

Title: Thriving Spiritually Through Spiritual Warfare (Part 2)

Text: Daniel 10:15-11:1

Every time we turn on the news lately, it seems like the world is on the edge of another war.

Israel and Iran are warring.

And now the USA has bombed the primary nuclear sites in Iran.

People are wondering:

Is this going to spiral into a long, drawn-out conflict?

Could this spark World War III?

How does this fit into God's plan?

Even many in our own church family have shared their concerns and questions.

It's unsettling — not only because of what we do see, but because of what we don't see.

Behind the **visible** conflicts on the world stage, there are **invisible** realities at work — spiritual realities that most people completely overlook.

Daniel 10 pulls back the curtain and shows us that behind every human conflict, there is a far greater battle taking place -

— a battle for the souls of mankind, a battle between the forces of God and the forces of evil.

Before we dive into today's section, let me summarize what's happening in Daniel 10:1–14.

Daniel is now in his mid-80s. He's been in exile for nearly 70 years. A small group of Jews has returned to Jerusalem, but it's not going well.

The temple is still in ruins, the people are discouraged, and opposition is fierce. So what does Daniel do? He doesn't complain. He prays. For three weeks, he mourns, fasts, and seeks God with all his heart.

Then something happens.

As he stands by the Tigris River, he sees a glorious figure — clothed in linen, shining like lightning, with eyes like fire and a voice like roaring waters.

It's overwhelming. The men with him run in fear. Daniel collapses. All strength leaves him. But a hand touches him. A voice speaks.

And here's what the angel says: "From the first day you humbled yourself and began to pray, your words were heard in heaven — and I've come because of them."

But there's more: "I would have come sooner, but I was withstood for 21 days by the prince of Persia — a demonic power behind that empire. Only when Michael, one of God's chief angels, came to help me was I able to break through."

What's the point?

There is more going on in this world than we can see.

Behind every news story, every global crisis, every spiritual breakthrough or delay — there's a war raging in the unseen realm.

And yet, God hears. God responds. God sends help.

And the reason this angel came? To give Daniel insight into what will happen to his people — not just now, but in the last days.

Now, as we pick up in verses 15–11:1, Daniel is about to receive encouragement — encouragement that still applies to God's people today living in the midst of spiritual conflict.

Main Idea: Spiritual Warfare is Real, But God's Power Prevails!

Though we may not see it, this world is in a real spiritual battle — but God wants His people to live with confidence in His providential power.

How do we thrive spiritually when unseen warfare rages all around us?

Let's walk through the encouragement Daniel receives — the same encouragement God offers to us.

1. Strength for the Battle (vv. 15–19)

This vision shook Daniel — an 84-year-old man — to his very core.

As we work through these verses, we need to feel the weight of what he's experiencing. Look at verse 15:

Daniel 10:15 ESV

When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and was mute.

Daniel could not even speak. The vision of what Israel would face in the future was overwhelming.

They had already endured **seventy years** of captivity because of their sin and hardness of heart.

Now, as God revealed even greater trials ahead — extending all the way until the return of King Jesus — Daniel was crushed under the weight of it.

Imagine **seeing** your entire future laid out in front of you — every trial, every heartbreak, every tragedy, every failure, every loved one lost — all at once.

The sheer weight of that knowledge would drive any of us to despair.

That's exactly where Daniel is: overwhelmed and speechless.

The ESV Study Bible says it well:

On hearing of the magnitude and power of the spiritual forces ranged against God's people in Jerusalem, Daniel was overtaken again by such an overwhelming sense of weakness that he was bowed to the ground, unable even to speak... The ESV Study Bible Chapter 10

But look at how the Angel responds...

Daniel 10:16 ESV

And behold, one in the likeness of the children of man touched my lips...

Daniel is so physically overwhelmed that he cannot even breathe or speak. But in this moment, the angel touches his lips, and Daniel is enabled to speak again.

