

The Epistle To The
EPHESIANS
SPIRITUAL WARFARE (PART 2)
Ephesians 6:11-12

Ephesians 6:10-18

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

The Story So Far

Ephesians 6:10

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

The Battle

We Are In An Army

- The church is the army of God
- We are fellow soldiers
- Jesus Christ is the captain (of our salvation)

We Have An Enemy

- *the devil* (Accuser) ***Ephesians 6:11***
- The devil is constantly on the attack, accusing the brethren day and night
- The devil is constantly casting doubt on our faith, our character, our relationship with God
- *the fiery darts of the wicked one* ***Ephesians 6:16***

We Have A Victor

- Jesus Christ has defeated and the Devil completely
- At the cross: Jesus put an end to sin (the devil is the author of sin) ***1 John 3:8***
- At the resurrection: Jesus put an end to death (devil had the power of death) ***Hebrews 2:14***

We Have The Victory

The Christian shares in this victory with Jesus Christ

- The believer is positioned with Jesus Christ in heavenly places
- Far above all principality and power ***Ephesians 1:19b-21***

1 Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Brethren

Ephesians 6:10

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

His Strength

As Christians, we are in a battle – it is unavoidable

- In light of the battle we are in
- We need strength to stand and fight

That strength comes from the Lord, “*be strong in the Lord*”

- We need to be operating in His strength (and not our own)
- We need to be “in Christ” (both saved and in fellowship)

His Might

Question: Where does our strength come from?
Answer: "the power of His might"

Might =	Innate strength	Muscles of a strong man
Power =	The employment of the strength	Lifting the weights

The Lord has innate strength – a limitless resource

Question: How do we tap into the Lord's power?
Answer: The Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;

- We need to be regularly filled with the Holy Spirit

As the Lord's army

- We operate from a position of strength
- We operate from a position of victory

The Wiles Of The Devil

Question: Where do we go from this position of strength?
Answer: We put on the armour of God
Then we are ready to stand "against the wiles of the enemy"

Ephesians 6:11-12

Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

The Nature of Our Enemy

Satan's Soldiers

we do not wrestle against flesh and blood

Our battle is

- Not against human agents
- But against spiritual agents

we are to stand against the wiles of the devil

Our enemy is the devil

- But he doesn't operate alone
- He has an army to fight with and for him

These soldiers of Satan are called:

- "principalities...powers...rulers...spiritual hosts of wickedness"
- One third of the celestial beings fell with devil **Revelation 12:4**
- They wrestle not only with believers, but with angels also **Daniel 10:13-20**

It is very important that we identify our enemy

The enemy will employ the use of

- People (both saved and unsaved) to fulfil his purposes
- Circumstances (incidental or intentional) to fulfil his purposes

If we don't recognise this, we will do battle with people or situations

- Which are symptoms or pawns of the devil
- Instead of doing battle with the devil who is the source and real cause

The Two Faces Of Satan

The enemy has two faces, he comes as

1. Dragon
2. Serpent

Dragon

- Open attack
- You know there is conflict
- The force feels overwhelming
- E.g. Persecution

Serpent

- Disguised attack (wolf in sheep's clothing)
- The attack is subtle, unseen, seductive
- It is not easily discerned
- E.g. false teaching

How To Identifying The Enemy

Question: How do we identify the attacks of the enemy?

Answer 1: Look At The Conflict

Answer 2: Look At Christ

Look At The Conflict

Question: How do we identify the attacks of the enemy?

Answer: Look At The Conflict

The devil opposes all

- Godly doctrine
- Godly conduct
- Marriage, family, authority

If we are facing something that:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Opposes or brings into doubt Biblical doctrine | We can be sure the devil is at the root of it |
| • Challenges or undermines our Christian conduct | We can be sure the devil is at the root of it |
| • Damages or undermines family or authority | We can be sure the devil is at the root of it |

Illustration

There can be times we are facing conflict in life

- You are treating it as a problem person or another situation at work

Then you realise:

- This thing is undermining my faith in God's word
- This thing is leading me into ungodly conduct or thought

The symptom should help you identify the source

The effect it is having on you, should highlight it being a spiritual battle

Look At Christ

Question: How do we identify the attacks of the enemy?

