

THE  
INVISIBLE  
**WAR**

S E S S I O N 1

What Is the Invisible War?

EPHESIANS 6:10-12

## T A K E I T I N

Finally, **be strong in the Lord** and in the strength of His might. **Put on the full armor of God**, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

EPHESIANS 6:10-12 NASB

\_\_\_\_\_ **command**

Allow yourself to be continually strengthened by the power already made available to you. (Ephesians 6:10)

Allow yourself to be continually strengthened by the power already made available to you in your new position in Christ and your relationship with him. The power that raised Christ from the dead now also dwells in you.

\_\_\_\_\_ **command**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the **schemes** of the devil. For our **struggle** is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

EPHESIANS 6:10-12 NASB

By continually and repeatedly putting on, at specific points in time, the spiritual protection God has provided for you, for the express purpose of holding on to your position in Christ as you are bombarded by satanic strategies designed to destroy you and/or render you ineffective in kingdom pursuits. (Ephesians 6:11)

The \_\_\_\_\_ for the commands

It's because our real **struggle** (battle, wrestling match to the death) is not against physical/material adversaries (people, circumstances, organizations) but against a hierarchy of demonic forces doing battle in the spiritual realm. (Ephesians 6:12)

## Five Basic Truths About Spiritual Warfare

**1. There is an \_\_\_\_\_ world that is just as real as the visible world.** (Ephesians 6:12)

- Old Testament – 2 Kings 6:15-19
- New Testament – 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

**2. We are involved in an invisible \_\_\_\_\_, a cosmic conflict that has eternal implications.** (Ephesians 6:12)

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.*

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5 NASB

**90% of the battles we face in spiritual warfare are in our hearts and our minds.**

*... in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

2 CORINTHIANS 4:4 NASB

People not believing in Christ is not primarily an intellectual issue. It's a moral issue. It's not that people don't understand, but there is an enemy blinding people from understanding and making the connection

There is a correlation between praying and beseeching God, asking the Father to cause His Spirit to work in the heart of someone to open their eyes and open their mind where they could lay down their pride, or feeling unworthy in order to believe and to trust in what Christ has provided.

## THINK IT OVER

1. What is the first thought that comes to mind when you hear the phrase "spiritual warfare"? After watching today's teaching, has your perspective of spiritual warfare changed? If yes, how did it change?

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2. C. S. Lewis said that the greatest error when it comes to spiritual warfare is to think far too much about Satan or to think far too little about him. What do you think “far too much” and “far too little” look like? Where do you fall on this spectrum?

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3. When was the last time you honestly considered that a struggle or relational conflict was rooted in satanic opposition?

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4. Chip says, "It's not that people don't understand, but there is an enemy blinding people from understanding and making the connection." Do you agree? Why or why not?

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5. The Apostle Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 10:5 to take "every thought captive to the obedience of Christ." What do you think he means by that?

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## L I V E I T O U T

1. Pray and ask God for His help in identifying and overcoming struggles or relational conflicts that could be rooted in satanic opposition.

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*"Lord Jesus, thank You that I fight from victory because You have already won. You are the almighty, all-powerful, all-knowing and all-loving God! Help me find my strength in You and in Your might. Help me put on the full armor of God so that I may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. I need Your wisdom to understand Satan and his schemes. Remind me that my struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Protect me and give me courage to follow You and what You would have me do. Thank You for loving me. I love You. In Jesus' name, amen."*

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2. Chip shares that although spiritual warfare can be overt, 90% of the battle is in our hearts and minds.

- Take time to reflect on your thought life. What influences your thought life?

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- Do you believe that some of your thoughts are coming from the work of spiritual forces of wickedness? (This could take the form of twisted truths, straight-out lies, or heavyheartedness about your identity, worth, purpose, work, relationships, etc.)

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- What thoughts do you need to take “captive to the obedience of Christ”? List those thoughts here.

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- Chip talks about how writing truths on cards helps him renew his mind and take every thought captive. Replace the thoughts you listed above with the truth of Scripture. Write out the verses on 3x5 cards and place them where you can read them when the lies attack you.

**EXAMPLE**

**Lie:**

You are a nobody. How could anyone love you?

**Truth:**

John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (NIV)

Ephesians 3:17b-19a: ...and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge. (NASB)

3. Pray and ask God to help you identify the lies that are aimed at you, remember the truth, and move closer to Him.