

Series: Wealth and Walk of a Christian
“Spiritual Warfare: The Adversary” # 24
Eph. 6:10-12
1-28-18 Sun AM

Sooner or later every believer discovers that the Christian life is a battleground, not a playground, and that he faces an enemy who is much stronger than he is — apart from the Lord.

Paul uses the military to illustrate the believer’s conflict with Satan is reasonable. He himself was chained to a Roman soldier (Eph. 6:20), and his readers were certainly familiar with soldiers and the equipment they used.

As Christians, we face three enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil (Eph. 2:1-3).

- “The world” refers to the system around us that is opposed to God, that caters to “the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.” “Society apart from God” is a simple, but accurate, definition of “the world.”
- “The flesh” is the old nature that we inherited from Adam, a nature that is opposed to God and can do nothing spiritual to please God.

By His death and resurrection, Christ overcame the world, the flesh, and the devil. In other words, as believers, we do not fight *for* victory — we fight *from* victory! The Spirit of God enables us, by faith, to appropriate Christ’s victory for ourselves.

In these closing verses of the letter, Paul discussed 3 aspects of this spiritual war- The adversary, the armor, and the activity, so we can walk in victory.

I. The Adversary (Eph. 6:10-12).

The intelligence corps plays a vital part in warfare because it enables the officers to know and understand the enemy. Unless we know who the enemy is, where he is, and what he can do, we have a difficult time defeating him.

1. The leader: the devil.

(1).The enemy has many different names.

- *Devil* means “accuser,” because he accuses God’s people day and night before the throne of God (Rev. 12:7-11).
- *Satan* means “adversary,” because he is the enemy of God. He is also called the tempter, and the murderer and the liar. He is compared to a lion, a serpent and an angel of light, as well as “the god of this age” (2 Cor. 4:4).

(2).Where did he come from, this spirit-creature that seeks to oppose God and defeat His work?

Many students believe that in the original Creation, he was “Lucifer, son of the morning” (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-17) and that he was cast down because of his pride and his desire to occupy God’s throne.

Since he is a created being, and not eternal, he is limited in his knowledge and activity. Unlike God, Satan is not all-knowing, all-powerful, or everywhere-present.

Then how does he accomplish so much in so many different parts of the world? The answer is in his organized helpers.

2. Satan’s Agents.

Paul called them “principalities . . . powers . . . rulers . . . spiritual wickedness in high places” (Eph. 6:12).

Charles B. Williams translates it: “For our contest is not with human foes alone, but with the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark world; that is, with the spirit forces of evil challenging us in the heavenly contest.”

This suggests a definite army of demonic creatures that assist Satan in his attacks against believers. The Apostle John hinted that one third of the angels fell with Satan when he rebelled against God (Rev. 12:4), and Daniel wrote that Satan’s angels struggle against God’s angels for control of the affairs of nations (Dan.10:13-20).

A spiritual battle is going on in this world, and in the sphere of “the heavenlies,” and you and I are a part of this battle. Knowing this makes “walking in victory” a vitally important thing to us.

The important point is that our battle is not against human beings. It is against spiritual powers. We are wasting our time fighting people when we ought to be fighting the devil who seeks to control people and make them oppose the work of God.

3. Satan’s Abilities.

The admonitions Paul gave indicate that Satan is a strong enemy (Eph. 6:10-12), and that we need the power of God to be able to stand against him.

Never underestimate the power of the devil. He is compared to a lion and a dragon for a reason!

The Book of Job tells what his power can do to a man’s body, home, wealth, and friends if God allows him. Jesus calls Satan a thief who comes “to steal, and to kill, and to destroy” (John 10:10).

Not only is Satan strong, but he is also wise and subtle, and we fight against “the wiles of the devil.” [v. 11b]. *Wiles* means “cunning, crafty arts”

The Christian cannot afford to be “ignorant of his devices” (2 Cor. 2:11).

Behind cunning and crafty men is the arch-deceiver, Satan. He masquerades as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14) and seeks to blind men’s minds to the truth of God’s Word.

The fact that Paul uses the word “wrestle” [v. 12], indicates that we are involved in a hand-to-hand battle and are not mere spectators at a game.

Con: Satan wants to use our external enemy, the world, and our internal enemy, the flesh, to defeat us. His weapons and battle plans are powerful.

We must understand the enemy and his scheming’s if we are to live a life of victory!

Next week we will see the armor God has given us in this spiritual war!