There is clearly something supernatural happening here, but don't miss the significance of physical touch.

As a pastor, I can relate.

Ministry can wear you down: people dying, marriages falling apart, children rebelling, unresolved conflicts, angry emails, and criticism — sometimes deserved, often not.

It can weigh heavy.

But you know what helps me more than anything? My wife's hugs.

When everything feels like it's unraveling, and when everyone seems upset, my wife wraps her arms around me, reminds me she loves me — and somehow, I find strength again.

That simple, physical touch has a healing, grounding, and strengthening effect.

The angel's touch on Daniel worked similarly: God used it to strengthen His weary servant.

Look at the rest of verse 16:

Daniel 10:16 ESV

...Then I opened my mouth and spoke. I said to him who stood before me, "O my lord, by reason of the vision pains have come upon me, and I retain no strength."

The touch gave Daniel enough strength to speak, but his physical weakness remained. He needed even more help.

Daniel 10:17 ESV

How can my lord's servant talk with my lord? For now no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me."

Even after receiving strength to speak, Daniel remains overwhelmed and gasping for breath.

Remember: this man has seen plenty in his life — yet this vision of what is coming devastates him.

But God isn't finished strengthening him.

Daniel 10:18 ESV

Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me.

The angel touches Daniel again, and he receives additional strength.

But even beyond physical strength, God provides Daniel with what his heart most needed: **ENCOURAGEMENT.**

Look at verse 19:

Daniel 10:19 ESV

And he said, "O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage." And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."

I love that phrase: **"O man greatly loved."**

The angel reminds Daniel: *You may feel weak, but you are loved by God.*

And that truth alone fuels Daniel to rise and receive the rest of the vision.

God's servants may be overwhelmed, but God gives strength in our weakness. Paul knew this well:

2 Corinthians 12:9–10 ESV

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

The Lord knows how fragile we are, and He ministers to us with His peace.

Psalms 103:14 ESV

For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

“When God puts His children into the furnace, He keeps His hand on the thermostat and His eye on the clock.”— Warren W. Wiersbe

Be Patient: Waiting on God in Difficult Times (Victor Books, 1991), p. 19.

When you feel spiritually drained or under pressure, God stands ready to strengthen you.

His Word and His Spirit revive us so we can persevere in the fight.

Allow me to give you some very practical, spiritual advice.

Don't wait for the spiritual battle to prepare for warfare, prepare now because the warfare is already happening and, if it hasn't already, it's coming to you.

Remember, we are not on a cruise ship. We are on a battleship! Dress appropriately

Review:

Spiritual warfare drains us, but God renews our strength.

The battle is real, but we don't fight it in our own strength.

But not only does God strengthen us — He also provides supernatural support.

2. Support in the Conflict (v. 20)

Life is a battle — whether you're a Christian or not.

But if you belong to Jesus, you need to understand this: you are the target of an invisible war — a war raging behind the headlines and beneath the surface of everyday life.

There are spiritual forces determined to destroy your faith, divide your relationships, and derail your calling.

Jesus said, *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy”* ([John 10:10](#)).

But here’s the good news: long before creation, God sovereignly ordained a support system for His people — one that includes **angelic** beings sent to fight on our behalf.

That’s what verse 20 begins to unveil.

Daniel 10:20 ESV

*Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of **Persia**; and when I go out, behold, the prince of **Greece** will come.*

The angel poses a question:

“Do you know why I’ve come to you?”

In other words: Daniel, do you understand what’s happening behind the scenes? These visions may terrify you, but they reveal a truth deeper than world events: God’s sovereign plan is unfolding — even through conflict.

Before answering fully, the angel pulls back the curtain even further: he has just come from a fight with the **“prince of Persia”** — a demonic power assigned to influence the Persian empire.

And he’s about to face another: the **“prince of Greece.”**

This wasn’t a new conflict. The angel had been battling these dark forces for **three weeks** — even before Daniel began to fast.

