

SPIRITUAL WARFARE
Life in the Spirit
Banská Štiavnica, 10th June 2021

Zec 4:6

לֹא בְכֹחַ וְלֹא בְעֹז לָאֵלֹהִים יִתְּקַן
כִּי בְרוּחַ יְהוָה יִתְּקַן אֱמֶת

Eph 6:10-18 Τοῦ λοιποῦ, ἐνδυναμοῦσθε ἐν κυρίῳ καὶ ἐν τῷ κράτει τῆς ἰσχύος αὐτοῦ. ¹¹ ἐνδύσασθε τὴν πανοπλίαν τοῦ θεοῦ πρὸς τὸ δύνασθαι ὑμᾶς στήναι πρὸς τὰς μεθοδείας τοῦ διαβόλου. ¹² ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν ἡμῖν ἡ πάλη πρὸς αἷμα καὶ σάρκα ἀλλὰ πρὸς τὰς ἀρχάς, πρὸς τὰς ἐξουσίας, πρὸς τοὺς κοσμοκράτορας τοῦ σκότους τούτου, πρὸς τὰ πνευματικὰ τῆς πονηρίας ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις. ¹³ διὰ τοῦτο ἀναλάβετε τὴν πανοπλίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, ἵνα δυνηθῆτε ἀντιστῆναι ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ πονηρᾷ καὶ ἅπαντα κατεργασάμενοι στήναι. ¹⁴ στήτε οὖν περιζωσάμενοι τὴν ὀσφῦν ὑμῶν ἐν ἀληθείᾳ καὶ ἐνδυσάμενοι τὸν θώρακα τῆς δικαιοσύνης ¹⁵ καὶ ὑποδησάμενοι τοὺς πόδας ἐν ἐτοιμασίᾳ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου τῆς εἰρήνης, ¹⁶ ἐν πᾶσιν ἀναλαβόντες τὸν θυρεὸν τῆς πίστεως, ἐν ᾧ δυνησέσθε πάντα τὰ βέλη τοῦ πονηροῦ [τὰ] πεπυρωμένα σβέσαι. ¹⁷ καὶ τὴν περικεφαλαίαν τοῦ σωτηρίου δέξασθε καὶ τὴν μάχαιραν τοῦ πνεύματος, ἧ ἔστιν ῥῆμα θεοῦ. ¹⁸ Διὰ πάσης προσευχῆς καὶ δεήσεως προσευχόμενοι ἐν παντὶ καιρῷ ἐν πνεύματι,

2Cor 10:3-5 Ἐν σαρκὶ γὰρ περιπατοῦντες οὐ κατὰ σάρκα στρατευόμεθα, ⁴ τὰ γὰρ ὄπλα τῆς στρατείας ἡμῶν οὐ σαρκικὰ ἀλλὰ δυνατὰ τῷ θεῷ πρὸς καθαίρεσιν ὀχυρωμάτων, λογισμοὺς καθαιροῦντες ⁵ καὶ πᾶν ὑψωμα ἐπαυρόμενον κατὰ τῆς γνώσεως τοῦ θεοῦ, καὶ αἰχμαλωτίζοντες πᾶν νόημα εἰς τὴν ὑπακοὴν τοῦ Χριστοῦ,

Zec 4:6 Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts

Eph 6:10-18 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 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. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

2Cor 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments ⁵ and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

OUTLINE

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0. INTRODUCTION

- two extremes among Christians → no bother ↔ belligerence
- Power of the Spirit → **Isaiah 31:3** The Egyptians are man, and not God, and their horses are flesh, and not spirit.

0.1. FORMS OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- Isa 14; Eze 28 → the rebellion of Lucifer → Satan
- angels' help → **Job 1:9-10** Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? ¹⁰ Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.
Heb 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?
Mt 18:10 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven
- creation → by fight
Psalm 74:13-17 You divided the sea by your might; you broke the heads of the sea monsters on the waters. ¹⁴ You crushed the heads of Leviathan; you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness. ¹⁵ You split open springs and brooks; you dried up ever-flowing streams. ¹⁶ Yours is the day, yours also the night; you have established the heavenly lights and the sun. ¹⁷ You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you have made summer and winter.
- Christology → **Acts 10:38** God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him
- persecution → Israel in Egypt; the church in Jerusalem, Ephesus (**1Cor 15:32** ...I fought with beasts at Ephesus)... (**Mark 13:11** And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.)
- wars in the Old Testament → antisemitism...
- political strife; conspiracy theories (→ fear) (Book of Daniel)
- occultism; spiritism; witchcraft; fortunetelling; astrology; ufology...
- demonic activity → psychiatry; exorcism (**Acts 16:16** ...a slave girl who had a spirit of divination...; **Acts 19:14** ...Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva); curses(?); inner healing...
- **battle for the mind** → Eden; Christ in the wilderness; temptations of the Christian... (**2Cor 4:3-4** And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.)
TODAY → popular TV, Internet, music, advertising...

0.2. MY PLACE

- **Rom 12:3** For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

1. THE CROSS

- **Mt 12:28-29** ...But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his

goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.

1.1. JUSTICE

- **Rom 1:16-17** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

1.2. THE GOSPEL

- **Eph 3:10** through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places

2. SECURITY

- **John 10:28** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand
- **Phil 4:7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus

2.1. THE SEAL

- **Eph 1:13** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit
- **Eph 4:30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

2.2. HIDDEN LIFE

- **Col 3:1-3** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

3. CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

- **Eph 6:11** the whole armor of God

3.1. A PERMANENT ATTITUDE

- (1) **Eph 6:14** the belt of truth...
Ps 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! ²⁴
And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!
John 4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.
John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.
- (2) **Eph 6:14** the breastplate of righteousness...
Rom 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God
- (3) **Eph 6:15** as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace...
Rom 1:15 So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome
Mt 24:14 ...this gospel of the Kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world
Acts 20:24 ...gospel of the grace of God...
Eph 1:13 ...the gospel of your salvation...
2Cor 4:4 ...gospel of the glory of Christ...

3.2. READY FOR ACTION

- (1) **Eph 6:16** ...the shield of faith
Psalm 42:11(12) Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God
Heb 13:5 ...he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Luke 12:4 I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do

- (2) **Eph 6:17** ...the helmet of salvation

1Thes 5:8-9 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the **hope** of salvation.⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

- (3) **Eph 6:17** ...the sword of the Spirit,

Mt 4:4 "It is written,... **Mt 4:7** ...Again it is written,... **Mt 4:10** Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ...

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart

3.3. PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

- grammar → participle! ⇒ all must be realized by prayer...

4. TO REMEMBER

- There are various forms of spiritual warfare. We must be cautious not to overextend ourselves beyond our faith and calling.
- The war has been won by Christ on the cross. Ours is the application.
- Whatever kind of spiritual war we have to wage we need to begin with our mind and address the minds of those receiving the Gospel.