

■ What we know we must do to win the battle against the devil and the spiritual forces of darkness and wickedness.

1) We must be strong and find our necessary strength **in the Lord**, 6:10.

2) We must put on **the whole armor** of God to be able to stand against the schemes of the devil, 6:11-12.

- We must know that we are in a battle, 6:11.
- We must put on the only armor that can defeat the enemy or we will fall in battle, 6:11.
- We must know our battlefield, 6:12a.
- We must know our true enemy, 6:12b.

3) We must take up **the whole armor** of God to be able to stand in the evil day, 6:13.

- We must use the only armor that can defeat the enemy or we will not withstand his attack on the evil day, 6:13.



## How do I treat my enemies?

Who are my enemies? What does this say about my perception of spiritual warfare? What does Jesus say?

*"Strong in the Lord"*

*A Good Place to Start*

Jesus says: **Before** it was love your neighbor, hate your enemy. **NOW** it is love your enemy.

- Bless those who curse you.
- Do good to those who hate you.
- Pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.
- Sunshine and rain for friend and foe.
- Love those who do not love you.
- Extend your welcome to everyone.
- Be perfect.

(From Matthew 5:43-48)

## Much of our unholy warfare is a result of fear and our lack of trust!

- We don't really believe that God will take care of us, so we have to do it ourselves. When we become frightened, we do not trust in God. We default to self-preservation mode. We defend ourselves and we fall prey to the scheme of the devil.

## When I am afraid, I'm not afraid ...

- **When I am afraid**, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; **I shall not be afraid** (Psalm 56:3-4a ESV).
- And He [Christ] said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for **My strength is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ... **For when I am weak, then I am strong** (2 Corinthians 12:9, 10b).
- But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: **22** The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; **his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning**; great is your faithfulness (Lamentations 3:21-23 ESV).
- **The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?** The LORD is the stronghold of my life; **of whom shall I be afraid** (Psalm 27:1 ESV)?

## Profiling: Who wars in the flesh?

→ We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do (2 Corinthians 10:3 NLT).

- **Strength:** You do not find your strength in God. This is the key to the entire discussion. You very possibly say that your strength is in God but your actions prove otherwise (Ephesians 6:10).
- **People:** Since you are not strong in the Lord, your skirmish is with people. People mark your battles and dominate your mind and your time (Ephesians 6:11).
- **Manipulation:** So you fight like humans fight. You use your words and actions in a social context whether at home, in church or on the job to forward your agenda through a system of rewards and punishments (2 Corinthians 10:3).
- **Appearances:** You are more concerned about appearing righteous than being righteous (2 Corinthians 11:14-15).
- **Deceived:** You likely don't know that you have been played because you measure yourself by others who are like-minded (2 Corinthians 10:12).
- **Ensnared:** You think that you are doing God's work, but in fact as you rely on your human methods you have lost your spiritual sense and have been taken captive by the devil (2 Timothy 2:24-26).
- **Complexity:** You hide in your complexity rather than thriving in simple devotion to Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 11:3).
- **False confidence:** Your pride causes you to exempt yourself from Satan's lure even though he deceives the whole world (Revelation 12:9).

**How do you escape the trap?** Be strong in the Lord. Take every thought captive in obedience to Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5-6).