

Subject: *Spiritual Warfare – Part 1*

Scripture: *Ephesians 6:10-20*

The Bible reminds us that the Christian life is a battle and every believer is in a war:

- **1 Timothy 1:18** *This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare.*
- **1 Timothy 6:12** *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*
- **2 Timothy 4:7** *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*
- **2 Corinthians 10:3-4**³ *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:*⁴ *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

Some of our great hymns remind us that we are soldiers: “Onward Christian Soldiers” and “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus ye soldiers of the cross...” The life of a soldier is a high calling. All branches of military service have their mottos or key virtues. The Marines focus on three words: Honor...Courage...Commitment. Military service is not for the soft, the weak, the half-hearted, or the uncommitted. The same is true in the Lord’s service.

We all know the toll that COVID has taken on our nation. It has taken a toll on human life with all the deaths and serious symptoms. It has also taken a spiritual toll on churches and believers. We are in a spiritual battle and our enemy has used COVID to distract us and defeat us.

This message will be an introduction to the subject of Spiritual Warfare. This is a subject we must know well. Our life and well being depends on it.

1. OUR STRENGTH FOR THE FIGHT

We can’t fight this war in our own strength or we will surely lose the battle. The Lord is our source of strength (Eph. 6:10, “Be strong in the Lord”). Paul uses the word “Finally” as he nears the conclusion of this letter. He has written to them about three things: their spiritual wealth; their spiritual walk; and now, their spiritual warfare).

A. We need daily strength

Deuteronomy 33:25 *... as thy days, so shall thy strength be.*

B. We need inner strength

Ephesians 3:16 *That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.*

C. We need strength through grace

2 Timothy 2:1 *Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*

D. We need strength through faith

Romans 4:20 *He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.*

Romans 10:17 *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

E. We need strength through joy

Nehemiah 8:10 *...the joy of the LORD is your strength.*

Psalms 51:12 *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

F. We need strength through Scripture

1 John 2:14 *I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.*

G. We need strength for every need

Philippians 4:13 *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

There is no excuse for being weak because God gives us all these resources to keep us strong for the battle. If we are going to be strong in the Lord, we need to be strong in all these ways, and we need to have our strength renewed daily.

Isaiah 40:31 *But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

2. OUR STAND IN THE FIGHT

- The key to winning the battle is to stand firm against the enemy (vs. 11, 13, 14)

We stand firm in the Gospel, stand firm in faith, stand firm in the Spirit, stand firm in the grace of God. I have respected the Gideons for all these years as a pastor, and they have an auxiliary for their wives. The motto of these Gideon wives is worth knowing: “We get on our knees before God so our husbands can stand on their feet before men.” The battle requires patience and perseverance (staying power). We must stand together and if necessary we must stand alone.

2 Timothy 4:9-10⁹ *Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:*¹⁰ *For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world...*

1 Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

A Soldier in God's Army

I am a soldier in the Army of my God. The Lord Jesus Christ is my Commanding Officer. The Bible is my Code of Conduct. Faith, prayer, and the Word are the weapons of my warfare.

I have been taught by the Holy Spirit, trained by experience, tried by adversity and tested by fire. I am a volunteer in this Army and I am enlisted for eternity. I will either retire at the Rapture or die in this Army, but I will not get out, sell out, be talked out or pushed out.

I am faithful, reliable, capable and dependable. If my God needs me, I am there. If He needs me to teach children in Sunday school, to work with the youth, to help adults, or just to sit and learn, He can use me, because I am there.

If He needs me in church Sunday morning, Sunday night, midweek, during revival or special service, I am there. I am there to preach, teach, work, or worship. God can use me because I am there.

I am a soldier. I am not a baby. I do not need to be pampered, petted, primed, pumped up, picked up, or pepped up. No one has to call me, remind me, write me, visit me, entice me, or lure me.

I am a soldier. I am not a wimp. I am in place, saluting my King, obeying His orders, praising His name and building His kingdom. No one has to send me flowers, gifts, food, cards, candy, or give me handouts.

I am committed. I cannot have my feelings hurt badly enough to turn me around. I cannot be discouraged enough to turn me aside. I cannot lose enough to cause me to quit.

I will win. My God will supply all my needs. I am more than a conqueror. I will always triumph. I can do all things through Christ. Devils cannot defeat me. People cannot disillusion me. Weather cannot weary me. Sickness cannot stop me. Battles cannot defeat me. Money cannot buy me.

I am a soldier. Even death cannot destroy me, for when my Commander calls me from this battlefield, He will promote me and then bring me back to rule this world with Him.

I am a soldier in God's army. I will never surrender to the Enemy. I will never turn back. I am a soldier, marching heavenward, claiming victory as I go. Here I stand. Will you stand with me?

- Author unknown