

**SPIRITUAL WARFARE**  
**THE ENEMY WE BATTLE—EPHESIANS 6.10-20**

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

<sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness <sup>15</sup> and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

<sup>18</sup> praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

<sup>19</sup> and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,

<sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

**What comes to mind when you think about the term “Spiritual Warfare?”**

**Is believing in the Devil and “enlightened” view or superstitious?**

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.” (C.S. Lewis, preface to *Screwtape Letters*)

**More than “Flesh and Blood.”**—No matter who you are or what you believe, you have to account for the things in the world. One big question everyone must answer for their life and their world is, “what is wrong, what is broken?” What are the modern answers?

**Back-story**—Every story has a back-story, a context. When we get to Ephesians 6, if you’re new to the faith or new to this idea, it may be a bit shocking, and it may cause you to wonder where all this came from. We don’t get much information but 3 texts for the back-story:

- **Isaiah 14.3-23**
- **Revelation 12.1-17**
- **Jude 6-13**

What we find out, especially in Revelation 12 is that the cosmic battle of heaven comes down to earth, and we see the back-story continuing in Genesis 3 when the “crafty” serpent enters the Garden of Eden to attack Adam and Eve. We might be tempted to think that Satan has brought on this war, but that would be wrong. Did you know that God has made promises to Satan? He made 2 promises to him explicitly in Genesis 3.15: 1) There will be war—declaration and 2) Your head will get crushed.

### Who Satan is NOT

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### Who Satan IS

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**Stand!**—Paul says to ‘stand’ 4x in 4 verses. This must mean that you have a serious enemy and that he means to knock you down. Now, what can this enemy do to you? There is a lot we could say, but let’s focus on verse 11 which mentions the “schemes” or “wiles” of Satan. Connotations?

### Where and when are spiritual battles likely to occur in your life?

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### Big Picture—World (Eph. 4.14), Flesh (4.27), Devil (6.10-20). Luke 4.13—opportunity

- Paul:
- You:
- Imaginary Conversations<sup>1</sup>
- Imaginary Perceptions
- Nothingness

“One of my own patients said on his arrival down here, ‘I now see that I spent most of my life in doing neither what I ought *nor* what I liked.’...’Nothing’ is very strong: strong enough to steal away a man’s best years not in sweet sins but in a dreary flickering of the mind over it knows not what and knows not why, in the gratification of curiosities so feeble that the man is only half aware of them, in drumming of fingers and kicking of heels, in whistling tunes that he does not like, or in the long, dim labyrinth of reveries that have not even lust or ambition to give them a relish, but which, once chance association has started them, the creature is too weak and fuddled to shake off....It does not matter how small the sins are, provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the ‘Nothing.’ Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed, the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.” (ST Letters, 60-61)

**Prayer**—Zack Eswine: “We must bow in order to stand (Eph. 3.14ff).” Our prayers are an indication that we don’t take this seriously. Jesus taught us to pray, “Deliver us from the evil one.”

### Be strong *in the Lord, in the strength of His might*—What was Jesus’ strength like?

### What problems/issues are in your life that you are not admitting are too big for you?

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<sup>1</sup> Thanks to Tim Keller for the Hannibal Lecter illustration and Professor/Pastor Zack Eswine for “imaginary conversations”