



Series: Ephesians: Taking Ground
Text: Ephesians 6:10-24 **Title:** "How to Lose a Spiritual Fight"
Date: July 31, 2022 **Speaker:** Jordan Hansen

Name that movie: "My name is Maximus Decimus Meridius, commander of the Armies of the North, General of the Felix Legions, loyal servant to the true emperor, Marcus Aurelius. Father to a murdered son, husband to a murdered wife. And I will have my vengeance, in this life or the next." → **We love war movies but we hate war.**

Tommy Franks & GK Chesterton: "Nobody hates war like a soldier hates war." - **Tommy Franks**

"The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him."
 – **GK Chesterton, Illustrated London News, Jan. 14, 1911.**

Nobody goes to war to lose. → How do we lose a spiritual fight?

→ Summary Transition: Nobody loves war. The consequences are devastating, but the consequences of losing a war are even more catastrophic. Whether we like it or not, we have been living in a spiritual war zone since the Garden of Eden. But choosing to ignore it or fight in our own strength puts us in danger and those we love, who stand behind us. While Jesus has already won the ultimate victory on the cross, spiritual battles still rage. God is calling us to take ground.

Ephesians: What is the book of Ephesians all about? 1-3: We must understand what God has done for us... 4-6: ...before we can understand what we can do for God!

Week 1:	Poem of praise about the Trinity at work in salvation.	Ephesians 1:1-14
Week 2:	Paul's Prayer of enlightenment	Ephesians 1:15-23
Week 3:	Salvation: Saved from SIN!	Ephesians 2:1-10
Week 4:	Jew & Gentile: ONE FAMILY	Ephesians 2:11-22
Week 5:	Paul's Calling & His Prayer of empowerment	Ephesians 3:1-21
Week 6:	A Worthy Life Together	Ephesians 4:1-6
Week 7:	A Healthy Church	Ephesians 4:7-16
Week 8:	Changed Lives	Ephesians 4:17-32
Week 9:	Living in the Light	Ephesians 5:1-20
Week 10:	Breakthrough Relationships	Ephesians 5:21-6:9
Week 11:	How to Lose a Spiritual Fight	Ephesians 6:1-24

10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 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.

10-12: We try to face a spiritual enemy w/out spiritual power...ALONE! → We fight blindfolded...and alone!

- Be made powerful... → We can't do this in our own strength.
- There is power in a God-empowered army. → Pic: Roman Army → Ben: We don't have to fight blind or alone!

- What do we face?→Strategies of the devil→Not flesh & blood→evil rulers, authorities of the unseen world→mighty powers in the dark world→evil spirits in the heavenly places→**CS Lewis**→**Sermon in Notes**
 - VISION:We are waiting on the Lord as a Mesa Launch Team...to BE EMPOWERED // Small Groups // Services!
- We must face our spiritual enemy w/God's power...TOGETHER. So...how does God empower us?

13 Therefore, 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. 14 Stand 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,

- 13-17:We try to stand our ground without spiritual armor.**→Paul says put on every piece of armor...so we survive!
- Armor comes in handy...when the enemy is launching an all out assault on you!→What helps us stand?
 - Let's look at what this armor represent: Truth, Righteousness, Gospel/Peace, Faith, & Coming Salvation
 - Belt of Truth→Satan is a liar.→**Sermon Resource in Notes**
 - Body Armor of God's righteousness→Satan is an accuser. Imputed righteousness of Jesus.→No back armor.
 - Good news shoes of peace→Satan is a divider.→Nothing brings unity and peace to a congregation faster than the mission of God to advance the Gospel.
 - Shield of faith→Satan = source of unbelief/doubt.→“Did God say that?”→Faith shields us from those arrows.
 - Helmet of salvation→Protects the hope of Christ' return.
 - Pic: Roman Army Testudo Formation: Shield Wall→God's armor will protect us!→Tara: God's promise to protect.
 - Where is the weak spot in our armor as individuals...as a church?
 - VISION: Believe that God has given us what we need to stand.→Prayer: Help us believe that your armor is enough!
- We must stand in God's power by putting on the armor of God...TOGETHER. So...we're protected. What about taking ground?! Paul talks about 3 offensives.

and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

19 And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. 20 I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

21 To bring you up to date, Tychicus will give you a full report about what I am doing and how I am getting along. He is a beloved brother and faithful helper in the Lord's work. 22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose—to let you know how we are doing and to encourage you.

23 Peace be with you, dear brothers and sisters, and may God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you love with faithfulness. 24 May God's grace be eternally upon all who love our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 18-24:We try to advance without a spiritual weapon and/or a spiritual strategy!**→Paul goes from defense to offense!
- Crystal bit me.→**Paul outlines 3 offensives:**
 - Word of God (close combat)→Mt 4:1-11: Jesus in the desert. LIVED IT.→Rev. 19:15: Mouth sword.
 - Pray in the Spirit, at all times, & on every occasion!→“in the Spirit” = Tongues?→**Sermon Resource**
 - Pauls asks for prayer himself and informs them of his team.→**Who is praying for you?**
 - **The only way you will stay standing is if you start kneeling!**→VISION:21 Days o Prayer & Fasting
 - Testimony: IN January 2015 we started praying and fasting...AND LOOK AT ALL GOD HAS DONE!
- We're not built to lose. But if we fight in our own strength, in our own way, without God's help and the church to back us...WE WILL LOSE.

