

Spiritual Warfare: What is the Invisible War?

With Chip Ingram

Part 1

Part of The Invisible War

What is the first thought that comes to mind when you hear the phrase “spiritual warfare?”

Ephesians, Chapters 1-3: Who I am _____ .

Ephesians, Chapter 4: Walk in a _____ worthy of your _____

Do my _____ & _____ tell the same story?

Ephesians, Chapter 5: Walk in _____ , in the _____ by the _____

Ephesians, Chapter 6: Living this life by the Spirit is lived out in the midst of _____ .

*¹⁰Finally, **be strong in the Lord**, and in the strength of His might.*

*¹¹**Put on the full armor of God**, that you may be able to stand firm against the **schemes** of the devil.*

*¹²For 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*

Ephesians 6:10-12 (NASB)

2 Commands:

_____ **Command (Ephesians 6:10)** Be strong in the Lord
“Allow yourself to be continually strengthened by the power already made available to you in your new position and relationship with Christ.” It is the power that raised Christ from the dead and now dwells in you.

_____ **Command (Ephesians 6:11)** Put on the full armor of God.

What is the purpose? To stand firm against the _____ of the devil.

Aorist imperative verb significance: _____

Why the command? Our _____ is not against flesh and blood but against rulers, powers.....

By continually and repeatedly putting on, at specific points in time, the spiritual protection God has provided for you ... for the express purpose of holding on to your position in Christ as you are bombarded by Satanic strategies designed to destroy you and/or render you ineffective in Kingdom pursuits.

The _____ for Commands in Verses 10 – 11 (Ephesians 6:12)

It's because our real struggle (battle, wrestling match to the death) is not against physical/material adversaries (people, circumstances, organizations), but against a hierarchy of demonic forces doing battle in the spiritual realm.

Five Basic Truths about Spiritual Warfare:

1.) There is an _____ world that is just as real as the visible world. (Ephesians 6:12)

- Old Testament — 2 Kings 6:13-19
- New Testament — 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

2.) We are involved in an invisible _____ , a cosmic conflict that has eternal implications. (Ephesians 6:12)

³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, ⁴for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, ...—2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NASB)

What happens in the _____ world has a direct impact on our _____ world.

90% of the battles we face in spiritual warfare are in our hearts & minds.

Satan is a _____. He _____ the truths of God.

His Lies:

His Theology: If _____, then _____

... in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.—2 Corinthians 4:4 (NASB)

People not believing in Christ is not primarily an intellectual issue. It's a moral issue. It's not that people don't understand, but there is an enemy blinding people from understanding and making the connection.

There is a correlation between praying and beseeching God, asking the Father to cause His Spirit to work in the heart of someone to open their eyes and open their mind where they could lay down their pride, or feeling unworthy in order to believe and to trust in what Christ has provided.

Think It Over

1. After today's teaching, has your perspective of spiritual warfare changed? If yes, how did it change?
2. C.S. Lewis said that the greatest error when it comes to spiritual warfare is to think far too much about Satan or to think far too little about him. What do you think "far too much" and "far too little" look like? Where do you fall on this spectrum?
3. When was the last time you honestly considered that some struggle or relational conflict was rooted in satanic opposition?
4. Chip says, "It's not that people don't understand, but there is an enemy blinding people from understanding and making the connection." Do you agree? Why or why not?
5. The Apostle Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 10: 5 to take "every thought captive to the obedience of Christ." What do you think he means by that?

Live It Out

1. Pray and ask God for His help in identifying and overcoming struggles or relational conflicts that could be rooted in satanic opposition.

“Lord Jesus, thank You that I fight from victory because You have already won. You are the almighty, all-powerful, all-knowing and all-loving God! Help me find my strength in You and in Your might. Help me put on the full armor of God so that I may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. I need Your wisdom to understand Satan and his schemes. Remind me that my 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. Protect me and give me courage to follow You and do what You would have me do. Thank You for loving me. I love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

2. 90% of the battle is in our hearts and minds. Take time to reflect on your thought life. What influences your thought life? How does it influence you?

3. Do you believe that some of your thoughts are coming from the work of spiritual forces of wickedness? (This could take the form of twisted truths, straight-out lies, or heavyheartedness about your identity, worth, purpose, work relationships, etc.)

4. What thoughts do you need to take “captive to the obedience of Christ?” List those thoughts here.

5. Look at the thoughts listed above. Your mind can be renewed by the truth of Scripture. Write out verses with truths that counteract the lies you need to take captive so you can read them when the lies attack you.

6. Pray and ask God to help you identify the lies that are aimed at you, remember the truth, and move closer to Him. You will “know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

Knowing Your Identity in Christ

What comes to mind when we think about God is very important. The second most important thing about us is what comes into our mind when we think about ourselves. These thoughts will drive our decisions and charting our course.

