

Wednesday Bible study
Armour of God Session one.
Spiritual Warfare

Over the next 8 weeks we are going to be looking at the armour of God. Today, as an introduction to this series, we are looking at the biblical understanding of spiritual warfare and some of the reasons why we need armour.

Below are two questions that will be used to open up our thinking regarding spiritual warfare. Please take time to consider your answers before moving on.

Question : Why do think God has provided us with armour?

Question : How aware of the reality of spiritual warfare, would you say Christians are in general ?

1/. What is spiritual warfare?

Firstly let's look at what spiritual warfare is not.

Ephesians 6:12 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.

Question : What does the above verse reveal to us regarding the primary focus of what spiritual warfare is not?

1a /. It is not wrestling with anyone Physical.

Let's think about this for a moment. Not flesh and blood. No one physical. **We “do not” fight against flesh and blood.**

Question : If this biblical statement is true and we are meant to live in obedience according to the word, what would you say is the current state of the church in general and why do you think that is?

Jesus was clear in His teaching regarding how we are to treat people. At no point did Jesus ever condone the ill treatment of another human being.

Matt 5 : 43-46 43 “You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

Question : Why Do you think Jesus that Jesus had to teach this?



Up to this point, and throughout the old testament, people did not truly understand who their real enemy was. Even during Christ's day people were more concerned about the Roman Empire and their oppressive regime that they were often filled with hatred and animosity towards the Romans. Jesus came to demonstrate and reveal the truth about the true warfare that humanity has been and still is subject too. The spiritual world and its conflict.

Consider these verses.

1 Thessalonians 5:15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

Romans 12:17-19. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

1b /. It is not just taking place somewhere else or with someone else.

Ephesians 10 Finally, **my brethren**, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, **that you** may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

It's easy sometimes to fall into the trap that the devil only attacks those who are "important enough" to be attacked, or those who are deeply involved in church life. Many Christians think that if they keep their heads down, then the devil will ignore them.

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary** the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking **whom (ever)** he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by **your brotherhood** in the world.

Your adversary. Not "their" adversary. He is ours.

Whom means who, what, which, in the sense of every man.

Your' brotherhood. All of us. Every person in the faith has a target on their back. No one is exempt.

Everyone of us is under attack and is responsible to make a stand against the enemy for our own personal welfare and through personal experience provide support, teaching and encouragement for the welfare of those around us.

2/. Who are we fighting against?

Back to Ephesians 6 : 12 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.

2a. They are spiritual beings. They do not have bodies of their own, so they seek to live in bodies, both human or animal, through which they can live and express themselves.

Mark 5:9-13. Then He asked him, "What is your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many." 10 Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. 11 Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. 12 So all the demons begged Him,



saying, “Send us to the swine, that we may enter them.” 13 And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.

2b. They have knowledge.

Mark 1:23-24. Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, 24 saying, “Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

2c. They know who they are.

Mark 5:9-13. Then He asked him, “What is your name?” And he answered, saying, “My name is Legion; for we are many.”

2d. They have a will.

Matthew 12:43-44. 43 “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order.

2e. They have emotions.

James 2:19. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

2f. They have Structure.

Ephesians 6 : 12 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.

Daniel 10:13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

Jesus said that “a kingdom divided against itself can not stand”. Without a rank system, structure and are organised, Satans kingdom would collapse.

Matthew 12:45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”

2g. They can speak.

Mark 1:23-24. Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, 24 saying, “Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

2h. They have a purpose or function.

The general and only goal of our enemy towards mankind is revealed by Jesus in John 10:10. The works of the devil are to steal, kill and destroy.



Here is a short list of some of the functions and purpose of evil spirits.

Fear. 2 Timothy 1:7. - Jealousy Numbers 5:14 - Divination. Acts 16:16. Infirmary. Luke 13:11. - Lying 1 Kings 22:22 - Familiar spirits. - Leviticus 20:27 - Perversion Isaiah 19:14. - Harlotry. Hosea 4:12. - Uncleanliness Mark 1:26. and many more.

Here is a list of some of their methods.

2i. They fight. We have already seen. "We fight against".

2j. They Tempt.

James 1:13-15 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

2k. They Accuse.

Revelation 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

Romans 8:33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

2l. They Condemn.

Romans 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

2m. They Lie and Deceive. Through lies and counterfeit spirituality.

Revelation 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Mark 13:22 For false Christ's and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

2n. They Afflict. Physically, mentally, emotionally. Through Sickness, oppression and persecution.

Acts 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

2o. They enslave.

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the **spirit of bondage** again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

Jesus came to set the captives free. Luke 4:18.



2p. They defile.

Titus 1:15 To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.

2q. The drive and compel.

Luke 8:29 For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

Question : After having gone through these lists, why again, do think God has provided us with armour?

3/. Where is the fight taking place?

3.a /. The Heavenly realm. A spiritual world that exists alongside this physical world.

Ephesians 2:1-2. And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

3b /. The Soul i.e. the mind, will and emotions.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 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, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

The enemy attacks us through our minds to gain access to and control over our will and emotions. Thoughts are seeds. Just as Gods sows His word as seeds to grow and bare good fruit, so does the enemy sow seeds to grow weeds to choke the word and produce bad fruit.

3c /. Body.

Through sin. Romans 6:1-12 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it **in its lusts.**

Colossians 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Sickness. Luke 13:1-17 Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. 11 And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. 12 But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." 13 And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. 14 But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." 15 The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall,



and lead it away to water it? 16 So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, **whom Satan has bound**—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?” 17 And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced **for all** the glorious things that were done by Him.

4/. What do we fight with?

4a. Spiritual Weapons.

2 Corinthians 10 : 3-4. 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,

4b. The word of God.

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; The word of God is the Sword of the Spirit. It's in our hearts and mouths. It Must be wielded like a sword.

Hebrews 4:12. For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Gods word has the power and ability to cut away our carnal, soulish behaviour and set us free to live the spiritual life.

Revelation 1:16. He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, Jesus. Out of His mouth came a two edged sword. We are to speak what we believe. Jesus cast spirits out and healed people with a word.

4c. The power of God.

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

Question : What experience/s have you had with fighting against a spiritual enemy?

5/. How should we fight?

5a. With Acceptance.

You can't fight an enemy that you don't really believe exists. One of the greatest lies satan has ever sown into this world is that he doesn't exist. We must accept this reality of spiritual warfare and embrace it.

5b. With Anger and Attitude.

Exodus 15:3 The LORD is a man of war; The LORD is His name.

Isaiah 42:13 The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies.



The picture of gentle Jesus meek and mild must be taken in context. He is gentle, meek and mild with humanity, but fierce and terrifying to the kingdom of darkness. So much so that James tells us demons tremble at His name.

5c. With Authority.

Luke 10:17-20 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 **Behold, I give you the authority** to trample on serpents and scorpions, and **over all the power of the enemy**, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

Romans 8:37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Not just some but ALL Authority.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

6/. Where do we fight from?

Our Position.

Ephesians 1: 19:21 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at **His right hand** in the heavenly places, 21 **far above all (not some)** principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

Ephesians 2:5-6 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and **raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,**

Our Victory.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Which leads us into the Armour of God. We will begin the study on this next week.

Ephesians 6:10-18 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 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 armour 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.

