

Abide in Me

John 15:4
*Bible studies for disciples
who make disciples*



Volume 9 - Number 15

The Week of February 11, 2024

Spiritual Warfare: A Biblical Perspective

Ephesians 6:10-18

We live in a world that has both a physical and spiritual reality. We are generally more aware of what is happening in the physical realm than the spiritual realm. Even in our flesh and blood world, there can be many wars going on right now that we are unaware of. Just because we don't see them doesn't mean they are not happening. Since many of those wars are "out of sight" they are also "out of mind." We are not to be blind to the reality of spiritual warfare but equipped to stand.

Scripture has many stories that reveal the reality of an ongoing spiritual battle between God and Satan, and humanity is part of that struggle. Prior to our spiritual conversion, we belonged to the kingdom of darkness! But now we "give thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son" (Col. 1:12-13). As soldiers of Christ, we now face spiritual opposition. Because we have an adversary, Paul instructs us to put on the full armor of God as we wrestle with spiritual forces of darkness. Ephesians 6:10-18 describes the spiritual provision God has made for us to experience victory by standing firm in Christ.

THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD - EPHESIANS 6:10-18

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, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Ephesians 6:10-12. Paul encourages us to find our strength in the Lord. Read 1 Samuel 30:6, Psalm 28:7, Isaiah 40:31, and Jeremiah 17:15. Discuss what it looks like to find strength in God.

2. Paul tells us to put on the full armor of God to protect us in spiritual battle. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:8, Isaiah 59:17, and Isaiah 11:4-5. What do these passages teach us about the full armor of God as we follow Jesus?

3. God's armor protects us against the schemes of the devil (v. 11).

- a. When you think about a person who is a "schemer," what comes to mind?

- b. How can we be more aware of the devil's schemes?

4. How do you see spiritual warfare happening...

- a. In the world at large?

- b. In our culture?

- c. In our everyday life?

5. Was there a piece of spiritual armor that resonated with you? Why?

6. What do we know about Satan from Rev. 12:7-9 and Luke 10:18?

7. Read Ephesians 6:18-20. Paul calls us to pray at all times in the Spirit.
How would you like to see your prayer life grow?

Ephesians 6:10-18