

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The Christian's Holy War

Introduction

Ephesians 6:10-18 ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done

everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Complete *Spiritual Warfare* Study Outline

Introduction: Spirit-filled Christians are in a continual state of War

The Conflicts are waged in the invisible, Spiritual Realm

The primary Enemy has many names: the Devil, Satan, the Evil One

However, Victory is furnished through the Full Armor of God

- † Belt of Truth
- † Breastplate of Righteousness
- † Shoes of the Gospel of Peace
- † Shield of Faith
- † Helmet of Salvation
- † Sword of the Spirit (The Word)

The LORD also provides on-call Command Updates through Prayer

In Summary, Trusting in Jesus will result in Victorious Godly Living

Holy War – 1 Introduction

The believer ^{Ephesians 1-3} living a Spirit-controlled life ^{Ephesians 4:1-6:9} will be in a spiritual war. Paul's letter continues with a warning and instructions on how to respond ^{Ephesians 6:10-20}.

Verse 10: The Christian can only be Victorious in the LORD's Strength.

Prior to introducing the armor, Paul exhorts Christians to *Be Strong* ^{Joshua 1:9, Psalm 27:14, Haggai 2:4} by gaining strength that can only come from God ^{Philippians 4:13}. He gives believers ^{Ephesians 1:18-21} weapons with divine power ^{2 Corinthians 10:4-5}, because ultimately the spiritual battles are His. Putting on God's armor is the same as being clothed with Jesus ^{Romans 13:11-14}. However, to properly use His power, the Christian must be committed to God & submissive to His will ^{James 4:7}.

Verse 11: Protection is only obtained with the Full Armor of God.

The armor is referred to as the "full armor of God" ^{v.11,13}, because it is God's complete provision of everything needed to combat spiritual attacks. With the armor in place, believers are able to resist the devil ^{James 4:7}. God is the protector of all true believers, and so His character is an integral part of the armor – for example, faith, hope & love ^{1 Corinthians 13:13} are part of the armor ^{1 Thessalonians 5:8}, as well as it also being referred to as the "armor of light" ^{Romans 13:12}.

Verse 11: The Devil's Schemes are Deceptive and Powerful.

Satan pretends to be an "angel of light" ^{2 Corinthians 11: 2-4,13-15}, but he is the "father of lies" ^{John 8:44}. Christians must develop a mature faith in order to be aware of ^{2 Corinthians 2:11b} and defeat the devil's "deceitful schemes" ^{Ephesians 4:14} in their lives.

Verse 12: Christians must understand the Struggles are not Physical, but Spiritual.

Spiritual warfare is a conflict waged in the invisible, ethereal realm; however, aspects of the struggles are manifested in the visible, physical realm. To be truly successful in the battle, believers must be prepared to focus on the real issues, and then fight mainly on a spiritual level.

Verse 12: The ultimate battle ground is in the Heavenly Realms.

The "heavenly realms" consist of the three levels of heaven ^{2 Corinthians 12:2a}. the 'first heaven' is the earth's atmosphere ^{Genesis 8:2, 1 Kings 8:35}, the 'second heaven' is the universe ^{Genesis 15:5, Psalm 8:3} and the third heaven is God's home ^{1 Kings 8:30, 2 Chronicles 30:27}, and represents the spiritual realm. The heavenly realms are where Jesus is ^{Ephesians 1:18-23}; where "every spiritual blessing in Christ" exists for the Christian ^{Ephesians 1:3}, and where good (as well as bad) angels reside ^{Ephesians 3:10-11}.

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Verse 13: Without God's Armor, Christians will fall on their *Day of Evil*.

In truth, all days since the fall are evil ^{Ephesians 5:15-16}; however, the use of the phrase “day of evil” has a dual meaning here. It not only means the Christian needs the armor for the everyday battles of life, but it also refers to the special need for the armor on those specific days when believers face the toughest spiritual challenges in their lives. Notice the text does not say “**if** the day of evil comes”, but “**when** day of evil comes”, because every person will eventually face days of very difficult medical, financial and/or relational problems. However, the Spirit-led Christian develops a habit of putting on the armor every day, so that they can stay strong ^{1 Corinthians 16:13} every day and maintain their readiness for their most difficult days. Two wonderful Biblical examples of genuine believers who stood strong in the strength of God as they faced incredible adversity are Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego ^{Daniel 3:16-18} and Daniel ^{Daniel 6}.

Verses 11,13,14: Spirit-filled Believers do not fight for Victory, but from Victory.

Have you ever wondered why this passage on spiritual warfare never says “go fight” or “attack”? Instead, four times ^{v.11,13,13,14} Christians are commanded to “stand”, because they are called not to win the victory, but to hold on to the ground that Christ already captured at Golgotha ^{Mark 15:22}. Jesus not only won the victory over the Devil, sin and death ^{1 Corinthians 15:56-57, Hebrews 2:14}, but He also offers the believer the weaponry to stop the attempts by Satan to steal the effect of Jesus’ triumph in their earthly life by keeping them from “falling” ^{Jude 1:24-25}, thereby enabling them to “stand” ^{1 Peter 5:8-9}. So, Christians need God’s armor to continue the victory Jesus already won.

Genesis Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Psalms 8:3 I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars, which you have set in place,

Daniel 3:16-18 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Holy War – 1 Introduction

Romans 13:11b-14 The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 16:13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.

2 Corinthians 2:11b For we are not unaware of his [Satan's] schemes.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 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.

2 Corinthians 11:2-4,13-15 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough. ... For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

2 Corinthians 12:2a I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven.

Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ephesians 4:14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

Ephesians 5:15-16 Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Philippians 4:13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

Hebrews 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil...

James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Jude 1:24-25 To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

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