



HOW TO WIN THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

REV CITY MEN

A Study on Design, Purpose & the Battle for Men

SCRIPTURE • EPHESIANS 6:10–11

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.

Everything that God creates, the enemy tries to corrupt.



MY NOTES

The Three Lures the Enemy Uses to Catch Men

SCRIPTURE • 1 JOHN 2:16

For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

The Lust of the Flesh. The Lust of the Eyes. The Pride of Life.

Temptation is tempting. If it didn't tempt you, it wouldn't be temptation.

If the lust of the flesh doesn't catch you, the enemy switches lures and comes after you with the pride of life.

The enemy is like a good fisherman, he doesn't care how he catches them, he just wants to catch them.

The enemy has been defeated, so he wages a mind campaign. He introduces lies and deception to discourage, divide and attempt to defeat us.

 MY NOTES

SCRIPTURE • EPHESIANS 6:12

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.

When we realize we are not called to fight with our wife but for our wife, everything changes.

 MY NOTES

The Two Great Dangers of Spiritual Warfare

- Not thinking that spiritual warfare exists
- We blame everything on spiritual warfare

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to realize there is a spiritual battle being waged? What are the ramifications of not knowing this?
2. When we know there is a battle against the unseen enemy, does it help us understand more why he works overtime to keep us fighting against one another instead of for one another? How can we win that battle?

How Do We Win This Fight?

Realize that God has given us what we need to fight His way

SCRIPTURE • EPHESIANS 6:13

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.

STRATEGY ONE

Make God's Truth the Centerpiece of our Life

SCRIPTURE • EPHESIANS 6:14

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth

Truths the Next Generation Needs to Know

- They are not the result of a cosmic accident.
- They are not the label the world will try to put on them.
- They are created in the image of God
- They are not defined by the opinion of others.
- The things of this world will not satisfy you.
- You cannot afford to just "follow your heart." You must follow the one who created you.

SCRIPTURE • JOHN 8:32

And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

SCRIPTURE • JOHN 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

The truth is not just a propositional statement...it is a person whose name is Jesus...and we ought to do everything we can to make Jesus the centerpiece of our family.

 MY NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you believe that truth is under attack in our culture?
2. Do you agree that it is dangerous to “just follow your heart?” If so, why?

STRATEGY TWO

Realize We Have Been Made Righteous

SCRIPTURE • EPHESIANS 6:14

and having put on the breastplate of righteousness

The word for righteousness in the New Testament doesn’t just speak to right activity, it speaks about identity.

SCRIPTURE • 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

SCRIPTURE • PROVERBS 4:23

Above all else, guard your heart for everything you do flows from it.

There are no flabby breastplates. They are always ripped abs. It's a picture of how God sees us through the perfect man Jesus instead of the reality of our imperfections.



MY NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the breastplate illustration? About how the perfectly shaped and formed breastplate covers our imperfections, and how this illustrates what Christ's work does for us?

STRATEGY THREE

Be a Man That Brings Peace Wherever He Goes

SCRIPTURE • EPHESIANS 6:15

and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

When you show up does peace show up with you?

 MY NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What would be good, desirable answers to this question about each of us: “What’s it like when I walk into the room?”
2. How can we grow in our ability to be carriers of God’s peace?

STRATEGY FOUR

Link Shields With Other Men of God

SCRIPTURE • EPHESIANS 6:16

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

As men, our shield of faith should be able to give cover to others when their faith is lacking.

 MY NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Practically, how can we link shields with other men of God? What does that look like?

STRATEGY FIVE

Know Who You Are In Christ

SCRIPTURE • EPHESIANS 6:17

and take the helmet of salvation.

You can get a new heart and still be you. You can get a new liver and still be you. You lose your head and you're no longer you.

STRATEGY SIX

Use the Weapon of God's Word — The Primary Offensive Weapon

SCRIPTURE • EPHESIANS 6:18

and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God

The Word of God is not a sledgehammer to wield against people. Don't read the Word through binoculars, thinking of others who need to change. Read the Word like a mirror, looking at how the Word can change you.

We memorize what is important to us.

 MY NOTES

As men, we are called to drop the anchor of God's Word so deep into the lives of our family that even when they swerve or stumble they stay anchored to God.

Regarding eternity, the most important three words are "It is Finished." Regarding living this life victoriously, the three most important words are "It is Written."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever felt the temptation to read the Bible and think about the other people in your life that need to hear it, instead of reading it like a mirror that helps you know how to change?
2. Do you agree that, generally speaking, we memorize things that are important to us? How can we commit more of God's Word to our hearts?

STRATEGY SEVEN

Pray Powerful, Bold, Consistent Prayers

SCRIPTURE • EPHESIANS 6:18

praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints

Many of us don't think of prayer as a war tactic against the enemy, we think of prayer like a stroll in the park...or we pray for things that will make for a more comfortable life.

When we pray the enemy cowers. When we pray, the enemy loses his grip. When we pray, chains begin to break and lives are restored. Is this how we are going to war for our people?

SCRIPTURE • EPHESIANS 6:19-20

and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Your number one job is to provide for and protect the people God has put in your life.



MY NOTES

SCRIPTURE • EXODUS 15:3

The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name.

SCRIPTURE • GENESIS 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

SCRIPTURE • EPHESIANS 6:12

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.



MY NOTES

To stand up and act like men, we must dress ourselves for battle and go to war to DEFEND and PROTECT our loved ones. We can stand firm because our victory is in Jesus.

Encouraging News: God has a history and a habit of using unqualified, imperfect people.

SCRIPTURE • 2 PETER 1:3

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

David knew that even when facing circumstances that seemed impossible, he served the God of the impossible.

MY NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to see prayer as a war tactic?
2. How can we begin to pray beyond asking for things that make life more comfortable for ourselves? Do you think this is important to do?

David's Declaration

SCRIPTURE • 1 SAMUEL 17:45–48

But David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I will strike you down, and cut off your head...Then the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. And all those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD’s, and He will give all of you into our hands.”