

**“Christian Living: The Battle”**  
“Implications of the Gospel” — Part 3  
*John 16:33*

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

**With God’s Word, the Spirit’s power and fervent prayer in Christ’s name,  
we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil.**

**1. Fight the good fight (We are in a battle!).**

Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

2

Timothy 2:3

**Let’s define the battle:**

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

John 18:36

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:10-12

**What the battle is not:**

- Our battle is not political.
- Our battle is not military.
- Our battle is not against flesh and blood.
- We are not called to establish a Christian nation.
- God’s kingdom cannot be contained by a political party.
- God’s kingdom cannot be imposed by military force.

**What the battle is:**

- The battle is spiritual.
- Our battle is against the devil’s schemes.
- Our battle is against the rulers, the authorities, and the powers of this dark world.

...“Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.”

Daniel 10:12-13

- Our battle is against the spiritual forces of evil.
- Our battle is in the heavenly realm.
- God’s kingdom advances through the spread of the gospel.
- God’s glory is exhibited as the gospel flows out in acts of love.

## 2. Our duty as Christian soldiers: (We are resistance fighters.)

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 5:8-11

### Four commands:

- Be self-controlled and alert.
- Resist the devil.
- Stand firm in the faith.

***We are in this battle together!***

### The reward of victory:

- Jesus wins and you win with Him.
- You will be restored.
- You will be made strong, firm and steadfast.

## 3. The weapons of our warfare

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 2 Corinthians 10:4

### • The Word of God and truth

..."If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. John 17:17

***The devil is defenseless against  
the truth of God's Word!***

### • The Holy Spirit

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 1 John 4:4

For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.... 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:16-19

• **Prayer**

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel...Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Ephesians 6:18-20

So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up — so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

Exodus 17:10-13

**Application:** Our faith is activated as we pray and God acts when we pray. We must fight together. We strengthen one another through prayer. Who wants to be caught behind enemy lines alone? Prayer supplies the protective covering we need when we are in the line of fire. Does the enemy seem real to you? How are you resisting? How do you need to resist? Let's fight together. We are a band of brothers!