

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

It is important as Christians to understand our environment that we are in each day, to know that we are always in a battle, that of spiritual warfare. We all have experienced dark times in our lives; we wrestle with our flesh and blood in daily dealings that we face. This war is not of the flesh, but that of spiritual forces of evil for each of us as noted in **Ephesians 6:12** – *“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”*. We need to know that this spiritual warfare is to turn our hearts away from God and separate us from Him.

Our first step is to recognize this spiritual warfare and examine our heart, for this is a battle between good and evil. **1 Peter 5:8** – tells us *“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour”*. Ignoring that Satan exists will ruin us and set us up to fall victim to his ploys.

Evil can only enter and harm us if we let it. We need to have strong faith to overcome spiritual warfare. Our faith will help us to overcome the evil as stated in **Romans 1:16-17** – *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written: But the righteous one will live by faith”*.

Our mental space is the battlefield where the war rages and the Devil lies to us repeatedly, trying to convince us to believe in him and our flesh over that of God. Remember the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The devil will build up your pride and exploit your pain and suffering in getting you to question God’s authority and care.

So, be cautious and watch for unusual temptations, persistent doubts, and fears. But once you notice them, put on the armor of God as stated in **Ephesians 6:11** – *“Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes”*. Take to the Power of prayer when in the battle, prayers can prevent bad things from happening to people and change the whole outcome in your favor.

So be encouraged by knowing that Jesus is with us, he is silently helping us in our daily battles, whether we see it or not, he is there with us. And it is with that, him being with us, fighting with us in our battles, that we will overcome our enemies and that of spiritual warfare.

Amen.