

THE INVISIBLE WAR

October 7, 2012 Ephesians 6:10-12 by Bob Branch
Standing In Your Inheritance in Christ, Part 31

MAIN IDEA: There is a real, unseen enemy who is battling against us, but God has provided both the equipment and the power to stand your ground. This is typically called “Spiritual Warfare.”

1. **There’s a BATTLE going on.** (invisible, but real, & aimed at you!)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. **Ephesians 6:12** ESV (2 Corinthians 10:3-4)

2. **The battle is not against PEOPLE, even though they are an easier target.** (Know who the real enemy is. Not flesh & blood!)¹²

3. **There is active, dangerous, personal, organized, strategic, invisible evil in the unseen realm that are in ATTACK MODE.**¹²

¹ Heavens, where the **birds** and **clouds** are (Hosea 2:18; Daniel 7:13)

² Heavens, the **stars** and planets (Genesis 1:14-18)

³ Heavens, the **invisible realm** where God dwells (2 Cor. 12:2)

Interplay with the physical world we live in...

- **Physically**, can afflict our physical bodies (Luke 13:11-12)
- **Temptation**, lure you into sin/unbelief, away from God (Matt. 4:1ff; 1 Cor. 7:5; 10:13; 1 Thess. 3:5)
- **Temptation**, use people to speak/act for him (Matt. 16:23; Jn. 13:2)

- Lure us into **judgment** from God (1 Chron. 21:1; Num. 31:15-16; Rev. 2:14)
- **Gain Ground** in you, foothold, steal (Eph. 4:27; John 10:10)
- Take you **captive, trap** you (1 Tim. 3:7; 2 Tim. 2:26; Acts 10:38)
- **Shred** your life, **devour**, sift you (Luke 22:31; 1 Peter 5:8)
- **Twist** your thinking, **lie**, falsehood (Jn. 8:44; 2 Cor. 10:4; James 3:15)
- **Accuses**, questions, tears down (Zech. 3:1-2; Rev. 12:10)

4. **We must be STRONG IN THE LORD.** (human strength is never enough)¹⁰

The fight will require **strength you do not have** in your natural selves.

HOW? ¹Anchor in the Word. ²Be being filled. ³Pray constantly. ⁴Stay connected in community. ⁵Declare truth aloud. ⁶Confess sin to others

He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.
Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who wait on the LORD will renew their strength
They will soar on wings like eagles
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint. **Isaiah 40:29-31**

5. **We must SUIT UP daily for battle.** (the Battle stops for no one)⁽¹¹⁾

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, enter into God’s protection. (Matthew 6:9-13; John 17:15; 2 Thess. 3:3; 2 Tim. 4:18)

6. **We must STAND OUR GROUND.** (not give in, or give up)⁽¹¹⁾

Be clear-minded and alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.
1 Peter 5:8 ISV