

**Spiritual Warfare Series-1**  
**“Basic Training”**  
**Ephesians 6:10-13 (NIV)**

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a second to welcome our first time guests and those watching with us online! Today we're starting a brand-new series on the topic of spiritual warfare...

If you've been following Jesus for a while, it doesn't take long before you find yourself engaged in some kind of spiritual battle...

In fact, the moment you were saved, you may not realize this, but you enlisted in God's army.

Dr. Walter Martin, author of the classic book “The Kingdom of the Cults” says... *“When you are born-again, you personally become a target!”*

*You are on the satanic hit list, and if you really are a Christian living and walking with Jesus Christ, they're coming after you"*

The bottom line is that there's an invisible war that's been raging for a very long time...a war between the forces of good and the forces of evil...And like it or not you're in the middle of it!

So we're going to take time during our 21 days of prayer to educate ourselves on what the Word of God says about this war, and how we should fight it...So that we don't become casualties of war, but we are victorious when the battle comes our way!

So be prepared to take notes during this series...take the time to pray and meditate on the Scriptures...Talk about them in your life groups...

Discuss and break down the things we're going to learn over the next couple of weeks, and in your prayer time, ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen any areas of your life that are weak...

My prayer is that over the next 21 days you're going to be challenged, encouraged, and you're going to be victorious in your walk with God!

As I kick off this series today, I want us to take a look at a very popular portion of scripture, explaining this invisible war that we're in...

***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.-Ephesians 6:10-13 (NIV)**

## **Pray**

When WWI erupted, London sent a telegraph to its outpost in Northern Africa. “War has been declared, immediately arrest every alien enemy in your district. The orders were carried out and a few weeks later, the outpost sent a reply to London. “We have arrested 10 Germans, 6 Belgions, 4 Frenchmen, 2 Italians, 1 American. Please inform us immediately who we are at war with?”

It’s one thing to say that you’re involved in a war, it’s another thing to know and realize who your enemy is...We have to know our enemy...

Paul tells us in verse 11 that our enemy is the devil. So if we're going to understand how to fight spiritual battles we have to know who our enemy is...Three things about our enemy

### The devil is **REAL**

The devil isn't a metaphor for everything bad in the world...he's not a dude with horns, and a goatee, wearing red tights, and holding a pitchfork...

No, the devil is real, and he's our enemy...So who is the devil? And where did he come from?

Most Bible scholars believe that answer is found in Genesis 1:1-2

### **1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.-Genesis 1:1 (NIV)**

Here in Genesis 1:1 God creates the heavens and the earth...including the angels.

The Bible specifically names 3 angels, Gabriel, Michael, and Lucifer, each having different responsibilities...

Gabriel is assigned to bring the word of God  
Michael is assigned to prayer and warfare  
Lucifer was assigned to worship...

Scholars believe that at some point between Genesis 1:1 & Genesis 1:2, Lucifer decided that he didn't want to worship God...he wanted to be worshiped.

The prophets Ezekiel and Isaiah both tell us give us some details...

***11 The word of the LORD came to me: 12 "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "'You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;***

**every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl.[b] Your settings and mountings[c] were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. 14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. 16 Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.-Ezekiel 28:11-16 (NIV)**

Now let's look at Isaiah 14...

**12 How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!**

**13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.[b]14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." -Isaiah 14:12-14 (NIV)**

So Lucifer decides that he wants to be God...God says yeah right...and Lucifer who was an anointed cherub becomes an unemployed cherub...along with about 1/3 of the angels who decided to go try to overthrow God with him...

So Lucifer becomes known as satan and the other angels that were cast out of heaven are known as his demons...

You need to recognize that the devil is not your friend...he's your enemy. He hates God and he hates everything that God loves...including you. The devil is real...



The devil wants to **DESTROY** you

Jesus said this in 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.-John 10:10 (NIV)***

So let me tell you how this plays out...

Before we are saved, the devil tries everything he can to keep you from hearing the message of salvation...

Jesus tells us in Mark 4 that the enemy tries, and often succeeds, at stealing the word of God from our hearts...

Once we're saved he then tries to tempt us to sin, entrap us in bondages like addiction or keep us distracted by things...anything to keep us from growing in Jesus...he wants to make us a casualty of war so that we become ineffective in God's army and don't get in his way!

