What Is Spiritual Warfare?: "Who Are My Allies And What Are Our Weapons?" Ephesians 6:10-20

"As a Christian you may not like conflict, but conflict likes you. If you are going to live for the glory of Christ, conflict will hunt you down."

Our Battle Cry: I will stand by God's strength, wearing God's armor, fighting God's warfare, for God's glory.

• God's Armor:

- The Belt of Truth: God (my ally) has given me His Word (my weapon), which is truth, to fight in this conflict. The Holy Spirit (my ally) has been given to me so that I can walk by the truth, memorize the truth, understand the truth, and believe the truth, so that I can be successful in this warfare. God has given me my brothers and sisters (my allies) in Christ to preach to me, teach me, and encourage me by the truth of God's Word.
 - "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth" (John 17:17). "Every word of God proves true; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him" (Proverbs 30:5). "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ....Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another" (Ephesians 4:15,25; cf. Matthew 4:1-11).
- The Breastplate of Righteousness: Striving for holiness is a battle of the heart. Holiness is a battle for the heart and mind. We are striving to fight for a holy, joyful life that gives glory to God. Striving for holiness in the midst of difficulty/conflict glorifies God. The power of Christ and the joy of Christ is seen in the proper handling of sin, namely, putting it to death.
 - "We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5). "In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:6-7). "Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded....but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct...." (1 Peter 1:13a,15).
- The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace: Satan hates the preaching and the sharing of the gospel. We must not be satisfied until everyone has heard the gospel. We will not allow Satan to distract us or intimidate us from sharing the gospel. The gospel is the only way to have peace with God.
 - "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). "and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation" (Romans 15:20). "For everyone who calls upon the name of the LORD will be saved" (Romans 10:13).
- Striving to Understand God's Love: "Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the LORD." (Isaiah 55:6-8)

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■ God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love (Exodus 34:6). God is the Father of all mercy, and the God of all comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3). Jesus saves us to the uttermost and intercedes for us (Hebrews 7:25). Jesus will never cast us out (John 6:37). Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses (Hebrews 4:15). God is rich in mercy and loves us with a great love (Ephesians 2:4). Jesus is gentle and lowly in heart (Matthew 11:29).

Announcements:

- ★CLEANING MINISTRY MEETING: If you are interested in or have any questions about joining the Cleaning Ministry, please plan on staying for a short meeting TONIGHT immediately following the worship service.
- ★FRIENDSGIVING: Our annual Friendsgiving Dinner will be THIS Wednesday, November 23rd, at 6:30pm, here at the church! There is a sign-up list in the back, please sign-up to bring something to this dinner and we invite EVERYONE to join us for this! Also, please feel free to bring games to play after we are finished eating!
- **★**We will NOT be having service this Thursday, November 24th.
- ★CHURCH DAY OF PRAYER: Our monthly day of prayer as a church body will be NEXT Wednesday, November 30th. We ask that you set aside specific time on this day to pray for the leaders and the ministries of our church body.
- ★CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MEETING: If you currently serve in the Children's Ministry, please mark your calendars and plan on staying for a ministry meeting in 3 weeks, Sunday, December 11th, immediately following the worship service.