

The Christian Life: Spiritual Warfare?

Introduction

One thing that we as Christians need to understand is that we are in a spiritual war. We have an enemy that hates us and continues to come against us. This enemy has a kingdom of forces that wage war against us in order that they might destroy us. The Bible states in **Col 1:13** – “He, that is the Father, has delivered us from the kingdom of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.” Although this is true, the battle still rages. The enemy, wants us back in the kingdom of darkness and thus comes against us.

Paul wrote that the church was in a war against an enemy in a couple of different places.

- **2 Corinthians 10:3** – “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.”
- **Ephesians 6:12** – “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

The bible is clear about the war that we are in as believers, but it is also clear on the methods of the enemy and our weapons for the battle. So with that said, lets look at what the bible says about the battle, the enemy forces, and the weapons that have been given to us.

Our Battle

As we look at in the introduction, the believer is in a spiritual warfare. The truth of the matter is in fact we have always been in a war. It is not something that you should come into now that you are saved. The good news is that you are part of the kingdom that has the victory. The Bible gives us some information regarding this battle:

- The Battle is Spiritual in nature: **Ephesians 6:12** – “For our fight is not against flesh and blood.” **2 Corinthians 10:3** – “we do not war according to the flesh.”
- Our enemy is Spiritual in nature: **Ephesians 6:12** – “Against spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenlies.”
- Our Weapons are Spiritual in nature: **2 Corinthians 10:4** – “For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.”

So if our battle, our enemy, and our weapons are all spiritual in nature, then we need to rely on the Spirit of spiritual victory in this Spiritual battle. The good news is that the battle has already been won. We are not fighting for victory, we are fighting in victory.

- **Col 2:15** – “When he had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through him.”
- **2 Corinthians 2:14** – “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ.”
- **1 John 3:8** – “The Son of God appeared for this purpose: that he might destroy the works of the devil.”

Our Enemy

The Bible shows us that we are under constant attack from a three headed enemy. These three heads are found in **Ephesians 2:1-3**. Speaking of the former life he says that our enemies are:

- v.2 – The course of this world.
- v.3 – lusts of our flesh and mind.
- v.2 – the prince of the power of the air (Satan)

This was our former life. Once we have come into the new Kingdom we are no longer bound to these three forces, but they still come against us.

The World System

The World system is also antagonistic to the things of God and to our faith.

- **1 John 5:19** – “The whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” The world encourages living a lifestyle that is contrary to God’s standards.
- **James 4:4** – “Friendship with the World is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

The Conditions of the Flesh and Mind

- Sin comes as a result of fleshly desires: **James 1:13-15**
- This was a condition of the former life: **Ephesians 2:3**

Satan and the demonic forces

Remember that **Ephesians 6:12** tells us that are warfare is against rulers, authorities, spiritual wickedness in the heavenly places. What does the bible say about these demonic forces? Who is this prince of the power of the air that **Ephesians 2:2** talks about?

Their Creation

- They were created beings: **John 1:3**- “All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”
- They were created good: **Genesis 1:31** – “And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.” **Genesis 2:1-2** “Thus the heavens and the earth were completed and all their hosts, and by the Seventh day God completed His work that He had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all His work which he had done.”

Their Corruption

- Satan rebelled against God : **Isaiah 14:12-15** and **Ezekiel 28:12-18**
- Some angels followed in his rebellion: **2 Peter 2:4** and **Jude 1:6**

Their Course of Action

- Their primary work is one of deception. **John 8:44** – “He does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar, and a father of lies.”
 - Satan deceived Eve in the Garden. **Genesis 3:1-6**
 - Satan deceives the world: **Revelation 12:9**
- Satan also seeks to destroy people: **1 Peter 5:8** – “Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seek someone to devour.” **John 8:44**. “He was a murderer from the beginning.”

- Satan also is an accuser: **Revelation 12:9-10** – “For the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.”
 - Satan accused Joshua: **Zechariah 3:1**
 - Satan accused Job: **Job 1-2**

Their Conclusion

- Satan will be cast into hell: **Revelation 20:10**
- Angels are also going to be judged: **2 Peter 2:4** and **Jude 6**

Our Weapons

The Bible is also clear about the weapons of our warfare. **2 Corinthians 10:4** – “For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.”

The Armor of God

Ephesians 6:11-13 tells us that we need to put on the full armor of God so that we may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil and be able to resist him in the evil day. Lets look at this armor that is described here in **Ephesians 5:14-18**

Girded with Truth

Remember that Satan’s primary work is one of deception and the very first Weapon that we are given is to be girded with truth. **Ephesians 6:14**

- It is the Word of God that is the truth that will guard us against the enemies deception. **John 17:17** and **Matthew 4:1-11**
- The truth shall set you free: **John 8:32**

Breastplate of Righteousness

Satan is also an accuser and the breastplate of righteousness defends against his accusations. **Zech 3:4-5** and **Phil 3:9**

- It helps you to flee youthful lusts: **2 Timothy 2:22**
- This is the armor that God wears in battle. **Isaiah 59:17**

Gospel of Peace

I think this piece of the armor defeats both of the above areas in that Satan deceives us saying that we are condemned of God and his wrath is upon us and the Gospel tells us that we have peace with God.

- We have peace with God through Jesus Christ: **Romans 5:1**
- He has made peace through his blood: **Col 1:20**
- The Gospel is the power of God: **Romans 1:16**

We can also have peace knowing that the accusations of the Devil have been dealt with through the work of Christ on the Cross. **Col 2:14**

The Shield of Faith

Satan seeks whomever he may devour and destroy. The Shield of faith guards us against the fiery darts of the enemy that he throws at us to pierce our hearts. **Ephesians 6:16**

- This shield of faith also defeats the other head of our enemy as well, namely the world. **1 John 5:4-5** – “And this is the victory that has overcome the world, our faith.”

Helmet of Salvation

I think this serves many purposes for the battle. It deals with Satan's deception. But I also think it deals with the third head of the enemy, the flesh/mind. **Ephesians 6:17**

- **2 Corinthians 10:5** – The helmet gives us the power to take every thought captive.
- **Romans 7:24** – It helps us remember that Jesus Christ has saved us from the body of death.

Sword of the Spirit

The word of the Spirit which is the word of God. Remember that our battle is spiritual and thus we rely on the Spiritual weapons from the Spirit. **Ephesians 6:17**.

- Hiding the word in the heart: **Psalms 119:11**

Prayer

It is through prayer that we receive instructions from our General on how to proceed and nourishment from his endless supply. **Ephesians 6:18**

Other Weapons

- Way of Escape: **1 Corinthians 10:13**
- Submission to God and resist the devil: **James 4:7**

The Church: Fellowship as a weapon

It is in the context of the church that we find another weapon against the enemy.

- Our fellowship with one another stirs us up in Christlikeness **Hebrews 10:24-25**
 - It protects us from the conditions of the flesh and mind.
 - It protects us from the accusations of the enemy.
- Our fellowship with one another guards us from deception: **Ephesians 4:12-16**
 - It protects us from the lies and deception of the enemy.
 - It protects us from the offers of the world that lead to destruction
- Our fellowship with one another gives us a place where our burdens are carried: **Galatians 6:2**
 - It protects us from the accusations of the enemy.
 - It protects us from the destructive power of the enemy.