

## What Does the Bible Say About:

spiritual warfare



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Ephesians 6:10-20 • Chair Bible Page # 153-154 (New Testament Section)

Spiritual warfare is the ongoing battle between the church and the devil and his forces, with the church standing in the armor of God, defensively resisting the devil, and offensively proclaiming the gospel in a battle already won. - William F. Cook III and Chuck Lawless

At the risk of oversimplifying Satan's strategies, he wants believers to *mess up*, *give up*, *get puffed up*, or *split up*—all so that we might ignore walking in the will of God. - Thomas Ice and Robert Dean Jr.

**TABLE 1: SELECT STRATEGIES OF THE ENEMY IN LIGHT OF THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH<sup>1</sup>**

PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH	ATTACK ON THE CHURCH
Exalt God through worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Idolatry: exalting false gods</li> <li>Division: fostering worship wars</li> </ul>
Evangelize the world through proclamation and missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>False teaching: "Jesus is not the only way to God."</li> <li>Sin: believers living like the world, so the world rejects our message</li> <li>Persecution: creating fear in both the witness and the nonbeliever</li> </ul>
Equip believers through teaching and mentoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Omission: failing to disciple at all</li> <li>False teaching: teaching wrong doctrine</li> </ul>
Edify (build) one another through ministry and service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pride: believers refusing to serve others, or doing so only for one's glory</li> </ul>
Encounter God through prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Idolatry of the self: promoting prayerlessness by means of self-dependence</li> <li>Sin: living a lifestyle that hinders the effectiveness of prayer</li> </ul>
Encourage one another through fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Division: creating internal church conflict</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup>William F. Cook III and Chuck Lawless, *Spiritual Warfare in the Storyline of Scripture* (Brentwood, TN: B&H Academic, 2019), 209-210.

**TABLE 2: THE ARMOR OF GOD BOTH POSITIONALLY AND PRACTICALLY LIVED OUT<sup>2</sup>**

ARMOR	OUR POSITION IN CHRIST	OUR PRACTICE IN LIFE
Belt of truth (v. 14)	Jesus is the truth (John 14:6).	We must walk in truth as people of integrity.
Breastplate of righteousness (v. 14)	Jesus gives us his righteousness (Phil 3:9).	We are to live righteously, defeating sin in our lives.
Shoes of the gospel of peace (v. 15)	Jesus is the good news, the One who restores our peace with the Father (2 Cor 5:17-21).	We are to proclaim the gospel message, knowing that beautiful feet do just that (Is. 52:7 & Rom. 10:15).
Shield of faith (v. 16)	Jesus is the source and perfecter of our faith (Heb 12:2).	We are to trust the promises of God.
Helmet of salvation (v. 17)	Jesus is our salvation (1 John 5:11-12).	We are to live out our salvation as children of God, allowing it to affect our thinking and our actions.
Sword of the Spirit (v. 17)	Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1-5).	We are to know the Word, live it, and proclaim it.

“All the enemy desires for the believer is to keep them down, and all the enemy desires for the unbeliever is to keep them his!” - Pastor Joey

<sup>2</sup>William F. Cook III and Chuck Lawless, *Spiritual Warfare in the Storyline of Scripture* (Brentwood, TN: B&H Academic, 2019), 226-227.