

# EPHESIANS: Spiritual Warfare Eph. 6:10–13 / Mt. 4:1-11

## *The War for Your Heart, Mind and Soul*

1. **Howard Rutledge, a U.S Air Force Pilot, was shot down over N. Vietnam.**
    - a. He suffered for 7 Horrible years in a Vietnamese POW camp and He Reflected on the isolation and hardship in a Book: In the Presence of Mine Enemies:
    - b. “During those longer periods of enforced reflection it became so much easier to separate the important from the trivial, the worthwhile from the waste. For example, in the past, I usually worked or played hard on Sundays and had no time for church. For years Phyllis [his wife] had encouraged me to join the family at church. She never nagged or scolded—she just kept hoping. But I was too busy, too preoccupied, to spend one or two short hours a week thinking about the really important things.
    - c. Now the sights and sounds of death were all around me. My hunger for spiritual food soon outdid my hunger for steak. Now I wanted to know about that part of me that will never die. Now I wanted to talk about God and Christ and the church. But in solitary confinement, there was no pastor, no Sunday school teacher, no Bible, no hymnbook, no community of believers to guide and sustain me. I had completely neglected the spiritual dimension of my life. It took prison to show me how empty life is without God.”<sup>1</sup>
  2. **It took Howard Rutledge a North Vietnamese POW camp to realize the Truth**
    - a. Thankfully He realized it before it was too late—but not everyone will. And Some never do
    - b. Apostle Paul is writing from a prison cell in Rome... to remind us...
    - c. There is a war for your soul—your eternal destiny is in the balance.
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## I. OUR SPIRITUAL WARFARE (6:10-13)

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### A. WHAT WARFARE?

1. **Many in secular society do not believe in any spiritual reality or morality...**
  - a) They do not believe in moral good or evil ... or in God, or satan, or heaven or hell.
  - b) They Believe in Atheistic Darwinian evolution and survival of the fittest.
2. **And since they reject the idea of any higher moral law of good or evil—everything has to be explained with social or psychological causes.**
  - a) A Columbia University Professor wrote: “A gulf has opened up in our culture between the visibility of evil and the intellectual resources available for coping with it.”
  - b) “As the twentieth century has gone on, it has gotten harder and harder to say holocausts and ethnic cleansing and serial killing are just bad psychological and sociological adjustment... [the argument] that all evil has natural causes, scientific causes, psychological, social causes, is wearing thin.”<sup>2</sup>
3. **In other words—If the Zodiac Killer just had better parents...**
  - a) If **Ted Bundy** or **Charles Manson** or **Jeffery Dhamer** just had a better home life...
  - b) If only every Palestinian terrorist... or Hezbollah Terrorist just had a better upbringing
  - c) If only every **Hitler**, and **Stalin** and **Nero** and **Caligula** and **Putin** and **Pol Pot**... had a better upbringing, they would’ve committed crimes against humanity
  - d) It’s NOT their Fault—it’s Society / or Capitalism / or Patriarchy / or a Bully at school
4. **Yes, bad parents, or bullies, Childhood Trauma or Mental Illness are tragic. —but it’s not enough to Explain the Depravity of Evil that exists in the world.**

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<sup>1</sup> Howard Rutledge, in his book ‘In the Presence of Mine Enemies’

<sup>2</sup> Columbia Professor – Andrew Delbanco: ‘The Death of Satan’

## **B. THE BIBLE CLEARLY REVEALS — THE BATTLE IS REAL (6:10-13)**

### **1. There are powers of darkness — and spiritual forces of evil at work**

**There is a battle between Good and Evil...**

### **2. But Our Battle is not against flesh and blood...**

- a) Your Enemy is Not Your Wife or Husband, or Brother or Sister in Christ
- b) Your Enemy is in the Spiritual Realm—But He Wants You Fighting Among Yourselves
- c) Because it Accomplishes His Work to Divide and Conquer

