

“Spiritual Warfare - Part II”

Ephesians 6:10-14a

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Teaching Aim: To explore the topic of spiritual warfare in more detail helping Christians to understand how they can have victory over the attacks of the enemy. To realize, every time you take a step forward spiritually, Satan and his demons will attack in order to discourage you with the hope that you will turn away from the Lord. To understand we are in this battle for life and to recognize Jesus will give us victory on earth when we keep our focus on Him.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: We do not wrestle against flesh and blood (Eph. 6:10-12)

1. Why is it so important for the Christian walk to *“be strong in the Lord and the power of His might” (vs. 10)*? Satan and his demons are the great enemy of God’s people, how should we respond to their sometimes subtle, at other times vicious attacks? **(See Zech. 3:1-3; Jude 8-9; Jam. 4:7-8; 1 Pet. 5:8-9)** What mistake do many Christians make in dealing with the devil according to **Jude 8-9**?

2. Why do you think Paul chose the Roman soldier in full battle gear to illustrate the Christian’s defense against the attacks of the enemy **(vs. 11)**? How does one *“stand against the wiles of the devil”*? **(See Commentaries and 2 Cor. 11:3)**

3. What generally causes two people to wrestle together in hand to hand combat **(vs. 12)**? Why is this a good illustration for spiritual warfare? If we are not ultimately wrestling against *“flesh and blood” (people)*, who are we wrestling against?

4. What do the titles *“principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age; and spiritual hosts of wickedness”* represent? (See Commentaries) Why is it so important for Christians to put on the whole armor of God?

Part II: After experiencing a mountaintop experience, expect to arrive in the valley soon thereafter (1 Kings 18 & 19)

1. What legendary battle did Elijah engage in in **1 Kin. 18:20-40**? What were the numerical odds against Elijah (See **1 Kin. 18:19**)? Summarize the details of the battle. Who won and how did the people of Israel respond? (See **1 Kin. 18:36-40**)
2. What second great spiritual victory did Elijah have in **1 Kin. 18:41-46**? How was this victory of cosmic proportions?
3. According to **1 Kin. 19:1**, who learned about the battle on Mount Carmel after the fact? What was her response (**vs. 2**)? How did Elijah react to this threat (**vs. 3-4**)? Do you find yourself quick to forget spiritual victories that God has given you in the past?
4. Has life ever gotten so bad that you wished you were dead (**vs. 4**)? When? Why did you feel that way? How many Old Testament legends can you think of who wished they were dead? (See **Ex. 32:32; Jon. 4:3,8; Job 6:8-9**) *NOTE: It is one thing to be depressed and wish you were dead, that's common, but quite another thing to begin to plan that death. If you are depressed and contemplating suicide, please seek the help of one of our pastors or elders.*
5. What signs of depression are revealed in **verse 5**? Notice God brings an angel to touch Elijah in his time of need. What is the alternate meaning for both the Hebrew & Greek word "angel?" Has God ever sent "a messenger" of encouragement to you in time of need? Who was it and how did they strengthen you?
6. This messenger brought Elijah food and water to drink (**vs. 6**). How can God's Word (*the Bible*) feed us in our times of need? Why is having a daily quiet time with the Lord so important to the spiritual health of each and every Christian? How would you rate your daily quiet time on a scale of 1-10? What are some practical steps you can take to improve your time with God and His Word?

7. Israel was supernaturally fed by God in the desert for 40 years by God's miraculous provision of manna. What did God do in **verses 6-8** to give Elijah strength? How long did this special food strengthen him for? Where did Elijah travel too (**vs. 8**)? Did God command him to go there or did he go on his own? What special mountain was the Law of God given on? What are the two names for this mountain (**See vs. 8; Ex. 19:18**)

Part III: Elijah meets God on Mount Horeb, is challenged, rejuvenated and sent back to finish the work that God had called him to do (1 Kings 19:9-14; Eph. 6:13-14)

1. Elijah needed some time alone with God (**vs. 9**). Have you ever needed time alone with God to refill your spiritual cup? What happens when your cup runs dry? Where did you go to be refilled and how did God do it? What happens if we don't take time away from the hectic activities of life to spend time fellowshiping with God?

2. How did the LORD respond to Elijah (**vs. 9**)? Why would the LORD make a comment like that? What was Elijah's response? What did he wrongly assume? Have you ever assumed something to be true that actually wasn't? How can assuming hurt our relationship with others and our Christian testimony?

3. In **verses 11-12**, God revealed Himself to Elijah on Mount Horeb (also called Mount Sinai)? Who else went through a similar experience on that very same mountain? (**See Ex. 33:12-34:8**) What is the importance of the presence of a strong wind, an earthquake and a fire? Is there a relationship between the three phenomena and the giving of the Law? (**See Ex. 19:16-20**) Do the three phenomena also announce the arrival of God in the **Ex. 19:16-20** account?

4. According to **verse 12**, how did God reveal Himself? Why is this surprising? Here we find God working quietly behind the scenes even though Elijah didn't realize it. Have you ever experienced God working behind the scenes in your life and you didn't recognize it? If so, when?

5. What was Elijah's response in **verse 13**? Why? (**See Ex. 33:20; 1 Tim. 6:16**) What does God now ask Elijah for a second time? Is there any change in Elijah's response in **verse 14** from the way he responded in **verse 9**? (**See vs. 10**) Have you ever become so discouraged in your Christian walk that you felt like God had left you? Did He? According to **verse 18**, was Elijah right in his assumption?
6. Spiritual warfare is tough to go through. In reading **Col. 2:13-15**, why can born-again Christians take courage even during the most vicious attacks of the enemy. What does Paul encourage every Christian to do in **Eph. 6:13**? Why is this body armor necessary? How does this imagery of body armor relate to the modern-day soldier?
7. What did Paul command the Ephesian Christians to do **Eph. 6:14**? Why is it important for every Christian to stand up under the attacks of the enemy? What practical applications did you learn from today's teaching?

MINER'S CORNER – *Manna to live by!*

- As Christians we are to *"be strong in the Lord and in the power of HIS might."*
- As Christians we are responsible to put on the whole armor of God in order to protect ourselves from the attacks of the enemy; this should be done with a sense of urgency!
- Our struggles are not ultimately against flesh and blood, but against Satan and his army of demons out to stir up dissention and destroy our Christian testimony.
- After spiritual highs, the lows are sure to follow.
- We require regular time with the LORD and His Word to refill our spiritual cup. Are you spending time with the Lord daily?