



Sermon Points

Week 20 - 3.19.23 | Tyler Wilson

Title: Wake Up to the War

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20

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Main Point: In our fight to live out the gospel we have a ruthless enemy that we must engage in spiritual warfare against, putting on God's protective armor and utilizing the weapons of His Word and prayer so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may stand firm against this opposition

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20 ESV - 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. 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. 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, 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, 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.

We need to have our radar up to spiritual warfare, because **life is not a playground, it's a battleground.**

Satan is active:

- 1 Peter 5:8 ESV - Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

- John 10:10 ESV - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
- 2 Corinthians 11:14 ESV - And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

“I do not think you will have much difficulty in keeping the patient (people) in the dark. The fact that ‘devils’ are predominantly comic figures in the modern imagination will help you. If any faint suspicion of your existence begins to arise in his mind, suggest to him a picture of something in red tights, and persuade him that since he cannot believe in that . . . he therefore cannot believe in you” - C.S. Lewis, Screwtape Letters

“I am certain that one of the main causes of the ill state of the church today is the fact that the devil is being forgotten. All is attributed to us; we have all become so psychological in our attitude and thinking. We are ignorant of this great objective fact - the existence of the devil, the adversary, and his fiery arrows.” - Martin Lloyd Jones

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 ESV - Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; **for we are not ignorant of his designs.**

Ephesians 4:26-27 ESV - Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, **and give no opportunity to the devil.**

Satan's 3 Strategies:

1 - Deception - averting schemes: lead astray with false teaching, philosophies and wisdom of the world, voices all around us feeding us false lies, change our values, & mentally undermine the truth of Jesus so that we confuse what is good and not good and think we know best.

2 - Seduction - alluring schemes: enticing of our desires into compromising sin and idolatry - to get us to drink from the empty wells of the world that won't ever satisfy, rendering us complacent and flat spiritually as we're dulled to the glory of God.

3 - Persecution - assaulting schemes: cause fear, failure and abandonment through direct harm, accusation, pressure, intimidation, affliction or outright death in order to stop or slow progress.

In all 3 he looks to **AMPLIFY** what's existing.

We need to dramatically increase our awareness of:

- 1 - The Seriousness of the War
- 2 - The Strength of our Savior

Questions to ponder:

1. Are you aware of the fight?
2. Are you putting on his armor? (Defense)
3. Are you wielding his weapons? (Offense)

Guide to spiritual warfare in uncertain areas or clear strongholds:

Step 1 - Consider the possibility of demonic activity being involved

Step 2 - Examine any ways you may have opened yourself up to this

Step 3 - Repent, Renounce & Reconcile in any areas you need to

Step 4 - Pray against the enemy: ask the Lord to assert His authority on your behalf

Step 5 - Ask others to pray - elders, GC, etc. and help discern

Step 6 - Replace with Jesus / Put on His gospel armor & Stand Firm.