What Is Spiritual Warfare?: "Who Are My Allies And What Are Our Weapons?" (Part 2) Ephesians 6:10-20

"Faith is the leading grace in all our spiritual warfare and conflict; but all along while we live, it hath faithful company that adheres to it, and helps it. Love works, and hope works, and all other graces, — self-denial, readiness to the cross, — they all work and help faith. But when we come to die, faith is left alone. Now, try what faith will do." (John Owen)

- Our Battle Cry: I will stand by God's strength, wearing God's armor, fighting God's warfare, for God's glory.
 - Spiritual Warfare Perspective Statements:
 - 1) Put on/take up the whole armor of God (v.11,13).
- 4) Praying at all times....(v.18).

2) Having done all, to stand firm (v.13).

5) Keep alert with all perseverance (v.18).

3) In all circumstances....(v.16).

• God's Armor:

- The Shield of Faith: Faith in God is the solution for every issue we will have in life. "So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead" (James 2:17). The root of all psychological struggle and spiritual sickness is preoccupation with self, not faith in God. The greatest act in spiritual warfare is continual faith. "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1; cf. Romans 4:19-21).
 - The Flaming Darts of the Evil One: Satan wants us to give up on God. He wants us to be passive about our faith. He wants us to be religious, not in love. He wants us to believe the world, our flesh, and his lies.
- The Helmet of Salvation: There is a constant battle for the mind. Where our thoughts go, our actions are sure to follow. *Doubt* and *discouragement* are the mindsets that our enemies fight for. Sin, lack of health, financial problems, busyness, embarrassment, others' treatment of us, unanswered prayers, cultural mindsets, and compromise can lead to *doubt* and *discouragement* (1 Peter 5:8-10).
- The Sword of the Spirit: When we obey God's Word, no matter what, we are gaining ground in the battles of Spiritual Warfare. The Sword of the Spirit divides; it divides us from the world, it divides us from our sin, it divides us from unbelievers, it divides us from our old way of living (Hebrews 4:12-13). It is also the power of God to save and to keep on saving (Romans 10:17).
- Praying in the Spirit: We need HELP at all times. There is never a time that we don't need help. We can do nothing apart from Him (John 15:5). He is the one who holds all things together (Colossians 1:17). The life of every living thing is in His hand (Job 12:10). Satan, our flesh, and this world's systems bow before His sovereignty (Ephesians 1:11).
 - Spiritual needs are always more urgent than physical needs. Our prayer lives should represent this. "Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God." (Colossians 4:12; cf. Colossians 1:28-29)

"Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body, that is, the church....Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching

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Worship: Bless The Lord, O My Soul (Psalm 103) — Sovereign Grace Music The Lord Almighty Reigns (Psalm 93) — Sovereign Grace Music Speak, O Lord — The Gettys Closing Song: What A Friend We Have In Jesus — Various Artists

everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me" (Colossians 1:24,28-29). "For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead" (2 Corinthians 1:8-9). "So receive him (Epaphroditus) in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me" (Philippians 2:29-30; cf. 2 Corinthians 11:23-29).

→ Prayer Points for Day of Prayer (Wednesday, November 30th):

- Pray that you and your family will be committed to studying, doing, and teaching the Word of God.
- Pray that you be willing to speak God's Word to the people in your life and that God will supply opportunities to do so.
- Pray that the members of this church body will be full of zeal to serve Christ and bear witness to Him in our community.
- Pray that God will grant many people in our city and in our nation the saving knowledge of Christ.
- Pray that we will grow in our love for the Lord and our love for one another each day.

Announcements:

- ★CHURCH DAY OF PRAYER: Our monthly day of prayer as a church body will be THIS 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. Please see the specific prayer points above.
- ★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 2 weeks, Sunday, December 11th, immediately following the worship service.
- ★FELLOWSHIP DINNER: We are having a Fellowship Dinner NEXT Sunday, December 4th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the back table, please sign-up to bring something to the dinner. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!
- ★COMMUNION: We will be partaking of and celebrating communion together as a church body NEXT Sunday, December 4th.