

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Eph. 6:10-20

(Eph. 6) 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

(Eph. 6) 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet, put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and persevered in your prayer for all the Lord's people.

Outline

- ▣ The Reality of Spiritual Warfare
- ▣ What are the schemes of the devil?
- ▣ How to fight against the schemes of the devil?
- ▣ Put on the Armor of God

The Reality of Spiritual Warfare

- ▣ The Modern West: Materialism
- ▣ No Spiritual / Super-natural
- ▣ Capitalism & Communism: both Materialists

The Reality of Spiritual Warfare

"The vocabulary that the culture once supplied to explain evil has become impoverished,"

- Anthony Delbanco, author of "The Death of Satan" (Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1995), prof @ Columbia

Scott Peck: author of "The Road Less Traveled" wrote 2 books concerning Evil: "People of the Lie" and "Glimpses of the Devil"

Schemes of the Devil

(Eph. 6) ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the *schemes* of the devil.

(2 Cor. 2:11) in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his *schemes*.

- ▣ Schemes/ Wile: “*Methodeia*”—methods/ strategies

Schemes of the Devil

- ▣ All or Nothing
- ▣ Accusation & Temptation

Schemes of the Devil: All or Nothing

- ▣ Super-stition: Too much ascribed to devil
- ▣ Sub-stition: Too little attributed to devil
- ▣ “The Devil is equally delighted in both the materialist and the magician.” -- *C.S. Lewis in Screwtape Letters*
- ▣ (Eph 6) 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Example: Depression

- ▣ Physical Causes: illness, weather affect
- ▣ Psychological: many bad things happened
- ▣ Moral: unforgiveness, anger, hurt someone,
- ▣ Spiritual: Spiritual attack, Demonic influences

Schemes of the Devil

(1 Tim. 3) 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

- ▣ Devil: “Diablos”: Slender, Liar, Falsehood
 - Accusing falsely
 - Temptation

Schemes of the Devil: Lies in Self-Talk

Accusation

- ▣ Too low of perspective of ourselves that we hate ourselves
- ▣ Highlight our Sin & its effect and pain on people around us, but diminish God's forgiveness & love

Temptation

- ▣ Too high of perspective of ourselves that we “spoil” ourselves
- ▣ Highlight God's love & forgiveness, diminish the Holiness of God & consequences of our action

Accusation

1. Focus on our sin, not our savior
2. Obsess with past sin & its damage that cannot be undone
3. Making Christian think our current sufferings are punishments for past sins
4. Real Christians would not struggle/ think/ dwell on this kind of stuff

Temptation

1. Pleasure no Consequences
2. Rationalize sin as virtue
3. Other People does it too
4. Overstressing God's Mercy
5. I suffered, so I'm entitled to relax in other areas
6. Why does immoral people seems to have a great time
7. I am so good in this area, it is OK for me to slack off somewhere else

How do We fight?

(Eph. 4) 21 Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to ***be made new in the attitude of your minds***; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

- ▣ Know which schemes devil uses on you
- ▣ Do you know your self-talk?

Armor of God

- ▣ *belt of truth* buckled around your waist,
- ▣ *breastplate of righteousness*,
- ▣ with your *feet*, put on the *readiness* given by the *gospel of peace*.
- ▣ In all circumstances take up the *shield of faith*, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one;
- ▣ take the *helmet of salvation*,
- ▣ *sword of the Spirit*, which is the word of God.

Put On the Whole Armor

- ▣ “Put On”:
 - We need to be in consistent reading, meditating, engaging with the Truth
 - Cannot just pick it up and expect to fit perfectly

The Armor of God: Truth

belt of truth buckled around your waist

- ▣ Truth: The Grid/ Orientation
- ▣ Postmodern: No TRUTH
- ▣ Christian TRUTH: Christ through Scripture
- ▣ Truth: The Grid/ Orientation
 - Not theological debate; bible trivia
 - God's perspective of you
 - God's love of you
 - God's holiness and you

Experienced

The Armor of God: Defense

(Eph. 6) with the breastplate of righteousness in place, .

... 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith,
with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows
of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation,

(Isaiah 59:17) He (God) put on righteousness as his
breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head;

- ▣ Isaiah vs. Ephesians
- ▣ Our Spiritual protection comes from our faith in Christ – the source of my righteousness and salvation
- ▣ Our status/ Standing: Righteousness
- ▣ Our Destination: Salvation

Armor of God: Shoes

(Eph. 6:15) with your feet, put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

Having shoes around your feet that is wrapped and prepared by strings of the gospel of peace

(Isa. 52:7) How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace

- ▣ Gospel of Peace as motivation
- ▣ Gospel of Peace as the message itself

Armor of God: Sword

sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- ▣ Go on offense with the Holy Spirit
- ▣ He will guide and direct you
- ▣ Invite him to guide you

Schemes of the Devil: Lies in Self-Talk

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Lies of the Devil

- ▣ “I cannot do this”
Negative thinking;
Performance Anxiety;
- ▣ “I can do this”: Arrogance;
Pride; Lack of Wisdom
- ▣ Since I am like _____ or I
have done _____; I do
not deserve God’s Love
- ▣ "With man this is
impossible, but with God
all things are
possible." (Mark 10:27)
- ▣ Everything is permissible
for me-but not everything
is beneficial. (1 Cor. 6:12)
- ▣ And I am convinced that
nothing can ever separate
us from his love. (Rom
8:38)

- ▣ I'm not greedy, just thrift/ or love a deal
- ▣ I'm not gossiping, just concerned
- ▣ I'm not an alcoholic, just social/ or needs a break
- ▣ I'm not lazy, just know how to relax and have fun
- ▣ I am not overworking, just being responsible
- ▣ I'm not idolizing my child, just protecting them
- ▣ Material Thing
- ▣ Inappropriate communication
- ▣ Substance abuse
- ▣ Lack in discipline
- ▣ No Sabbath; Overly responsible
- ▣ Your children is your idol

- ▣ No one cares
- ▣ No one is Trust worthy
- ▣ If things are not done perfectly they are not worth doing
- ▣ If my love ones are not _____ it is my fault
- ▣ God cares, and shows His care via people
- ▣ People disappoints:
Adjust my expectation
- ▣ It is OK to accept my and other's imperfection
- ▣ I am not responsible for other people's feelings

Discussion Questions

- ▣ Do you believe in the Spiritual dimension beyond our physical/ material world? How does it affect the way you live?
- ▣ How do you see the schemes of the devil described at work around you?
 - All or Nothing
 - Lies in Self-Talk: Accusation & Temptation
- ▣ Is there particular lies you fall under/ that resonate with you?
- ▣ How are you putting on the armor of God in your everyday life?