### **3. This is a Spiritual Battle for your mind and soul (2 Cor. 10:3–6)**

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## **II. OUR SPIRITUAL ENEMY (6:10-13)**

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### **A. WHO IS THE ENEMY?**

#### **1. Jesus called him ‘the enemy’ (Lk 10:19)**

#### **2. In the Lord’s Prayer: Jesus said ‘deliver us from the evil one’ (Mt 6:13)**

#### **3. Jesus called him ‘the father of lies’ (Jn 8:44)**

#### **4. And ‘the ruler of this world’ (Jn 14:30; 12:31)**

#### **5. Paul called him: the god of this age (2 Cor. 4:4.)**

#### **6. And ‘the prince of the power of the air’ (Eph 2:2)**

#### **7. Peter calls him the adversary the devil (1 Pet 5:8) “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”**

#### **8. In Genesis 3 he is called: ‘the serpent’ (3:1,4)**

#### **9. In the book of Job he is called: Satan (Job 1:6,7,8)**

#### **10. In Revelation John identifies exactly who he is: "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. (Rev. 12:9)**

### **B. THE TACTICS OF THE ENEMY (6:11)**

**In WW2 Gen. Patton and his 3rd Army division faced the most feared Nazi**

**Commander of his generation: Gen. Rommel: the desert fox**

- Gen. Patton was a serious reader and student of history and warfare
- and he knew something that Rommel did not know...
- Patton had found a copy of General Rommel's book on Battle Strategy and Warfare
- Patton studied it inside and out until he could recognize everything Rommel was doing
- Patton knew what moves Rommel would make even before he made them.
- This gave Patton the advantage and he used it to defeat Rommel and the German Army

**Satan has his tactics—the schemes & strategies he uses—so what are they?**

**“so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs. (2 Co 2:11)**

#### **1. DECEPTION: (2 Corinthians 11:13–15)**

- a) Satan is a deceiver—even able to appear as an ‘angel of light’
- b) Which is why we have a specific warning about this (**Galatians 1:6**)
- c) There is only ONE True Gospel—but Thousands of Counterfeits

## 2. **LIES: (John 8:44-45)**

- a) Satan is a liar and he is the father of lies. – Think of the Original Lie in the Garden:
- b) Posing like he is on our side... Did God really say that?  
—If you eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil you will die?
- c) No you won't you won't die—your eyes will open and you'll be wise...
- d) and you'll be like God knowing good and evil—but God doesn't want you to be wise
- e) This is the Satanic Lie of the Occult, of Self-Worship idolatry, New Age Mysticism.
- f) that if you sin you will become like God and even become a god like Him.

## 3. **SUGGESTION: (John 13:2)**

- a) The 'power of suggestion' is all around us—because it works...
- b) The Lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, the pride of life have the power of suggestion
- c) Judas was offered something he wanted—and he sold his soul to get it
- d) No one can serve two masters... you cannot serve both God and money

## 4. **TEMPTATION: (Mt 4:1-11)**

- a) IF you're the Son of God—Then turn these stones to bread.  
—>Use your power to SERVE YOURSELF.
- b) If you're the Son of God—Cast yourself off the finical the Temple.  
Use your power to EXALT YOURSELF & PROVE YOURSELF
- c) If your the Son of God—SAVE YOURSELF—and have a Crown without the Cross.  
Jesus destroyed every LIE with the TRUTH—the Sword of the Spirit the Word of God

“How many have stood upon those Bethel heights... Age after age has poured forth its crowds of young hearts, to stand upon an exceeding high mountain, while all the kingdoms of this world, and the glory of them; are spread before them. The Tempter Whispering—Just one small act, Just One Switch of Loyalty to Serving Satan rather than God — All This Will Be Yours...And in Self Confidence; Eager to do the Very Best for Themselves... Prepared to Pay the Price for Success—Looked towards the plains of Sodom from afar. And, like Lot, they Tried to Make Stones into Bread; They cast themselves down from the mountain side, for angels to catch; they knelt before the tempter, Only to find his promise broken, the Vision of Power an Illusion—While the Tempter Laughs & Disappears, Leaving you Standing Alone in the Midst of a Desolate Wilderness.” (Adapted F.B. Meyer)

