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The Battle Against Us

Ephesians 6:10-20

We live in a world of political crises and security alerts. Every day it seems we face some new threat. Our enemies are more than political terrorists, however. As Christians we face spiritual enemies who are out to deceive us—or destroy us. Our strength is in the protection the Lord provides.

GROUP DISCUSSION. In what life situations do you feel most at risk? When do you feel most secure?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. How do you think your friends or the people you work with would respond if you tried to explain that you as a Christian are engaged in spiritual warfare?

A spiritual battle rages in the realm of the angels. Evil powers of darkness seek to undermine us as believers. Spiritual warfare is not fantasy or a video game. It is part of every Christian's

experience. If we ignore the forces arrayed against us, we are walking toward disaster. Read *Ephesians 6:10-20*.

1. How would you characterize the spiritual battle we are in (based particularly on vv. 12, 13 and 16)?

2. Why does Paul stress that we are to “put on the full armor of God” (vv. 11, 13)?

3. What evidence do you see of this intense spiritual struggle in your own life?

in your church?

in your nation?

4. Do you think every Christian is in the battle, or can a Christian choose to avoid the battle? Explain your answer.

5. Explain in your own words the meaning and importance of each piece of spiritual armor (vv. 14-17).

- Belt:
- Breastplate:
- Footwear:
- Shield:
- Helmet:
- Sword:

6. The word *schemes* in verse 11 implies a well-developed plan of attack. Where does Satan find it easiest to attack you?

7. Which piece of armor do you need to “put on” to defend yourself in your area of weakness, and what do you need to do to get that piece of armor ready for battle?

8. The imagery of the battle is only one description of the Christian life. It is also compared to a walk, a race, a rest and a challenging adventure. What happens to us if we see the Christian experience only as a battle?

What happens to us if we ignore the fact that the Christian life involves spiritual warfare?

9. Why is prayer so important in this battle (v. 18)?

10. Paul did not hesitate to ask the Ephesian Christians to pray for specific things for him (vv. 19-20). What specific requests can you share with a trusted friend or the members of your study group that will help you be more victorious in your daily battles?

Ask God to protect your life and the lives of others from the enemy's attack.

Now or Later

The angels of God are often portrayed in Scripture as the Lord's host or army. *Read 2 Kings 6:15-17.* What feelings would you have experienced in this situation if you had seen what Elisha's servant saw?

In what circumstances might we experience angel warriors fighting with us in spiritual battle?