

Day 27: The Battle ~ Who are you Battling?

We all have battles, but who is at the source of every war? Who instigates the strife and tension? It is not people, even though it appears to be them. Our enemy is the devil.

Paul reminds us that we fight against evil in Ephesians 6:10-17, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

People are not our problem. The enemy has had thousands of years to perfect his craft, but he uses each one of us to steal, kill, and destroy. At times, we partner with the enemy to speak harsh words, forget to do something, sin, and cause others pain. While we hate to admit it, the enemy works through fallen people to bring bondage to others.

What is the unseen benefit in all of this? We do not fight the enemy alone. God has given us spiritual armor to withstand and ultimately overtake the devil. When we know truth, walk in peace, live in righteousness, hold up our faith, and think of the Lord; then we can stand firm. We may not be able to stop every attack, but we can win the war.

We must not remain passive but active in prayer and trusting the Lord. Yesterday, I identified that the enemy roams around looking for someone he can devour. Today, I want to share the next two verses after that one. 1 Peter 5:9-10, “Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. ¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.” God WILL deliver you!

The battle might be intense at times, but we know the end of the story. We WIN the war! Thank you to Jesus for His obedience to suffer and die and then is raised from the dead. Jesus has conquered death, hell, and the grave! The enemy has ALREADY lost. However, we live in the tension of now and not yet. We might believe, but others do not. This is the battleground.

1 Peter 5:9-10 pinpoints the need for us to stand firm and then God will deliver us. Write your thoughts on this scripture. What does it mean to you?

You do not fight with your own strength or weaponry. Write two action steps that can help remind you put on the armor of God daily.
