

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The Christian's Holy War

Conclusion

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.

This concluding study on Spiritual Warfare will focus on the fact that the Christian's battles are not only against Satan (AKA the Devil, the Evil One), but also against the World System of life and their very own Sinful Nature (Flesh). Being aware of these Enemies and the weaponry God offers will provide Victory in the struggles of Life. These notes document the Enemies, their tactics and the Biblical solutions available.

To Live a Righteous Life Micah 6:8, the Christian Must Battle Against 3 Enemies.

Satan ⇒ Hardened Heart

World ⇒ Strangled Heart

Sinful Nature ⇒ Shallow Heart

Ephesians 2:1-3 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

James 4:4-7 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

The Followers of Jesus must Battle against all Three of the Enemies of God.

Satan: God Provided Armor to be Victorious over the “Devil’s Schemes” Ephesians 6:11. (Holy War – 2)

World: The World System Galatians 4:3, Colossians 2:20, led by the Spirit of the Antichrist 1 John 2:18, 2 John 1:7, is in Opposition to Jesus John 15:18-19 and attempts to ‘pollute’ believers James 1:27, 1 John 2:15-17.

1 John 4:1-3 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

However, Jesus Provided all Christians with the Victory over the Evil World. Romans 8:37, 1 John 5:1-5

John 16:33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Flesh: The *Flesh*, also called the *Sinful Nature*, is an Ever-Present Battlefield for the Believer.

The Bible Refers to Flesh in Two Ways. There is the Humanity of Man, Created by God John 1:14:

Romans 1:1-4 Paul, a servant of Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God – the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

The other Flesh (Sinful Nature) is Worthless Romans 7:18, at War with God Romans 8:5-7a, Contrary to the Holy Spirit Galatians 5:16-17a (16-21), Incapable of Pleasing God Romans 8:7b-8 & Corrupt 2 Peter 2:10.

Jeremiah 17:3 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

How Does a Believer Obtain Victory Over the Flesh? By Submitting to the Inevitable Struggles and Committing to the Permanency of a Decision to Crucify their flesh Romans 6:5-7, Galatians 5:24-25.

Christians must Walk in the Spirit by listening to & following the lead of the Holy Spirit John 16:7-15.

In Summary, God has made it clear how not to live Mark 7:20-22, Romans 1:24-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, but He wants His followers to concentrate on and embrace a life of purity Philippians 4:8-9.

The Hope of this study on Spiritual Warfare is that it has equipped Christians with the awareness and knowledge of the mighty battles that await every Spirit-Filled Believer who is earnestly serving the Living Lord. Almighty God has graciously provided all of the Weapons necessary to be Victorious against Satan, the World and the Flesh.

Holy War – 10 Conclusion

Mark 7:20-22 “What comes out of a man is what makes him ‘unclean.’ For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.”

John 15:18-19 “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”

John 16:7-15 “But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine.”

Romans 7:18 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

Romans 8:5-7a Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God.

Galatians 5:16-17a So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature.

Galatians 5:24-25 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Philippians 4:8-9 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Colossians 2:20 Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules?

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

1 John 5:1-5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

2 John 1:7 Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.