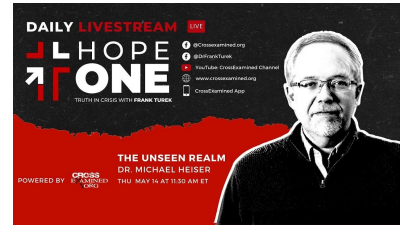
→The ONLY way to fight spiritual battles is in God's strength!
 →PRAYER: Father, help me to fight my spiritual battles in your strength!

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

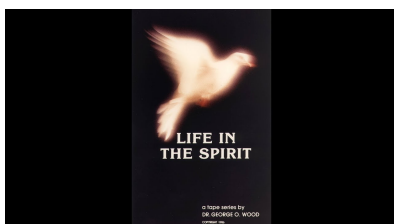
1. Do I believe in the Devil & demons? Why or why not? Am I open to the spiritual nature of reality?
2. Where have a sensed a spiritual battle in my life? Why is it so important to fight in God's strength?
3. What do the spiritual armor pieces represent? Why are each important in the spiritual fight I am in?
4. How does God's Word and prayer help us to bring an offense to the spiritual battles we face?
5. **PRAYER:** “Father, help us to fight our spiritual battles in your strength!”

LINKS / RESOURCES:

- **Video:** Bible Project Ephesians: <https://youtu.be/Y71r-T98E2Q>
- **Video:** Historical/Cultural Background to the Book of Ephesians: <https://youtu.be/6FfIE2jS7-k>
- **Sermon:** “Free From Oppression” - What are demons? Who is the Devil?: <https://youtu.be/ZYFbJ466mw8>
- **Sermon:** “When God’s Word is Powerless: God’s Word vs. Satan Words”: <https://youtu.be/WJxygsuPs0Y>
- **Youtube Interview by Frank Turek:** The Unseen Realm w/ Dr. Michael Heiser: <https://youtu.be/ifNdJPgJATA>



- **Book:** “The Screwtape Letters” by CS Lewis
- **Book:** “Demons: What the Bible Really Says About the Powers of Darkness” by Dr. Michael Heiser
- **Book:** “The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible” by Dr. Michael Heiser
- **Poll:** Most American Christians Do Not Believe that Satan or the Holy Spirit Exist: <https://www.barna.com/research/most-american-christians-do-not-believe-that-satan-or-the-holy-spirit-exist/>
- **Video:** Bible Project Series on “Spiritual Beings”: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/intro-spiritual-beings/>
- **Video:** Bible Project Series on “Satan & Demons”: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/satan-demons/>
- **Article:** “When exorcists need help, they call him”: <https://www.cnn.com/2017/08/04/health/exorcism-doctor/index.html>
- **Article:** “A Pastor’s Reflections: Demon Possession and Mental Illness”: <https://wscal.edu/blog/a-pastors-reflections-demon-possession-and-mental-illness>
- **Article:** “In Conversation: Antonin Scalia”: <https://nymag.com/news/features/antonin-scalia-2013-10/>
- **21 Names of the Satan in Scripture:**
 1. Day star or Bearer of light (In Latin = Lucifer - BEFORE the Fall) - Isaiah 14:12
 2. Satan = “Adversary” - Job 1:6
 3. Devil = “Slanderer” - Matthew 4:1
 4. Angel of Light - 2 Corinthians 11:14
 5. The Accuser of the children of God - Revelation 12:10
 6. Tempter - Matthew 4:3
 7. Liar - Jn. 8:44
 8. The Father of Lies - Jn. 8:44
 9. Ruler of Demons - Mt. 9:34
 10. Beelzebul - “lord of the flies/dung” - Mt. 12:24
 11. The Evil One - Mt. 13:19
 12. Adversary - 1 Peter 5:8
 13. Roaring Lion - 1 Peter 5:8
 14. Apollyon (Greek) / Abaddon (Hebrew) = Destroyer - Revelation 9:11
 15. Ruler of this World - Jn. 14:30 / 1 John 5:19
 16. God of this Age - 2 Cor. 4:14
 17. Ruler of the authority of the Air - Ephesians 2:2
 18. Belial - “vileness” - 2 Cor. 6:15
 19. Old Serpent - Rev. 12:9
 20. Dragon - Rev. 12:9
 21. Deceiver of the whole world - Revelation 12:9
- **Sermon:** “The Spirit and Speaking in Tongues” by George Wood: <https://youtu.be/-nQfSLU7wPo>
- **Sermon:** “The Holy Spirit Part 1” by Jordan Hansen: <https://vimeo.com/239362568>
- **Sermon:** “The Holy Spirit Part 2” by Jordan Hansen: <https://vimeo.com/240418559>



- Mesa Website Resource on Fasting: <https://mesa.church/21-days>
- Map of Asia Minor (Modern Day Turkey) where this letter would have been circulated:



