

Spiritual Warfare

Ephesians 6:10-13

6/04/06

Intro

In the verses we are studying today, we understand more about the nature of spiritual warfare. Paul wants to prepare them for life as a Christian and he knows that they need to have a better understanding of how to be spiritually victorious.

Life is a struggle all by itself, but it's made more difficult when we realize there is spiritual battle we are engaged in. To be unaware of this is to not be victorious in it.

Our most important struggle is spiritual. This is an area where it seems little is known, but in these verses, we gain great insight into spiritual warfare and the keys for spiritual victory.

These are insights we need regarding spiritual warfare.

I. Be Stronger in the Lord

- Paul begins with an admonition to be strong in the Lord. That is the best place to start because that's what it's all about.
- Some like to focus on demons and darkness. But that is not the focus we see in scripture.

Illus – The main thing is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength.

The main thing is not hating the enemy; he doesn't care if you hate him. He just wants you to fill your heart with hate.

A. Put on the full armor of God

- God is your resource in times of trouble.
- Always trusting, always believing, not whining or complaining. Not being defeated when something goes wrong.

Illus – When our girls were young, they could melt down over simply not wanting to wear *that* dress to church. But when we get older...

- Putting on the full armor of is a reflection of a growing relationship with the Lord where you take advantage of His resources for victory.
- It's preparation for the day of trouble.

Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

B. That you may be able to stand firm

- To stand firm means to not be moved.
- The world forces are moving away from the throne of heaven and we are to stand firm against the direction of the world.
- We need to realize that life is not a playground; it's a battleground. If we're not armed for battle we will be weak. God wants us strong.

Illus – Our problem is that we live in a society that is overly concerned about their comfort. It’s about how you ‘feel.’ Let’s sit around a circle in our jammies and make sure everyone is “ok.”

“Can I have a venti caramel macchiato with skim milk; light on the foam, dash of cinnamon?”

Joshua 14:12, “Now then, give me this hill country about which the Lord spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the Lord will be with me, and I will drive them out as the Lord has spoken.”

II. Choose Your Battles Wisely

- Too many people are in the wrong battle. There may be plenty of conflict, but it’s with the wrong enemy.

A. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood

- If you’re in a battle against your wife, your kids, your boss, your employees, you’re in the wrong battle.
- Anytime we’re striving against people, we’re fighting the wrong battle.
- **Our battle is against principalities, powers, world forces of darkness, and against spiritual forces of wickedness in high places.**
- Some people don’t believe there is an actual satan or that there are demonic forces.

- All we have to do is to see how evil this world has become, with child pornography, Hitler, and people who kill themselves in crowded buses to see that there is a great evil in this world.

Illus – That being said, there are also people who believe there is a demon behind every problem – like the guy I knew who actually a demon was in his carburetor.

Illus – In Africa, almost all problems are explained as the result of a demon. The problem with blaming everything on demons is that it is too convenient. It takes our responsibility for our actions.

James 1:13-16, Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

B. The battle is for your righteousness

- The battle is over people’s souls. It’s about whether or not we fall in our faith and compromise our principles and our character.
- *The battle begins in your flesh.* It’s tired, insecure, and weak. It likes to have its way.

Illus – Our battle with the alarm clock.

Matthew 26:41, “Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

- *The world's allures are also powerful. We struggle with these influences as well.*
- *The devil desires to have you. The desire of the enemy is to see who he can destroy.*

I Peter 5:8-9, “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith,”

John 10:10, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

III. Be Strengthened with Truth

A. The enemy is stronger than you are

- If you attempt to defeat the enemy in your own strength you will fail. *Paul is still writing about the results of being filled with the Spirit.*
- Even being “positive” all the time is not sufficient. It’s still just man trying in his own strength.
- The strategy of Satan is to get you to doubt what you believe about God. *He is cunning and crafty and will even present the beautiful – he is the enchanter.*
- Satanic things don’t have to look satanic.

II Corinthians 11:14, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants

also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

B. Let truth reign in your life

- When satan is the strong man then lies rule the day. He is a liar, the father of lies, and a liar from the beginning.
- When Eve was being tempted in the garden, it was to doubt the Word of God.
- Eve made it worse by adding to what God said.

Gen 3:1-6 Doubting God’s word.

- Jesus is now the strong man in the life of the believer. Let His truth rule over the lies of the enemy.

Luke 11:21, “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are undisturbed. But when someone stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away from him all his armor on which he had relied and distributes his plunder.”

Conclusion

The result of being filled by the Holy Spirit then is that we have the full armor of God and can stand firm against the schemes of the enemy and be spiritual victorious.