If you know your true identity in Christ, then the enemy cannot lie to you about who you are or your worth.

Read Ephesians Chapter 1 to familiarize yourself with the passage. Then read it again S L O W L Y personalizing the pronouns. (i.e., “May the God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give **me** grace and peace.”)

Spiritual Warfare: 5 Basic Truths Continued

3.) Our foe is

and his goal is to destroy us and discredit the cause of Christ.

—Ephesians 6:12

• *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.—1 Peter 5:8 (NASB)*

• *But Michael, the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.”—Jude 9 (NASB)*

—Is Satan for real?

–Authority of the Bible — Genesis 3:1; 1 Chronicles 21:1; Revelation 12:9

–Testimony of Christ — 25 References, Matthew 4

–Reality of Demons – He’s their “prince.” — Luke 11:15

—Who is Satan?

–A created spirit — Colossians 1:16, Job 1:6-7

–An angel — Matthew 25:41, Revelation 12:7

–A cherub — Ezekiel 28:14

–Highest of all created beings — Ezekiel 28:14, Jude 9

—Where did he come from?

–Created perfect — Ezekiel 28:12 -13

–Had heavenly estate — Jude 6

–Guardian of God’s glory — Ezekiel 28

–Occasion of his sin = **power** and **beauty** — Ezekiel 28

–Nature of his sin = **pride** — 1 Timothy 3:6, Isaiah 14:13

–Cause of his sin = **personal free choice** — Habakkuk 1:13, James 1:13

4.) We must

our foe, but not

him – become acutely aware of his “methods,” but not be preoccupied by them.

—Ephesians 6:11

• Paul agrees to forgive a brother along with the Corinthian church

“so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”—2 Corinthians 2:11 (NASB)

—Satan’s names reveal his strategies

–Satan (adversary)— 1 Peter 5:8

–Devil (slanderer)

–Lucifer (son of the morning)

–Beelzebub — Matthew 12:24

–Belial — 2 Corinthians 6:15

- Evil one — 1 John 5:19
- Tempter — 1 Thessalonians 3:5
- Prince of this world — John 12:31
- Accuser of the brethren
- Representations include:*
- Serpent — Genesis 3
- Dragon — Revelation 12:3
- Angel of Light — 2 Corinthians 11:14

—**Satan attacks God’s program, the Church, by ...**

- False philosophies — Colossians 2:8
- False religions — 1 Corinthians 10:19
- False ministers — 2 Corinthians 11:14-15
- False doctrine — 1 John 2:18
- False disciples — Matthew 13
- False morals — 2 Thessalonians 2:7

—**Satan attacks God’s people by ...**

- Directing governments — Daniel 10:13
- Deceiving men — 2 Corinthians 4:4
- Destroying life — Hebrews 2:14
- Persecuting the saints — Revelation 2:10
- Preventing service — 1 Thessalonians 2:18
- Promoting schisms — 2 Corinthians 2:10-11
- Planting doubt — Genesis 3:1-2
- Provoking sin:*
- Anger — Ephesians 4:26-27
- Pride — 1 Timothy 3:6
- Worry — Matthew 13:22
- Self-reliance — 1 Chronicles 21:1
- Discouragement — 1 Peter 5:6-8
- Worldliness — 1 John 2:16
- Lying — Acts 5:3
- Immorality — 1 Corinthians 5:1-2
- Producing sects/cults — 1 Timothy 4:1

—**Satan’s power is limited**

- He is created, therefore not omniscient or infinite
- He can be resisted by the Christian — James 4:7
- God places limitations on him — Job 1:12

—Application – “Balance” and wisdom are crucial in our assessment of spiritual opposition. To assign too much or too little credit to the reality of demonic activity is to error greatly.

**5.) As believers in Christ, we do not fight “for” victory, we fight “
” victory. In Christ’s power we are invincible!
—Ephesians 6:10**

Promises from God concerning victory over Satan

• You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.—1 John 4:4 (NASB)

• ⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. ⁵And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?—1 John 5:4-5 (NASB)

• And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.—Revelation 12:11 (NASB)

• Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.—James 4:7 (NASB)

Summary:

1.) Satan is a _____ foe. — John 12:31

2.) Jesus _____ the work of the devil. — Colossians 2:14-15

3.) We are _____ in Christ. — 1 Corinthians 15:55-58

4.) We have the _____ and resources to resist Satan and demonic attacks. —
1 John 4:4

5.) We must _____ how to put on the “full armor of God” to experience in
daily living the victory we already possess. — Ephesians 6:13-17