

## “The Battle We Face” – pt. 1 of Spiritual Warfare series

### Eph. 6:10-18

Prayer/benevolent offering/kids in 1<sup>st</sup>/ card in bulletin  
Financial class video – Link for more details  
Faith Promise (\$95,000 committed, budget done soon)  
Reminders: Women’s tea and men’s “No Regrets” at Elmbrook  
Candle

### Scripture Reading

**Prayer** (bind Satan and ask God to open the eyes of our understanding)

### Intro

As we come to **Eph. 6** we come to a very eye opening and important section of this book. We learn about spiritual warfare: our struggle/our battle is not against ... which begs the question: is there a literal devil and demons that are operative today? What we find in the Bible, is it still around today? If so, how does Satan work? Can a demon inhabit a Christian? How can we win the battle? These are important issues we will get into in the next 3 weeks.

**TS** To start off, we must be sure we keep this entire book in focus as we come to Eph. 6: There is a reason this is covered last in this book. God wanted to be sure we understood some things and lived out some things before covering this. So it is very important that we study **Eph. 6 in light of Eph. 1-5**

Let me quickly do a review of this book in order to put Eph. 6 into perspective, because without Eph. 1-5 you are not ready for Eph. 6. Here we go:

#### **1. We can stand only after sitting and walking.**

We are called here in **v. 11** to stand against the powers of darkness, but we can only do this after we have been seated with Christ in the heavenly places and only after we are walking in a manner worthy of the Lord! This is how we have outlined this entire book:

**Sit, Walk, Stand** (from the book by Watchman Nee)– let me show you the verses supporting this:

### **SIT, WALK, STAND**

Eph 1:20-21

20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and **seated him** at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

Eph 2:6-7

6 And God raised us up with Christ and **seated us with him** in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

We learned that Christ has been raised from the dead and is seated far above all rule and authority ... = that refers to human and demonic powers. He is far above all other powers and positions!!!

Then we learned that spiritually we are seated with Christ in the heavenly places. When we received Christ we were given the HS to indwell us and we were given a position with Christ in the heavenly places, meaning that in Christ we are in positions of authority over Satan and the demonic realm. This phrase 'in the heavenly realms' is very important because it comes up again in chapter 6 regarding the demonic realm.

Eph 4:1-2

4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to **walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called ... (NASB)**

As we got to chapter 4 we learned about walking in a manner worthy of the Lord. We were challenged to walk worthy in areas like: unity, maturity, walk in the light, getting rid of anger and bitterness and forgive others, sexual purity, being filled with the Spirit in our marriage, family, and at our jobs. Now this will come up again but a key verse when it comes to spiritual warfare is

**James 4:7** submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee. You must first submit to God and that has to do with the walking part. If you are not walking in a manner worthy of the Lord and not submitting to God, then your effectiveness in resisting is greatly reduced.

**Ex. Soldier:** it is like a soldier in battle. He must first submit to the US government and military, put on the uniform and use the weapons and obey the officer and then go out and shoot the enemy. But if he goes out on his own without direction and a uniform and good equipment, then he will be dead meat.

And finally we come to the standing part in chapter 6 (after sitting and walking):

Eph 6:10-12

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your **stand** against the devil's schemes.

Sit, Walk, Stand. Watchman Nee summarizes this well when he says:

*Quote from Watchman Nee p. 52*

This is so important!!! If you haven't gotten this book by now, get it and read it. Read the whole thing....

**TS** So, we are in **Eph. 6** learning to stand, to stand against a real enemy, and that leads to our 2<sup>nd</sup> point:

**2. We must realize that our ultimate enemy is Satan and the demonic realm.**

Look carefully at the word of God here and I will break this down phrase by phrase:

Eph. 6:10-12

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 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.

Look closely at this verse on the screen and let me point out some very important things:

a. ***“Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.”***

The only way you and I can win the battle with demonic forces is by being strong **in the Lord and in His mighty power**. We do not have the power on our own to win. We will be victorious only through the Lord Jesus Christ. This is why the Word of God says:

**Zech. 4:6** not by your might and power but by My Spirit saith the Lord

**1 Jn. 4:4** greater is He that is in you ....

**Phil. 4:13** I can do all things through Him who strengthens me

**Eph. 3:20** now to Him who is able to do...

**Ex.** Sam Cathy tape: when I was a student at TEDS, I took a class on spiritual warfare.... We listened to a tape of a live deliverance session... “we are stronger than you are.” The counselor wisely responded, “Yes you are, but you are not stronger than Jesus in me.”

