



Spiritual Warfare: The Battle for God's Glory

Jerry Rankin, Beth Moore (Foreword)

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Christians already have victory over the world through Jesus, but Satan picks a fight with believers nonetheless, tempting them with the influences of the world in an effort to steal God's glory. Indeed, the battle rages on, but the nature of the enemy is baldly exposed in *Spiritual Warfare*, helping readers better understand feelings of resentment, anger, doubt, pride, and adversity for what they really are: fiery darts of deception.

Written by International Mission Board president Jerry Rankin, who has witnessed spiritual warfare at work around the world, the book in turn becomes an inspiring guide to the Spirit-filled life, illuminating spiritual disciplines that equip us for victory including prayer, Bible study, fasting, Sabbath observance, active church membership, and praising God in all things.

Spiritual Warfare: The Battle for God's Glory Details

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Rod says

Of the more than six thousand languages in the world, fewer than a thousand have the entire Bible in their own language. Only about twelve hundred others have the New Testament or some portion of scripture. This book is filled with both practical, obvious examples of satan's methods and supporting scripture as well that point to one thing. That there is yet much work to be done to share God's glory with the millions living and dying lost in their sin. If you need a good challenge on why we should get out of practicing routine religion and get busy sharing in the world, then this book is a good place to start...

Joshua Lay says

It was ok. I didn't really agree with some of his theology, but his zeal is appreciated.

Lacie Ernst says

Excellent, powerful read with many practical examples and real life experiences mentioned throughout. This book teaches Christians how to recognize the deceitful lies/tactics of the enemy so we can live victorious and glorify God. I'll definitely be referring to this book in the future.

Christopher Julian says

I believe this is a valuable resource for everyone who considers themselves a follower of Christ. I actually thought the book would be stuffy and boring. I was wrong.

Brent McCulley says

Somewhat fantastic accounts and understanding of spiritual warfare rooted in rather poor theology.

Joshua says

This book was well written and absolutely able to prove its' thesis. With personal anecdotes, missionary stories, and sound Biblical theology, Rankin was able to show that we are in a spiritual war and the western Christian need be awaken to this reality. With passion and clarity Rankin was able to keep the reader engaged and interested. We are in a war and the threat is real. The world is attempting to destroy our families, attack our faith, and change our converts. The Devil is attempting to chew up our ministers, steal

our little ones, and shut down our churches. The flesh is continually selfish, thinking only of immediate gratification and self-glorification rather than the eternal importance of Christ and the glory of Christ's Father.

Not only was the author able to prove his thesis he was also able to actively encourage the reader to become active in this war. Throughout the reading of this book I began to consider my own life and ministry. How have I allowed the fiery darts of the wicked one to pierce my armor and affect my heart? How have I been drawn in by the allure of the world, forgetting that I am not of this world but a citizen of another kingdom, and a devotee to another Potentate? How have I allowed my flesh to control my destiny when the power of the Spirit of Christ rests in me when I have full access to say no to the flesh and live in the Spirit?

Rankin clearly leaned heavily into the thoughts of C.S. Lewis. However, I believe this was done successfully. It is a dangerous thing to so tightly fit your work to another's for many may think that your words are not your own or the thoughts are not original. Yet, Rankin does not fall into this trap. Instead of stealing Lewis' ideas he simply borrows them and builds upon them with up-to-date wording and references. One portion of the book that stood out to me was the explanation of Satan's use of adversity. When Rankin teaches that praising the Lord in the midst of adversity was a way of defeating the Devil and bringing glory to God, I was amazed. Yes! This point was so well expressed and delivered. As Paul and Silas sat in the prison singing praises to God in the midst of a very terrible ordeal it seems as if Satan had won, the world was succeeding, and the natural reaction of the flesh would be to grumble and complain. But instead, the men of God did just the opposite. They sang praises to God in the darkest moment of their lives and in doing so brought tremendous glory to God. The songs of praise declared that they believed that God was fully in control and that God's plan would end in victory. What glory this must have brought to the Lord. So much glory that the frightened jail keeper, upon the earthquake and opening of cell doors, came trembling before the apostles ready to take his own life but was instead gloriously saved. This salvation, and the subsequent salvation of his entire clan, would bring further glory to God simply because these two men chose to praise God in the midst of the adversity. What an amazing thought this is.

One area of critique that I had with the book was near the end. I do not believe the author did himself any favors by being so scattered in his thinking. Chapter ten felt like less a conclusion to a wonderful book as much as smattering of last minute ideas. I wish he had better edited this last chapter for I felt like he was reexamining thoughts already covered in previous chapters and touching on other thoughts he had not enough time to fully develop

Kaylee says

This book was exactly what I needed right now in our journey overseas. The personal examples mixed in with solid truth from the Bible made it a great read and very applicable.

Byron says

So far so good!

Jonathan Esterman says

Rankin's content is a very interesting read. He presents several fascinating viewpoints regarding spiritual

warfare. Reviewing his information, I do like that he addresses the reality of spiritual warfare. He shares several tales of his experiences to help validate, in a way, the content he is sharing. I do feel, however, that he does over share in some instances, unnecessarily lengthening the book. The information may, no doubt, be needed by those who are struggling with the concept of spiritual warfare, but my personal view is that it makes the book less interesting by being too long. The content he shares could easily be covered in a single church sermon, which would be the length of a blog post or short essay – not a full length book. His definition of spiritual warfare, as addressed previously in this critique, is excellent. It is open enough for many denominations to receive and approve the definition, yet succinct enough to adequately address spiritual warfare without watering it down.

I appreciate his consistent use of Scripture throughout the book to help support his assertions and claims about spiritual warfare. Scripture is not over quoted, either, which lends support that Rankin does not feel he needs to persuade an audience to believe his theory, but rather that he fully believes what he is writing about and earnestly believes that his audience agrees with them. In this regard, his book is more or less a short primer on the world of spiritual warfare. He addresses all the topics that are needed, and maintains a healthy viewpoint of the enemy: not underestimating him, but not giving him too much power either. Rankin fully relies on the power of Christ to overcome Satan. He is not charismatic in his approach, yet also shares experiences that would invalidate the standard "the spirit realm is dead" viewpoint of many Christians and the modern West.

Rankin correctly portrays the enemy and his goals, as well as the purpose of our existence, in his book. Other than the length of his chapters outweighing the applicable content in the chapters, Rankin fully addressed the topic at hand and provides a definitive read on spiritual warfare for the believer today.

Stephane Chartrand says

being in the battle is what the christian life is all about. Good book!

Victoria says

Another excellent book, highly recommend it.
