

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Ephesians 6:10-17

Introduction

- I. Spiritual Warfare is Real – Ephesians 6:10-12
 - A. The War is Satanic – 1 Peter 5:8
 - B. The War is Strategic – 2 Corinthians 2:11, Revelation 12:9,12,17, John 10:10

- II. Spiritual Weapons are Required – Ephesians 6:13-17
 - A. The Belt of Truth – John 8:44
 - B. The Breastplate of Righteousness – Romans 13:12
 - C. The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace
 - D. The Shield of Faith – Proverbs 30:5, Psalm 18:30, 1 John 5:4
 - E. The Helmet of Salvation – Isaiah 26:3
 - F. The Sword of the Spirit – Hebrews 4:12

Conclusion

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Getting Started

1. Describe a time when you felt you were under spiritual attack from Satan. How did you know you were under attack? How did it feel? **This goes back to the first question in chapter 12 of the Ephesians Study Guide. We have all been under spiritual attack whether we realize it or not, and often we aren't aware that is what is happening right away. If anyone is unsure how to answer the second part of this question, have them start by telling the story. Likely "how could you tell" and "how did it feel" will bubble up naturally in the remembering.**

2. Did you experience victory in that attack? What did it require? How did it impact your faith? **This is a trick question. If you are alive and are still seeking the Lord, you did experience victory. The aim here is to wake us up to that victory.**

Going Deeper

1. We live in a spiritual war zone and are battling a real adversary. Satan is the instigator of this war and our enemy. The Bible describes him as a deceiver, a liar, a tempter, and a destroyer. How does knowing this give us the advantage? **Here is the full list from the sermon: the deceiver (Revelation 12:9), the murderer (John 8:44), the tempter (Matthew 4:3), the destroyer (Revelation 9:11), the liar (John 8:44), the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10), the evil one (1 John 5:19). These make up his character. Know your enemy and see him coming a mile away.**

2. Read Ephesians 6:11-12. Why do we need to put on the full armor of God? (There are two distinct reasons given.) He is strategic, we must also be strategic. Our enemy is spirit, our weapons must be of the Spirit.

That you may...

For we do not...

3. Read Revelation 12:9 and II Corinthians 2:10-11. Our enemy is ancient, but that means his tactics are known and documented. What are some strategies you know Satan specifically uses to come after you? Make this as personal as you can, even if the vulnerability makes you nervous, being conscious of the idea we call "appropriate disclosure." James 5:16 bids us to confess these things to each other so we can be supported by our brothers in prayer, which is another weapon in the arsenal (Ephesians 6:18).

4. Read Ephesians 6:13-18. The Lord has armed us to confront Satan and his schemes. For each of the strategies you listed above (question #3), name the piece of armor you've been equipped with to engage the enemy. If anyone is unsure, open it up to the group to help them. There is a unique encouragement that comes from hearing others speak words of victory into our circumstances, especially when we can't see it. It can help open our eyes and pull us up and out to gain perspective.

