

Spiritual Warfare

Against The Gates Of Hell

Fit for the Battle

Tonight I am going to start a series on spiritual warfare. Even though this series will take us from Genesis to Revelation the foundational scriptures will be from the book of Ephesians chapter 6:10-18. I am a firm believer that every Christian should dedicate more of their time studying God's Word and equipping themselves concerning spiritual warfare. It is very important they understand that when you become a Christian there is a battle line drawn between you and Satan and the demonic forces under his command. Their mission from the minute you commit your life to follow Christ is to destroy the connection, the trust and Faith that you now have with God and His Son Jesus Christ. Spiritual Warfare knowledge is extremely important to all Christians from the new convert to the mature Christian in the faith. All Christians, and there are no exceptions, are in a spiritual fight for their eternal life. But the good news is that we have been provided weapons which are not carnal to obtain the victory over the spiritual enemy. Unfortunately, today's Christian community doesn't prepare saints for the spiritual warfare. In today's explosive world environment you can rest assure countries around the globe are preparing for the possibility of entering some type of warfare. They go through all types of preparations and training so that they can be ready to respond if necessary and I guarantee you that all types of intelligence about enemies potential is being gathered; how strong and what type of weapons that they may have, and what kind of experience their commanders might have and what type of strategies that they have implemented in the past. Opposing countries must know as much as they can about their enemy before they engage in battle. You have to be ready and you have to know your enemy. Unfortunately, most Christians don't think that way. They are more excited

about attending choir practice or prayer breakfasts than learning to wage a good warfare against our spiritual enemy. It is a disgrace that the world has a better concept about warfare than Christians. For generations Satan has been successfully keeping what God's Word says about spiritual warfare hidden. The last thing that Satan wants you to know is that when you wear Christ's Spiritual Armor you can defeat his advances against you. It is a shame that there are not more pastors and preachers spending the necessary time training and equipping the saints to fit them for battle, the battle for eternity and eternal life. It is my prayer that as we journey through this series you will gain the knowledge of the weapons that Christ Jesus has provided us to achieve the victory over our vicious spiritual enemy.

So with that introduction let's start our journey into the subject by going to the book of Revelation Chapter 2 Verse 1-5

Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candle sticks; I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and thou canst not bear them which are evil: And thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast born, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou are fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

In Revelation 2:4, Christ is saying to the church I have somewhat against thee because thou hast left thy first love. Most Christians today would define losing their first love by their lack of participation in such as church attendance, prayer meetings, choir practices, and even feeding the poor. I am not saying that you shouldn't participate in those activities but those things have nothing to do with losing your first love. I have known many Christians in my lifetime that were heavily involved in all types of religious activities and still lost their first love and didn't even know that it happened.

Satan is going to try to bring you to that point as quickly as he can. It didn't take him long once God put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. If you go back to the book of Genesis we find Satan trying to put a wedge between Adam and Eve and against their creator. Satan is always planning his strategies and how to employ his methods to break the connection between man and God. Satan's ways are not always complicated but he is consistent and will keep hammering on you until he accomplishes his goal in severing your connection with the Lord. Satan has tremendous amount of patience, more than any of us and he is betting that if he just keeps hammering on you that you eventually will lose your grip of Faith in Christ and become his victim controlled by his power instead of the blood of Jesus Christ. Let's look how Satan achieved a temporary victory over mankind. I can just here Satan saying to Eve, 'well if God loved you so much why would He keep anything from you?' 'If God is your creator and He loves you so much why would he not want you to have the ability to know about the knowledge of good and evil?' We probably have the short story in the book of Genesis. I am convinced that Satan kept hammering and hammering until she broke down and broke the connection that she had with her Creator and Father. Satan is still employing the same techniques today. Satan wants to separate you from God. But through our Lord Jesus Christ we have been reconciled back to the Father. There is not a barrier between us and the Father and the connection has been reestablished through Christ our mediator.

Let us go back to Revelation 2:5: Remember therefore from whence thou are fallen. This verse is saying to fall in love again with Christ and repent. Bring your heart and mind back to where it was when you first heard the message regarding the good news of Gospel of Jesus Christ. Get back to living a life of Faith, walking and growing in Christ daily. In short, go back doing your first works. The Greek word used in that for works is **Ergon**. In the Greek it can have several meanings but applied correctly in this verse it means the employment of the Word of God. I have told you that there are two ways to employ the Word of God. First, employing the word of God in your own personal life and employing it to others in the capacity that you were called to participate in the great commission. Our first priority daily

should be to connect with the Lord. Some of us fall into the mind set to connect with the Lord when the mood is just right. This is not just a when you feel like commitment. Following him is not just when you want to. The Christianity that the Bible refers to is a constant commitment on your life. Jesus said to; deny yourself, take up the cross and follow him. He did not include in that scripture when you feel like it or when it's convenient. Going to war is not about when it's convenient. That is why you have to be ready at all times to confront the wicked enemy. That is why Christ is looking for faithful Christians that understand who the arch enemy is and are ready through Faith to wear His spiritual armor that He has designed especially for you. Remember Satan's hatred towards Christ is inconceivable. Which means if he hates Christ he is going to hate his faithful followers, Satan is going to throw everything in his arsenal at us. But rest assured in the Scripture it states Greater is He (The Lord) that is in us than he (Satan) that is in the world.

Now let's move on and let's go to Ephesians chapter 6:10.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.”

