

February 20 & 21, 2021



Lesson from Microbiology: You won't witness a visible cure until you address the invisible cause.

Ephesians 6:10-13 *"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil 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 firm."*

The spiritual battle in the unseen is responsible for the physical battle in the seen.

"My dear Wormwood,

I wonder you should ask me whether it is essential to keep the patient in ignorance of your own existence. That question, at least for the present phase of the struggle, has been answered for us by the High Command. Our policy, for the moment, is to conceal ourselves." Screwtape Letters, C.S. Lewis

1. You are in a spiritual battle.
2. If it has flesh and blood, it's not your enemy.
3. God has given you what you need to stand.

Key #1: Be prepared!

Ephesians 6:14-15 *"Stand therefore, **having fastened** on the belt of truth, and **having put on** the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, **having put on** the readiness given by the gospel of peace."*

Belt of Truth: Know God's objective truth.

Breastplate of Righteousness: Live in your new identity.

Shoes of Peace: Live out your mission.

Key #2: Be ready to defend yourself!

Ephesians 6:16-17 *"In all circumstances **take up** the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and **take** the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."*

Shield of Faith: Trust that God will protect.

Helmet of Salvation: Remember that God will rescue.

Sword of the Spirit: Arm yourself with Scripture.

Refocus:

We will be a church that understands there is an invisible root behind the visible fruit.

We will be a church that knows the Bible so that we will know, obey, and quote biblical truth.