

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

1. The Spiritual War

- a. **Luke 11:21-23** "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. ²²But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils. ²³"He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters.
2. All men are at war with the prince of this kingdom
 - a. **2 Corinthians 11:3** But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
 - b. **Galatians 5:17-21** For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. ¹⁹The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.
 - c. **1 Peter 2:11** Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.
 - d. **1 Peter 5:8** Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
 - i. Why is this so?
 - (1) **John 8:44** . . ., the devil,. He.. was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
 - (2) **John 10:10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
 - (a) **Romans 8:32** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?
3. How are we to fight this spiritual war?
 - a. **Ephesians 6:10-17** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the

devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore 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. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

i. We have no choice but to engage the enemy!

(1) **1 Corinthians 13:11** When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.

(a) **1 Tim. 4:8** For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

(i) **Hebrews 12:1** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

(b) **2 Tim. 3:16** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

(2) **1 John 2:13-14** I write to you, fathers because you have known him who is from the beginning. ¹⁴I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning

(a) I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. ..I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

(b) I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father

- (i) **1 John 4:4** You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.
- (3) **1 John 5:4** for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.
- (4) **Rev. 2:7** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.