

The Reality of Spiritual Warfare

Sarah Enterline

PART 1

The What, Who, Where, Why, How, & Now What? (Ephesians 6:10-13)

1. What is Spiritual Warfare?

- A Battle Is Constantly Raging All Around Us
- This Battle Is Spiritual / Supernatural (Invisible to Humans)
- We Must Be Equipped to Fight in It
- Victory In This Battle Can Only Come Through the Lord!

2. Who is Attacking us?

- The Devil, Satan (The word *Devil* is the English translation of “*diablos*”, a GREEK word for “adversary” in the Bible, while *Satan* is the English transliteration of “*saw-tawn*” a HEBREW word for “adversary” in the Bible.)
- Eph. 2:2, 1 Jn. 5:19, 1 Pt. 5:8, John 10:10

3. Where did he come from?

- Ezekiel 28 – Anointed Guardian Cherub in the Garden of Eden until cast out of heaven.
- Isaiah 14 – Wanted to be God and pride led to his Fall.
- Luke 10:18 – Jesus said, “I saw [the] Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”
- 2 Cor. 11:14

4. Why is he Attacking us?

- Humans are the vehicle through which salvation is to come. (Gen. 3:15, Rev. 12, 1 Cor. 15:45-57)
- Humans are made in God’s image. (Gen. 1:26-27, Gen. 9:6, Col. 3:10, 1 Cor. 11:7, 2 Cor. 3:18, Rom. 8:29, Gen. 5:1, Eph. 4:24, 1 Cor. 15:49, Jas. 3:9, etc.)
- Humans can be forgiven. (Hebrews 2:14-16, 1 Peter 1:10-12, Lk. 15:10)
 - Angels are not eligible for salvation because they are immortal. They have free will, but their choices are permanent. Satan has no chance at being forgiven.

5. How is he Attacking us?

- Temptation - the consideration of denying God’s will and giving into your own will.
 - This is Satan’s first tactic – to get you to DESIRE something badly enough to be willing to DENY GOD instead of your own flesh.
 - Romans 13:12-14, Phil. 4:8, 2 Cor. 10:4-5
- Deception - portraying falsehood as fact.
 - This is Satan’s second tactic – to get you to DOUBT God’s word, and question everything you know to be true.
 - Matthew 4 – Jesus uses Scripture to refute Satan
- Pride - the consideration of yourself above God and others.
 - This is Satan’s third tactic – to get you to decide you DETERMINE your own truth and DEIFY yourself. Meaning you put yourself above God.
 - 2 Tim. 4:3-4 – Don’t live in an echo chamber, get some accountability!
 - Prov. 16 – Be humble, and have a healthy fear [respect] for God.

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PART 2

Put on the Armor and Stand! (Ephesians 6:14-17)

1. Belt of Truth (CORRECT DOCTRINE)
 - To practically wear the belt is to be passionate seeker of the truth!
 - Eph. 4:14-15, 2 Tim. 2:15
2. Breastplate of Righteousness (PURITY)
 - To wear the breastplate means to make no provision for the flesh! Consecrate yourself from the world!
 - Is. 1:18, Romans 3:21-26, 2 Cor. 5:17,21, Rom. 8:33-34, Rom. 13:14, Lev. 11:44
3. Shoes of Readiness (EVANGELISM)
 - To have shoes of readiness means to always be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in you and be able to tell them why it is the truth. (1 Peter 3:15)
 - Every interaction is a chance for action.
 - Apologetic Evangelism: giving the case for why Christianity is true.
 - Romans 10:15, Matthew 28:19-20
4. Shield of Faith
 - Just like the metal material the Romans made their shields out of, your faith needs to be strong and sturdy, strengthened through time spent in prayer. (Mt. 17:20-21, 21:21-22)
 - CUT OFF Satan before his attack has a chance to burn you! (Jas. 4:7, Gen. 4:7, Heb. 12:1-2)
 - Heb. 11:1-6
5. Helmet of Salvation
 - The theological definition of Salvation is deliverance from sin and its consequences, brought about by faith in Christ. That's why it comes after the shield of faith. There is no salvation apart from faith! (Eph. 2:8-9)
 - Ps. 140:7, Is. 59:17, Ps. 27:1, 62:2, 1 Jn. 4:4, Lk. 10:19, Jas. 2:19
 - The helmet protects the most vulnerable and most important part of you. So does salvation. Unless you are saved, the rest of the armor doesn't matter because you haven't activated what makes it effective: the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit.
 - How can we be protected by this helmet of salvation?
 - *First*, "take" it up by praying to God for His free gift of salvation! (Rom. 10:9)
 - *Second*, if you have it, REMIND yourself you have it! (Col. 1:13-14, Rom. 8:1-2)
6. Sword of the Spirit (GOD'S WORD)
 - Heb. 4:12, Mt. 4, 29, 2 Tim. 3:16
 - How can we practically wield the sword of the spirit? KNOW IT, and Know it well!
 - The word of God is a two-edged sword in that it is both a defensive (protective) weapon that can deflect blows as we mentioned Jesus did, but it is also an offensive one. You can use it to defeat Satan's plans by sharing it with others! However, in order to wield it, you must know it!
7. Cloak of Zeal (BOLDNESS)
 - Eph. 6:19-20, Is. 59:17
8. Posture of Prayer
 - Eph. 6:18

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### Recommended Resources for Further Study:

- C.S. Lewis - *The Screwtape Letters*
- William Gurnall - *The Christian in Complete Armor*

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