



## **“SPIRITUAL WARFARE!!!”**

### **EPHESIANS 6:10-17**

~ How do we *fight the good fight of FAITH*? Paul explains,

> **First – (v10) BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT!**

- Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 - *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 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, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*

- Strongholds – Are fortified false religions (i.e.- like a fortified city).
- Arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God – Atheism, Humanism, Evolution, Socialism/ Communism, Psychology, Aliens, etc.

> **Second – (v11) PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL!**

~ Who is this enemy the Devil?

- The Devil also known as Satan is mentioned in 19 of the 27 New Testament books; in the gospels 29 references are given to Satan, 25 of these by Christ.

- There are as many as 40 different titles given to Satan in Scripture. *SATAN* is the great opposer, or adversary of God and man. The title devil means slanderer or false accuser. Satan is identified in the New Testament as the tempter (Matt. 4:3), Jesus called him a murderer and a liar! (John 8:44)

- Satan is compared to a lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8), a serpent, stealth and seductive (Genesis 3:1; Revelation 12:9), an angel of light (an imposter) (2 Corinthians 11:13-15), as well as the god of this age (ruler of our godless culture) (2 Corinthians 4:4), Beelzebub (Matthew 12:24); the wicked one (Matthew 13:19,38); the ruler of this world (John 12:31); Belial (2 Corinthians 6:15), the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2); and the accuser of our brethren (Rev 12:10).

- Satan's origin is found in Ezekiel chapter 28 and he is referred to as the anointed cherub (let us read the text).

- Satan's original name was Lucifer, his rebellion against God is found in Isaiah 14:12-17 in his five “I will's!” – we read, “*How you are fallen*”

*from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart:*

*'I will ascend into heaven,*

*I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;*

*I will also sit on the mount of the congregation, on the farthest sides of the north;*

*I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,*

*I will be like the Most High.'*

*Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.*

*"Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?'"*

*- According to Revelation 12:3-9 a third of the angels in heaven followed him in his rebellion against God, And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 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.*

*- Christians must understand that Satan is mighty, but not almighty, wise but not all knowing. Satan is not equal with God or Jesus Christ; he is a created angel of the highest rank.*

*- Some of the fallen angels have already been dealt with by God at the times of Noah, we read in 2 Peter 2:4-5 - For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;*

*Jude says these angels left the heavenly realm and entered the physical or material world in verse 6 - And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;*

- A.E. Dickason writes about Satan's wiles or strategies, "God is light, Satan is darkness and desires to keep light from others. God is love and promotes love; Satan is hateful and promotes hate. God is life and creates life, whereas Satan operates in the realm of death. Satan's counterfeit system may be irreligious. He may deny the existence of God or His control. To explain the world, he substitutes evolution for creation, uniformitarianism for providence, human progress for divine salvation, and man's utopia for God's Kingdom on earth. Atheism, agnosticism, pragmatism, existentialism, and relativism are his substitutes for truth."

- Satan also promotes counterfeit religions through *doctrines of demons* (1 Timothy 4:1); and *false teachers* (2 Corinthians 11:13-15) who twist scripture."

(v12) Satan's army is described in rankings:

(1) Principalities - Are demons that have the oversight of nations.

(2) Powers - Are the privates who are the demons wanting to possess human beings. (*unclean spirits, evil spirits*)

(3) Rulers of darkness of this world - Are those demons promoting Satan's corruption, deception, evil deeds, carnality, immoralities, lusts, greed, etc.

(4) Spiritual wickedness in high places - Are demons in the heavenlies who have charge of religion.

> Third - (v13) PUT ON the ARMOR OF GOD and STAND AGAINST THE ENEMY!

- PROTECTION #1 - (v14) Have your waist girded with TRUTH!

~ What is the opposite of TRUTH:

- A LIE - Any statement or act designed to deceive another person. The motivation for most lying is a desire either to hurt the one against whom the lie is directed (Gen 3:1-13; Rom 3:13) or to protect oneself, usually out of fear or pride (Matt 26:69-75; Acts 5:1-11). Lying is emphatically condemned in the Bible (Ex 20:16; Eph 4:25). It is wrong because it is contrary to the nature of God (Titus 1:2; Heb 6:18) and because it shows a person is not in touch with reality (Rom 1:25; 1 John 1:6). On the other hand, it is possible to be truthful with the intention of hurting another person. The Bible teaches believers to be truthful in love (Eph 4:25). (from Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

- **To DECEIVE** - (1) **To lead into error**; to cause to believe what is false, or disbelieve what is true; to impose upon; to mislead; to cheat; to disappoint; to delude; to ensnare. (2 *Tim 3:13 - Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.*) (2) **To beguile**; to amuse, so as to divert the attention; to while away; to take away as if by deception. (3) **To deprive by fraud or stealth**; to defraud. (from Webster's Dictionary)

- **Whereas TRUTH is a moral and personal characteristic of God:**

- The word TRUTH is found 223 times in the Bible, as our God is "*the God of truth*" (Isa 65:16). The psalmist declared, "*Your law is truth*" (119:142), "*all Your commandments are truth*" (119:151), and "*the entirety of Your word is truth*" (119:160). Because of His perfect nature and will, God has to speak and act in truth; He cannot lie (1 Sam 15:29; Heb 6:18; James 1:17-18).

- **Jesus is the Word of God who became flesh, "the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth"** (John 1:14). All Jesus said was true, because He told the truth which He heard from God (John 8:40). He promised His disciples that He would send "**the Spirit of truth**" (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13) - a *Helper* who would abide in Christians *forever* (John 14:16), *testify* of Jesus (John 15:26), guide Christians *into all truth* (John 16:13), and *glorify* Jesus (John 16:14). **God is truth; the Spirit is truth; and Jesus is truth!** Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me*" (John 14:6).

- Jesus and the revelation which the Spirit of truth gave through His apostles are the final, ultimate revelation and definition of truth about God, man, redemption, history, and the world. "*The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ*" (John 1:17).

- The Bible declares in 2 Timothy 2:15 that believers are to *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

In 1 Timothy 3:15 we read, *I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

> Jesus said in John 4:23-24 - *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*"

John 8:31-32 - *"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

**John 17:14-19 - *I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.***

**John 18:37 - *Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."***

**- His "TRUTH" through His "WORD" brings FREEDOM and VICTORY!**