

The Battle is The Lord's

Ephesians 6:10-20

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You know that you are in spiritual warfare when you are at the confluence of several things happening at the same time leading to anxiety and discouragement or fear and terror. Paul encouraged the Ephesians to stand unshaken in the strength of the Lord amidst spiritual warfare.

Spiritual Warfare: Four basic introductory principles:

1. Christianity is a fight

While the Bible talks about shalom and flourishing, it is equally insistent about a spiritual warfare that every Christian must expect to experience. Satan and his demons want to rob you of your shalom and keep you from flourishing. The Bible warns of the three chief enemies every Christian must fight – the world, the flesh, and the devil. It is in these three places a Christian loses their shalom and flourishing. Unless the Christian finds victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil, all other victories will not be enduring. Unless we recognise the fight we are in with the world, the flesh, and the devil, we will be wrecked in spiritual warfare. *"In heaven we shall appear, not in armour, but in robes of glory. But here our arms are to be worn night and day. We must walk, work, sleep in them, or else we are not true soldiers of Christ."* – William Gurnall. Christianity is a fight and it is wise to discern spiritual warfare.

2. While the battle is the Lord's, the fight is ours

In spiritual warfare, we need to recognise that ultimately, it is God's battle; we are just a soldier (2 Chron. 20:15). God reminds the Israelites that their spiritual battle was not so much of a personal matter, but rather God's. All of Israel's battles were the Lord's; they were

involved in it because they were God's chosen people. The problem was that they often forgot this. Remember that in all spiritual warfare, the battle is the Lord's. He will fight for you! Jesus had taken the fight on the cross and defeated the enemy. Yet, the fight is still ours; we now live in the tension of Christ's victory over the enemy and the fallen world we live in. Every victory in this warfare gains us a mighty testimony of the power of the gospel that brings God the glory.

3. The fight is a good fight

While no one would consider warfare as a good thing, a Christian's warfare against the world, flesh, and devil is good (1 Tim. 6:12).

How is it a good fight?

#1 It is a fight fought under the sovereign rule of Jesus Christ.

#2 It is a fight fought with the greatest resources.

#3 It is a fight fought with the best promises (Ro. 16:20; Phil. 1:6; Isa. 43:2; John 10:28; Heb. 13:5; Ro. 8:38-39, 8:37).

#4 It is a fight fought with the best of rewards (Ps. 144:1-2).

You gain a deep confidence in the providence of God in spiritual warfare.

4. Stay strong in the Lord for the fight

Eph. 6:10 – While we may not be strong physically, our spirit gains strength as we recognise that the Lord is steadfast. In his loss and in his disease, Job would not concede the sovereignty of God. Satan is not sovereign, but God is! Whatever it is you are fighting, be strong in the Lord and tell your soul that God is in control. We must learn to find cover under the wings of God, for that is where we find strength and protection (Ps. 91:4-8). Stay strong in the might of the Lord!