

BATTLE PLAN: HOW TO WIN YOUR SPIRITUAL WAR (PART I)

EPHESIANS 6:10-18

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A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:10-12 (NLT)

I. STRATEGIES TO PREPARE ME FOR THE BATTLE

1. Recognize that an unseen spiritual world exists

**There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,
Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.
Hamlet (1.5.167-8), Hamlet to Horatio**

Jesus said, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

Luke 10:18 (NCV)

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail..."

Luke 22:31-32 (NLT)

2. Accept that I am engaged in this spiritual war

The devil [is] a liar and the father of lies.

John 8:44 (GWT)

Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

2 Corinthians 4:4-5 (NLT)

3. Realize that the enemies I am up against are powerful

Be careful—watch out for attacks from Satan, your great enemy. He prowls around like a hungry, roaring lion, looking for some victim to tear apart.

1 Peter 5:8 (TLB)

4. Know that Jesus has already defeated the enemy

The Son of God came for this purpose: to destroy the devil's work.

1 John 3:8 (NCV)

You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

Colossians 2:13-15 (NLT)

5. Understand that Lord provides me with all the weapons I need to win

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 John 4:4 (NIV)

Surrender to God! Resist the devil, and he will run from you.

James 4:7 (CEV)

II. WEAPONS TO HELP ME WIN THE BATTLE —EPHESIANS 6:10-18

1. Belt of Truth (v.13)

You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

John 8:31 (CEV)

2. Breastplate of Righteousness (v.14)

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)

God is faithful and reliable. If we confess our sins, he forgives them and cleanses us from everything we've done wrong.

1 John 1:9 (GWT)

Continued on Sunday, June 17th:

3. Footwear of the Gospel of Peace (v.15)

4. Shield of Faith (v.16)

5. Helmet of Salvation (v.17)

6. Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God (v.17)

7. Praying in the Spirit (v.18)