

Enemies. Lies. Idols. Distractions.

WHAT IS THE BATTLE? WHO IS THE ENEMY? HOW CAN WE HAVE VICTORY?



THE BATTLE THE ENEMY



EPHSIANS 6:10-12



[10] Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. [11] Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. [12] For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.



THE BATTLE IS SPIRITUAL, NOT PHYSICAL.

THE ENEMY IS SATAN & HIS FORCES, NOT PEOPLE.



The devil: Scripture refers to him as "an anointed guardian cherub" (Ezek. 28:14), "the prince of demons" (Luke 11:15), "the god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4), and "the prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2). Scripture depicts him opposing God's work (Zech. 3:1), perverting God's word (Matt. 4:6), hindering God's servants (1 Thess. 2:18), hindering the gospel (2 Cor. 4:4), snaring the righteous (1 Tim. 3:7), and holding the world in his power (1 John 5:19).



The enemy uses his schemes through the world and people in a few key ways:

- 1. Deception and Lies: Satan twists truth to make sin seem appealing, spreading confusion about God's character, identity, and purpose. (John 8:44)
- 2. Worldly Temptations: He uses the allure of power, wealth, and pleasure to draw hearts away from God. (1 John 2:15-16)
- 3. Corrupt Influences: The enemy works through media, culture, and even relationships to normalize sin and distort values. (2 Corinthians 4:4)



The enemy uses his schemes through the world and people in a few key ways:

- 4. Division and Conflict: By stirring pride, jealousy, and unforgiveness, he creates strife within families, friendships, and churches. (Ephesians 4:26-27)
- 5. Distraction and Busyness: Satan fills life with endless distractions to keep believers from prayer, Scripture, and their purpose. (Luke 10:40-42)
- 6. Intimidation: Through fear and opposition, he tries to silence faith and discourage believers. (1 Peter 5:8-9)



THE ENEMIES ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO WEAKEN OUR FAITH, DISTORT THE TRUTH & DISTRACT US FROM LIVING FULLY FOR CHRIST.



WHEN WE GO INTO SPIRITUAL BATTLE DEFENSELESS, WE'LL GET DESTROYED.



THE VICTORY



We already have victory over the enemy through what Christ accomplished on the cross. Salvation is ours for all who are in Christ. While we can't lose the ultimate battle, we still face daily struggles. These are the battles that can either lead to defeat or victory in the everyday moments of life, depending on how we choose to fight.



WE MUST FIGHT SPIRITUAL BATTLES

WITH SPIRITUAL WEAPONS



EPHESIANS 6:13-18



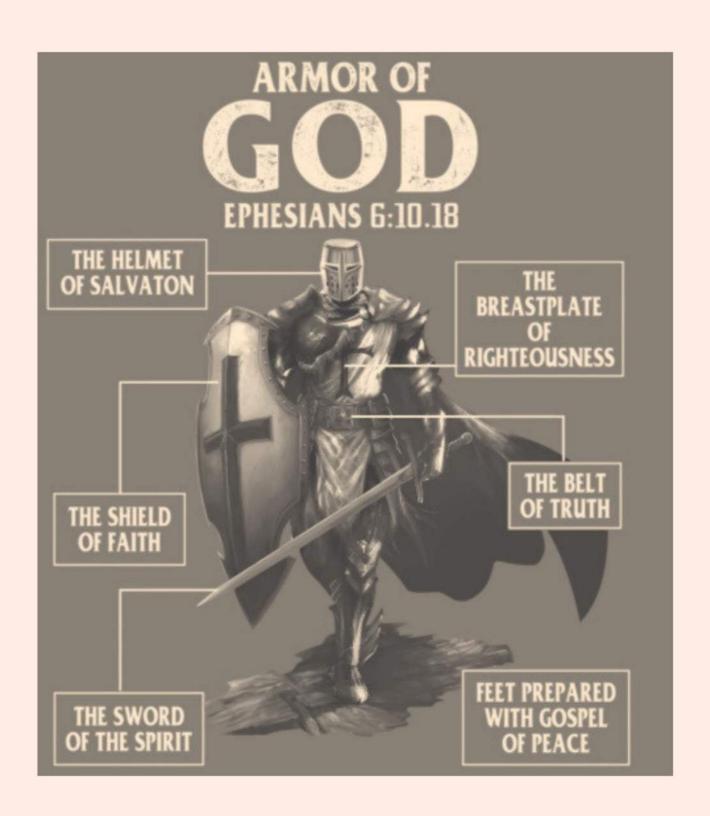
[13] For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil, and having prepared everything, to take your stand & stand firm.

[14] Stand, therefore, with truth like a belt around your waist, righteousness like armor on your chest, [15] and your feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace.



[16] In every situation 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] Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.







PUT ON THE ARMOR OF GOD

RESIST THE ENEMY. BE PREPARED. TAKE YOUR STAND. STAND FIRM.

