

# EPHESIANS

God's Provisions for His Church

Section III

## **The Believer's Warfare**

Chapter 6:10 – 24

# EPHESIANS

## **“Spiritual Warfare”**

### **Part 2**

Ephesians 6:12-13



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# “Spiritual Warfare”

## Intro:

Scripture is clear, there are only **two** kingdoms that we can belong to, Satan's kingdom of **darkness**, or God's kingdom of **light**. Belonging to one automatically puts us in opposition to the other.

As said before, the church is not a **cruise** ship or a showboat with the Pastor as the master of ceremonies! It is a **battleship**.

Hence, we are in a spiritual war with no chance of **neutrality**. We have to engage in this battle if we hope to walk in a victorious life of peace, **hope** and joy.

# “Spiritual Warfare”

## Intro:

Christians who are not **engaged** in this battle and walk around as if there is no battle become a **casualty** of war. They are defeated at every point of temptation and virtually **useless** to the Kingdom of God.

This spiritual war is a **continuous**, personal conflict with the evil spiritual forces of darkness. But we can be **strong** in the Lord and in the strength of His immeasurable might!

# “Spiritual Warfare”

## I. The Nature of our Enemy

Our battle is not against people but is a **spiritual** battle against evil, demonic **forces** which are:

1. Numerous; a third of the angels **fell** with Satan. They are rulers, authorities, principalities in the **heavens**.

2. Powerful; Though their power is **limited** by God they are still given authority over the earth and its **inhabitants**. They can even oppose other **angelic** beings. **Dan 10:5-13**

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## I. The Nature of our Enemy

3. Wicked; They exist to do the **bidding** of their leader, Satan. As such they are completely **opposed** to all that is good, holy and **righteous**.
4. Cleaver; They are morally corrupt but possess **enormous** intelligence. They disguise themselves as angels of light and **servants** of righteousness.
5. Real; They are not just an **impersonal**, evil influence. They want to **destroy** our purity, health and wholeness.

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## II. The Nature of our Battle

**A.** It's a **Spiritual** Battle: The Greek word for “wrestle” indicates it is a mortal battle. It is not a battle **between** flesh and blood, not a battle **between** human beings but a struggle **within** human beings.

**B.** A Battle between **truth** and lies: we battle inward between Satan's **deceptive** enticements to sin and God's **righteous** word of truth and life. Sin is always portrayed as attractive and **filling**. But Satan never reminds us of the **consequences** of those enticements.



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## II. The Nature of our Battle

C. It's a **Continuous** Battle: It is clearly depicted as not being a one time or **infrequent** event, but one that occurs daily. Satan does not slacken up on his **attacks** against the Christian warrior. There is never any truce or temporary **halt** in the conflict.

## III. The Nature of our Preparation

A. It is God's armor: We are **never** asked or expected to go to battle in the flesh. In fact we are **warned** not to, **2 Cor. 10:3-5, Zec. 4:6**. Although it is God's armor we are **expected** to actively take it and put it on.

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## III. The Nature of our Preparation

**B.** We must put on the **Full** armor of God: We need the divine equipment in its **completeness**, without the lack of any single part. We must not let any **weakness** be exposed to Satan's attacks.

1. Adequate and **timely** preparation is essential for victory: **Waiting** until calamity hits is not the time to start **preparing** for the battle. **Prov. 24:10.**

2. Evil days will surely come: It's **not** that the days will continually become more and more evil. They will. Here Paul is **referring** to those times when we come under **severe** attack and must be **especially** prepared to face them in the strength and **might** of God.

**Believers face three enemies** -- the world (controlled by Satan - [1 Jn 5:19](#), [Lk 4:6-7](#)), the flesh (fallen in Adam, influenced by Satan and the world he controls) and the devil. In [Ephesians 6:10-18](#), Paul's focus is upon the spiritual adversary, but one needs to remember that these three "divisions" are somewhat arbitrary, because the effects of the **world** and the **flesh** cannot always be separated from the devil and his minions who work through these other "enemies". One word of encouragement - you are in a spiritual war and just as occurs in real warfare, you will experience some victories and some defeats in individual battles. That is part of growing in grace and the knowledge of Christ Jesus ([2Pe 3:18](#)), maturing in your Christian walk, progressively being set aside more and more (being sanctified, being conformed gradually more and more into the image of God's Son - cp [Ro 12:2](#), [2 Cor 3:18](#)). But as long as we are in these mortal bodies, we are not yet perfect and sin will still bring passing pleasure (emphasize "passing"! [Heb 11:25](#)) and will still hold out a lure for us to snatch

in a moment of weakness (or perhaps a moment of self-sufficiency, self-assurance, or self-confidence rather than in reliance on Christ, cp [James 1:13-16](#)). And so unfortunately we will lose some of the battles. That is a reality, whether your name is Billy Graham or Charles Haddon Spurgeon. But when you lose a particular battle and you lie on the ground, bloody and bruised (spiritually speaking), don't let the enemy (the accuser and slanderer , cp [Rev 12:10](#)) tell you that you are a "loser" and you will never have victory (cp [1 Cor 15:57](#) where "gives" is present tense = God continually gives us the victory in Christ!). Satan is a liar for he knows that he is a defeated enemy ([Col 2:15-note](#) where Christ disarmed the enemy powers). His continual ploy will be to try to keep you from standing in the shadow of the Cross, which is the power ([dunamis](#)) of God for salvation past, present and future (cp [1 Cor 1:18](#), see [Three Tenses of Salvation](#)). And so dear saint, beloved of God ([Ro 1:7](#), [1 Th 1:4](#)), heir of eternal riches with Christ ([Ro 8:17](#)),

possessor of the Spirit of Truth ([Jn 14:16, 17](#)), arise! Shine! ([Eph 5:14](#)) Stand! Check your armor! Allow the Comforter to soothe and heal your wounds and renew your mind ([Eph 4:23, Ro 12:2](#)), re-energizing you for battle, as you eat the bread of life ([Mt 4:4, Lk 4:4](#)), the Word of Truth ([Ps 119:43, 2 Cor 6:7, Col 1:5, 2 Ti 2:15, James 1:18](#)). Then walk out, walk worthy of your calling as a fellow soldier ([Eph 4:1, Php 1:27, Col 1:10, 1 Th 2:12](#)), walk in love ([Eph 5:2](#)), walk in light (1 Jn 1:7), walk filled with God's Spirit ([Eph 5:18](#)), walk in the Gospel, the power of God ([Ro 1:16](#)), Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ([1 Cor 15:57](#)). Take your position on the battlefield and stand firm! ([1 Cor 16:13, Eph 6:11, 13, 14, Php 4:1, 1 Th 3:8, 2 Th 2:15, 1 Pe 5:12](#)) And don't be surprised because the next attack may come sooner than you think. And let's assume that this time you stand firm and win this battle (enabled by the omnipotent Spirit Who empowers you to abstain from those fiery missiles of fleshly lusts which wage war against your soul -- see [Eph 6:16, 1Pe 2:11-note](#)).

Be quick to praise God and give Him the glory for that victory ([Ps 115:1](#)). Take heed, be careful, for if you think you have just stood and won in your own strength, you will fall ([1 Cor 10:12](#)).

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