

Spiritual Warfare: the Fight for Your Life

Number 4 in a series of messages on the unseen world
August 15 & 16, 2009

1. The need for this fight.

Denial and ambivalence increase vulnerability. There is a spiritual battle we

_____.

Eph 6:12 *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

2. Our stance for this fight.

Martial artists choose from among many different positions for battle, but we have only one way to stand: _____.

Eph 6:10 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.*

3. Our defense for this fight.

We are not defenseless! We are well equipped to protect ourselves so we can

_____.

Eph 6:13-17a *Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation...*

4. Our offense for this fight.

We have been given two powerful weapons. When engaging in spiritual warfare, we use the _____ and _____.

Eph 6:17b,18 *...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*

Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion

1. Some branches of Christianity hold to a system of belief that is nearly devoid of the supernatural. How does this square with the worldview presented in Scripture?
2. One could speculate that the more a culture denies spiritual realities, the more they slip into bondage. What do you think?
3. When you read Eph. 6:12, what comes to mind?
4. As you have studied the term in the Bible, what do you think is meant by, "in Christ?"
5. What is so significant about the breastplate in a suit of armor? What is the biblical significance of the organs it protects? How do you sense our enemy is attacking these areas of our lives these days?
6. What is the function of a belt? What is the significance that the belt is truth?
7. Is there a piece of armor that you have not appropriated? What will it take for you to put it on so that you are fully protected?
8. Do you feel adequately trained to use "the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God?" What can you do in order to be better equipped?
9. What is the role of prayer in spiritual warfare?
10. What do you need to say to God right now? Say it.

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_____’s Godly Armor

I pray that _____ will take up Your whole armor, God, that he may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand, I pray that he will stand therefore, having girded his waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod his feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which he will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. I pray also that _____ will 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.

Ephesians 6:13-18

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