



Weapons of Our Warfare for the Christian

#2 of a 2 Part Series

Many don't know what real war between Good and Evil is like!

What do you know about Spiritual Warfare?

Some Scriptures about Spiritual Warfare:

2 Corinthians 10:4 "For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds."

Adam and Eve experienced the first human "battle" with Satan in the garden, and because of their fall, he has continued to try to destroy mankind ever since. Even though we have been in a cosmic war ever since the beginning of time, God has provided us with what we need to defeat our enemy today.

Ephesians 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places..."

God, the Father, is always fighting for us, and it is he that blesses us continually. He knows that we are waging a war, so he provides us with the spiritual weapons and blessings we need in the heavenly places. He has not left us alone or abandoned us in this spiritual battle.

Ephesians 3:10 "...so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places."

The church is the bride of Christ, and as such the Lord has granted us his manifold wisdom. This discernment has been given to us to help us stand firm against Satan's wiles. Being a part of the church, I believe will help us wage an effective spiritual war against our greatest enemy.

Colossians 1:16 “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”

It is hard for some to believe that there are other dimensions and kingdoms that are unseen around us. But if we are to wage war against our enemy, we have to acknowledge that he is real. This verse confirms that God created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, the rulers and the authorities. Since we are in a spiritual battle against the forces of evil, we definitely need God fighting on our side.

Colossians 2:15 “He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

God gives us the weapons of our warfare—the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the belt of truth, the shoes of the Gospel of peace, the sword of the Spirit, and the shield of faith. These weapons are not the traditional ones used in war, but they are even more effective in defeating our enemy. This verse confirms that it is through God that our foes are disarmed and put to shame, and that we can triumph over them.

Ephesians 6:11 “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”

God loves us so much, and in this verse he is warning us about our greatest enemy—the devil. He points out that we are indeed in a battle, and so we must clothe ourselves with the appropriate armor.

Ephesians 6:12 “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.”

Paul explains that we are not wrestling against flesh or blood, but we are actually fighting against powers and forces of evil in the heavenly places. So our fight is not necessarily against other human beings, but rather we need to fight Satan and those rulers and authorities of darkness that seek to destroy us. The best part of this whole passage in the book of Ephesians is that God even gives us the individual pieces of armor that we need to put on to confidently and safely fight the battle as well.

Ephesians 6:13-18, “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. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith,

with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.
17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 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 Lord's people."

What does he mean, "to stand"?

He was emphasizing that with God's help, we will be able to hold the line, to not retreat, to not give up an inch of God's territory.

BELT--A belt was the first piece of equipment put on, and it secures all the other pieces of our armor. Wearing the belt showed that the soldier was ready for action, since he would only loosen his belt when he went off duty.

Truth should surround us like a belt. Knowing God's truth is the surefire antidote to Satan's lies and deception.

And to be truly ready for the battle, we must be completely be truthful to ourselves (in our inner being), like our Creator.

RIGHTEOUSNESS: Without righteousness, we leave ourselves open to Satan's attacks. To be righteous is: 1. First of all to repent and be forgiven of our sins, and 2. To do what is right in God's eyes. "Your iniquities have separated you from your God" Isaiah 59:2.

Iniquity is the opposite of righteousness, so when we give in to sin without repenting, we are removing our breastplate and leaving ourselves open to more of Satan's attacks.

FEET SHOD (SHOES) --Their importance:

"The military successes both of Alexander the Great and of Julius Caesar were due in large measure to their armies being well shod and thus able to undertake long marches at incredible speed over rough terrain."

The word "preparation," denoting *readiness*, reminds us that we are to be eager to preach the gospel of peace. The Church of God is sent to announce the good news of God's Kingdom.

SHIELD OF FAITH-- Faith means more than just believing that God exists. It includes a firm belief that everything God does is truly for our good. Also, faith is the absolute conviction that God will always do what He has promised (Romans 4:18-21).

Faith is powerful and protects us not only from physical dangers, but from the spiritual temptations and dangers.

HELMET OF SALVATION. This hope AND truth protects our minds from the discouragement and despair in this world.

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT--Hebrews 4:12, *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

Remember how Jesus used the Word of God to defeat Satan (Matthew 4:1-10)? Christ used scripture quotes three times. He brought to mind the scriptures that dealt with the situation, that showed what He should do and that strengthened His resolve. And so should we.

Our sword won't stay sharp on its own. We must continually sharpen it with regular and focused Bible study.

PRAY—Pray fervently for ourselves, for each other and for the work of the Church.

The Church, and each of us individually, moves forward on our knees. Prayer and Bible study are the most powerful tools for combating Satan's weapons.

When we put on this whole armor of God, we will be prepared for Satan's attempts to attack us with pride, envy, lust for forbidden pleasures, itching ears, disappointment, discouragement, doubt or division—or any other tricks he may use.

I Timothy 1:18 “This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare...”

Paul and Timothy had a wonderful mentoring relationship, and in this passage the apostle Paul is encouraging young Timothy to stand firm in the spiritual battle that he is facing. He reminds him about the encouraging prophecies he had received earlier and that God was using to equip him to wage the good warfare. So all he needed to realize was that the battle belongs to the Lord.

CONCLUSION/SUMMARY:

- Fighting a spiritual battle can seem daunting to us as Christians, but the Lord wants to encourage us in every way possible.

- He gives us the weapons that we need to win the war, as well as the reminder that he is ultimately in control of all things.
- God loves and cares for us so much, so he encourages us to approach any spiritual warfare unafraid and with a victorious attitude.

As we see things happening in the world today, does it leave you with an uneasy feeling?

Give it to God and do your part in fighting the good fight!



IT IS A CHOICE WE MAKE!