

## Divine Romance - Spiritual Warfare

### Week 6 – Monday

1 Thes. 1:5, 9 – Footnotes 5<sup>1</sup>, 9<sup>1</sup>

2:1 – Footnote 1<sup>1</sup>

I would like to give you a few words to guide the remainder of our fellowship. If you are talking about caring for children, and especially caring for young people, teenagers all the way through college age, the number one thing, the top thing, is *shepherding*. We need to be their shepherds. So the first word I want to emphasize is *shepherding*. There is a small booklet that I would like to recommend called *How to Lead the Young People*. It is just one message but how much benefit I have received in my service in caring for the young people since I read that booklet. It has helped me even in caring for my own children. This little booklet has fellowship concerning six points. I am only going to mention a few of them. The first point is showing interest in them. We need to contact them and know them and also to study the age. We need to understand the age that our children are growing up in. Many parents are short in this area; they have not kept up with the age perhaps because things are moving too fast and there are many terms that they do not understand. In this it is good to have fellowship in the body; the church can really help. But the age that our children are growing up in is very different than the age that we grew up in. There are many things and influences on the young people, so we need to walk along side them. This is easy to do when the children are small because the children are saying, “Mommy, mommy, look.” One day that stops; did you notice? Does it stop when they are seven or eight? But somewhere along the line you need to go to them and ask, “Hi, what are you doing?” Sometimes when the children are playing on the floor, mommies and daddies come and sit down next to them and ask, “What are you doing?” They may say, “I am building a plane.” They may be using Lego to build something. It doesn’t look like a plane but you say, “What a beautiful plane” and just talk to them. When they are seven, and especially when they are thirteen, it is a little more of a challenge. However, it will be less of a challenge if you have been doing that every day of their lives, or at least every week. This is to stay in contact.

The second word I would like to give is *reaching* people. This is a big part of our shepherding. In our shepherding we need to reach people. Especially, we need to reach their hearts. Paul says in First Thessalonians, “You know what kind of entrance we had toward you” (1:9). When Paul and the brothers went to Thessalonica and contacted people there, somehow within less than three weeks they found an entrance into the hearts of these people. We need to find an entrance into the hearts of our children. When they are very young it is easy to have an entrance because there is no door, just a big opening because they depend on you for everything. Somewhere along the way a door appears there. Then for you to get into your child’s heart, they need to open the door. Do you have the key to your child’s heart? You need to pray for this. I hope that all the younger parents among us with young children would exercise to keep this door open by showing interest, by reaching them.