

# SPIRITUAL WARFARE

## PART 1: THE FORCES WE FACE

*“Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict the more glorious the triumph.” Thomas Paine, December 1776*

*“In a very real sense those of us who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are engaged in a battle. But the forces we face are not clothed in flesh; they are not human agencies. Rather, they are the deadly pantheon of spiritual hosts of wickedness, invisible and dedicated to our destruction.” Ray Stedman*

### THE FORCES WE FACE

- How are we to make sense of this life?
- Ephesians 6:10-13 “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 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. 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.
- What is the thing that gives you the most difficulty in life? What is your struggle?
- On Earth, the god of this world is not the creator, but a usurper. (2 Corinthians 4:4; 2 Corinthians 2:11 and John 8:44)

### A CALL TO COMBAT

- Humanity has had generations to learn how to suppress the truth.
- Jesus is the final authority regarding Spiritual Warfare. (Luke 11:14-22)
- Three important principles
  - First: \_\_\_\_\_ is alone, powerless and helpless against Satan.

Second: \_\_\_\_\_ is essential to the human condition.

Third: There is no \_\_\_\_\_ stand.

○ **Next Sunday – Part 2: The Strategy of Satan**

Jesus said that Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy. But, what are his methods?

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

*Are Christians involved in spiritual warfare against evil spiritual forces? If we doubt we are at war, we would likely do nothing. If we believe we are at war, we would likely take action and get prepared.*

1. How often do you think of spiritual warfare? On a scale from 1 to 10, how seriously would you rate the danger in your own life of the influence of Satan or other evil spiritual powers? Explain.
2. Do you know Christians who spend all their energies on this subject to the point of obsession? How does that help or hinder them?
3. Do you know Christians who do not take this seriously? How does that help or hinder them?
4. What does Ephesians 6:10-12 reveal about the realities of Satan and other evil spiritual powers? What does the apostle Paul say that a Christian is to do to have victory?
5. The external pressures and influences that make it hard to walk daily with the Lord are not primarily difficulties between people. What are some examples of pressures and influences that have made it harder for you to walk each day with Jesus?
6. What do you think we should do to be on guard against Satan and his demons? How does this relate to Scripture?