Now the Greek word for strong is **Endunamoo**. It means to be strengthened or empowered. This is not something you just do once and you're done. It is a continuing process that needs to be done on a daily basis. The word for power in this verse is **Kratos**, which means the force of the Lord. In addition, we have **Ischus**; and it means the Lord's might. We don't go to war empty handed, weak, or powerless. We come up against the enemy Strengthen, Forceful, and full of the Lord's Might. What a wonderful promise that we have to equip us and sustain us through our everyday battles against our spiritual wicked enemy.

Now let us go to 2nd Timothy 2:1-4. This is where Paul is informing us that we are soldiers in Christ's army.

“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen to him be a soldier.”

Yes, some of you like to live in so much peace and happiness that you have a hard time accepting that you have to be a soldier in God’s army. Total and complete peace is coming but as long as we have Satan and his evil army out there we have to accept that the Lord has called and chosen us to be His soldiers. Furthermore, to be a good soldier we have to learn how to fight the good Fight of Faith. Our eternal life is at stake and we cannot afford to be unprepared. In Second Timothy 2:1 we see Paul uses again the word **Endunamoo** (be strengthen) in the grace that is Christ Jesus. That is extremely important to remember this in regards to spiritual warfare. Christ strengthens and empowers us in His grace when we come against our spiritual foe. Why do we need to be strengthen by His grace? Satan is not going to be merciful to us. If you go down to verse three it says, Thou therefore endure hardness. What does that mean? In the Greek it is **Kakopattheo** and it means sufferings, struggles, and constant afflictions. So Paul is saying to be strengthen in the power, force, might, and grace of the Lord because the **Kakopattheo** is coming. This is what true faithing Christian soldiers can expect when dealing with the enemy. Well, you might be asking yourself if there is another route a Christian can take. I am sorry but once you are called and then chosen there is no other option than to be a soldier for Christ Jesus. Like or lump it, you have no choice. If you don’t like that choice then I suggest you get everything you can out of this world now because there is no eternal future for you.

Let’s go to 2nd Timothy 2:9, Paul says wherein I suffer trouble, the same word again (**Kakopattheo**) as an evil doer or as a criminal unto bonds. Paul suffered the hardships and afflictions as a criminal in mans eyes but the word of God is not bound. "You may imprison me," Paul says, but the word

of God can't be imprisoned. No prison can hold it back or contain it. In verse ten Paul continues the thought and says, "Therefore I endure all things." The word endure in the Greek is **Hupomeno**. It simply means the endurance that is created in your life through the trials, afflictions and tribulations that develops faithful soldiers that are molded by Christ. This verse can also be translated; I bravely endure all things for the elect's sake. You don't endure with a poor me I don't know how I am going to make it attitude. Oh, we might all feel that way at times but nevertheless scripture is clear that we must bravely endure.

Let's read it again now, "Therefore I bravely endure all things for the elect's sake. What is Paul saying here? Look closely, Paul didn't say I endure all things for my sake. There are too many Christians today that are only concerned about themselves. That's the world's attitude, Me, Me, Me, Me. Paul said, I **Hupomeno** in the Greek; I bravely endure all for the elect's sake. Satan does not want you involved in any form with the elect's sake. Satan does not want you to be involved in carrying out the great commission. Not only does he want to break the connection we have with Christ but he also wants us not to be involved in making disciples. We might not like all the fiery darts Satan throws at us but, say it with me now, I bravely will endure all the **Kakopatheo** not only for my sake but also for the elect's sake so that they may also receive the salvation which is in Christ Jesus. That is why we are in a spiritual war friends. Satan does not like this type of participation. That is why I constantly am reminding you to be involved in the church or ministry that the Lord has assigned you to.

Before I end this first message in this series I want to take a look at one more Greek word in Ephesians 6:10.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.”

The Greek word for power is **Kratos**. It means the force that is in us and behind us. The Greek word for might is **Ischus** and it defines the strength

of that force. There are some powerful words used in this verse to describe an indescribable amount of strength, power, force and might that is available to us when Christ's spirit is in us. This is what energizes the weapons in our spiritual armor. This is not obtainable through our own strength and power only through Christ Jesus. To clearly understand what kind of strength, force and might we have through Christ let's go to Ephesians Chapter 1 verses 17-19.

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:"

The word knowledge in the Greek is **Epignosis**. The definition of **Epignosis** is the precise, accurate and correct knowledge of the Word of God. I am hoping that in this series you will start seeing and understanding what the **Epignosis**, the understanding of spiritual warfare that is needed to wage a good warfare using what the Lord has made available to us.

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and the what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,"

The Greek word for believe in the above verse is **Pisteuo**. This is another word used in the Greek to define Faith. It simply means to trust and have confidence in God and His Word. We are instructed to have confidence in God's exceeding greatness and power. The Greek word for power is **Dunamis**. It is an explosive type of power which nothing can contain it. In Ephesians chapter 1:20-22 we see God's strength, power, and force when God the Father raised His son from the dead.

Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that

is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church.

What I am saying tonight folks is that same dynamic power, force and might that raised Christ from the dead is also available for us if we have faith in Him. This is the same language that we see starting in Ephesians 6:10. These same elements are available to us when we come up against a wicked and evil spiritual enemy. Paul is saying we have the same strength, power, force and might to stand and fight against the devil and his forces under his control. Christians are at war with these forces but we don't go into the battle empty handed or powerless. We go in the Lord's strength (**Endunamoo**), with the power and force that raised Christ from the dead. I have one message for Satan, **LOOK OUT!** We are no match for him in the flesh but through Christ Jesus we are more than conquerors.

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