

The Spiritual Battle

Ephesians 6:10-21

Intro:

Halloween is in 2 days.

Jokes:

Today we have more weighty spiritual matters that affect us all every day.

(Pray)

Ephesians 6:10-21

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.

Written to ordinary believers at Ephesus:

- Not spiritual elites, not some group of pastors, missionaries, demonology specialists.
- There some extraordinary spiritual encounters in the Bible. Most of us will not encounter these.
- Today – cover basic ways that **every believer** can engage in the Spiritual Battle.

Exegete:

What is spiritual warfare, or spiritual Battle?

2 kingdoms

God - Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and those aligned with them.

Kingdom of Satan - ruler of this world, god of this age, ruler of the kingdom of the air, and those aligned with them.

¹⁰ Finally, be **strong in the Lord** and in **his mighty power**.

- Sounds good! What does that mean?

Why:

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

- The devil has schemes.
- You are in the battle, whether you like it or not

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.

The Spiritual Battle is Spiritual.

- Zechariah 4:6
- It's not **carnal**, of this world with punches and bullets.
- It's not a **verbal** battle of wits, bully pulpit, and # of likes.
- It's not **political** with the goal of gaining the upper hand.
- It's not a battle of **money** and possessions.
- It's not who is **physically** stronger or skilled.
- It's not

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*.

- **The Spiritual Battle is Unavoidable** - you are in this battle whether you like it or not, ready or not. Believer or not.
- The believer has weapons that the unbeliever does not.
- --> behooves you to know about the battle, and be ready.
- **The Spiritual Battle is Individual.**
 - Someone can't stand for you, and vice versa.
 - Group affiliation or membership won't protect you.
- **Spiritual Battle is Doable** for *every believer*, not the select elite.
- Armor up
- Iron Man Illustration - Tony Stark
- You can armor up faster over time.

How:

Paul uses a metaphor of a Roman Soldier to help believers think about the Spiritual Battle.

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

- Belt secures your armor together -
- Truth could not be more important today!!!
 - Jesus said that the devil is a liar and the father of lies. If he is the father of lies, it means he has children who are liars.
- Postmodernism exchanges truth for a lie by exchanging reality for subjectivity.
 - *deceptive* play on words has phrases like: my truth, your truth.

Isaiah 5:20-21

20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.
 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.

- We live in a world where there are people who
 - really believe that your **gender** is whatever you think it is.
 - Powerful and influential people have fallen for this kind of lies and trickery.
 - It's a **Spiritual Battle**
 - **Call truth misinformation**, and call misinformation truth.
 - Powerful and influential people have fallen for these kinds of lies and trickery.
 - It's a **Spiritual Battle**.
 - Call the abuser ←→ victim
- This is as applicable today as when Paul wrote it!
- **Pray:** *Father, Help me to know the truth, and please open the eyes of these who have been blinded by the god of this age and are unable to tell the truth. Amen.*

with the **breastplate of righteousness** in place,

- Righteous means “right”
- Righteousness is a corrective to your affections and desires.
- Desires have a life of its own. You cannot simply choose to desire one thing and not another.
 - Not necessarily a big deal.
 - But wrong desires become a big deal when the devil tells you things like, “It’s okay to cut corners, it’s just a small thing, it doesn’t hurt anyone, you deserve to satisfy your cravings. Doesn’t the apple look good? It’s delicious!”
- The breastplate of righteousness protects your heart
- Examples:
 - you can’t just turn off anger and rage at someone, but knowing what is right can protect your heart .
 - you can’t just turn off and on an improper attraction to someone, but knowing what is right can protect your heart.
 - I can’t just turn off greed or covetousness, but knowing what is right can protect your heart.
 - Like/dislike a person, gambling, substance abuse, bitterness, resentment...
- The **breastplate of righteousness** protects your heart.
- If you don’t protect your heart, it will be vulnerable to the devil’s attacks.
- It’s a Spiritual Battle.
- **Pray:** *Father, please protect my heart and its desires through your righteousness. Amen.*

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

- Very interesting...

Luke 10

⁵ “When you enter a house, first say, ‘**Peace to this house.**’ ⁶ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you,

for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house...

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."

- Demons aim to bring division, hostility, turmoil.
- The Disciples brought peace, proclaimed peace.
- → Satan fell like lightning.
- **The Spiritual Battle is about bringing God's Peace.**
- **Pray:** *Father, may our feet bring peace everywhere You lead us to walk. Amen.*

¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

- The devil **will** shoot at you, ready or not – prompt you to impatience, anger, revenge, bitterness; to lie, steal, kill, and destroy.
- Shield yourself with faith, which is trust in the Lord.
- If you have faith, you win the battle.
 - Satan can destroy your body, but with faith you win.
 - (earthly property; earthly reputation; earthly relationships; earthly freedom; earthly whatever...) but with faith, you win.
 - God will have the last word for those with faith. Well Done!
- **The Spiritual Battle is Winnable**
- **Pray:** *Father, Whatever happens, I trust you.*

¹⁷Take the **helmet of salvation**

- Know that gospel, and have assurance that you are saved!
- If you are wishy-washy, the devil will neutralize you and attack you by causing you to doubt your salvation.
- Protect your head with the helmet of salvation.

- **Pray:** *Father, solidify my knowing that I am saved. Amen.*

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

The Spiritual Battle uses Scripture as a Weapon

- Use the scriptures to oppose the devil.
- During His temptation in the desert, Jesus quoted scriptures.
- Store up God's Word in your heart, and use it when needed.
- Look up or Memorize scriptures that are appropriate.

¹⁸ And **pray in the Spirit**

(keep on praying)

The Spiritual Battle is Long.

- Rev 22 – no longer any curse.

The Spiritual Battle is dwelling in the Spirit's Domaine.

- Pray *in* the **Spirit's Domaine**.
- Ask for things of the God's Domaine.
- Gal 5:23-24 fruit of the Spirit
- To **oppose Satan's Domaine** - lies, steal, kill, destroy, (eph 2, Rom 1, Gal 5:21-22)

on **all occasions** with **all kinds of prayers and requests**.

The Spiritual Battle Provides Spiritual Cover for God's People.

- With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.
- Imagine if we all prayed the covering for o

(Pray)

Examples showing the Battle is *Spiritual*:

2 Tim 2:24-25 (quarrels, negative, criticizing people)

2 Cor 10:4-5 (apologetics – reasons for faith)

2 Cor 1:8-13 (deliverance from deadly persecutions)

2 Cor 4:4 (illumination of the minds of unbelievers)

Review

Eph 6

When prominent leaders, celebrities do something wrong, they ...

Apologize to "Society."

In Japanese - *Seken* (world)

Apologize to the world.

This "world" is controlling people. Even the prime minister is controlled by the "Society."

You don't know who they are, but that doesn't matter.

You always worry about what other people think. Very sensitive to others. Polite. (On the surface)

The train will Apologize to the passengers if they are 1 or 2 minutes late. Who cares?!

When Japanese come to America, you are free from the society.

To become a Christian you become one of the very few, an individual person.

The idea of *seken* arose under Tokugawa. Hence, sense of unified Japan, and peace from warring factions.

Old saying - Nail (*kugi*) that sticks out gets pounded down.

Nowadays - Nail that sticks out gets pulled out. Company,

Hostility, division

On All Occasions

