

A Call to War!

Ephesians 6:10-13

2 Kings 6:16-17

[Elisha] said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

We Remember That...

- We live in a spiritual world.
- We are spiritual beings.
- We have a malevolent enemy who wants to destroy us and those we love.
- There is a deadly serious war that is constantly raging all around us.
- We dare not be AWOL or casual in our engagement in this war.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...

Introduction - (1 week)

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> Our Spiritual Armor - (7 weeks)

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> The World, the Flesh, and the Devil - (3 weeks)

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- Our Spiritual Armor (7 weeks)
- > The World, the Flesh, and the Devil (3 weeks)
- Recap, Worship and Prayer (1 week)

Ephesians 6:10-13 (page 979)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 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 firm.

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1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be <u>steadfast, immovable</u>, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

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- 2. We need the <u>whole</u> armor of God.
- 3. We must intentionally "put on" the armor.
- 4. The goal is to stand.
- 5. The devil has "<u>schemes</u>".

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

2 Timothy 4:14

Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.

1 Timothy 1:15

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the worst.

Ephesians 6:13

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 firm.

James 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Ephesians 6:13

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in <u>the evil day</u>, and having done all, to stand firm.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

Spiritual Weapons at Our Disposal

- Confession
- Repentance
- Prayer & Intercession
- Sacrifice
- Forgiveness
- Worship
- Denial of self
- Humbly waiting on the Lord.

1 Corinthians 4:20

For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in <u>power</u>.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...

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 THE GOSPEL

Two Unhealthy Extremes

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1. Underestimate spiritual warfare, and our enemy

"Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why the little decisions that you and I make every day are of such infinite importance.

C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)

The smallest good act today is the capture of a strategic point from which, a few months later, you may be able to go on to victories you never dreamed of.

An apparent trivial indulgence in lust or anger today is the loss of a ridge or railway line or bridgehead from which the enemy may launch an attack otherwise impossible."

C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)

Two Unhealthy Extremes

Underestimate spiritual warfare, and our enemy
 Overestimate spiritual warfare, and our enemy

John 15:18-21

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me."

Jesus Embodies Each Piece of Our Armor

Jesus is the Truth (John 14:6) 1. 2. Jesus is our <u>Righteousness</u> (1 Corinthians 1:30) 3. Jesus is the Gospel of Peace (Romans 5:1) 4. Jesus is our **Shield** (Psalm 28:7) 5. Jesus is our <u>Salvation</u> (Acts 4:12) 6. Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1, 14) 7. Jesus is our **Prayer Intercessor** (Hebrews 7:25)

A Mighty Fortress – by Martin Luther

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,

We will not fear, for God has willed his truth to triumph through us.

The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;

<u>One little word shall fell him.</u>

Romans 8:38-39

For I am **SURE** that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.