

# FIGHT TO WIN

February 17, 2019

## I. SPIRITUAL WARFARE

**Acts 19:11-20** God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them. Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?" Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

- *It is spiritual warfare when we face earthly struggles with an understanding of the spiritual sources and ramifications.*

**A. You do not have to win the fight.**

**B. The fight has already been won.**

**Ephesians 6:10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.

**Colossians 2:15** And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

**Philippians 4:13** I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.

**1 Samuel 17:47** 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."

**C. You do have to fight to win.**

**Ephesians 6: 11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

**John 10:10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

- Your enemy wants to steal what God wants to give.
- Your enemy wants to kill what God wants to create.

- Your enemy wants to destroy what God wants to build.

## II. HOW TO FIGHT TO WIN

### 1. *Dress*

**Ephesians 6:11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

**Ephesians 6:13-17** 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. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- A. Put on truth like a belt.
- B. Put on righteousness like a breastplate.
- C. Put on peace like shoes.
- D. Hold onto faith like a shield.
- E. Put on your salvation like a helmet.
- F. Use God's Word as a weapon for victory.

### 2. *Wrestle*

**Ephesians 6:12** 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.

**Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)** 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.

- A. You have to know that you are fighting.
- B. You have to know who you are not fighting.
- C. You have to know who you are fighting.

**Ephesians 2:1-2** As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

**Daniel 10:12-13** Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

- Sometimes there are evil people.
- Sometimes there are human people.
- The Biblical emphasis in spiritual warfare is always on God’s strength and not on the enemy’s power.

### ***3. Stand***

**Ephesians 6:13** 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. Stand ready

**Ephesians 6:11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

A. Stand strong.

B. Stand firm.

**1 Peter 5:8-9** Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 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.

**Ephesians 4:27** and do not give the devil a foothold.

**James 4:7** Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

**Ephesians 6:18** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

C. Stand together.

### ***4. Repeat***

**2 Timothy 4:7-8** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.