Now over the next couple of weeks I'm going to go into more detail about how the devil comes at us...but today we're just laying the foundation...

The devil is real...

He's your enemy...

He wants to destroy you and your family...

The devil is not **EQUAL** to God

The devil is powerful but he's not all powerful...

He's got schemes and he's got an army but his power is limited...

Let's go back to our text...

***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.***

See, the devil is the ruler of this world...he's got authority over demons and this dark world... But there is a Name that is above his name...

Paul says...

***10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.-Philippians 2:10-11 (NIV)***

John tells us...

***4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. -1 John 4:4 (NIV)***

The war is real...

The enemy is ruthless...

But our God is greater, and the Holy Spirit lives in us and He gives us power to be able to stand firm in the midst of the battle!

Again, we'll dive deeper into this over the coming weeks, but for now let's look at three weapons that every Christian has available to them when they find themselves in a battle with the enemy...

### The **NAME** of Jesus

The name of Jesus is so powerful that all of the other names have to bow to that name...

In Luke 10 Jesus sends out 72 disciples to go out into the community and begin to pray for people...

***17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." 18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.-Luke 10:17-19 (NIV)***

There is power in the name of Jesus...It's available to you...In fact, Jesus expects us to use this weapon in the war...

After Jesus died and rose again...He said this to His disciples...

**15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."-Mark 16:15-18 (NIV)**

You have the power of the name of Jesus...You have authority in Jesus' name...His name is a weapon to use when you're in the midst of the battle...

## **State Trooper/Authority**

When the devil puts a thought in your head, or tries to tempt you into doing something that you know isn't of God...You can flash your badge...I take authority over that thought in Jesus name!

## **Demon Possessed Girl at Salvation Army**

### **The BLOOD of Jesus**

When I got saved, the church I attended would often start singing this song while praying for people at the end of service...

“There is power, power, wonder working power in the blood of the Lamb”

I would hear those praying for others saying I plead the blood of Jesus...and I would wonder what does that mean?

Even though I didn't fully understand the meaning behind it, I realized that the blood that Jesus poured out on the cross didn't just save me from my sin, but it has the power to heal, restore, deliver and protect me from the schemes of the enemy...

John says...

**11 They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony;-Revelation 12:11 (NIV)**

Because of the finished work of the cross...we have a weapon at our disposal that gives us the authority to stand in dominion over the works of hell...

*"We can use it in the same sense that an attorney stands before the court and makes a "plea" on legal grounds, based upon a body of evidence.*

*When you and I come before the court of heaven—and in every circumstance we face in life—we have the legal right, through the blood of Jesus Christ, to enter a plea and to lay claim to the evidence (His slain body, His shed blood at the Cross) which is proven to neutralize the power of sin, the power of affliction, the power of death, and the power of hell. It is to that I make my plea when I plead the blood of Jesus, whether I face demonic, physical, or personal attack, condemnation or the temptation to sin.”-Jack Hayford “Pleading the Blood”*

I'm telling you that no matter what we're facing...we can plead the blood of Jesus over our loved ones...

You plead the blood of Jesus over your family...  
When your spouse is acting up...plead the blood



When your kids are confused and  
rebellious...plead the blood

When addiction, or depression, or anxiety is  
rearing its ugly head...plead the blood

When all hell is breaking loose...

When it looks hopeless...

You stand firm...

You plead the blood of Jesus!

Three weapons that are available to you right  
now...

The name of Jesus

The blood of Jesus

The **WORD** of Jesus

When Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit to be  
tempted by the devil he won that battle by using  
the word of God against him...

This is why it would be a great idea over these next 21 days to get into your Bible!

The Word of God is a powerful weapon against the devil...This is why Jesus said

**31... “If you hold to my teaching,** (that's the Bible) **you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth,** (which is found in the Bible) **and the truth will set you free.”-John 8:31-32 (NIV)**

The Word of God is a weapon that we use to attack the enemy and to defend ourselves from the enemy!

I gave you three things you need to know about the enemy...three weapons you can use against the enemy...now I want to give you three things you can do everyday to be victorious...

**COMMIT myself to God**

God is a loving Father...

As a Dad, it's my responsibility to protect my family...I would tell my children that the rules of our home are put in place for your good...to protect you and help you flourish...

