

“Our Enemy In The Fight”
Ephesians 6:10-13
Sermon Series: “The Fight Of Your Life”

Introduction: In light of everything Jesus has done for us, why is it so hard for us to live like Christians sometimes? Part of the reason is that we are in a fight with the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Main Idea: The fight of our life is our battle with our spiritual enemy, Satan.

-Tony Evans: “The word, 'heavenly places,' means the spiritual realm. Whatever is going on in your world, your life, is rooted first in the spiritual realm, heavenly places. If you don't know how to navigate that realm, you can't fix this realm. Spiritual warfare can simply be defined as the conflict in the invisible realm that affects what is going on in the visible realm. It is the battle in the unseen that is responsible for the battle in the seen.”

Clinton Arnold: “There is a tendency for people in some circles to think of spiritual warfare as a specialized form of ministry rather than as a descriptive phrase characterizing our common struggle as believers. Thus, for many people, to speak of spiritual warfare is to speak of exorcism, deliverance ministry, taking authority in the name of Jesus against the enemy, or special forms of authoritative prayers. Certainly these are all aspects of spiritual warfare, but no single ministry exhausts our understanding of spiritual warfare.

We need to begin thinking about spiritual warfare in a broader way. Spiritual warfare is a way of characterizing our common struggle as Christians. Whether we want to think about it or not, the truth is that we all face an opponent who wants nothing more than to bring about our demise. We have an enemy who wants to blunt our every effort to share the good news of liberation with those still held in captivity.

Spiritual warfare is all-encompassing. It touches every area of our lives—our families, our relationships, our church, our neighborhoods, our communities, our places of employment. There is virtually no part of our existence over which the Evil One does not want to maintain or reassert his unhealthy and perverse influence. Conversely, Jesus longs to reign as Lord over every area of our lives. This is the locus of intense struggle for all believers. And it is a power struggle. To which kingdom—and source of power—do we yield?”

“If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.”

— Sun Tzu, The Art of War

Let me paraphrase this for a spiritual application: In Ephesians, Paul has shown us who we are in Christ, and now he is showing us who our enemy is. If we know and live out of who we are in Christ and know who our enemy is, we can defeat him when he attacks.

What do we need to know about our spiritual enemy, the devil? Here is how he is described in Ephesians 6:10-13:

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. **13** 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.

Characteristics of Satan:

1. Our enemy is spiritual.

- This is our real enemy, not the people and circumstances of our lives.
- Biblical background of who Satan is and how he operates, demons as well (based on v. 12 but add in material from other places)
- Personal view and experiences with spiritual warfare including expecting it while preaching this series
- Should we really believe in Satan? Many people say no. Why should we?
 - A. The reality of evil and the correspondence view of truth (**boxer illustration**)
 - B. Jesus rose from the dead, and he believed in the reality of Satan and demons

2. Our enemy is deceptive.

- He is a liar and deceiver who uses schemes and strategies to deceive us.
- Satan's desire is to destroy us and his method is deception (John 8:44)

3. Our enemy is dangerous.

- We are in a wrestling match with Satan and his forces. It is mortal, hand-to-hand combat. It is a spiritual life and death struggle. The Christian life is more of a battleground than playground, and we need to see it as such.

4. Our enemy is powerful.

- Talk about verse 12 and what Satan can do based on other Scriptures we looked at.
- He has power against us, but he does not have authority over us because:**

5. Our enemy is defeated.

-Implied in our text but explicit in Hebrews 2:14, Colossians 2:13-15, and other Scriptures.

Hebrews 2:14: “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.”

Colossians 2:13-15: “**13** And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, **14** having wiped out the [a]handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”

-Colossians 1:13: “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love.” Power is better translated authority.

-Satan is powerful but has no authority over Christians. He is under the sovereign authority of Jesus so he can only do against us what God allows and only do in us what we allow by not wearing the armor. We have to give him permission and openings to work in our lives in ways that lead to sin. He works in the cracks in the armor.

-Spiritual warfare is more of a truth struggle than a power struggle. Stop believing his lies. That’s the only real sway he has over us.

Conclusion: Ephesians 2:1-6

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, **2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, **3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6** and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,