

“The Battle Belongs to the Lord”

February 28, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Though we know *theologically* we will not lose the war, it appears for the North American church that on many fronts, that we may be losing the battle.

But it doesn't need to be this way. However *we must learn to PRAY*. Because our battle is not a physical one but spiritual.

We are at War (Ephesians 6:10-18)

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.

There IS a battle. And it's not a physical battle, Paul says. It's a spiritual one. Therefore, be strong *in the Lord and in HIS mighty power*. Why? Because our battle is not of this world. It's not a physical battle. It's a spiritual battle. *And you cannot fight a spiritual battle with physical means.*

They are two TOTALLY different things.

ILLUSTRATION—Mario Cart

Church, we cannot fight a spiritual battle with physical means.

Illustrations

- David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
- Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20)
- Elisha (2 Kings 6)

Put on the Full Armor of God

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 in Truth

¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist...

Satan Deceives Us (John 8:44b)

When he (Satan) lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

The World Deceives Us (Colossians 2:8)

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces^{of} of this world rather than on Christ.

Our Hearts Deceive Us (Jeremiah 17:9)

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

The Weapons of Our Warfare (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

³ For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Stand in the Righteousness You Have in Christ

...with the breastplate of righteousness in place...

Stand in the Peace You Have With God

¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...

Romans 8:1

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...

Stand in Faith in God's Character, Attributes, and Promises

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.

In the Greek, the word for faith is "pistis" which comes from a root word meaning "to persuade, or to be persuaded". This is a persuasion at the level of the heart, not just the head.

As such, we may look at faith as being D_____ and D_____ persuaded.

Thus, in relation to prayer faith may be described this way:

Faith-filled prayer is being deeply and divinely persuaded:

- *That God IS who He said He is (His CHARACTER),*
- *That He CAN do what He said He can do (His ATTRIBUTES) and*
- *That He WILL do what He said He will do (His PROMISES).*

So for example, we may appeal to the fact that God is good. We appeal to the fact that He is powerful. And then we appeal to a specific promise for that situation. And we do so with faith, being deeply and divinely persuaded that He is who He said is, can do what He said He can do, and will do what He said He will do.

Stand in the Hope of Your Salvation

¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation...

1 Peter 1:3-5

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Fight Back with the Word of God

...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

"It is written..." (Luke 4:4,8,12)

Fight Back in Prayer TOGETHER

¹⁸And 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.

Finally, we PRAY. And we do so TOGETHER.

- Matthew 18:19
- 1 Timothy 2:8
- The explicit or implicit plural "you" in the prayer commands
- The battle imagery itself points to doing this together