

I AM A WARRIOR

Identity: Part 7

August 29, 2021 | Pastor Brian

Ephesians 6:10-18

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

Spiritual warfare is when I get caught in crossfire of Satan's ongoing WAR with God.

"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." (John 10:10, NLT)

SATAN'S PURPOSE	GOD'S PURPOSE
Distract me from God's purposes.	Draw me into prayer.
Disable me from God's power.	Demonstrate His power.
Discourage me in God's plan.	Develop me personally.

5 PRINCIPLES FOR WAGING SPIRITUAL WARFARE

1. AS A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST, I SHOULD **EXPECT** SPIRITUAL WARFARE.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power." (Ephesians 6:10, NIV84)

"Timothy, my son, here are my instructions for you, based on the prophetic words spoken about you earlier. May they help you fight well in the Lord's battles." (1 Timothy 1:18, NLT)

2. I NEED TO CORRECTLY **IDENTIFY** THE ENEMY.

*"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." (Ephesians 6:12, NIV84)*

3 Enemies of the Believer

1) THE ENEMY **WITHIN** ME.

"But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind." (Romans 7:23a, NLT)

2) THE CULTURE **AROUND** ME.

"We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one." (1 John 5:19, NLT)

3) THE EVIL ONE **AGAINST** ME.

"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8, NLT)

3. I NEED TO WEAR MY PPE!

*“**Put on all of God’s armor** so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil...Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to **resist** the enemy in the time of evil...” (Ephesians 6:11,13, NLT)*

“...with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation...” (Ephesians 6:14–17, NIV84)

Item	Meaning	Guards Against...	Satan uses:	See also...
<i>Belt of truth</i>	INTEGRITY (14a)	Cuts of compromise.	Lies	Matthew 22:16
<i>Breastplate of righteousness</i>	PURITY (14b)	Stab to the heart.	Lust	Proverbs 4:23
<i>Feet fitted with...peace</i>	STABILITY (15)	Slipping from conflict.	Conflict	Psalms 119:165; Luke 2:52
<i>Shield of faith</i>	CERTAINTY (16)	Darts of doubt.	Doubt	Romans 8:28; Hebrews 10:23
<i>Helmet of salvation</i>	CLARITY (17a)	Club of confusion.	Discouragement	1 Corinthians 2:16; Mark 5:1-20

“so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.” (2 Corinthians 2:11, NLT)

4. I NEED TO WIELD MY WEAPONRY.

“We are human, but we don’t wage war as humans do. We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.” (2 Corinthians 10:3–4, NLT)

- **AIM YOUR ARTILLERY.**
“...take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:17b, NLT)
- **CALL IN THE COMMANDER.**
“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion.” (Ephesians 6:18a, NLT)
- **READ YOUR RADAR.**
“Stay alert...” (Ephesians 6:18b, NLT)
- **COVER YOUR COMRADES.**
“...be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.” (Ephesians 6:18c, NLT)

5. I NEED TO CLARIFY THE WIN.

*“Put on the full armor of God **so that** you can take your **stand** against the devil’s schemes.” (Ephesians 6:11, NIV84)*

*“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**.” (Ephesians 6:13, NIV84)*

*“**Stand** firm then...” (Ephesians 6:14, NIV84)*

UNDERSTAND WHO I STAND UNDER.

“And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony...” (Revelation 12:11, NLT)

“...greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4, NASB95)

ACTION:

The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis

Memorize Ephesians 6:12