Now look at **v. 12**:

b. ***“For our struggle is not against ....”***

This verse is meant to be taken very literally. Our battle is not against flesh and blood but with demonic forces. Your enemy is not ultimately your spouse or your boss or your uncle or drugs or alcohol or cigarettes or sexual temptations. You may struggle with those things or those people, but the Word of God right here tells us that our ultimate enemy is Satan and the demonic realm. And until you rightly identify the right enemy, you will not see the victory that you can see.

**Quote from military leaders:** Douglas **McArthur** said the most important strategy in war is to know the real enemy. Otherwise you will implore troops where they are not needed or use weapons that are not effective. Norman **Schwartzkoff** said almost the same thing during the Gulf War

**2 Cor. 2:11** we are not ignorant of his devices. Satan wants you ignorant of his devices but God doesn't. And so many Christians are ignorant of the real enemy and thus never get the victory God wants for them.

Notice first of all in **v. 11** “the Devil”. There is only one Devil but then notice in **v. 12**: Rulers, authorities ... spiritual forces – plural. Then in **v. 16** “the evil one”. We learn from this that there is one Satan and many demons. Rev. 12 says Satan was cast out of heaven along with angels who are now demons.

And they are “in the heavenly realms” – this is a reference to the spirit realm, the invisible realm, the atmosphere around us. Not the heaven where only God dwells, but the heavenly realms refers to the realm of the air, atmosphere around us, the realm where birds fly and the heavenly bodies, like stars exist.... space

Let me show you a very important diagram that I call a **biblical worldview**:

### Worldview diagram without the chairs

There is the realm of people, God and angels/demons. Remember demons are fallen angels. Now, I am going to show you another diagram that we will use next week but in the context of this biblical worldview, let me show you where you fit if you are in Christ

### Worldview diagram with Christ and us seated with him

One more thing: in our passage and you see it in this diagram, it seems there is likely a hierarchy in the demonic and angelic realm. Demons are fallen angels and you have archangels who are over angels. In the same way, you have authorities and powers ... some head demons over others lower demons.

**Dan. 10:13** it took 21 days to overcome the Prince of Persia – probably a prince demon over the region of Persia

**TS** so, let’s get a little more specific with this enemy. Look again at this passage: **v. 11b Eph. 6:11-12**

**11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.**

#### c. *“Take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”*

This word scheme =

**methodeia** (meth-od-i'-ah); from a compound of NT:3326 and NT:3593 [compare "method"]; travelling over, i.e. travesty (trickery):

KJV - wile, lie in wait

Literally means to travel alongside. 2 words: meta = alongside and hodeuo = travel/journey

Satan and demons travel alongside of us and all along try to trick us and tempt us and lure us and lead us astray ...pull us off God’s path

**1 Peter 5:8** your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion...seeking whom he may devour (eat up, ....). Literally means: to drink down, i.e. gulp entire (literally or figuratively): to render you spiritually ineffective

**Quo** We often hear “God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.” Well, “Satan hates you and has a terrible plan for your life.”

**Jn. 10:10** the thief comes to steal ...

**TS** All right, so we have a real enemy, Satan and demons. I wonder what in your life is possibly demonic that you think is something else and have thus been fighting the wrong enemy? How do you know if something is demonic? Well, that leads to our next point:

### 3. We must understand how Satan works in order to be victorious over him.

Now what I am going to do with the **remainder of our time** is just give you a bunch of **passages that will be on the screen** (in your notes also) and we will talk through these verses and what these passages give us is important information about the battle we are in and some of the many ways Satan works. This is to lay a foundation of understanding to help open our eyes and then next week we will get into the victory we can have.

Just let the Word of God inform you, and as we look at these be in prayer for God to show you any areas where the demonic realm is at work in your life that you might not have detected.

**Quote C.S. Lewis.** I love the balance of C.S. Lewis in his book “The Screwtape Letters” where he says when we study spiritual warfare we need balance. Satan himself would love us to fall into 1 of 2 extremes: blaming him for everything/preoccupation with him and the other extreme of total ignorance of his ways and living as if he didn’t even exist. Both are unbiblical. Both are unbalanced and both are what Satan himself would want for us.

It is very important that we grow in our ability to discern if something is demonic or not. **Quo Jimmy:** you can’t counsel a demon and you can’t cast out the flesh.

