

Spiritual Warfare

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Overview:

1. What is Spiritual Warfare?
2. How do we fight, overcome, and stand in victory?
 - a. The Mindset
 - b. The Movement/Motion (What do you do after you say Amen?)
3. Put it into practice!

A. **What is spiritual warfare:** The war between the spiritual forces of good versus the unseen forces of evil and darkness. The forces of evil desire to turn us away from God and strip us of our faith in Jesus Christ. Be mindful not to exaggerate the forces of evil nor underestimate their power. To exaggerate would be to blame the devil for everything. To underestimate is to lack knowledge of the truth from the Word of God that we are in a battle until Jesus returns or calls us home into heaven with Him. The good news is God gives us the remedy to live as the conquerors and overcomers that we already are in Christ Jesus.

BACKGROUND OF THE TEXT: Famous Letter in which the Full Armor of God is derived. The Book of Ephesians.

What's Happening in Ephesus: The letter to the Ephesians is meant to be circulated among the churches in Asia Minor. While imprisoned in Rome, Paul heard of three major problems going on in Asia Minor to which he delivered solution, (1)there was confusion regarding whether or not gentiles should follow practices of the law and (2) need for unity-Jews and Gentiles alike are the body of Christ (3)the Ephesians and the other churches in Asia Minor were bothered by demonic forces. Paul is encouraging the Ephesians and the churches throughout Asia Minor in the truth, that there is no force greater than God! He let's the gospel of truth lead the victory through any battle! The majority of congregants in Ephesus were Gentile, and not of Jewish descent. (This is what Gentile means, not born of Jewish descent). There is but one body of Christ, the Church. They are included as one body.

3 Themes that point to courageous and powerful living for the Ephesians:

1. We are all one body in Christ, Jews and Gentiles alike. (Unity in Truth and Living).
2. We must walk out this unity, not in our own powers but in the Spirit of God.
3. We must put on the Spirit, just as a soldier put on his armor in order to battle the powers of this world.-This is why Paul writes the context of Scripture which contains the word picture of the The Full Armor of God. It is relational and puts a physical visual and understanding to the spiritual armor needed to win spiritual warfare.

Ephesians 6:12 (NLT): ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12 (MSG): A Fight to the Finish

¹⁰⁻¹² And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no weekend war that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.

B. How do we Overcome:

- a. **2 Corinthians 10: 3-5 (NIV):** ² I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world. ³ For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ 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.
 - i. **We do not live by the standards of this world.** We live according to the Word of God.
 - ii. **We fight with Spiritual armor** through the power of the Holy Spirit, who has divine power, meaning, beyond human ability- to demolish stronghold, everything designed to hold you captive.
 - iii. **The Word of God is our final authority:** we live, believe and fight according to the Word of God, not by personal opinion, worldly arguments, or societal status or impression.
- b. **God Focused and His Power:** Our focus should be on God, not demons; we speak to Him, not them. It is by His power, not ours that we execute authority.
 - i. Example: Michael the archangel did not rebuke Satan in his own power but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" **Jude 1:9 (NIV):** But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"
 - ii. **Darkness:** Do not open the door to darkness or deception: Today's society, especially the younger generation, they are opening themselves up to supernatural energies, crystals, wicken, white witches (claiming to be angels of light) and all other forms of demonic forces that invites spiritual warfare. Darkness is embraced and the Holy Spirit is mourned.

Deception: When we start talking to the devil, we run the risk of being led astray as Eve was as we witness in [Genesis 3:1–7](#) (NIV): [READ AT HOME]³ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

- c. **Be Ready:** [1 Peter 5:8](#) (ESV): Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- d. **Submit to God:** [James 4:7](#) (ESV): Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
 - i. Submit: Know the truth of God’s Word. Let the Word of God become you.
 - ii. Resist: Be alert, aware, temptation is coming. Live out God’s Word. Obey His ways. Our own sin and disobedience cause us harm, struggles and suffering. This is of our own doing when we fall into temptation. The devil brings the temptation, but God gives us the way of escape every time. **1 Corinthians 10:13.** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.
James 1:13-14 (NLT): ¹³And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong,^[c] and he never tempts anyone else. ¹⁴Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away.
- e. **Put on the Full Armor of God:** [Ephesians 6:13-17](#) (NLT): ¹³Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴Stand your ground,

putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

i. **Summary:** What do these pieces of spiritual armor represent in spiritual warfare? We are to **know the truth, believe the truth, and speak the truth**. We are to rest in the fact that we are declared righteous because of Christ's sacrifice for us. We are to proclaim the gospel no matter how much resistance we face. We are not to waver in our faith, trusting God's promises no matter how strongly we are attacked. Our ultimate defense is the assurance we have of our salvation, an assurance that no spiritual force can take away. Our offensive weapon is the Word of God, not our own opinions and feelings. And we are to [pray in the Spirit, and the power and will of the Holy Spirit](#).

1. **Pray in the Spirit:** Tongues: next week. The purity of God's will and His power.
2. **The Will of God:** The Word of God is the will of God for your life and the truth in which the Holy Spirit guides our lives and activates within you and in this world.