There's protection when you're under the umbrella of the authority of the home...

Now at some point, children decide that they don't want to do things mom & dad's way...they want to do things their way, and they remove themselves from under the covering

The same is true of God...

The authority that you have against the devil is only as strong as your relationship with God...

Now sometimes Christians find themselves struggling in a spiritual battle because there's an area of their life where they want to do things their way and not God's way...And they wonder why am I struggling?

They're like "I'm praying in Jesus name but I'm not winning the battle..."

The more you stay committed to doing things God's way, the more authority you have in the spiritual battle...

Let me show you what James says, and I want you to notice the order in which he says it...

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

Notice that you can't resist the devil until you submit yourself to God

This is why we always encourage you to take your next step with Jesus...every step is saying okay God...I trust You...I want to do things Your way not mine...You're the Boss...

And you just start putting this into practice every single day...And watch...you start submitting yourself to God...watch how the devil flees from you when you rebuke him! So commit yourself to God...

**CLOSE any open doors**

I'm the oldest of five children. When I was between the ages of 5 & 10 my parents lived in a small trailer in rural upstate ny...they were always yelling "close the door" because for some reason, my brother and sisters were always running in and out...and whenever we went out, somehow the door would find itself not quite closed...

If the door was still open...every kind of creepy crawler found itself into our home...and my mom hates bugs...

The same is true in our spiritual life... You can do certain things that don't seem like a big deal... but they're actually keeping a door open, allowing demonic activity to come right in...

There was an incident in Paul's first letter to the Corinthian church, where he told them that they needed to discipline a person who was part of their congregation but was living a life of sexual immorality...

Well the man eventually repented for his sin, but the church leadership was having a hard time bringing the brother back...

So in Paul's second letter, he's telling them... hey you guys have to get over this and allow him to come back... he's repented...

***10 When you forgive this man, I forgive him, too. And when I forgive whatever needs to be forgiven, I do so with Christ's authority for your benefit,***

***11 so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.-2  
Corinthians 2:10-11 (NLT)***

Paul's saying that something like unforgiveness...holding a grudge against someone can actually keep the door open to allow the enemy into your heart!

***26 And "don't sin by letting anger control you." [d] Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil.-Ephesians 4:26-27 (NLT)***

When most people hear that you can leave a door open in your heart to demonic activity they're thinking about things like witchcraft, tarot cards, ouija boards, crystals...These are tools of the occult and absolutely leave the door wide open...And the devil loves that

But the devil is subtle...he doesn't need the door to be wide open...he just needs a foothold

Anger, bitterness, jealousy, unforgiveness, sexual immorality...We need to make sure that the door is shut...

***8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord. 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.-Ephesians 5:8-11 (NIV)***

The Holy Spirit in us will help us...He will let us know if we're leaving the door open...He will help us commit ourselves to God and close any open doors...why? Because He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world...

**CONFRONT the enemy in prayer**

Every single day you're going to have an opportunity to do what you want to do...



To conform to the image of the world, to give in to the temptations of our own evil desires...to give in to the temptations of our enemy...

And every single day...you can confront the enemy...You don't have to be loud about it...you just have to be active...you've got to be on guard...because this stuff is a real danger and as your Pastor I want you to be aware and ready!

Imagine if you were told by the FBI that there's a good chance your family is going to be the target of a terrorist attack at some point over the next couple of days...

I can tell you what you wouldn't do...you wouldn't go to sleep. You'd be watching that door as your family slept...and you'd have a couple of trusted friends with you...

Smith & Wesson...Louisville Slugger...Pepper Spray...Chancleta...

Whatever it is you'd be making sure that you're ready! And if anything tries to come through that door...you're going to be active! You're going to do everything you can to protect yourself and your family...

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

Notice that Peter doesn't say freak out...

He doesn't say run away...

He says resist and stand firm in your faith...

Why?

Because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world...

You can fight against him with the name of Jesus, the blood of Jesus, and the word of Jesus!

No weapon formed against you shall prosper in Jesus name! We can confront and come against the enemy through prayer...

Over these next 21 days we're going to pray together...we're going to believe God together...and we're going to see God shatter the darkness over our lives, over our loved ones, over our city! Because it's a new season!

**What's the Holy Spirit Saying To You?**  
**Altar Time**