

BREAK EVERY CHAIN THE ART OF SPRITIUAL WARFARE

EPHESIANS 6:10-13

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the [wiles of the devil]. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

READ: LUKE 4:1-13

Questions For Consideration

What is Spiritual Warfare?

Why is Spiritual Warfare Important?

How is Spiritual Warfare Manifested?

Why our Mind is important Spiritual Warfare?

Why is Prayer and Fasting needed for Spiritual Warfare?

Why we need the Armor of God?

Why do we need to be set free in Jesus?

Why do we need to live free in Jesus?

There is a great battle being waged in the **spiritual world. *It is a personal battle within be-*<u>tween the flesh and the spirit</u>. It is a social battle with the evil forces of the world. It is a spiritual battle with evil supernatural powers.

In Old Testament times a trumpet was used to summons God's people to battle. <u>Today, a spiritual</u> <u>summons is sounding throughout the nations of the world. It is a summons to the invisible war</u>.



What is Spiritual Warfare?

Ephesians 6:12

12 For our struggle (FIGHT) 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.

Spiritual warfare has nothing to do with physical battles or physical weaponry. Spiritual warfare is the inward and outward battle we face against the enemies of God. These enemies include Satan, his minions—demons and fallen angels—and sin, which can be lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, or pride of life.

Once we become Christians, we SHOULD become more aware of the battle between the spirit (our internal spirit) and the flesh (the inward sinful nature we are born with). In this battle, we must learn to utilize the *Holy Spirit within us to help us fight*.

The battles we face are <u>not fought with the power of man</u>, <u>but with the power of God</u>. To fight these battles correctly, <u>we must be a people of prayer and a people of the Bible</u>. All soldiers need a good leader and specific battle plans to be successful. The Holy Spirit is our link to the Commander and Chief of the Universe, our Heavenly Father.

In His Word, we are given the plans for any battle we might face. As we rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us in our prayer lives and to teach us through our personal and intentional study of the Bible, we develop into mature Christian warriors, ready to promote or defend the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As believers we must stand up, armor up, and be prepared to face the enemy unafraid and unashamed!

Why is Spiritual Warfare Important? Ellen G. White

Satan uses men and women as agents to solicit to sin and make it at-

tractive. These agents he faithfully educates to so disguise sin that he can more successfully destroy souls and rob Christ of His glory. <u>Satan is the great enemy of God and man. He transforms himself through his agents into angels of light. In the Scriptures he is called a destroyer, an accuser of the brethren, a deceiver, a liar, a tormentor, and a murderer.</u>

Satan has many in his employ, but is most successful when he can use professed Christians for his satanic work. And the greater their influence, the more elevated their position, the more knowledge they profess of God and His service, the more successfully can he use them. Whoever entices to sin is his agent.

From Daily Disciples

How do we know that there is a spiritual realm? If we cannot see it, should we believe in it? Many believers and unbelievers today do not want to "deal" with a world we cannot see when the world we do see is hard enough to "deal" with. <u>Before we can</u> <u>discuss the spiritual battle, we have to believe in the spiritual realm.</u>

We have a tendency to act like a two-year-old child who closes her eyes and places a blanket over her head, really believing that no one can see her because she cannot see them. Just because we cannot see the spiritual realm does not mean it is not there.

Keith Green, a Christian song writer, wrote, "I **[Satan] used to have to sneak around. But now they just open their doors**. No one's looking for my tricks because no one believes in me any more." However, if we choose to ignore or not believe in the spiru66al realm, we will find ourselves confused, frustrated, and quenching the peace that God has promised to each of us. The best defense is a strong offense. Just educating ourselves about the spiritual realm is half the fight and God gives us everything else we need to be victorious with the other half.

Spiritual warfare in the Bible

READ

Mark 3:15

"And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:"

Matthew 12:43–45 (Unclean Spirit)

1 John 4:1–3 (Test every Spirit)

Acts 19:13–16 (Cast out Spirit)

Mark 5:1-20 (Jesus casts out spirit)

Acts 16:16-18