C. **Live the Truth:** What do You do after you say amen? We pray but then we must live out what we "say or confess" we believe. In other words, live as if you believe what you prayed.

a. **James 1:21-22(NLT):** So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

Lesson Summarized: READ AT HOME

In summary, what are the keys to success in spiritual warfare? We rely on God's power, not our own. We put on the whole armor of God. We draw on the power of Scripture—the Word of God is the Spirit's sword. We pray in perseverance and holiness, making our appeal to God. We stand firm ([Ephesians 6:13–14](#)); we submit to God; we resist the devil's work ([James 4:7](#)), knowing that the Lord of hosts is our protector. "Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken" ([Psalm 62:2](#)).

PRAYERS: Praying the Word of God

GOD FOCUSED:

THE GREATNESS OF GOD (<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com>)

Jeremiah 10:6

There is none like You, O Lord;
You are great, and great is Your name in might.

1 Chronicles 16:25

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
He also is to be feared above all gods.

Psalms 96:4

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
He is to be feared above all gods.

1 Chronicles 29:11

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty,
indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and
You exalt Yourself as head overall.

Nehemiah 1:5

I said, "I beseech You, O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the
covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments,

Psalms 47:7

For God is the King of all the earth;
Sing praises with a skillful psalm.

Psalms 47:2

For the Lord Most High is to be feared,
A great King over all the earth.

THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD (openbible.info)

Matthew 19:26 ESV But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Ephesians 3:20 ESV Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

Deuteronomy 10:17 ESV For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.

Ephesians 6:10 ESV Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

2 Corinthians 13:4 ESV For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God.

Psalms 62:11 ESV Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God,

Colossians 1:11 ESV May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,

Jeremiah 32:27 ESV "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?"

2 Timothy 1:7 ESV For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

1 Corinthians 6:14 ESV And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.

Hebrews 1:3 ESV He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Zephaniah 3:17 ESV The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

HEALING (biblestudytools.com)

"Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you..." **Exodus 23:25** "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." ~ **Isaiah 41:10** "Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." ~ **Isaiah 53:4-5** "But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,' declares the LORD" ~ **Jeremiah 30:17** "Heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise." ~ **Jeremiah 17:14** "Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven." ~ **James 5:14-15** **Psalm 147:3** He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

UNSAVED LOVED ONES

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you that You provide light to our paths when we follow Your Word. Please open ___'s eyes to the light and truth that can only be found in the Bible. Break down the barriers that cloud _____ from understanding and accepting your Word as the light and truth he/she needs in his/her life. Please help _____ find that you really are the way, the truth, and the life. Help her/him find You as the path that she/he needs, You as the truth he/she craves to know, and You as her/his source of eternal life. Please help ___ see the beauty of a faith-filled relationship with You. Thank you that Your grace is a gift from God. Please allow _____ to see his/her need for your gift of grace. Help him/her see he/she *cannot* save himself/herself through any actions of his/her own. Open his/her heart to understand that salvation comes only through faith in You, Jesus. I know you have a plan for _____ life and that You have prepared good works for _____ to complete. Please make Your grace alive to him/her so that ___ can live the rest of his/her life in service and honor to You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

New Identity (raiseyourwords.com)

(I am no longer that man or woman of the past-I am yours and all that you say I am Lord!)

1. **I am loved.** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8:38-39
2. **I am God's child.** Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12
3. **I am victorious.** For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 1 John 5:4
4. **I am a new creation.** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17
5. **I am chosen, holy and dearly loved.** Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12
6. **I am alive with Christ.** When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins. Colossians 2:13
7. **I am strong in Christ.** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
8. **I am free.** So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:36
9. **I am fully forgiven.** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. Ephesians 1:7
10. **I am never alone.** God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Hebrews 13:5
11. **I am blameless and free from accusation.** But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation. Colossians 1:22
12. **I am a saint.** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household. Ephesians 2:19
13. **I am forever free from condemnation.** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:1-2
14. **I am a citizen of heaven.** But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:20
15. **I am assured all things work together for good.** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28
16. **I am safe and the evil one cannot harm me.** We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. 1 John 5:18
17. **I am a member of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession.** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9,10

18. **I am the light of the world.** You are the light of the world. Matthew 5:14
19. **I am valuable.** You are not your own; you were bought at a price. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
20. **I am more than a conqueror through Christ, who loves me.** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Romans 8:37

Now, live like you believe it!

Directional Examples of Living the Truth

Be in Church: Hebrews 10:25-For power, family, support, love, truth/teaching, power, fellowship, relationship.

Be Mindful of the Company you Keep: 1 Corinthians 15:33-evil company corrupts good morals.

Seek Godly Counsel when you need help: Proverbs 11:14, Proverbs 15:22

Watch Your Words: Proverbs 18:21- Life and death are in the power of the tongue. Do not curse or cast down who or what you are believing for.

Live for God, not this world: Romans 12:1,2

Choose Life in Christ: Deuteronomy 30:15-20(NLT): ¹⁵ "Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster. ¹⁶ For I command you this day to love the LORD your God and to keep his commands, decrees, and regulations by walking in his ways. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy.

In Jesus Name, Amen and Amen.