## 5. **AFFLICTION: (Job 2:3–10) to cause Suffering, Doubt and Discouragement.**

- a) God Pointed out that Job was Righteous... Satan set out to prove Job was a fake.
- b) But God allowed the whole world to see something truly incredible:
- c) that Job was faithful — Even under the WORST possible conditions.
- d) But Satan refused to be faithful — even under the BEST possible conditions.

## 6. **BLINDNESS: (2 Corinthians 4:3–4)**

- a) 'whose minds the god of this age has blinded'
- b) Millions of people are brainwashed by Satan—but NOT against their will!
- c) Because Satan tells us what we want to hear! (**2 Thessalonians 2:9–10**)

## 7. **FEAR (Luke 22:31–34; Hebrews 2:14–15)**

- a) Fear of Man. Fear of Rejection. Fear of Death. Fear of Pain and Persecution.

## 8. **PERSECUTION (Revelation 2:10)**

- a) Persecution was the tool Satan used against the early church.
- b) (**Revelation 12:7–9; 13–17**)

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### III. OUR SPIRITUAL VICTORY (v.10-13)

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#### A. BE STRONG IN THE LORD (v.10)

1. We can't oppose evil in our own limited strength—only in strength of the Lord  
**NOTICE: 1. ⇒ be strong 2. ⇒ in the Lord's power. 3. ⇒ in the Lord's might**
2. Spiritual strength from God—not human strength of man (Lk 10:17–20)

#### B. THE ARMOR OF GOD (v.13)

1. The Armor of **TRUTH**—against the lies of the enemy
2. The Armor of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**—against the attacks of the accuser
3. The Armor of **FAITH**—against the fiery darts of the devil.
4. The Armor of **SALVATION**—against the guilt and condemnation of sin
5. The Armor of the **SPIRIT**—the word of God, against the deception of the enemy.
6. The Armor of **PRAYER**—for strength in the spirit against the fiery darts of doubt.
7. Notice the instructions given to us: (Romans 13:11–14)  
(1) We are to wake up (v.11), (2) cast off sin, and (3) “put on the armor of light” (v.12).  
(4) We do this by putting “on the Lord Jesus Christ” (v.14).
8. The Armor is Provided for us in Christ!

#### C. JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR AND THE CAPTAIN OF OUR FAITH

##### and He Has Dealt with the Principalities and Powers Against Us (v.12)

1. (Colossians 1:16) tells us that Jesus created all principalities and powers.
2. (Colossians 2:10) tells us that Jesus is head over all principalities and power.  
Therefore, Jesus is not the opposite of Satan or principalities.
3. (Ephesians 1:20-21) tells us that Jesus is enthroned in heaven, far above all principalities and powers.
4. (Ephesians 3:10-11) tells us that the church makes known the wisdom of God to principalities and powers.
5. (1 Corinthians 15:24) tells us that principalities and powers have an end; one day their purpose will be fulfilled and God will no longer let them work.
6. (Colossians 2:15) tells us that Jesus disarmed these principalities and powers at the cross. Therefore our victory is in Jesus' death, burial & resurrection
7. (Romans 8:38) tells us that principalities cannot keep us from God's love.  
Therefore, there is a limit to their power.<sup>3</sup>

#### D. WE KNOW WHO WINS! (Revelation 20:1-3, 7–10)

1. God will judge and destroy evil forever

**CONCLUSION: Jesus died for us—but we must be faithful to Him (Rev. 2:10)**

–Bill Turner 4/2026

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<sup>3</sup> Points on Principalities and Powers from David Guzik, Enduring Word Commentary.