:

1. Truth He reveals to **NO ONE**. (Deuteronomy 29:29)
2. Truth revealed to special people throughout history; but can be **ACCEPTED BY ANYONE** through faith.
3. Truth God kept secret for a **PERIOD OF TIME**, but finally disclosed to people in the New Testament.

God's **BIG STORY** is to recruit you into His forever family by His death on the cross.

Ephesians 1:4-5 *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will —*

- "Predestined us": v.5 God **CHOSE** us in eternity past, **DRAWS** us and recruits us to be holy and blameless.
- "Mystery of His will": v.9 The wise plan of God which He **MAKES** known stage by stage.
- God doesn't just make the plan. He makes the plan **WORK OUT** in you.

Ephesians 1:11-12 *In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.*

- The lie of the enemy is to convince you through **SHAME** that God won't work it out in you.

The satanic message of shame can be described in three words:

1. **INCOMPETENT** – You can't do it right.
2. **INSIGNIFICANT** – You won't amount to anything.
3. **UNIMPORTANT** – You don't really matter.

Ephesians 1:13-14 *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.*

- God gives us His **HOLY SPIRIT** as a secure deposit, guaranteeing salvation and the work of God in our lives.

You are marked with a seal:

SECURITY – No one can break the seal unless they are greater. Who is greater than God?

AUTHENTICITY – It's His seal, His work and His Holy Spirit.

A completed **TRANSACTION** – Jesus' death in my place completed God's plan. No additional fees: completely saved, completely forgiven and I don't need any savior other than Jesus Christ.

AUTHORITY – Anyone acting under the seal acts under the authority of the owner of the seal.