The Navy Seals depicted in the TV series, ‘*Seal Team*,’ battled enemies that were both visible and unseen. These frogmen were engaged in an on-going succession of operations against America’s enemies. The soldiers carried scars from the fighting. Some of the scars were physical and visible, while some were less obvious, — the emotional and even spiritual scars from wounds they had suffered.

Make no mistake, wars, conflicts and struggles ***will*** leave their marks. This is true of the spiritual conflict which we face day by day. One emphasis from this *Seal Team* was the focus on the brotherhood, the comradery, the teamwork of this team of Navy Seals. The characters joke and kid one another. They get into heated arguments. But, they are there for one another. They have each other’s backs. This is important for Seals, and it is also vitally important for Christians.

We are in a struggle. We are wrestling against the devil and the demonic, Paul says. It is not singles competition. It is more than a tag-team match. It is a struggle between factions. It is “us” and “them.” It is a struggle between families. It is a blood feud, and it is serious business.

The focus of our message this morning is ALLIES. We are NOT alone in our struggle against “*the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against [the] evil, spiritual forces in the heavens* (Eph 6:12). W are a family, a team, a band of brothers and sisters engaged in cosmic conflict. We are caught-up in ‘World War NOW,’ and we are in it ***together***.

Where are we headed this morning as we consider our allies in the struggle? We will look at The Savior, The Spirit, The Ministering Spirits and the Saints. All of these are our allies in the Spirit-War, World War NOW.

To set the stage, I need to point out some grammatical truths. You knew it was coming, but you just didn’t know *WHEN*, right?

1. Throughout this passage, the pronouns are **plural**. “*so that you can stand*” in verse 11. Like “*our struggle*” verse 12. “*You*” in verse 13.

2. All of the verbs are **plural**. Paul is talking to the church, a corporate body made up of individuals. Ours is not just an individual battle it is a corporate conflict.

 The term “ally” has even been co-opted . I found this definition on the internet — “An ally is someone who stands up for, supports and encourages the people around them. It’s a term that gets used a lot in the LGBTQIA+ community. In this case it refers to someone who is heterosexual and/or cisgender, but who tries to make the world a better place for people who identify as LGBTQIA+” ( au.reachout.com).

**I. THE SAVIOR (10)**

 The Lord is our ally par excellence.

 Dt 20.4 — *For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory*.

 Heb 2.17-8 — *Therefore, he had to be like his brothers and sisters in every way, so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in matters pertaining to God, to make atonement for the sins of the people. 18 For since he himself has suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted*.

 Rom 8.34 — *Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us*.

 Heb 13.5-6/Deut 31.6 — *Keep your life free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have, for he himself has said, I will never leave you or abandon you. 6 Therefore, we may boldly say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me*?’

**II. THE SPIRIT (18)**

 A. Endow

 Romans 12:4-8 — *Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, 5 in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. 6 According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one’s faith; 7 if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching; 8 if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness*.

 B. Enable

 Acts 4:29-31 — *And now, Lord, consider their threats, and grant that your servants may speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand for healing, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31 When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God boldly*

 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*. Acts 1:8

 C. Instruct

 John 16:13 — *When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come*.

**III. The ministering spirits** (Angels)

 Heb 1.14 — *Are they not all* ***ministering spirits*** *sent out to* ***serve*** *those who are going to inherit salvation*?

Angels are spiritual beings created by God, possessing intelligence, will, and the ability to worship. They are often depicted as having a majestic and awe-inspiring presence.  [Hebrews 1:14](https://biblehub.com/hebrews/1-14.htm) describes angels as "*ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation*." This indicates their primary role as servants of God, tasked with carrying out His divine purposes.

Defend -- Ps 91.11 — *For he will give his angels orders concerning you,
to protect you in all your ways*.

Free — Ac 12.7-10 — *When Herod was about to bring him out for trial, that very night Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while the sentries in front of the door guarded the prison. 7 Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. Striking Peter on the side, he woke him up and said, “Quick, get up! ” And the chains fell off his wrists.*

Acts 27:23-25 — *For last night an angel of the God I belong to and serve stood by me 24 and said, ‘Don’t be afraid, Paul. It is necessary for you to appear before Caesar. And indeed, God has graciously given you all those who are sailing with you.’ 25 So take courage, men, because I believe God that it will be just the way it was told to me*.

**IV. The saints (10)**

 1. Encourage **Support**

 *And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, 25 not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching*. Hebrews 10:24-25

 2. Pray **Supplication**

 1 John 5:16 — *If anyone sees a fellow believer committing a sin that doesn’t lead to death, he should ask, and God will give life to him ​— ​to those who commit sin that doesn’t lead to death. There is sin that leads to death. I am not saying he should pray about that.*

 James 5:13-16 — *Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone cheerful? He should sing praises. 14 Is anyone among you*  *sick? He should call for the elders of the church, and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 The pray er of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up; if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.*

3. Bear burdens **Share**

 Galatians 6:2 — *Carry one another’s burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ*.

  Acts 2.44-45 — *Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. 45 They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sin cere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

‘*The Wrestler*’ is s a 2008 movie starring Mikey Roarke as an aging professional wrestler. This character struggles with fame, financial hardship, failing health, family challenges in the setting of pro wrestling. This is a flick about “ake-fay restling-way.” What **we** are talking about is **FACTUAL, not FICTIONAL**, not “ake-fay.” Our struggle is ***real*** and ***personal***, but it is also **corporate**

We are in this ***together***. Paul says, “*Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others*” (Philippians 2:4).

The Roman battle formation called “**The Tortoise**” is instructive for us ...

We are in a cosmic spiritual struggle with supernatural forces. We are **not *alone***. It is not “every man for himself.” It is “we” and “us,” not “me” and “my.” Jesus, our Savior, His Spirit, angels and our brothers and sisters are our allies in this struggle. We are in it TOGETHER! We are in-it-to-win-it. We must not quit! We will fight on for the glory of the Lord and the good of those around us!