So, here we go. Fasten your seat belts as we take off on a journey from Gen. to Rev. on what the bible says about Satan and demons and how they work. First I will give you a quick summary of **Gen. to Rev.** and then go back and look at how the demonic realm works:

#### **Gen. 3 Satan tempts Eve to sin**

Gen 3:13

The woman said, "The **serpent** deceived me, and I ate."

Rev 20:2

2 He seized the dragon, that ancient **serpent**, who is the devil, or **Satan**,

Spiritual warfare is spoken of in **Dt. 18** when it gives **warnings against messing with demonic stuff** that might seem harmless. Not it isn’t.

Deut 18:9-12

9 When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. 10 Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices **divination** or **sorcery**, **interprets omens**, engages in **witchcraft**, 11 or casts **spells**, or who is a **medium** or **spiritist** or who consults the dead. 12 Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD...

You don't mess with stuff like fortune telling, oiji boards, séances, horoscopes, palm readers, games like dungeons and dragons ... these are all potentially demonic!

**The Wars in the OT seems to be more about spiritual warfare than even physical warfare**, especially when you look at how the Israelites won many of those battles, not due to physical strength or numbers but rather due to using spiritual weapons.

**Then we move to the NT** and in the Gospels Jesus encounters demons regularly. Here is one example.

Mark 5:2-5

**a man with an evil spirit** came from the tombs to meet him. **3** This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. **4** For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. **5** Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

Notice the ways this man was affected by the evil spirits. Jesus castes the spirits out and the man is set free.

(**Ex. Tim Warner**: woman whose family had spent \$15,000 for her in counseling ... in 2 hours was set free.

**The early church often dealt with demons.** What happened in Jesus' ministry happened also in the ministry of his followers. Here is one example:

Acts 8:5-8

**6** When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. **7** With shrieks, **evil spirits came out of many**, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. **8** So there was great joy in that city.

And finally we come to the book of Rev. and there we find

**Satan and the demonic realm will one day be put in their place forever. AMEN!!!**

Rev 20:10

**10** And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Some have said this is the blessedness of hell, meaning it is a blessing that there is a place where Satan and demons and all sin and evil and everything not of God will one day be put for all eternity.

-----  
**TS** So that is our quick bible survey course. With that as our background, let's get more specific in how Satan and the demonic realm works. Listen carefully because what I have prayed this week is that as you hear these passages, God will show you if there is an area of your life that you need to come against the enemy in. Open the eyes of our heart,  
Lord:

**a. Tempts to sin**

Matt 4:1-4

4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be **tempted by the devil**. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 **The tempter** came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

He tempted Jesus and he will tempt you. And Satan knows where you are vulnerable.

**b. Steals, kills, and destroys**

John 10:10

10 **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

To steal your walk with God, to kill you physically, emotionally, spiritually; to destroy your marriage, your family, your witness....Let me add this: any thoughts or temptations to commit suicide is clearly demonic.

**c. Blinds the minds of the unsaved**

2 Cor 4:3-4

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 **The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers**, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

It is Satan who is at work in the lives of those who are not saved. When you pray for someone who is not a follower of Jesus, come against the one who is blinding their mind.

**Ex. Prayer tract from Bubeck**

Speaking of affecting our minds:

**d. Places thoughts into our minds**

2 Cor 10:4-5

4 **The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.**

A big part of spiritual warfare is the renewing of the mind and learning to come against thoughts that we have that are of the enemy. This is huge. We will get into this in week 3 but the helmet of salvation has to do with that which protects the head and mind.

**(Quo Warner p. 100**

**TS** one of the big ways Satan works on our mind is to attack our view of self.

**e. Accuses us of our worth.**

Rev 12:10-11

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

"Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the **accuser of our brothers**, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. 11 They overcame him by the blood of the

Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Thoughts like *"I am no good; I will never amount to anything. I can't do that. I am worthless. No one loves me. I am a jerk. No one would want me. I am ugly."* Any thoughts like this are most certainly from Satan. This is one of his chief strategies to steal, kill and destroy you. And this is because he is the father of lies:

**f. Lies**

John 8:44-45

44 You belong to your father, the **devil**, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a **murderer** from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for **he is a liar and the father of lies**.

This is exactly what Satan did with Eve in the Garden. He lies about God, God's word, life, where fulfillment comes, about sin, about your identity...

**g. Causes some physical sicknesses**

Mark 9:17, 25

17 A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is **possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech**.

