

Text: Ephesians 6:10-20

Meaning: Paul shared how to win spiritual battles

Big Idea: We can win spiritual battles through Christ

Objective: I want the hearers to win spiritual battles

Theme: How? TACTICS

Opening the door for the devil:

OCCULT

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

SEXUAL IMMORALITY

How do we win the spiritual battles?

BE STRONG IN THE LORD! BE STRONG IN GOD!

Strong – speaks of finding your ability in God

His Might – speaks of His exceeding and exceptional ability

The first key to defeating the enemy is recognizing:

I'M UNABLE – BUT HE IS ABLE!

KNOW YOUR ENEMY – Satan and his demons

KNOW HIS STRATEGY – Deception, Division, Accusation,
Temptation, Intimidation, Isolation

KNOW WHAT WILL DEFEAT HIM – JESUS HAS WON THE WAR!

TACTICS FOR DEFEATING THE DEVIL

1. PUT ON THE ARMOR OF GOD

What is the armor?

PANOPLIA – GREEK, speaks of the totality of all the defensive and offensive tools used to defend yourself and defeat your enemy.

Defensive armor and an Offensive Weapon

ARMOR – CHRISTIAN CHARACTER, IDENTITY IN THE GOSPEL

So, instead of DEFENDING MYSELF, OR STRIVING IN MY OWN STRENGTH, I place my confidence in CHRIST FOR MY DEFENSE.

In the pieces of the armor we see how to defend against the strategic schemes of the enemy:

BELT OF TRUTH – protects us against DECEPTION, LIES

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS – protect against TEMPTATION

SHOES OF GOSPEL READINESS – protect us against DIVISION

SHIELD OF FAITH – protects against ACCUSATION, INTIMIDATION, ISOLATION

HELMET OF SALVATION – protects against all of it, knowing I AM LOVED, PROVIDED FOR, PROTECTED, JESUS IS ENOUGH

God's Truth – destroys lies

Christ's Righteousness – is my victory

God's mission – is my focus

Faith – gives me hope

Salvation – gives me joy

ULTIMATELY – THE ARMOR IS WHERE YOU PLACE YOUR TRUST

Luke 11:21-22

When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil.

Romans 13:14 – Put on THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

OFFENSIVE WEAPON – WORD OF GOD!

The offensive weapon He names specifically, because it is the one thing that dispels and defeats the devil! THE SWORD IS FOR DEFEATING THE ENEMY NOT DEBATING MY BROTHER

Remember this: **PROFESSION AND PROPHECY**

Profession – WHAT DO YOU SAY TO AND ABOUT YOURSELF?

Prophecy – WHAT DO YOU SPEAK OVER OTHERS?

2. PRAY IN THE SPIRIT

The weapons of our warfare are not physical they are spiritual. Prayer defeats the enemy.

PRAYING – participle, it acts as a verb and an adjective

Prayer – should describe our lives

IF A CHRISTIAN OUGHT TO BE KNOWN FOR ANYTHING WE OUGHT TO BE KNOWN FOR PRAYER!

PRAY AT HOME. PRAY AT CHURCH. PRAY OVER MEALS. PRAY WITH YOUR KIDS. PRAY WITH YOUR SPOUSE. PRAY AT WORK. PRAY AT SCHOOL.

WHEN THE NEED ARISES PRAYER OUGHT TO RISE! THAT'S HOW WE WIN THE BATTLE!

Praying in the Spirit – some take this to mean praying in tongues

1 Cor 14:14 – Paul talks about praying in tongues

Praying in tongues edifies or builds the faith of the one who prays – it is a special connection between you and God

Paul says – I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.

1 Cor 14 – HE GOES ON TO SAY HE WOULD RATHER SPEAK 5 WORDS CLEARLY FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHURCH THAN 10,000 WORDS IN TONGUES – that is the emphasis in this passage. He is talking about prayer for all the saints.

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT – I believe is more about PRAYING UNDER THE UNCTION AND LEADERSHIP OF THE SPIRIT

Romans 8 – we don't know how to pray – so the Spirit INTERCEDES WITH GROANINGS

THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL GUIDE YOUR PRAYER LIFE IF YOU WILL LET HIM – AND IT IS THIS KIND OF PRAYER LIFE THAT WINS THE VICTORY!

Supplication – pleading with God for an urgent need

Perseverance – persistent, consistent, enduring prayer

PERSISTENT PRAYER SEES THE VICTORY!

Isaiah 62:6-7

On your walls, O Jerusalem,

I have set watchmen;

all the day and all the night

they shall never be silent.

You who put the LORD in remembrance,

take no rest,

and give him no rest

until he establishes Jerusalem

and makes it a praise in the earth.

SPIRIT-FILLED, SPIRIT-LED INTERCESSION SEES THE VICTORY!

When do you pray? What do you pray for? Who do you pray for?

Why are you praying?

PRAYER IS NOT ABOUT MY WILL BEING DONE IN HEAVEN – IT IS ABOUT GOD'S WILL BEING DONE ON EARTH.

3. PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Paul finishes the section on spiritual warfare by asking the believers to pray for Him, not that he would be saved or rescued from his imprisonment, but that He would be given boldness to preach the gospel.

Pray says – pray that I would open my mouth and boldly proclaim the mystery of the gospel.

STUMBLING BLOCK TO JEWS-Conquering King not suffering servant
FOOLISHNESS TO GREEKS-One way to heaven

Satan blinds the minds of the unbelieving – he is the prince of the power of the air – the little “g” god of this world known as the domain of darkness

Oh what a dark world we live in! How do you push back the darkness? WITH THE LIGHT!

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.