Answer: Look At Christ

Maintain a close walk with Jesus Christ

- Confess your sin frequently
- Read you Bible regularly
- Pray continually
- Ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit repeatedly

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

We need to be "in the Lord" to be alert to the enemy

- The more dominate the Lord is in your day
- The more likely you will discern the spiritual battle

Be On Guard

We should never underestimate the power of the devil

- You do not play with dragons or serpents
- Both are deadly

Jesus describes the devil thus:

John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

If someone came to steal, kill and destroy:

Question: Would you drop your guard?

Answer: No!

Question: Would you be sure to be equipped and ready?

Answer: Yes!

Likewise, we as Christians:

- Must always be on our guard
- Must be equipped and ready

The Schemes Of The Devil

The Devils Modus Operandi

The Schemer

2 Corinthians 2:11

...Satan should not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

The devil schemes, strategises and tricks continuously

- He is a master at it

The number one tool in his arsenal is lies

- At the root of every wile and scheme is a lie
- He is a master at deception

The Liar

In the beginning...

Genesis 3:13

And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

At the end...

Revelation 12:9

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

John 8:31-32; 43-45

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.

Every device that the enemy employs begins with a lie

- He is seeking to get an advantage in your life
- The moment you fall for one of his lies, he has that advantage

Eight Of The Devil's Lies

Question: What are his biggest lies?

Lie 1: "I Don't Exist"

The devil deceives the world and the church that he doesn't exist

- If he can convince people he isn't real
- He won't be opposed

He makes himself a joke

- Popular image of red tail and pitchfork
- So incredible in appearance that he is easily discredited

In a nationwide survey among professing Christians in America

- 4/10 Christians (40%) strongly agreed that Satan "is not a living being but is a symbol of evil"
- I.e. He is not a fallen angel seeking to control the world and you

Question: How do we know the devil is real?

Answer: The Bible says he is real

The gospel presents him as real, combating Jesus in wilderness:

Old Testament

- In **Genesis**, he walks and talk in the garden of Eden and deceives Eve
- In **Job**, he presents himself before God and causes devastation in the life of Job

New Testament

- In **Matthew 4**, he appears to Jesus in the wilderness to tempt Him
- In **Luke, 22**, he enters Judas (possession)
- In **John 8**, Jesus speaks of the devil as a real person

Question To the deceived:

Question: If there is good and evil in the world

- Who is the source of good?
- Who is the source of the evil?

Lie 2: "You Can't Trust The Word Of God"

The word of God is the sword of the Spirit

- The only offensive part of the armour of God
- If this sword can be blunted in man's eye
- Made to be unreliable in man's eye
- Then the devil has won a major advantage

This lie began in the Garden of Eden

Genesis 3:1-4

First He questions the word of God, "Did God really say...?"

Last He contradicts and debunks the word of God, "You will not certainly die,"

We hear that same lie echoed in the mouth of society repeatedly

- You can't believe the word of God
- It's ridiculous, unreliable

The devil was

- Subtle in the questioning God's word
- Subtle in planting the seeds of doubt in God's authority

The devil plants the same seeds / asks the same questions today:

Question: Does it really make a difference if I have sex before marriage?

Question: Does it really matter if get drunk?

Question: Does it really matter if I look at porn?

It does

The word of God is dangerous to the devil

- He wants to get you away as far from it as possible

- He starts by getting you to question the word of God
- Then he gets you to start operating on your own understanding
- Do what you feel is right
- Follow your heart, not the Bible

Once you have abandoned the word of God

- The devil has you, as he had Eve
- You are caught in his snare
- There are consequences for leaving Scripture
- You cut yourself off from God

Lie 3: “God is Withholding Something Good”

The root of this lie is also found in the garden of Eden

Genesis 3:5

For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

God is trying to keep something from you which is good

- This is an attack on the character of God – his love
- If God really loved you, He would have given you that
- If God withhold something good from you
- It's because it's not good for you (that's the point)

Psalm 84:11

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.

