

THE ARMOR OF GOD — THE UNSEEN BATTLE

INTRODUCTION

Church, tonight we are beginning a new series called **THE ARMOR OF GOD**. For the next seven weeks, we are going to walk through one of the most familiar passages about spiritual warfare in all of Scripture: Ephesians 6.

We're going to talk about the belt of truth. The breastplate of righteousness. The shoes of the gospel of peace. The shield of faith. The helmet of salvation. The sword of the Spirit. We're going to talk about prayer.

But before we talk about **what we're supposed to put on**, we need to understand **why Paul tells us to put it on**. Because you don't put armor on to go to sleep. You don't put armor on because life is comfortable. **Armor tells you something about the environment you're walking into**. And Paul wants Christians to understand something we can easily forget: **There is more happening around us than what we can see**.

There is a spiritual reality. There is a spiritual enemy. There is spiritual opposition. There is a spiritual battle. And one of the most dangerous things a believer can do is live in the middle of a battle while pretending there isn't one. **You cannot stand against an enemy you refuse to recognize**.

But let me establish something from the beginning of this series. We're not going to spend seven weeks talking about how powerful the devil is.

We're not going demon hunting. We're not going to blame Satan for every flat tire, bad day, headache, disagreement or inconvenience. Sometimes we're suffering because we live in a fallen world.

Romans 8:22 tells us: "We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time." Sometimes we're experiencing consequences from our own decisions. Galatians 6:7 says: "A man reaps what he sows." Sometimes someone has genuinely sinned against us. Sometimes the problem is our own flesh. James 1:14 says: "Each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed." And sometimes there is genuine demonic opposition.

Scripture gives us a threefold picture of spiritual conflict: **the world around us, the flesh within us, and the devil against us.**

1 John 2:15–16 warns us about the world. Galatians 5:16–17 warns us about the flesh. 1 Peter 5:8–9 warns us about the devil.

So mature believers have to learn discernment. Sometimes the enemy is tempting you. Sometimes the culture is discipling you. Sometimes your own flesh simply needs to die. And sometimes those things overlap. So don't give the devil credit for what your flesh volunteered to do. But also don't live so naturally minded that you refuse to acknowledge spiritual opposition when Scripture clearly tells us it is real.

Biblical spiritual warfare requires enough discernment **not to blame Satan for everything** and enough spiritual awareness **not to pretend Satan is nothing.**

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:18: "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen..." Hebrews 11:3 reminds us that what is visible is not all that exists. 2 Kings 6 gives us that incredible picture where Elisha's servant sees only the enemy army surrounding them until God opens his eyes and he sees that the hills are full of horses and chariots of fire.

There was more happening than what he could see. And church, there is more happening than what you can see. You see the argument. There may be something underneath it. You see the temptation. There is a battle for your allegiance. You see discouragement. There may be a battle for your hope. You see division. There may be something trying to destroy unity. You see bitterness growing in your heart. Scripture warns us that bitterness can become an opportunity for the enemy. You see the person standing in front of you. But there may be a battle happening that goes much deeper than the person standing in front of you. So before Paul teaches us how to stand, **he pulls back the curtain.**

HISTORICAL & BIBLICAL CONTEXT

Our passage begins with one incredibly important word: **"Finally..."**

Ephesians 6:10 says: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power." The Armor of God isn't a random spiritual warfare appendix Paul added to the end of Ephesians. That word **"finally"** connects everything we're about to read to everything Paul has already said. Because before Paul tells Christians how to fight, he spends most of the letter telling Christians **who they are.** In Ephesians 1, Paul tells us that

in Christ we have been blessed, chosen, adopted, redeemed and forgiven. We've been sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:3 says: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." Ephesians 1:7: "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins..."

In Ephesians 2, Paul says we were dead in our transgressions and sins— but Ephesians 2:4–5 says: "Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ..." We have been saved by grace through faith. Ephesians 2:8: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith..."

In Ephesians 3, Paul tells us that Jews and Gentiles have been brought together into one new family and that God's wisdom is being displayed through the church.

Then Ephesians shifts. Chapters 1–3 largely tell us **who we are in Christ**. Chapters 4–6 tell us **how people who know who they are in Christ should live**.

