
SERMON NOTES November 13, 2022

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

**Ephesians 6:10-13
Spiritual Warfare
Pastor Mike**

I. Recognizing the reality of a _____

The difference between a _____ and _____ mindset

a. Realizing the _____ of our battle

The problem of a _____ of evil and our problems

Our modern world teaches that 'evil' is always the result of _____

b. Understanding our _____

c. Comprehending the nature of the enemy's _____

Evil never presents itself as _____

II. God's _____ to us in the battle

a. _____ in the Lord

1. In Christ as the _____ of our strength

2. In the _____ of Christ's strength

b. Put on the _____ of God

c. _____ strong

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. In describing the struggle of our spiritual life, Paul uses language of warfare. How important is it that we recognize that we are in a war? How will we view and approach our Christian life differently if we view it as a war, contrasted if expect it to be safe and peaceful? To what degree do you understand you are in a spiritual war? To what degree do you live as if you are in a spiritual war?
2. Paul begins this section by warning that *“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.”* His point is that too often when we face some kind of opposition or temptation, we see only the “flesh and blood” or earthly element of the challenge.
 - a. Do you believe this to be true in your life? When tempted or tested do you tend to see only the physical element or also the spiritual element of the test?
 - b. What is an issue you are currently facing in your life? What are the physical and what are the spiritual dimensions of that issue?
 - c. Do you believe this is true of the challenges facing the broader church? What are some of the challenges today’s church faces? Do we tend to focus on the “flesh and blood” struggle or the spiritual struggle?
3. The two common errors that people make regarding the person of Satan and demonic powers is either ignoring him and denying his influence or paying too much attention to him and blaming demonic forces for many of our problems.
 - a. In your experience, which of these two errors is the more common?
 - b. What are some possible consequences of the first error; ignoring Satan and denying his influence?
 - c. What are some possible consequences of the second error; paying too much attention to demonic powers and blaming them for many of our problems?
 - d. How can you keep a proper balance between these two extremes?
4. How important is it to understand our enemy and the nature of his strategy?
 - a. Can you think of a time when Satan surprised you and knocked you off your feet with a strategy that you didn’t anticipate?
 - b. How could have a better understanding of Satan and his strategies helped you prepare and defend against this attack?
 - c. As you reflect on your enemy and his strategies, where do you anticipate he may attack you in the future, and how can you prepare your defenses?
5. Paul teaches that we can only be victorious by learning to *“be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might,”* and by putting on *“the whole armor of God.”*
 - a. What does it mean to *“be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might?”* How can we try to fight our spiritual battles with the wrong type or nature of strength?
 - b. Practically what does it mean for you to be strong in the Lord and to put on his armor? Are you doing this? If not, why not?