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THE IMPACT OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LOCAL  
CHURCH: A CASE STUDY OF SELECTED CHURCHES IN ZION 1 BAPTIST  
ASSOCIATION

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ADEYINKA OLUMIDE BAMIGBALA  
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## ABSTRACT

Spiritual warfare has been of great concern in the life of the Church. It is certain that the impact of warfare is tremendously being felt on the activities of Local Church.

Against this background, this research work intends effort to examine spiritual warfare and its impact on the activities of the Local Church with a special focus on some selected Churches in the Zion1 Association of the Nigerian Baptist Convention. The goal is to measure in concrete terms, the impact of the subject on the various activities of these Churches.

To provide a right footing for the discussion of the topical issue, the research work x-rays the entire Bible, from the perspective of both the Old Testament and the New Testament of the Bible. Moreover, contemporary issues relating to the subject are not left out.

Taking clues from the views of respondents, majority of who are clergymen in the Churches used as samples, the writer comes out with true position of the Local Churches on the issue.

## 5.2 Conclusions

Apostle Paul says, "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete" (NIV 1243).

On the premise of the scripture quoted above, we can conclude that believers should be serious about the issue of spiritual warfare. The subject is constantly referred to both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. In these contemporary times, it has become pertinent for Christians everywhere to handle the issue with seriousness. There should be no room for complacency; rather, everyone should be ready for actions.

Meanwhile, while we engage in this battle, it is important that we take clues from both the Old Testament and the New Testament Biblical models – the prophets, Jesus the Messiah, and the Apostles. One significant thing about them was the fact that they established a cordial relationship with God, who is the source of spiritual power, and then exercised their spiritual authority to deal a fatal blow on the enemy.

### 5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings from the research carried out, the following recommendations are made.

1. Pastors and church leaders should understand the biblical doctrine of the nature of believer's spiritual warfare. This will assist them in teaching their members to believe in its reality.
2. Pastors should mobilise their church members to develop right attitudes towards the issue of spiritual warfare.
3. Church members should be educated on how to develop spiritual weapons to ensure victory over threats to their faith in Christ Jesus.
4. There is the need for gospel ministers to know that spiritual warfare is a task that must be done. Hence, they should be prepared for it at any time.