Ephesians 4:1 "Live a life worthy of the calling you have received." Walk in unity. Walk in holiness. Ephesians 5:2: "Walk in the way of love..." Ephesians 5:8: "Live as children of light." Ephesians 5:15: "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise..." Ephesians 5:18: "Be filled with the Spirit." Let Jesus transform your relationships, your marriage, your family and your work.

And then Paul says: **"Finally..."** In other words: **If you're going to live everything I've just taught you, you need to know there will be resistance.**

Following Jesus means you are moving in a direction the kingdom of darkness opposes. Jesus Himself said in John 15:18: "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first." Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:12: "Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." Now that doesn't mean every obstacle is the devil. It doesn't mean every resistance is spiritual warfare.

But it does mean this: **Sometimes resistance isn't evidence you're going the wrong direction. It may be evidence you're finally standing in the right place.**

The enemy cannot undo what Christ has done, so he will do everything he can to keep you from **living in what Christ has done**. That's why identity comes before warfare. Paul doesn't introduce you to Satan and then introduce you to Jesus. **He introduces you to Jesus first.**

He spends five chapters grounding you in Christ before he starts describing the battle. Because spiritual warfare detached from your identity in Christ produces fear, superstition and obsession. But spiritual warfare rooted in Christ produces confidence. And Paul spends far more time telling you **who you are in Christ** than telling you **who your enemy is**.

BIG IDEA - So here's what I want you to remember tonight: **THE BATTLE IS REAL, BUT THE VICTORY BELONGS TO JESUS.**

SCRIPTURE READING — EPHESIANS 6:10-20

¹⁰ 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. 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. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

POINT 1 — THE BATTLE IS REAL

Paul says: "Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

Then verse 12 says: "For our struggle..." That word **struggle** is stronger than it may sound in English. The word Paul uses carries the idea of close wrestling, hand-to-hand struggle. This isn't distant. This isn't theoretical. Spiritual warfare gets close. It touches our thoughts. Our desires. Our relationships. Our obedience. Our faith. Our ability to endure.

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 10:3–5: “Though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world...” And then Paul connects that warfare to arguments, pretensions and thoughts that resist the knowledge of God. That means one of the major battlegrounds of spiritual warfare is the mind. Romans 12:2 tells us to be: “transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Spiritual warfare isn't primarily something dramatic happening somewhere around you. Often the battlefield runs right through the ordinary places where you're trying to follow Jesus. And then notice something else in this passage. Paul keeps saying: **against**.

Against the devil's schemes. Against the rulers. Against the authorities. Against the powers of this dark world. Against the spiritual forces of evil. Paul isn't describing vague spiritual discomfort. There is genuine opposition. So what exactly are we standing against? Paul gives us five descriptions.

1. THE DEVIL

First: **“the devil's schemes.”** The Greek word translated **devil** — **diabolos** — carries the idea of a slanderer or accuser. And Paul doesn't merely say there is a devil. He says the devil has **schemes**. The word is **methodeia**. Methods. Strategies. Schemes. Calculated deception. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 2:11: “...in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.” The enemy is defeated, **but he is not inactive**. 1 Peter 5:8 says: “Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” But verse 9 says: “Resist him, standing firm in the faith...” Notice again: **stand firm**. And Scripture shows us some of the enemy's methods. Jesus calls him: “the

father of lies.” — John 8:44 Revelation 12:10 calls him “the accuser of our brothers and sisters...” Matthew 4 calls him: “the tempter.” Genesis 3 shows him twisting God's Word and questioning God's goodness.

Look at the pattern. **He lies. He tempts. He accuses.** This is why spiritual warfare isn't always dramatic. Sometimes the battle sounds like: **“Did God really say?” “God doesn't really love you.” “You'll never change.” “Nobody cares about you.” “Just give in one more time.” “God isn't listening.” “You could never be forgiven for that.” “You should just walk away.”** The enemy doesn't need you to worship him. **He just needs to get you to stop trusting Jesus.**

2. RULERS

Paul continues: “against the rulers...” Paul is describing an organized spiritual opposition. Jesus Himself speaks of Satan having a kingdom in Matthew 12:26: “If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?” Colossians 1:13 says God: “has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.” So Scripture clearly speaks about two kingdoms. The Kingdom of God. And a kingdom of darkness in rebellion against God. But let's make something very clear: **These are not two equal kingdoms.**

God and Satan are not opposite equals battling for control of the universe. Isaiah 40:28 says: “The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.” Satan is created. **God is Creator.** Satan is limited. **God is sovereign.** Satan's judgment is coming. Revelation 20:10 shows his final defeat. **Jesus reigns forever.**

3. AUTHORITIES

Paul says: “against the authorities...” And here's where knowing the whole book of Ephesians changes how you read this passage. Paul has already talked about rulers and authorities.

