

Introduction

The Great Spiritual War

Attitude: The Lord is not on our side

Knowledge: We are in a War

Our Weapons

The Wiles of the Devil

We have an Enemy

God has provided Armor to help us

Consider This:

In light of all that God has done for you.

In light of the glorious standing you have as a child of God.

In light of His great plan of the ages that God has made you part of.

In light of the plan for Christian maturity and growth He gives to you.

In light of the conduct God calls every believer to live.

In light of the filling of the Spirit and our walk in the Spirit.

In light of all this, there is a battle to fight in the Christian life.

Text: [Jos 5:13-14 KJV] 13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, [Art] thou for us, or for our adversaries? 14 And he said, Nay; but [as] captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?

We are in a Great Spiritual War.

Spiritual War

[2Co 10:3-5 KJV] 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Paul did not call the believer to enter into spiritual warfare. He simply announced it as a fact: we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but (we do wrestle) against principalities and so forth. You are in a spiritual battle. If you are ignorant or ignore that fact, you probably aren't winning the battle.

Five Key Weapons

Fear of the Lord

[Psa 34:11 KJV] 11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

[Pro 1:29 KJV] 29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

Godly Wisdom

[Psa 111:10 KJV] 10 The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do [his commandments]: his praise endureth for ever.

[Pro 2:6 KJV] 6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth [cometh] knowledge and understanding.

Faith in Christ Alone

[Rom 10:17 KJV] 17 So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

[Heb 11:6 KJV] 6 But without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

God's Word

[Mat 4:4 KJV] 4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

[Mat 21:13 KJV] 13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

Prayer

[Mat 26:41 KJV] 41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak.

War of Lusts at War within us.

[Jas 4:1 KJV] 1 From whence [come] wars and fightings among you? [come they] not hence, [even] of your lusts that war in your members?

[Gal 5:17 KJV] 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

[1Pe 2:11 KJV] 11 Dearly beloved, I beseech [you] as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

The Lord is not on our side.

The Lord is not on our side, we must align ourselves with Him to make sure we are on His side. How does your life reflect that you are on the Lord's side?

[Jos 5:13-14 NLT] 13 When Joshua was near the town of Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and demanded, "Are you friend or foe?" 14 "Neither one," he replied. "I am the commander of the LORD's army." At this, Joshua fell with his face to the ground in reverence. "I am at your command," Joshua said. "What do you want your servant to do?"

Wiles of the Devil

[Eph 6:11 KJV] 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against **the wiles of the devil.**

The wiles of the Devil. (Devious strategies that manipulate and persuade us to do what we don't really want to do.

Various translations describe the wiles of the devil as his devices, his designs, his scheming, his wiles and intentions, his methods, his sly ways, his purposes, his evil work, and [I like this phrase] "what he's up to." All of these speak of our malevolent enemy (strong desire to harm others), the wily devil, and his unrelenting efforts to bring us down.

Our Spiritual Enemy

Principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, spiritual wickedness in high places.

[Eph 6:12 KJV] 12 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].

Rulers of Darkness Spiritual Wickedness in High Places

They are all part of a spiritual army that is organized and established into ranks and is under the headship of Satan who comes against us.

Principalities and Powers Far Below Jesus who is at the Father's Right-hand

Principalities -the territory or jurisdiction of a prince

[2Co 11:12-14 KJV] 12 But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we. 13 For such [are] false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Whatever the powers are, they are of the Devil and thus have a personal center and commander-in-chief. Eph. 2:2 tells us that they have human beings through whom they are operative ("the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience").

[Eph 2:2 KJV] 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Our Government and Media

The View' co-host Sunny Hostin blames eclipse, earthquakes, cicadas (si-KAY-da) on 'climate change

911 audio captures woman at Planet Fitness reporting 'completely naked' biological male in women's locker room

Kansas governor vetoes bill banning transgender treatment to minors, abortion restrictions

Jesus Said

[Mat 24:7 KJV] 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

Paul Pointed Out

[Rom 1:21-22, 24 KJV] 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ... 24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

Jesus Defeated Our Spiritual Enemies

[Eph 1:20-21 KJV] 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set [him] at his own right hand in the heavenly [places], 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

All Things Created by and for Jesus

[Col 1:16-17 KJV] 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [they be] thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Openly Defeated principalities and powers.

[Col 2:15 KJV] 15 [And] having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Evil is Limited in the ability and cannot keep us from God's love.

[Rom 8:38-39 KJV] 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.