



Sunday, June 10, 2018

Pastor Don Denyes

## **Intro to Ephesians 6:10-14**

When it comes to spiritual warfare, there are two errors that Christians can fall into. One is focusing too much on the spiritual realm to the point of obsession. The other is to ignore that the battle is happening altogether. In the first instance, when we become obsessed with spiritual warfare, it can lead us to an unhealthy place where we lose sight of the victory that Christ has already won by virtue of His death on the cross (Col. 2:13-15). But, when we ignore that there is a battle going on, we more easily become seduced by the schemes of the devil (Eph. 6:11) and we stunt our spiritual growth and effectiveness.

The solution, then, is to be aware of spiritual warfare, but to place it in its proper context. Because we know the battle has already been won, we can take heart, knowing that Satan cannot ultimately overtake us. But because we know the battle is still, in some sense, on-going, we can be vigilant about standing firm in the Spirit and in the tools that God gives us to resist.

### **Context**

It has already been made clear in Ephesians that Christ is above all rule and authority and power and dominion (1:21). In other words, spiritual warfare is not a fair fight. Jesus is the Creator; Satan and his minions are created beings. There is no ground on which Satan can stand to actually usurp Jesus' throne. This has been made abundantly clear through the church itself, which is the wisdom of God demonstrated to the rulers and authorities in heavenly places (3:10). Therefore, while Paul encourages his people to remain vigilant and steadfast in prayer and in the armor of God, they must also remember that God is, in some sense, above the fight and the victory belongs to Him!

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“The Invisible War”

Read Ephesians 6:10-14

Our Enemy

- Real (v 11)
- Powerful (v 12)
- Evil (v 12)
- Deceitful (v 11)

Our Mission

- Be strong (v 10)
- Stand firm (v 11, 13-14)

Our Strategy

- His might (v 10)
- His armor (v 11)

## Discuss

- 1) What is the hardest thing you have ever had to do in your life?
  
- 2) When you hear the term, “spiritual warfare,” what comes to mind?
  
- 3) Pastor Don mentioned that Satan often disguises himself as an “angel of light” (2 Cor. 11:14). In your experience, what are some things that appear to be good, but that Satan uses to pull people away from Christ?
  
- 4) Read Matthew 16:13-20. What does Jesus have to say about spiritual warfare?
  
- 5) Read Matthew 4:1-11. How does Jesus Himself engage in spiritual warfare? And how can we encourage one another to do the same?