

Spiritual Warfare

What Are We Fighting For Part 2 Prayer School Spring, 2022

Key Scripture:

Ephesians 6:10-13

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For 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. 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.” (ESV)

What Are We Fighting For?

Every war is fought with a purpose. As Christians, we must understand why we are waging war. Otherwise, we will not engage in the fight. We’ll find ourselves apathetic, resistant, and defeated!

Our reasons for in engaging in this warfare are:

1. To Live in the Presence of God

A. In this life

B. In eternity

We fight to please God and ultimately, to be rewarded by him in eternity. John and Paul strived for holiness to preserve their usefulness to God in this life and, therefore, the fulness of their reward in eternity.

We do not live in constant fear of the loss of our salvation. However, we should live our lives in the fear of God, Who freed us from sin’s power, and war against every temptation to be taken captive by it again.

2. The Glory of God

3. Salvation of Souls

2 Corinthians 5:18

“God...through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”

This battle we are in has to do with taking land, territory, for the kingdom of God.

We do not live our lives for ourselves only, but, like Jesus, we are waging war on behalf of those who are not yet saved. We are not called merely to settle for our own freedom, but to pursue the freedom of those still held captive.

Matthew 16:18

*“...on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
Those gates held us in, but they did not keep Jesus out!*

We are to besiege those gates that hold others captive to Satan’s power. They will not be able to withstand our assault on them when we come as the church of God, in His power, and on His mission! We come with the power of the Gospel and with all manner of prayer.

“The gospel is essentially the mobilization of God’s on-earth forces to invade an enemy’s camp, for the purpose of setting captives free.” (Joel Southerland, Executive Director of Evangelism at the North American Mission Board)

Paul was given this charge by the Lord –

Acts 26:17-18

*“I will rescue you **from** your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you **to** them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”*

Part of the armor we are to take up in this warfare mentioned in Ephesians 6 has to do with preaching the gospel to the lost.

Ephesians 6:15, 19 (NASB)

*“...and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.”
“...and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.”*

Mark 16:15-20

“And he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe:

‘In my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.’

“So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.”

That’s the Great Commission in the context of warfare!

Mark’s gospel account is all about action – going, doing. It’s shorter and more to the point. He gives us a clear picture that we are fighting enemies for the souls of those we’re to preach the gospel to.

We are equipped to do that! We are empowered to do that!