Ephesians 1:20–21 says God raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at His right hand: “far above all rule and authority, power and dominion...”

Did you catch that? Before Paul tells you in chapter 6 that there are rulers and authorities you're standing against, he tells you in chapter 1 **where Jesus is seated. ABOVE THEM.** Colossians 2:10 says Christ is: “the head over every power and authority.” Philippians 2:9–11 says every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. So before Paul ever tells you what you're standing against, he tells you **who is seated above it.**

4. THE POWERS OF THIS DARK WORLD

Then Paul says: “against the powers of this dark world...” There's a kingdom characterized by darkness. Jesus says in John 3:19: “Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light...” Paul says in Colossians 1:13 that we have been delivered from the dominion of darkness. And Paul has already told the Ephesians something about darkness. Ephesians 5:8: “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.” You don't belong to darkness anymore. You belong to Jesus. John 1:5 says: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” **Darkness is real, but darkness has never overcome the Light.**

5. SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL

Finally: “against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” Paul makes it unmistakable. There is a spiritual dimension to evil. Now when Paul says **“heavenly realms,”** don't hear him saying evil is somehow running around the throne of God. He's describing the unseen spiritual realm where Christ's authority, God's purposes and spiritual opposition are realities. Daniel 10 gives us one of the clearest Old Testament pictures of spiritual conflict intersecting with earthly events. And that phrase **“heavenly realms”** has appeared throughout Ephesians.

Ephesians 1:3 says God has: “blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” **You've already been blessed there.** Ephesians 1:20 says Jesus is seated: “at his right hand in the heavenly realms.” **Jesus is already reigning there.** Ephesians 2:6 says God: “raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.” **You're united with Christ there.** Ephesians 3:10 says God's wisdom is being made known through the church: “to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.” And only after all of that do we arrive at Ephesians 6 and hear about: “spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Do you see what Paul has done?

- **Chapter 1 — You're blessed.**
- **Chapter 1 — Christ is seated above every power.**
- **Chapter 2 — You're seated with Christ.**
- **Chapter 3 — God's wisdom is being displayed through His church.**
- **Chapter 6 — Now let me tell you what you're standing against.**

Paul spends far more time telling you **who you are in Christ** than telling you **who your enemy is**. That's how we're going to approach spiritual warfare. We're going to be aware of the enemy. **But we're going to be anchored in Jesus.**

POINT 2 — PEOPLE ARE NOT THE ENEMY

Now notice something remarkable. Paul just gave us five descriptions of what we're fighting. The devil. Rulers. Authorities. Powers of this dark world. Spiritual forces of evil. But there's one thing that didn't make the list. **People**. Paul says: "For our struggle is NOT against flesh and blood..." Church, sometimes we're fighting the wrong enemy.

Your spouse didn't make the list. Your children didn't make the list. Your parents didn't make the list. Your coworker didn't make the list. Your neighbor didn't make the list. The person who voted differently from you didn't make the list. Even the person who hurt you didn't make the list. That doesn't mean people can't sin against you. It doesn't mean abuse should be tolerated. It doesn't mean we don't need boundaries. It doesn't eliminate accountability, justice, confrontation or consequences.

Romans 12:18 says: "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Notice Scripture says **as far as it depends on you**.

Peace does not require pretending evil is good. But it does mean: **We refuse to dehumanize people Jesus died to save.** And Paul has already warned the Ephesians about this. Ephesians 4:26–27 says: "In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold." Notice the connection. Paul

doesn't say: **"The person you're angry with is the devil."** He says your unresolved anger can create an opportunity for the devil. The person you're angry with isn't the enemy. **But the enemy would love to use your unresolved anger.** The enemy loves turning wounds into footholds. Hebrews 12:15 warns us about a: "bitter root" that can grow up and cause trouble. 2 Corinthians 2:10–11 connects forgiveness with refusing to be outwitted by Satan.

