



# Spiritual Warfare and Prayer

---

Ephesians 6:10 – 20 (NKJV)



## EPHESIANS 6:10 – 20 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

<sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

<sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,



<sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

<sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

<sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

<sup>18</sup> praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

<sup>19</sup> and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,

<sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

# SPIRITUAL WARFARE & PRAYER

- We are fighting alongside the Holy Spirit for the kingdom of God and dressed in Jesus to win this fight. We consistently talk to Jesus to know His expectations of us in the fight.
- Spiritual warfare is our reaction to the devil's schemes to prevent God's purposes in this world and lead us into sin.
- The initiative for this warfare is always the devil's, not ours.
- Our part is to resist him, using God's whole armor, and be prepared for the attack.
- We do not face the struggle in our own strength but in the strength of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who has the victory.

# THE ORIGINS OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Spiritual warfare originated in the rebellion of many angels against God.

- Satan is seen as the prince of this world, leading an array of forces opposed to God.
- Although disarmed by Jesus Christ on the cross, they remain a potent threat to the church and individual believers.

## ISAIAH 14:12 – 15 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!  
How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the  
nations!

<sup>13</sup> For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will  
exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount  
of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;

<sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the  
Most High.'

<sup>15</sup> Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of  
the Pit.

---

We are warring against the  
original rebellion to God.  
Spiritual warfare has existed  
for a long time and will  
continue until Christ's return.

---

# WE MUST ENGAGE IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE.

We are called to spiritual warfare for God's will for His creation on earth. We are ambassadors of the Kingdom who desire to live in peace, but through the Holy Spirit, we can do warfare when necessary.

We are not looking for a fight, but we will fight with the power of God when God's order is under attack.



# FINALLY, BE STRONG IN THE LORD

## EPHESIANS 6:10 (NKJV)

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

“Finally” introduces verses 10 – 20, the conclusion to Paul’s exhortation, which began in 4:1. While the expression can point to the future (“for the remaining time”), in this context, it seems best to take it in the sense of a final and climactic part of the exhortation.

Spiritual warfare is coming if you are not already in the middle of a fight right now.

The picture of the Lord as a mighty warrior who leads and empowers His army is found first in the Old Testament.

Psalms 35:1 – 3 (NKJV)

1 Plead my cause, O Lord, with those who strive with me; Fight against those who fight against me.

2 Take hold of shield and buckler, And stand up for my help.

3 Also draw out the spear, And stop those who pursue me. Say to my soul, "I am your salvation."

Isaiah 42:13 (NKJV) The Lord shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies.

# WE ARE SOLDIERS UNDER GOD'S COMMAND.

It must be remembered that the following verses depict the Christian as a soldier in God's army.

- The Christian is not intended to defeat the enemy single-handedly but as part of a united, marching army. This army is the church.
- The Christian's source of power is the Lord. That is why Paul prayed earlier in this same epistle for his readers to experience God's resurrection power (1:19 – 20 and 3:16 – 21).

## EPHESIANS 1:19 – 20 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

<sup>20</sup> which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

## EPHESIANS 3:16 – 21 (NKJV)

16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—

<sup>19</sup> to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

<sup>21</sup> to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

# BE STRONG

The Greek word for "be strong" (ἐνδυναμούσθε, endynamousthe) means to be "empowered" or "strengthened."

Paul uses the same word in the beautiful parallel to this verse.

## **PHILIPPIANS 4:13 (NKJV)**

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

# BE STRONG

"He also uses this word to encourage Timothy to "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus".

## **2 TIMOTHY 2:1 (NKJV)**

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

God is our power to do all things.

# WE CAN ONLY STAND IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN GOD'S STRENGTH.

- God is our power. Standing in the power of God means we will know God so well that we recognize His archenemy when he appears.
- Some think knowing more about the occult is the best way to combat the devil. No, the best way to combat Satan is to be ready by knowing God so well.
- I am to remain strong by knowing God more through the study of the scriptures and intimacy with the Holy Spirit.



# SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS PRIMARILY DEFENSIVE

## EPHESIANS 6:11 (NKJV)

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

- Paul encourages his readers to put on, or “clothe yourselves,” with the whole armor of God.
- The “full armor” calls to mind the suit of armor and weaponry of a Roman soldier, such as the one who stood chained to Paul at that moment.

Putting on the whole armor is the functional equivalent of putting on the new nature in Christ.

### **EPHESIANS 4:17 (NKJV)**

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,

## EPHESIANS 4:20 – 24 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> But you have not so learned Christ,

<sup>21</sup> if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him,  
as the truth is in Jesus:

<sup>22</sup> that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man  
which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

<sup>23</sup> and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

<sup>24</sup> and that you put on the new man which was created  
according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

The old nature and its vices have been put aside; the renewed image of God takes its place so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

In the struggle with the enemy, the Christian's goal is "that you may be able to stand."

- This means standing firm, not surrendering or giving ground to the enemy, but prevailing over him.
- A real battle is going on between the forces of heaven and hell.
- The devil is trying to win control of the minds and hearts of men, and we must go forth to oppose him.

## 2 CORINTHIANS 10:3 – 5 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

<sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

<sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

# SATAN WILL OPPOSE US WITH HIS SCHEMES

Schemes – “methodeias”, as in 4:14), his clever, crafty strategies

## EPHESIANS 4:14 (NKJV)

that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, **by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,**

He disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14) and is the father of lies (John 8:44). Few of Satan's tactics are openly satanic.

Satan does not want us to see him coming, so he hides behind smoke screens, so we do not see him clearly.

Therefore, Satan uses people that we allow to get close to us to deceive us.

- He gets close through unbelieving church members.
- He gets close through the internet.
- He gets close through social media.
- He gets close through an associate.
- He gets close when we let some unbelievers in our homes.

Spiritual warfare is a close fight. This fight is up in your face. It is in your mind and heart.

We are encouraged to submit to God and resist the devil.



## 2 JOHN 6 – 11 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

<sup>7</sup> For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

<sup>8</sup> Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.

<sup>9</sup> Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.

<sup>10</sup> If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, **do not receive him into your house nor greet him;**

<sup>11</sup> for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.



# RESIST HIS TEMPTATIONS THAT CAUSE US TO MISS GOD'S WILL FOR US AND OTHERS.

## **JAMES 4:7 (NKJV)**

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

## **1 PETER 5:8 – 9 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

<sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

---

We are to resist the devil when being attacked. Attacks are not always sickness and disease, they can also be an “action” that causes us to sin and miss God.

---

# THE DEVIL'S "SCHEMES", OR STRATEGIES, ARE TO ATTACK US WHERE WE ARE WEAK.

1. An unforgiving spirit (perhaps the easiest means the devil uses with people)
2. Fear (he is an expert in playing into fears or a negative spirit).
3. Uncontrolled sexual tendencies
4. Pride, which for example, may relate to easily hurt feelings or unfulfilled ambition, and so on
5. Unbelief will center mainly on God's existence and the reliability of the scriptures
6. Sometimes, against fellow Christians who are not walking in the spirit

---

Satan attacks through people  
and circumstances “related to”  
or “through” our weaknesses.

---

# SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND PRAYER

- Sooner or later, every believer discovers that the Christian life is a battleground, not a playground, and that he faces an enemy much more stronger than he is— apart from the Lord.
- Paul used military terms to illustrate that the believer's conflict with Satan is real.
- While chained to a Roman soldier, Paul explained that the power of God through prayer would guarantee our victory over the adversary.