

WINNING YOUR EVERYDAY SPIRITUAL BATTLES

SESSION 1

This course has been based on the *Spiritual Warfare for Every Christian* books and videos by Dean Sherman.

INSIGHTS FROM EPHESIANS 6:10-20

Ephesians 6:10-20 (NLT)*

¹⁰ A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

¹⁹ And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. ²⁰ I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

1. You are in a battle.

- v. 11 – “so that you can stand firm”
- v. 10 – “Be strong in the Lord”

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2. The battle is NOT against flesh and blood.

- The battle is not against people.
- The battle is supernatural, not natural
 - People are never the enemy!
- God designed us to do battle.
- The battle is supernatural.
- We live in a spirit world. God is spirit, so He expects me to learn to operate in the spirit world.

ACTIVATION — Do battle, not against the people but in the heavenly realms.

e.g. Pray that God would work in that situation, soften their hearts and/or your heart, open their eyes, bring ability to get past conflict, etc.

3. The devil has strategies.

- Two views of evil:
 - Impersonal energy system
 - OR
 - Biblical Christianity – all good and evil come from personalities

WINNING OUR EVERYDAY SPIRITUAL BATTLES
HAPPENS AS WE LEARN TO...

- **recognize** the strategies of the devil,
- **refuse to cooperate** with the strategies of the devil, and
- **aggressively cut off** the strategies of the devil **in the name of Jesus.**

TRANSFORMATIONS

- Every strategy of the enemy leads to deception, bondage and destruction.

RECOGNIZING THE STRATEGIES OF THE ENEMY

- a) Understand the devil's plan
- b) Understand the devil's nature vs. God's nature
 - JOHN 10:10 - *The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*
 - God always advances us. The devil comes to steal, kill and destroy.
- c) Understand what's happening around you
- d) Ask God!

We are ready for battle because WE HAVE WEAPONS & ARMOUR.

Do I **HAVE** the armour on?

YES. The Bible talks about "who we are in Christ."

- 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 *This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*
- ROMANS 6:6 - *We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.*

Do I have to **PUT** the armour on?

YES. The Bible talks about our part to play.

- EPHESIANS 4:22 - *... throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception.*
- 1 TIMOTHY 1:18 - *Timothy, my son, here are my instructions for you, based on the prophetic words spoken about you earlier. May they help you fight well in the Lord's battles.*

Bonus Theology

- Positional vs Practical
- There is a dynamic tension between these two things, they are both true even though they are different
- Positionally I am holy but practically I am in the process of being made holy – the Bible addresses both

- We have the armour, but we also have to put it on.

Putting on the Armor

- To put the armor on we have to **acknowledge** and **check the gauges**.
 - ACKNOWLEDGE
 - “Thank you, Lord, that you have put the truth in me.”
 - Acknowledge who you are (regularly doing this is a good idea)
 - CHECKING THE GAUGES
 - Checking the oil even though the light is not on
 - Is there something in my life that will affect my relationship with God or others, have I allowed the enemy a foothold in my life?
- 1 TIMOTHY 1:19 - *Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked.*

ACTIVATION: Put the armour on

ACKNOWLEDGE

- *e.g. declare what God is doing in your life, who you are and what He’s calling you to be*

CHECK THE GAUGES

- *e.g. Lord, are there things in the way; what are the areas I need to work on?*