25 When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the **evil spirit**. "You **deaf and mute spirit**," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

Luke 13:10-13

10 On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, 11 and a woman was there who had been **crippled by a spirit** for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. 12 When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." 13 Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

Now, once again, balance is called for here: not all sickness is due to a demonic spirit, but probably more is that we realize....**v. 11 here in the KJV** = "spirit of infirmity"

**Ex. TEDS teaching** and feeling like I was going to throw up...

**Ex. My tract:** In my tract on victory I talk about the bases that we need to cover ... don't go to 3<sup>rd</sup> base first. **Parents**, apply this for your children.... It is OK to pray "if this is from Satan, I rebuke it in Jesus' Name..."

**TS** In addition to physical attacks, Satan and demons can also attack us emotionally. Check these verses out:

**h. Causes some emotional hardships**

2 Tim 1:7



7 For God did not give us a **spirit of timidity**, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

Isa 61:3

to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a **spirit of despair**.

When there is fear in your life or despair, depression, sometimes it can be a literal spirit. And yet so many of us try to fight it with the flesh or medication instead of dealing with the spirit that is behind it. Don't go to 3<sup>rd</sup> base first.

**i. Spreads false teaching**

1 Tim 4:1

4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow **deceiving spirits and things taught by demons**

2 Cor 11:3-4

3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was **deceived by the serpent's cunning**, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if someone comes to you and **preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached**, or if you receive a **different spirit** from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

Paul is rebuking them for putting up with false teachings. Boy is this true in the church today as well. Let me say it plain and clear: Cults and non Christian religions and any teachings that are against Salvation by grace through faith or Jesus being the only way to God or the Bible not being God's word is clearly from the enemy.

**Ex.** Groups like Jehovah Witnesses, Mormonism, the Muslim religion, Buddhism, Hinduism ... all of these groups and their teachings are contrary to God's Word, the Bible and are thus ultimately from Satan and the demonic realm. **2 Cor. 4:4** "god of this world." ... **2 Cor. 11:14** "Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." And when you are witnessing to someone of these groups, you need to do spiritual warfare prayer! Don't be deceived. We are not worshipping the same God.

**TS** Finally, be aware that Satan and demons can:

**j. Performs false signs and wonders.**

Matt 24:24-25

24 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great **signs and miracles to deceive** even the elect-if that were possible. 25 See, I have told you ahead of time.

**Conclusion**

So, these are some of the most common ways Satan and the demonic realm work. Now I would imagine that for many of you this has been very eye opening. You may feel like the curtain has been pulled and a whole new world of existence has just been opened to you. That is good. We need to have our eyes opened. Remember, Satan himself would like for us to stay ignorant of him or to blame him for everything ("the

devil made me do it.”). There is balance. There is biblical balance. We need discernment; we need truth; we need God’s Word.

The bottom line is that whenever we even remotely think something could be of Satan or the demonic realm, we need to deal with it appropriately, and praise God if we are in Christ and submitting to God, then we can deal with it.

**James 4:7** is the key to victory: submit to God...If you are in Christ, if you are submitting to God, then you can resist and see the devil flee!

**Jn. 10:10**

**2 Pet. 5:8** ... but resist him.. standing firm in the faith

**Eph. 6:10f** be strong in the Lord and the power of HIS might

**1 Jn. 4:4** greater is He who is in me ...

**(Pers.** During seminary I had the privilege of being Dr. Tim Warner’s graduate assistant. Dr. Warner has written a book entitled *Spiritual Warfare*. He was a foreign missionary for a number of years, is a very solid and balanced person. He is now with Neil Anderson’s ministry. Part of my work for him was doing research, grading papers, and sitting in on some of his prayer and counseling sessions. There was one woman that came to him for prayer that stood out to me. Her parents had spent over \$15,000 on various counselors and psychiatrists for her many issues, including multiple personality disorder. They brought her to Dr. Warner because they wondered if their problem might be demonic. After just 2 hours with Dr. Warner in counseling and prayer, this woman was completely set free and had no more problems with foreign personalities.

**(Ex.** Dr. Neil Anderson tells the story of a doctor’s wife that had spent over \$100,000 on counseling and was up to 17 pills a day for various problems. After a few sessions with Dr. Anderson she was totally delivered of many demons and was set free.

Does this kind of stuff really happen today? You bet it does.

**Chall.** What is God saying to you today? Where do you need to submit ...where do you need to resist???? Look on your notes at the suggested prayer...

**Pray**

**Response time:** those who are especially qualified to do spiritual warfare prayer, be near the prayer room.