

# Christian Combat: Welcome to the War!

Ephesians 6:10-13

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

**"WELCOME TO THE WAR!" - "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. 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."**

**I. We engage in a *REAL WAR!* - "..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."**

- War can be raging *all around us*, but yet we are seemingly *oblivious* to it!

WWII...Pearl Harbor

1960s... Vietnam

9/11 War on Terror...

- "*.. principalities..powers..rulers of darkness..hosts of wickedness..*" - This suggests a structured and organized army of demonic creatures that assist Satan in his attacks against believers. A spiritual battle is raging in our world, and in "the heavenlies," and you and I are a part of this battle. The important point is

that our battle is ***not*** against human beings. It is against ***spiritual*** powers. We are wasting our time fighting people when we ought to be fighting ***the devil*** who seeks to control people and make them oppose the work of God.

- "we.. wrestle.." - The fact that Paul uses the word "wrestle" indicates that we are involved in a hand-to-hand battle and are not mere spectators at a game.
- The fact that Paul used ***MILITARY*** descriptions to illustrate the believer's conflict with Satan makes sense. Paul himself was chained to a Roman soldier; Paul's readers were very familiar with Roman soldiers and equipment. In fact, ***MILITARY*** illustrations were favorites with Paul:
  - ***2 Cor 10:3-4*** - "*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God..*"
  - ***1 Tim. 6:12*** - "*Fight the good fight of faith..*"
  - ***2 Tim. 2:3-4*** - "*You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*"
  - ***2 Tim 4:7*** - "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*"
- The Scriptures not only speak of Christians in terms of military terms, but even ***GOD HIMSELF!***

- **Exo 15:3** - "The Lord is a Man of war; The Lord is His name."
- **Ps 24:** - "Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle."
- **Rev 19:11** - "Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war."

## **II. We combat a REAL ENEMY! - "..stand against the wiles of the devil."**

### • The Devil's Origin:

- **Isa 14:12-14** - "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!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 congregationOn the farthest sides of the north;I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,I will be like the Most High.'"

### • The Devil's Attack:

- **Gen 3:1-6** - "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For

*God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate."*

*Lion...*

*Dragon..*

*Destroyer..*

**III. We posses a *REAL POWER!* - "...my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand.."**

• The LORD Himself is our Power and Strength!

- 1Jn 4
- Phil 4:13
- Matt 28

• The Lord is your EVER-PRESENT Protector!

- Isa 41
- Ps.23

**Ps.16**