

Satan and the Spiritual War

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.

Aim

✠ To prepare ourselves to the spiritual war and to heaven.

Key verse

*“Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices”
(2Cor 2:11)*

Lesson

- Spiritual warfare exists in the unseen, supernatural dimension, where God is all-powerful and Satan is in revolt. Although spiritual warfare is unseen, it’s absolutely real. The Bible speaks of spiritual warfare in many places, but most directly in Ephesians 6:12, where St Paul speaks of putting on the full armor of God:

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

- Because we are dealing with supernatural evil forces in a real war battle, we can only be victorious as Christians if we put on the armor of God and draw on His strength. God instructs Christians to use a very specific set of armor and weapons in Ephesians 6:14-18: *“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with **truth**, and having on the breastplate of **righteousness**; And your feet shod with the preparation of the **gospel of peace**; Above all, taking the shield of **faith**, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of **salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **Word of God**: Praying always with all **prayer and supplication** in the Spirit...”*
- We alone are very weak to stand against the power of Satan and his army, but if we put ourselves in God’s hands, He will win the war for us.
- Dressing for spiritual warfare may sound silly, but in reality it is what Christians need to do if they are going to survive the temptations and bumps in the road. It is important because all of us are engaged in a spiritual battle. On the one hand, there is Satan launching wave after wave of attack in various forms from the obvious ones like specific temptations to attacks that we may not recognize. On the other hand is God who has clothed us for this battle.

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2 Corinthians 10:3-5 states, "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does". The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

Belt of Truth: Buckle it securely around your waist. It helps us to defeat Satan's lies. Know that God is with you every step of the way. He alone is the truth in life. Spend time in His Word and learn His truth.

Breastplate of Righteousness: As you put on your breastplate, thank God for His never ending mercy towards us. He has given us righteousness when we follow Him. He will teach us every day if we open our eyes and ears to see and hear Him. The cross is an excellent example of God's mercy to us. He gave His Son for us so that we may spend eternity with Him. God's righteousness is the body of armour that protects our hearts and ensures God's approval.

Sandals of the Gospel of Peace: Satan wants us to think that telling others the "Good News" is a worthless and hopeless task, too big and difficult for us to handle. But the shoes God gives are the motivation to continue to proclaim the true peace that is available in God's gospel. It is written "[Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path](#)" (Ps 119:105).

Shield of Faith: This is another defensive weapon in our arsenal. We use this piece of armour to guard against the constant assaults by the enemy. Each morning as you pick up your shield, thank God for your faith. Faith that comes in knowing He will never leave or forsake you (Deut 31:8). God gives us an eternal prospective so that we can know that ultimate victory is for believers through Christ.

Helmet of Salvation: Satan wants us to doubt Jesus and our salvation. God's helmet of salvation protects our minds from doubting God's saving work in us.

The Sword of the Spirit: This is our only attacking weapon in the armour of God mentioned in this passage. Our sword is His Word, the Bible. With it we can slay the evil in the world as it presents itself to us. There are times when we need to take the offensive when we are tempted, angry, afraid, or praying for others. Read your Bible, learn His Word and memorize verses. Keep it on the tip of your tongue.

Dressed in this armour daily, we are prepared to enter the world. Without it we will be prey to attack.

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- Why does God allow spiritual warfare? God gives man free will. He wants man to love Him and desire to serve Him because of who He is, not because of what He does. Spiritual warfare and struggles draw man closer to God.

Conclusion

Spiritual warfare is a reality of the Christian life. But remember, we know the ending – our side wins. Since the Devil has already lost, he has nothing to lose in trying to take as many people with him in defeat. Therefore:

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
(Ephesians 6:10-11).

Glory is to God, forever. Amen.