That's why bitterness is dangerous. That's why unforgiveness is dangerous. That's why unresolved anger is dangerous. Again, forgiveness doesn't mean pretending the wound didn't happen. Forgiveness doesn't eliminate wisdom, boundaries, accountability or justice. But it does mean I refuse to let what someone did to me become something the enemy continues to do **inside me**. Galatians 5:15 says: "If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other."

Think about the strategy. Get a husband and wife fighting **each other** instead of fighting **for their marriage**. Get parents fighting their children instead of fighting **for their children**. Get Christians fighting Christians instead of fighting **for unity**. Jesus prayed in John 17:21: "that all of them may be one..." Get churches competing against churches instead of fighting **for the lost**. Get people so consumed with who they're angry at that they never stop to ask: **"What's really happening underneath this?"**

And there's something remarkable about the man writing these words. Paul is writing Ephesians while imprisoned under Roman authority. Rome has restricted his freedom. Rome has put him in chains. Yet Paul doesn't write: **"Our struggle is against Rome."** He says: **"Our struggle is not against flesh and blood."** That's spiritual maturity. Jesus models

this from the cross. While people are crucifying Him, Jesus says in Luke 23:34: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Stephen does the same thing in Acts 7:60 while being stoned: "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." Jesus recognizes that the people hurting Him are still people the Father loves. Here's a sentence that could transform some relationships this week: **THIS PERSON IS NOT MY ENEMY.**

The moment I turn a person into my enemy, **I become vulnerable to the enemy.**

POINT 3 — OUR STRENGTH COMES FROM THE LORD

Now somebody should be thinking: **Pastor, if all of this is real, how am I supposed to stand against it?**

Look again at Paul's first command: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power." Christianity is not God standing on the sidelines yelling: **"Try harder! Be tougher! Get stronger!"**

The command isn't: Find your strength. Build your strength. Prove your strength. The command is: **RECEIVE HIS STRENGTH.**

Jesus says in John 15:5: "Apart from me you can do nothing." Paul says in Philippians 4:13: "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." Isaiah 40:29 says: "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak."

And once again, Paul has already explained this power.

Ephesians 1:19–21 speaks of God's: "incomparably great power for us who believe." What kind of power? Paul says it is the same mighty

strength God exerted when He **raised Christ from the dead** and seated Him: “far above all rule and authority, power and dominion...” The same categories Paul tells us we're standing against in chapter 6 are the categories he already told us Jesus is **above** in chapter 1.

So when Paul says: “**Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power,**” he's pointing us to resurrection power. Romans 8:11 says: “If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you...” The Spirit who raised Jesus lives in the believer. Paul isn't telling you to summon spiritual energy. He's telling you to depend upon the resurrected Jesus.

THE POWER BEHIND YOUR STAND IS THE POWER BEHIND THE EMPTY TOMB.

You are not standing in your willpower. You are standing in the power of Christ. Zechariah 4:6 says: “‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty.”

GOSPEL CONNECTION — WHOSE ARMOR IS IT?

Now look carefully at verse 13: “Therefore put on the full armor of God...” Whose armor? **God's**. And Paul's imagery reaches back into Isaiah. Isaiah 59:17 describes the Lord: “He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head...” Isaiah 11:5 says of the coming Messiah: “Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.” The armor ultimately belongs to **God Himself**. God is the Divine Warrior who comes to save His people. Exodus 15:3 says: “The LORD is a warrior...” And ultimately that victory is revealed in Jesus Christ. Romans 13:14 says: “Rather, clothe

yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ..." And that gives us an important truth for this entire series:

PUTTING ON THE ARMOR IS ULTIMATELY ABOUT PUTTING ON CHRIST.

Truth is found in Christ. John 14:6: "I am the way and the truth and the life." Righteousness is found in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says: "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." Peace is found in Christ. Ephesians 2:14 says: "For he himself is our peace..." Faith rests in Christ. Hebrews 12:2 calls Jesus: "the pioneer and perfecter of faith." Salvation is found in Christ. Acts 4:12 says: "Salvation is found in no one else..." The Word reveals Christ. John 1:14 says: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." The armor isn't about pretending to be spiritually tough. **It's about clothing yourself in everything that is yours because you belong to Jesus.** And at the cross, Jesus confronted everything that stood against us. Colossians 2:15 says Jesus: "disarmed the powers and authorities..." Hebrews 2:14 says that through His death Jesus broke: "the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil." 1 John 3:8 says: "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."

