

Intro Quote:

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.”

-C.S. Lewis, Screwtape Letters

*churches were actually built on the sites of pagan shrines to make sure they would never again be used for evil practices.

On Our Spiritual Battle:

1. Not all conflicts or problems are directly due to some kind of warfare. Some are from the reality of the fact that we have a sin nature and we have chosen to sin and not yield to God.
2. Most Christians here in our culture, I believe, live life unaware that the enemy has a scheme/plan against them designed to destroy them or at the very least distract them away from the passionate pursuit of Jesus.
3. Against the enemy you are either standing or falling.
4. If it doesn't seem like the enemy is against you, then what does that say about you as a Christian?
5. If he is against you what are you doing to prepare?
6. It is impossible to live in the manner that Ephesians outlines without having conflict with Satan--it's impossible.
7. Satan pays us a compliment when he gives us special attention. We pay him compliment when he does not give us attention.
8. The enemy's intention is to destroy by making deep incursions into the church
9. One of Satan's favorite strategies is to help ensure our comfort. (that's why you can't say having money or things is always a "sign" of God's blessings)
10. When the light shines into darkness there are sharp reactions!

Ephesians 6:10-14a

10 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 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. 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 firm. 14 Stand therefore,"

Context of Passage

- **To the church-** Lone soldiers are easy to pick off!
- **The burden is on the enemy not us-** and the enemy must weary itself in constant attack.
- **Summary of chpt. 1-5**

v. 10-“Finally be strong IN THE LORD and in the strength of HIS MIGHT.

I. We can STAND because of the character and supremacy of God

- **ἐνδυναμοῦσθε**-endunamousthe-(Present passive imperative)
 - i.e. power from another source we are commanded for u to tap into!
- **Κράτει**-kratei
 - **Strength or might, more especially manifested power, dominion. Denotes the presence and significance of force or strength rather than its exercise.**¹
- **ἰσχύος** –*ischus*
 - There is more emphasis on the actual inherent power.²

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

II. We can STAND because we are confident in the efficacy of the work of Christ!

- Christians are not to attack Satan
- We put on what HE provides
- Satan and God never battled! Satan’s rebellion was swiftly dealt with!-“I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning” (Luke 10:17-18)

Christ’s Work Gave US:

Colossians 2:14-15-“by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

1 Cor. 15:54-57-“Death is swallowed up in victory.” 55“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” 56The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 John 3:8-“Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”

Ephesians 1:22-23-“And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”

Romans 16:20-“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”

Romans 8:37-39-“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

¹Zodhiates, Spiros: The Complete Word Study Dictionary : New Testament. electronic ed. Chattanooga, TN : AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993, S. G2904

²Zodhiates, Spiros: The Complete Word Study Dictionary : New Testament. electronic ed. Chattanooga, TN : AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993, S. G2479

1 John 2:14-“I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning, I write to you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

v. 12-14 “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. 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 firm. 14 Stand therefore,”

III. We can STAND because we know whom the enemy really is.

2 Corinthians 2:11-“...so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.”

How To Fight: Resist and Repent

- **1 Peter 5:8-9**-“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”
- **James 4:7-8**-“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”