

The background features a faint, light-colored cross centered on a textured, light gray surface. The cross is composed of two overlapping, slightly offset shapes. In the four corners, there are decorative elements consisting of dark red, stylized leaves and thin, winding vines. The overall aesthetic is soft and spiritual.

# The Nature of the Battle

## Ephesians 6:10-18

Sermon Series: Waging  
Victorious Spiritual Warfare

## Ephesians 6:10-12 (NIV)

- Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

## Ephesians 6:13-15 (NIV)

- <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

## Ephesians 6:16-18 (NIV)

- <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

# 1. The Essence of the Battle

- ***A Definition***
- Spiritual warfare is that conflict being waged in the invisible, spiritual realm that is being manifest in the visible, physical realm.

# The Essence of the Battle (cont'd)

- Ephesians 6:12 (NIV), *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”*

# The Essence of the Battle (cont'd)

- Everything we see in the visible, physical realm is caused, provoked, or influenced by something in the invisible, spiritual realm.
- *Daniel 4:26-32 states that heaven rules over all the affairs of earth.*

# The Essence of the Battle (cont'd)

- ***Two Worldviews***
- One is a natural or materialistic worldview, what people call the scientific worldview.
- The second category of worldviews is the spiritual worldview, which says there is a realm outside of the physical.

## 2. The Impact of the Battle

- ***Personal Impact***
- Our emotions can give the devil an entry into our lives.
- To see the relationship between your emotions and spiritual warfare look at Ephesians 4:25-27 (NIV):

# The Impact of the Battle (cont'd)

- *Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. <sup>26</sup> “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold.*

# The Impact of the Battle (cont'd)

- ***Family Impact***
- Paul wrote to husbands and wives in 1 Corinthians 7:5 (NIV):
- *Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

# The Impact of the Battle

- ***Church Life***
- Paul told Timothy to watch out for “doctrines of demons” that will infiltrate the church (1 Timothy 4:1).
- We need to be like the Bereans, who checked out what Paul and Silas were teaching them to see whether their teachings agreed with the Scriptures (see Acts 17:11).

### 3. The Location of the Battle

- ***The Heavenly Places***
- In the Bible, the word heaven describes three levels of existence (see 2 Corinthians 2:12). The first heaven is the atmosphere that surrounds earth, the environment in which we live.

# The Location of the Battle (cont'd)

- The second heaven is what we commonly refer to as outer space, the stellar heavens where the stars and planets exist.
- The third heaven is the throne room of God, the place we normally think of when we hear the world heaven.

# The Location of the Battle (cont'd)

- Ephesians 1:3 (NIV), *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”*

# The Location of the Battle (cont'd)

- Ephesians 1:20, when God the Father raised Jesus Christ from the dead, He seated His Son *“at the right hand in the heavenly places.”*
- Ephesians 2:6 says God also *“raised us up with [Christ], and seated us with Him in the heavenly places.”*

## 4. The Enemy in the Battle

- Rev 12:7, *“Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.”*

# The Enemy in the Battle (cont'd)

- ***The Enemy's Goal***
- Isaiah 48:11 (NIV), "*I will not yield my glory to another.*"
- 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV), "*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*"

# The Enemy in the Battle (cont'd)

- ***The Enemy's Strategy***
- Ephesians 6:11 speaks of Satan's "*schemes,*" and Paul said in 2 Corinthians 2:11 (NIV), "*For we are not unaware of his schemes.*"

# The Enemy in the Battle (cont'd)

- ***Our Source of Strength***
- Ephesians 6:10-11 (NIV), *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”*

# Our Source of Strength

- ***“the belt of truth”*** v.14: the truth of the gospel message
- ***“the breastplate of righteousness”*** v.14: uprightness and integrity of character

# Our Source of Strength

- ***“feet fitted with the gospel of peace”***  
v.15: a state of inner peace and readiness to share the gospel
- ***“shield of faith”*** v.16: our faith in God—particularly of Jesus Himself
- ***“helmet of salvation”*** v.17: assurance of our salvation through Jesus Christ

# Our Source of Strength (cont'd)

- ***“the sword of the spirit”*** v.17: the Word of God
- Every Christian has problems, but it's the inability to move beyond the problem, the inability to get past the failure, that keeps us in spiritual defeat.

# Invitation

- You can take a major step toward victory right now by praying something like this:
- “Lord, I am facing Satan in these areas of my life (name the areas). These are the areas I am being defeated in my personal life, family life, church life, and this culture. I can’t beat Satan on my own, so I am going to stand guard against him in Your name and Your strength, using the resources You have provided.”