What looked like Jesus' defeat became the declaration of His victory. Jesus confronted sin. Jesus confronted death. Jesus confronted evil. He died. He was buried. **And on the third day He got up.**

1 Corinthians 15:54–57 declares: "Death has been swallowed up in victory..." and then: "Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Jesus has already won. Now that doesn't mean

there is no battle. The decisive victory has already been won, but the final removal of evil is still coming. Revelation 20:10 shows the devil's final judgment. Revelation 21:4 shows the day when death, mourning, crying and pain will be no more. So hear this carefully: **VICTORY DOESN'T MEAN THERE'S NO BATTLE. VICTORY MEANS THE OUTCOME OF THE BATTLE IS NO LONGER IN QUESTION.**

That's why Ephesians 6 repeatedly uses one particular word.

Verse 11: **Stand.** Verse 13: **Stand your ground.** Again verse 13: **After you have done everything, stand.** Verse 14: **Stand firm.**

James 4:7 says: "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." 1 Peter 5:9 says: "Resist him, standing firm in the faith..." Paul doesn't say: Chase. Hunt. Become fascinated with darkness. He says: **STAND.**

Biblical spiritual warfare isn't about Christians chasing darkness. It's about Christians refusing to surrender ground to darkness. **We don't have to chase the devil. We have to stand with Jesus.** Because Jesus already won the ground you're standing on. We don't fight **for** Christ's victory. **WE STAND IN CHRIST'S VICTORY.**

And verse 13 says: "when the day of evil comes..."

Not **if. When.** Jesus said in John 16:33: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." There are days when what you've believed in peaceful seasons has to hold you in painful seasons. That's why you don't wait until the battle to decide what you believe. You put on the armor **before the day of evil comes.**

CHALLENGE

So I want you to ask yourself three questions tonight.

1. **Where have I been spiritually asleep?** - Maybe you've been treating everything like it's merely natural when God wants to awaken your spiritual discernment. Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 26:41: "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."
2. **Who have I been treating like the enemy?** Maybe tonight you need to stop fighting a person and start praying for them. Jesus says in Matthew 5:44: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."
3. **Where have I been fighting in my own strength?** Maybe you know there's a battle. Your marriage. Your children. Temptation. Addiction. Fear. Anger. Anxiety. Discouragement. Shame. Your thought life. Your faith. But you've been fighting it with willpower. Control. Anger. Avoidance. And you're exhausted. Psalm 20:7 says: "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God." Maybe the problem isn't that you've been fighting the wrong battle. **You've been fighting the right battle with the wrong strength.**

INVITATION / ALTAR RESPONSE

Some of you walked into this room tonight carrying battles nobody else knows about. And Jesus isn't asking you to pretend the battle isn't real. But neither is He asking you to become strong enough to win it yourself. He's calling you to stand **in Him**. Psalm 46:1 says: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." So tonight, before we learn about one piece of armor, we're going to respond to the God who gives us the armor. If you've been **spiritually asleep**,

come: **"Lord, open my eyes."** If you've been **fighting people**, come: **"Lord, help me recognize the real enemy."** If you've been **fighting in your own strength**, come: **"Lord, I surrender this battle to You."**

Maybe your prayer tonight is only: **Jesus, I'm tired of trying to be strong enough.** Then come. Because you don't have to be strong enough. **"Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power."** 2

Corinthians 12:9 says: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." **The enemy may be stronger than you. But the enemy is not stronger than the Jesus who lives in you.**

So bring the battle. Bring the fear. Bring the temptation. Bring the relationship. Bring the addiction. Bring the discouragement. Bring the thing you've been trying to control. And surrender it again to Jesus. **Lord, open our eyes to the battle and teach us to stand in Your strength.**

BENEDICTION

May **God the Father** open your eyes to what cannot be seen and remind you that you belong to Him. May **Jesus Christ the Son**, who conquered sin, death and every power of darkness, strengthen you to stand in His victory. And may **the Holy Spirit** fill you, guide you, give you discernment and empower you to stand firm when the day of evil comes. Go this week not afraid of the battle, not obsessed with the enemy, but confident in Christ. **The battle is real. But the victory belongs to Jesus.** Amen.