

CHRISTIAN WARFARE

Ephesians 6:10-18, I Peter 5:6-11, II Corin 4:4

INEVITABILITY OF BATTLE – I Peter 5:8

- Every true child of God soon learns that the Christian life is a warfare.
- Errors made when it comes to spiritual warfare—
 - over-emphasis and
 - under-emphasis.
 - Some blame every sin, every conflict, and every problem on demons that need to be cast out.
 - Others completely ignore the spiritual realm and the fact that the Bible tells us our battle is against spiritual powers.
 - The key to successful spiritual warfare is finding the biblical balance.
- The hosts of Satan are committed to hinder and obstruct the work of Christ and to knock the individual soldier out of combat.
- To withstand their attacks, we must depend on God's strength and use every piece of his armour
- Christian do not yet seek repose – GHB 768

THE ENEMY – James 4:7-8

- These are not "flesh-and-blood enemies" but demons over whom the devil has control
- A powerful army whose goal is to defeat Christ's church.
- The opposition seems to occur in waves, advancing and receding.
- This enemy who has a thousand ways of enticing unstable souls
- The aim is to deface the heavenly image in our hearts

THE TARGET

- Satan and his agents are committed to hinder and obstruct the work of Christ and to knock the individual soldier out of combat.
- The more effective a believer is for the Lord, the more he will experience the savage attacks of the enemy
- The devil does not waste his ammunition on nominal Christians.
- If you are not a born again active Christian, the devil has no business pursuing you

THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

- We are on the battle field for the Lord
- In our own strength we are no match for the devil.
- No one goes to war at his own expense – I Cor 9:7
- Although we are assured of victory, we must engage in the struggle until Christ returns, because Satan is constantly battling against all who are on the Lord's side
- We need supernatural power to defeat Satan, and God has provided this by giving us his Holy Spirit within us and his armour surrounding us.

NEED FOR THE ARMOUR

- The devil has various stratagems—
 - DISCOURAGEMENT,
 - FRUSTRATION,
 - CONFUSION,
 - CONFLICT
 - MORAL FAILURE, AND
 - DOCTRINAL ERROR.
- If he cannot disable us by one method, he will try another
- He knows our weakest point and aims for it

PIECES OF THE ARMOUR – Ephesians 6:13-18

- The Christian armour is made to be worn
- What do these pieces of spiritual Armor represent in spiritual warfare?
 1. We are to know the **truth**, believe the truth, and speak the truth.
 2. We are to rest in the fact that we are declared **righteous** because of Christ's sacrifice for us.
 3. We are to proclaim the **gospel** no matter how much resistance we face.
 4. We are not to waver in our **faith**, trusting God's promises no matter how strongly we are attacked.
 5. Our ultimate defence is the assurance we have of our **salvation**, an assurance that no spiritual force can take away.
 6. Our offensive weapon is the **Word of God**, not our own opinions and feelings.
 7. And we are to **pray** in the power and will of the Holy Spirit.

THE PLACE OF PRAYER – Ephesians 6:18-19

- Prayer is not mentioned as a part of the armour; but
 - it is the atmosphere in which the soldier must live and breathe
 - Prayer must fasten all the other parts of our Christian armour.
 - There may be other duties of religion but we must keep up times of prayer
 - We must use holy thoughts in our ordinary course.
 - A vain heart will be vain in prayer.

All Kinds Of Prayers – Eph 6:18a

- public,
- private, and
- secret;
- social and
- solitary;
- solemn and
- sudden

All Parts of Prayer

- Confession of sin,
- Petition for mercy,
- Supplication
- Intercessory and
- Thanksgiving for favours received

How must we Pray

- By the grace of God in dependence on, and according to, his teaching.
- We must persevere in particular requests, notwithstanding discouragements.
- Prayer should be in the Spirit - that is, inspired and led by Him.
- There must be vigilance in prayer: watchful to this end. Against -
 - drowsiness,
 - mind-wandering, and
 - preoccupation with other things.
- Prayer requires spiritual keenness, alertness, and concentration.
- We must keep on asking, seeking, knocking (Luk_11:9).

For who

- We must pray,
 - not for ourselves only,
 - but for all saints –
 - Even our enemies
 - For the those in government
- So pray for the Christians you know and
- For the church around the world

A word of caution concerning spiritual warfare

- The name of Jesus is not a magic incantation that causes demons to flee from before us.
- The seven sons of Sceva are an example of what can happen when people presume an authority they have not been given (Acts 19:13–16).
- Even Michael the archangel did not rebuke Satan in his own power but said, “The Lord rebuke you!” (Jude 1:9).
- When we start talking to the devil, we run the risk of being led astray as Eve was (Genesis 3:1–7).
- **Our focus should be on God, not demons; we speak to Him, not them.**

Keys to success in the Spiritual Warfare

1. We must rely on God's power, not our own.
2. We must put on the whole armour of God.
3. We must draw on the power of Scripture—the Word of God is the Spirit's sword.
4. We must pray in perseverance and holiness, making our appeal to God.
5. We must stand firm There may be times when it seems that you cannot go forward- keep moving in his might
6. We must submit to God; Ps 62:5, James 4:7-8
7. We must resist the devil's work (James 4:7), knowing that the Lord of hosts is our protector. "Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken" ([Psalm 62:2](#)).

Be at alert!

- “Our best protection against demons is less preoccupation with demons and more preoccupation with God.” —Jon Bloom,
- “The devil doesn’t want us to think clearly about sin. He keeps things vague so that he can imprison and disarm us.”

Conclusion

- Undiscouraged and undefeated, Paul wrote powerful letters of encouragement from prison.
- Paul did not ask the Ephesians to pray that his chains would be removed but that he would continue to speak fearlessly for Christ in spite of them.
- God can use us in any circumstance to do his will. Even as we pray for a change in our circumstances, we should also pray that God will accomplish his plan through us right where we are.
- Knowing God's eternal purpose for us will help us through the difficult times.
- Our enemies are mighty, and we are without strength, but our Redeemer is almighty, and in the power of his might we **WILL** overcome.