Trust in the character of God

- Not the lie of Satan
- The cross is the proof that He cares, that He loves you

He has given every spiritual blessing – he gives good gifts

- This lie will cause you to take illicit steps to take something not good
- Then the devil will come with another lie called condemnation

Lie 4: “I’m On Your Side”

This is similar to the third lie

- The devil told Eve it would be to her advantage if she ate the fruit, “you will be like God.”
- I.e. The devil is the good guy, I’m on your side
- You can’t trust God

The devil is not the good guy

- He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth,
- He was trying to kill Adam and Eve

Abaddon / Apollyon – the destroyer

- This is his objective – don’t kid yourself into believing otherwise
- He is not on your side
- He will come along side you, only to steer you on to the road to hell / destruction

Lie 5: “You’ve Gone Too Far”

- How many have felt guilty for their sin?
- How many have felt, there is no way back to God from this?
- How many have felt, there’s no fixing this?
- How many have felt, I might as well give up?!

That’s the devil’s lie, right there!

- This is probably why Judas hanged himself
- Would Jesus have forgiven Judas, if he came to him with a contrite heart? Yes

This lie leads to suicide

- The devil will isolate you – I can't go to church like this
- The devil will condemn you – pile on the guilt and shame
- Then he'll persuade you there is no hope
- You might as well give up, end it all – just do it!

Mark 3:28

Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter;

Not some – all

- Whatever you've done can be forgiven
- That is Jesus promise to you

Lie 6: "I can possess, I can control you"

A pervasive lie among Christians

- Scripture does speak of demonic possession
- It's real

Illustration

12 year old girl (brought to Steve Carr by mother)

- Young girl sat on couch
- Questioned
- Eyes rolled backwards
- Head fell backwards
- Spoke with voice of man
- You have no power over me
- You are not in control

In the name of Jesus come out of her now

- Girl sat up and shook herself
- What just happened to me?
- She had taken LSD
- Played around with people who were into the occult

Question: Can Christian be possessed?

Answer: Absolutely not

The church helps propagate this lie

- Many groups believe this

Question: Why do Christians believe this?

Answer: I have spirit of anger, lust or jealousy
I need you to cast it out of me

Step 1 - Are you truly a born-again Christian?

Step 2 - Works of the flesh not demons

Paul give a list of the works of the flesh:

Galatians 5:19-21

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like

They need to be put off, not cast out

People are looking for an easy excuse why they are struggling with their sin, their flesh

- They want a quick easily solution
- Crucifixion is a long, slow, painful process

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

- Darkness cannot overcome light
- Light has no communion with darkness
- What agreement has the temple of God with idols
- God dwells in us not demons
- Satan cannot live in us, if the Lord Jesus Christ lives there

Lie 7: “No Suffers Like You”

Life is tough

- The Christian walk can be tougher still

It is easy to think:

- No one suffers like I suffer
- No one struggles like I struggle
- I’m the only one with that sin, with that battle, with that issue

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

Confessing your sin to one another

- Brings freedom
- You are not alone
- Everything that goes through your head, goes through mine
- Everything you struggle with, I struggle with
- No battle is unique to you

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

What you struggle with

- Everyone struggles with
- There is a way of escape in Christ
- It starts by sharing with others

Don’t say, you don’t understand my issue

- What do you mean I don’t understand your issue? I have your issue!
- You are not alone!

Lie 8: “You Are Not Good Enough To Get To Heaven”

The devil whispers in our ear:

- You have not done enough to get into heaven
- You haven’t reached the mark
- You haven’t walked as well as you should

This lie is designed to get us to fight sin in our own strength

We are to operate in the strength of the Lord

- In the power supplied by the Holy Spirit
- If the devil can get us striving in our own strength
- He has us disconnected for the source of strength and victory
- Then he can condemn us and get us knotted up

This lie is an attempt to make Christianity like all the other religion of the world

- Islam - Five pillars (no assurance of heaven even)
- Buddhism - Self improvement eight fold path to Nirvana
- Hinduisms - Endless cycle of birth, death, reincarnation – reach a higher caste

Salvation and the promise of heaven

- Is a gift of God
- Not the product of our labour and hard work
- No matter how hard we try we will never reach the standard
- That's why Jesus met the standard for us

When we trust in Jesus and the work of the cross

- He gives us the righteousness that we need to be made acceptable to God
- We have entrance into the presence of God through Jesus

Indeed, all our victories over the wiles of the devil are rooted in the cross

- Embrace the cross
- Embrace the work of Jesus
- And you will be safe