

Preparing for the Conflict

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
Ephesians 6:12-18, note 12

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NKJV) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Ephesians 6:12-13 (NKJV) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Introduction

Get ready for a conflict in your life. Get ready to do spiritual battle.

I. Identify the real enemy

Ephesians 6:12-13 (NKJV) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

A. Know who is on your side

Hebrews 12:22-24 (NKJV) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

1. The angelic host
2. Other Christian believers
3. God the Father
4. Jesus the Son
5. The Holy Spirit

B. Understand the enemy hierarchy

1. Principalities

746. **arche**, ar-khay'; from G756; (prop. abstr.) a commencement, or (concr.) chief (in various applications of order, time, place or rank):--beginning, corner, (at the, the) first (estate), magistrate, power, principality, principle, rule.

2. Powers

1849. **exousia**, ex-oo-see'-ah; from G1832 (in the sense of ability); privilege, i.e.

(subj.) force, capacity, competency, freedom, or (obj.) mastery (concr. magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control), delegated influence:--authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.

3. Rulers of the darkness of this age

2888. **kosmokrator**, kos-mok-rat'-ore; from G2889 and G2902; a world-ruler, an epithet of Satan:--ruler.

4. Spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places

4152. **pneumatikos**, pnyoo-mat-ik-os'; from G4151; non-carnal, i.e. (humanly) ethereal (as opposed to gross), or (daemoniacally) a spirit (concr.), or (divinely) supernatural, regenerate, religious:--spiritual. Comp. G5591.

4189. **poneria**, pon-ay-ree'-ah; from G4190; depravity, i.e. (spec.) malice; plur. (concr.) plots, sins:--iniquity, wickedness.

C. Killed by "friendly fire"

Matthew 5:22 (NKJV) "But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

1. The unkind remark
2. The judgmental attitude
3. Expecting the worst from our brethren

II. Arm yourself

Ephesians 6:13-18 (NKJV) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;

A. The armor

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| 1. Truth | 4. Salvation |
| 2. Righteousness | 5. The Word |
| 3. The gospel of peace | 6. Prayer |

B. Maintain your weapons

1. Keep them clean with the blood of Jesus
2. Keep them lubricated by the anointing
3. Keep them ready

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III. Get into fighting condition

2 Timothy 2:3-4 (NKJV) You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

Ephesians 6:10 (NKJV) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth..

- A. Accept hardship
- B. Focus on the objective
- C. Go into training

1 Timothy 4:7-8 (NKJV) But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. 8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

IV. Follow the Commander's orders

1 John 2:17 (NKJV) And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

- A. The orders you receive may be for you only
- B. You may be the "point man"
- C. Be willing to be a casualty