Remember verses 13–14:

Daniel 10:13–14 ESV

The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia,¹⁴ and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.”

And now, another demonic power will rise — one connected to the coming Greek empire.

What does this mean?

Behind every earthly empire is an unseen spiritual war.

Satan’s forces are constantly at work to resist God’s purposes.

But God’s angelic armies are never passive — they are present, fighting, and faithful to God’s plan.

Ephesians 6:12 ESV

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.

These are not just political or cultural conflicts — they are spiritual ones.

God assigns His angels — like Michael — to protect His people and fulfill His purposes.

Daniel 12:1 ESV

¹ “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

Revelation 12:7–9 ESV

⁷ Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

There is an unseen, global war happening at any given moment.

And that includes today.

Behind the Islamic leadership of Iran is a very real demonic influence. These rulers and regimes are not simply political entities making poor decisions — they are pawns in a far greater spiritual war orchestrated by Satan himself, who opposes everything God is doing in the world.

The hatred directed at Israel is ultimately satanic, rooted in God’s eternal purposes for Israel as His covenant people and the stage upon which His future redemptive work will unfold.

Iran’s leadership advances ideologies of destruction, not only threatening Israel’s existence but destabilizing entire regions of the world.

Yet even in the midst of this, God is preserving Israel — both as an act of His faithfulness to His promises and as a restraining force against greater global evil.

What Daniel saw behind the scenes continues today - spiritual forces operating behind world powers.

Christian, this reminds us of two crucial truths:

First — We must not live in fear, but in discernment. Yes, the spiritual war is real. Yes, the forces of evil are active. **But God's sovereign hand remains firmly in control.** Nothing happens that has not first passed through His **providential** hand.

Second — We must stay spiritually vigilant. The same enemy who works behind global powers is the same enemy who seeks to discourage, distract, and divide God's people today.

The battle you face in your personal life is not merely circumstantial — it's spiritual.

Paul reminds us again:

Ephesians 6:10–11 ESV

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

If we could see the invisible war raging around us, like Daniel saw it, we would be devastated.

But God, in His mercy, has already revealed this truth in His Word. We don't need new visions — we need spiritual eyes to believe what God has already said.

Ephesians 6:12–18 ESV

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. 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. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 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,

Do you think Paul is exaggerating here? Do you think he is speaking metaphorically?

Or is it true that there is a literal, very real, spiritual battle taking place all around us?

If so, we had better heed his counsel in Ephesians...

Therefore — be people of **prayer**.

Be people of the **Word**.

Stand firm in the **strength** of Christ.

Put on the full **armor** of God daily.

This is how you endure the war — and thrive in it.

Review:

We are not fighting alone. Heaven fights for us.

The battle is real, but God actively supports His people through His servants.

And finally, we see that even as the battle rages, God's sovereign plan stands unshaken.

3. God's Power Prevails (vv. 21–11:1)

Finally, the angel tells Daniel why he has come. He has a crucial message to deliver — a revelation that will unfold in the chapters ahead.

The angel says:

Daniel 10:21 ESV

²¹ But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.

This phrase “**the Book of Truth**” is vitally important.

But let's be clear: the angel isn't referring to the Bible as we hold it in our hands.

This **Book of Truth** is God's heavenly record — His sovereign, unchangeable plan for world history.

Long before the foundation of the world, God ordained every detail of what would happen — every king who rises, every kingdom that falls, every spiritual battle behind the scenes — it's all already written and fully determined by God.

The Bible reveals portions of that plan to us, but the **Book of Truth** contains the full, exhaustive blueprint of everything that will take place — both seen and unseen, on earth and in the spiritual realm.

History is not random; it is governed by the precise, perfect will of God.

Even while demonic powers stir up kings and nations, they cannot alter what God has decreed.

And here's the good news for God's people: nothing happening in our world — not in Persia, not in Greece, not in Iran or Israel today — is outside the control of the God who has written it all in His **Book of Truth**.

