

Spiritual Warfare: The Nature of Our Enemies – Part 2 (6:10-13)

¹⁰ A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² **For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.** ¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil.

Summary:

- Spiritual warfare must be understood in the context of God's purpose.
- God's purpose is that we should "glorify Him" in our lives which simply means that I live in such a way that people can see who God is through my life
- Our enemies are intent on hiding or distorting the picture of God displayed in our lives
- The Evil Trifecta: The Devil, the World, and Our Flesh, all collaborating to defeat us.
- The Devil: Opposer, Deceiver, Tempter, and Hinderer

Our Struggle with the World

- **Satan uses the context of this world to powerfully influence people by distracting from God's Glory.**

1 John 5:19

We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one.

2 Cor. 4:3-4

³ If the Good News we preach is **hidden behind a veil**, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. ⁴ Satan, who is **the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe**. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

- **How Does the World Blind Us to God and His Goodness?**

1 John 2:15-17

¹⁵ Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶ **For the world offers only a craving** for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. ¹⁷ And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

- **"Only Cravings"**
 - **27-Year-Old Young Christian's Testimony**
 - *"My Parents didn't realize how easily seeds would be planted into my heart and mind that grew into an endless pursuit that left me more and more empty, more selfish, less capable of compassion for other people, and more arrogant in my view of God"*

James 3:13-16

If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom...But jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. **Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.**¹⁶ For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, **there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.**

- **God Has Not Called You to the Distractions of Entertainment, Personal Fulfillment, Comfort, Success, or Financial Security**
 - These things aren't evil, but they can easily be used for evil...by distracting us from our purpose
 - You and I say they aren't...but they are...they become paramount pursuits...without us even realizing it...

What Are the Cravings that Distract You from Using Your Life Primarily to "Glorify God" – Showing the World Who He Is By How You Live?

- Entertainment?
- Personal Fulfillment?
- Comfort?
- Success?
- Financial Security?

6:12 The word for "*Fighting*" is actually the word for "*Wrestling*" (NASB)

- Personal, Intimate, Close-Quarter, Hand-to-Hand Combat (Saving Private Ryan Scene)
- Long, exhausting, requiring constant intense strategy and tactics
- Any distraction, or mistake, gets you pinned