QUOTES / SONGS:

"The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him."
 – **GK Chesterton, Illustrated London News, Jan. 14, 1911.**

"Nobody hates war like a soldier hates war." - **Tommy Franks**

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them." - **from Preface to The Screwtape Letters, (Written 7/5/1941)**

"Seeing the Bible through the eyes of an ancient reader requires shedding the filters of our traditions and presumptions. They processed life in supernatural terms. Today's Christian processes it by a mixture of creedal statements and modern rationalism." - **Dr. Michael Heiser, The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible**

"The story of the Bible is about God's will for, and rule of, the realms he has created, visible and invisible, through the imagers he has created, human and nonhuman. This divine agenda is played out in both realms, in deliberate tandem." - **Michael S. Heiser, The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible**

"The kingdom spreads slowly but relentlessly, one new believer at a time. Every church is a new pocket of resistance, every baptism another pledge of allegiance to the Most High, every celebration of the Lord's Supper a denial of fellowship with lesser masters and a proclamation of the success of Yahweh's mysterious plan. The lines are drawn. The stakes are high. The enemy desperate. The fullness of the Gentiles will come, all Israel will be saved, and the Deliverer will come from the heavenly Zion. It's just a matter of time." - **Michael S. Heiser, The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible**

"War is not something that illustrates aspects of Christian living. Christian living is war. Indeed I would go further. Earthly warfare is not the real warfare. It is but a faint, ugly reflection of the real thing. It is into the real war that the Christian is to plunge." - **John White**

"Ultimately, all lives end with a bang. It will be either the roaring joy and exultation of a good fight fought and a race well run, rewarded by God with the crown of life, or it will be the crushing grief and failure of a life wasted." - T. S. Elliot

SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

Revelation 19:15

From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress.

2 Corinthians 12:7

5 That experience is worth boasting about, but I'm not going to do it. I will boast only about my weaknesses. 6 If I wanted to boast, I would be no fool in doing so, because I would be telling the truth. But I won't do it, because I don't want anyone to give me credit beyond what they can see in my life or hear in my message, 7 even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.

2 Corinthians 6:14

14 Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? 15 What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? 16 And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God.

Luke 4:16-21

16 When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. 17 The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, 19 and that the time of the Lord's favor has come."

20 He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. 21 Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"

Colossians 2:13-15

13 You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. 14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. 15 In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

Matthew 10:1

10 Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness.

Matthew 17

14 At the foot of the mountain, a large crowd was waiting for them. A man came and knelt before Jesus and said, 15 "Lord, have mercy on my son. He has seizures and suffers terribly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. 16 So I brought him to your disciples, but they couldn't heal him."

17 Jesus said, "You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me." 18 Then Jesus rebuked the demon in the boy, and it left him. From that moment the boy was well.

19 Afterward the disciples asked Jesus privately, "Why couldn't we cast out that demon?"

20 "You don't have enough faith," Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."

Matthew 4:1-11

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. 2 For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

3 During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."

4 But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, 6 and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

7 Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"

8 Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

9 "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me."

10 "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

11 Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

Ephesians 6:10-18 (from: Letters to Street Christians 1971)

Remember to get your strength from God's mighty power which he has put in you. We are at war, and we do not mean a war against people made of flesh and blood. Our fight is against persons and powers who do not have bodies and do not need them. They are the evil rulers of the unseen world. Satan and all his evil spirits. For a battle of that kind you need full protection which only God our father can give. The best way we can think of to describe that protection is to take it piece by piece like the armor that knights wore in the old days if you use all the armor God provides, you will be able to resist the devil whenever he attacks and when it's all over you will still be standing strong.

To do this you will need the belt of truth around your middle and the breast plate of God's approval to protect your heart and innermost being. You should have on your feet shoes to carry the good news of God's peace, the gospel of Christ. You should also have the helmet of your liberation on your head, and the sword of God's spirit which is his word in your hand. Most of all you must have faith as your shield, for it can quench all the burning darts aimed at you by Satan. Keep talking to the father all the time about everything. Talk with him about other brothers and sisters as well as yourself and stay alert as to their needs. Pray continually."

MESA VISION LINKS:

- What is the Mesa Launch Team & how can I sign up? <https://mesa.church/launch>
- Who is Mesa? Click: [ID.Mission.Vision.Leadership Values](#)
- Where are we at with the building? Click: [NOW Initiative & Building Renovation](#)
- What is the vision of Mesa Church? Click: [Vision Sermons / Messages](#)
- Is there anything I can watch to be inspired? Click: [Grow Conference Main Sessions](#)

MESA GROWTH LINKS:

- How can I grow spiritually? Coming soon.
- How can I grow as a leader? Coming soon.
- What books would you recommend? Click: [Book Recommendations](#)
- Where are Jordan's Interviews? Click: [Talks with Jordan](#)

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- GOOGLE PLAY: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.subsplashconsulting.s_K2XMCR&referrer=utm_source%3Dsubsplash%26utm_content%3DeyJ0YW5kbGVyIjoYXBwliwiYXBwa2V5IjojSzJYTUNSIj0=