The second half of verse 21:

At first glance, this next statement may seem a bit unusual, but it is incredibly important.

The angel says:

Daniel 10:21 ESV

there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.

In other words:

Daniel, you need to understand — bringing you this message has not been easy. Behind the scenes, there has been fierce spiritual opposition as demonic forces have sought to resist God's purposes for your people.

But Michael — the angel God has assigned to protect Israel — has stood with me in this battle.

What a powerful reminder: even though God's purposes are unchangeable, the forces of evil constantly resist the unfolding of that plan — **but they cannot stop it**.

Evil can never overturn what God has already written in His **Book of Truth**.

The battle may rage, but the outcome is already settled.

Now look at how chapter 11 opens:

The angel says,

Daniel 11:1 ESV

¹ “And as for me, in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to confirm and strengthen him.

The angel is saying:

Daniel, this spiritual war didn't start with your 21 days of fasting. This battle has been ongoing for years. Back when Babylon fell and Persia rose to power, I was already active — strengthening Darius to ensure that God's sovereign plan for your people continued. While

kings rise and fall, God remains fully in control, orchestrating every detail behind the scenes exactly as written in His Book of Truth.

The spiritual conflict is ongoing — but so is God's sovereign rule.

God's sovereignty governs the rise and fall of kings.

Do you remember...

Daniel 2:21 ESV

²¹ He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;

The prophet Isaiah echoes this truth:

Isaiah 46:10 ESV

¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

Like a master chess player who sees every move before it happens, God orchestrates history to fulfill His perfect plan.

Nothing catches Him off guard. Nothing surprises Him. The enemy may move pieces on the board, but every move has already been accounted for in God's sovereign design.

No matter how chaotic the world may seem, God is not reacting — **He is ruling.**

And this doesn't just apply to nations — it applies to your personal life.

God is at work in your life.

God is moving even in your pain.

God not only desires to rescue you from eternal hell, He desires to conform you into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Paul reminds us of this in Romans:

Romans 8:28–29 ESV

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

If you are in Christ this will happen because God's Word promises that it will.

Philippians 1:6 ESV

⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Christian — God is not powerless to change your life.

He is not distant.

The same God who governs the rise and fall of empires is also sovereignly at work behind the scenes of your life, even when circumstances seem unbearable.

One thing this passage teaches is this: **God is always at work behind the scenes of this world and in your life, no matter how hard things get.**

Review:

Though the war continues, God's purposes are never in jeopardy.

Conclusion

If you're feeling weak — don't be ashamed. So was Daniel.

But God didn't **scold** him. He **strengthened** him.

He reminded him that he was greatly loved.

He touched him, steadied him, and stood him back up for the battle.

And He will do the same for you.

You may not see it with your eyes — but make no mistake: a spiritual war is raging all around us.

We are not living in **peacetime**.

We are living on a **battlefield**.

The enemy is real, the opposition is fierce, and the cost is high.

But take heart — **our King is coming**.

The final outcome is already written in the **Book of Truth**.

The kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord.

Satan may rage, but his time is short.

God's plan is certain. His power is prevailing. And your calling is clear.

So don't **shrink** back.

Don't **coast** through your Christian life.

Stand in the strength God provides.

Put on the armor.

Hold your ground.

And live ready.

*"To know that nothing happens in God's world apart from God's will may **frighten** the godless, but it **stabilizes** the saints."*

— *J.I. Packer*, *Knowing God* (IVP, 1973), p. 106

Picture this:

The headlines are filled with chaos. Nations rise and fall.

You scroll your feed, and the world looks darker every day.

But heaven isn't shaken. God isn't pacing.

He's seated. Sovereign. Reigning.

And you — His beloved child — are not forgotten.

Angels battle for you. His **Word** strengthens you. His **Spirit** indwells you.

And His purposes for your life and for this world will prevail.

So, walk out of here today not in fear, but in faith.

The battle is real — **but God's power prevails.**