

Subject: *Spiritual Warfare – Part 2*
Scripture: *Ephesians 6:10-20*

1. OUR STRENGTH FOR THE FIGHT

2. OUR STAND IN THE FIGHT

3. OUR STRUGGLE IN THE FIGHT

Spiritual warfare is an intense and bitter struggle. And it is an individual struggle. The word “wrestle” (vs. 12) refers to hand-to-hand combat. This is not a physical struggle against a physical enemy. It is a spiritual struggle against a spiritual enemy. It is not a battle against people. It is a battle against Satan and evil powers. Lost people are not our enemy. They are victims of the enemy. Our battle is not on a human level, but on a supernatural level.

A. We fight against a spiritual enemy

This is “an invisible war.” It was interesting to read about the Gunpowder Plot in London, England, and what happened on November 5, 1605. There was a plot to blow up Parliament and kill King James I. This involved the secret hiding of 36 kegs of explosive gunpowder under the floor of the Parliament. Thankfully the plot was uncovered and many lives were spared. We have an invisible enemy and many unseen dangers that threaten us every day.

B. We fight against a serious enemy

1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.*

A trainer in the circus ran a classified ad in the local paper: “Lion tamer wants tamer lion.” Satan is described as an adversary, a lion, a serpent, a liar and a deceiver, a murderer, the ruler of darkness, and the wicked one. He slanders, tempts, blinds, ensnares, and devours and destroys. Therefore, we must learn about him, watch out for him, resist him, stand against him, and overcome him.

C. We fight against a skillful enemy

Satan is not ignorant. He is very thoughtful and clever. The “wiles” (methods) of the devil means that he carefully thinks out his strategy and uses his most effective weapons against us. He has been scheming and planning and attacking people for a long, long time and is very effective. He is not all-knowing like God, but he is ever-learning. Never underestimate your enemy.

D. We fight against a sophisticated enemy

See verse 12. Two other passages reveal something of Satan's invisible, evil empire.

Colossians 1:16 *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.*

Romans 8:38-39³⁸ *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*³⁹ *Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

These verses suggest a very complicated, highly structured kingdom of evil which Satan controls and uses. And the Bible describes Satan as being very active and relentless.

Job 1:7 *And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.*

Martin Luther understood spiritual warfare and described our enemy in his great hymn, *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*, written in the year 1529:

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.*

*And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.*

4. OUR SECURITY IN THE FIGHT

Paul mentions "the whole armor of God." He tells us to take it up (vs. 13) and put it on (vs. 11). We must be prepared and well armed for the battle.

When my son David and his fellow Marines prepared to deploy for Afghanistan in March 2012, they said goodbye to family and friends, but there was one more important stop before boarded the plane and departed. They went to the armory where their weapons were issued. It is the government's responsibility to see that every Marine has the weapons and equipment he needs. God does the same for His people.

A. God's armor is special

He provides exactly what we need it. Notice this is God's armor. He designed and tested it. There is no substitute.

B. God's armor is sufficient

William Gurnall, wrote a book entitled, *The Christian in Complete Armor*. God supplies everything we need for spiritual battle. He prepares us for victory, but in order to be victorious we must learn about the armor and how it protects us.

C. God's armor is spiritual

We are in a spiritual battle and we face a spiritual enemy, so we need spiritual armor. It's likely that the Apostle Paul was looking at a Roman soldier or soldiers when he wrote this passage in Ephesians 6. Paul refers to himself as a prisoner in this letter (Eph. 4:1; 6:20). As he saw the body armor of the Roman soldier, he thought of the spiritual armor that Christian soldiers must wear.

We are in a spiritual battle. It is the battle of the ages. The battle lines are drawn and the stakes are high. The enemy is deceptive and dangerous. The battle plan is simple. We must put on the whole armor of God and stand our ground against the devil and his evil system. We are to "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Tim. 6:12), so we can say what Paul said at the end of his life, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:7).

We should listen to these wise words from J. C. Ryle: "Let us settle it in our minds that the Christian fight is a good fight, but we see only part of it. We see the struggle, but not the end; we see the campaign, but not the reward; we see the cross, but not the crown."