

THE REALITY OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Ephesians Eph 6:10-13

- I. **THE UNIVERSAL WAR** (12)—spanning the entire universe; God vs. Satan
 - A. **The Heavenly Realms** (Eph 1:20)—behind the scenes
 1. **Invisible** (2 King 6:17)—spiritual beings, not flesh and blood
 2. **Real**—the underlying reality that affects everything we can see
 3. **Where the War Started** (Rev 12:7; Rev 19:11)—
 - B. **The Earthly Battle Field** (Gen 3)
 1. **The Human Heart** —individual souls
 2. **The Human Race** (Rev 5:9; 13:7-8)—all nations
 3. **All of Creation** (Rom 8:19-21)—the planet, the natural world
 - C. **The Necessity of Fighting** (1 Tim 6:12; Jam 4:4; Rev 12:17)—real danger, no neutrality
 - D. **A Three-Front War** ()—different bases of the enemy, different focus of attack
 1. **The World** (Rom 12:2; Eph 4:23)—unregenerate mindset and values, institutions of power under the control of the evil one; peer pressure from **outside** us
 2. **The Flesh** (Eph 4:22, 24; Rom 7:23; Lk 22:31; Jam 4:1)—our own old nature, selfish lusts and indulgence; **inner** battle
 3. **The Devil** (Jn 8:4; 10:10; Jam 4:7; Rev 12:9)—Satan, the powerful personal enemy of God and of Humanity
- II. **THE REAL ENEMY** (12; Lk 22:31; 1 Pet 5:8-9)—
 - A. **The Devil's Dilemma**—
 1. **Hiding Himself**—
 2. **Revealing Himself**—

B. The Devil's Schemes (11b; 2 Cor 2:11)—crafty plans, intelligence, intent**1. His Goals: Rebellion and Revenge against God**

- a. **To Enslave and Destroy Souls**—image-bearers of God
- b. **To Discredit and Destroy the Church**—Christ's body on earth
- c. **To Pervert and Destroy all of Creation**—everything good God made

2. His Methods: Deception and Trickery to gain entry

- a. **Temptation and Seduction**—so *we remove ourselves* from protection
- b. **Disguise who they are and what they're doing**—so *we let them in*

C. The Devil's Minions (12b)—invisible, organized, multi-leveled, demonic army

- 1. **Personal strongholds** (Eph 4:26)—of oppression and possession
- 2. **Geo-political strongholds** (Dan 10:13)—nations, governments
- 3. **One World rule of Antichrist** (Rev 13:11-17)—his ultimate goal

III. THE POWER OF GOD (10)**A. The Qualifying Conditions**—in order to use the power of God

- 1. **Be Strong**—command, a call to courage
- 2. **In the Lord**—(1 Sam 17:45; Act 8:18-22; 19:13-16)—under His authority, for His purposes
- 3. **The Power of His Might**. (2 Chron 32:8)—not our strength but His

B. The Armor of God (11, 13)—

- 1. **God provides armor and weapons for His soldiers.**
- 2. **We have to pick them up, put them on, and use them!**
- 3. **We need all of it.**

C. Stand Firm ()—we have to resist, not give ground