

## The Fight

Our battle is not with people... it's how people think that rages against the mindset of kingdom principles and the hearts and minds of God's kingdom-minded servants. The enemy's method is to use people, their thoughts, and ideas of the age, to confront, distract, distort, and deceive you with a gauntlet of schemes to dilute and derail you from trusting God's way is the best way.

And when we recognize the battle is at our front door, in our backyard, and within the walls of our homes we put on the gear (armor) and fight against these thoughts, not with hatred and anger and fists and weapons, like knives or guns, but prayerfully and purposefully with His truth, wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and discernment. These weapons we have are mighty when trusted and applied against the lies and falsehood of the spirits of the age. Rejoicing and praying and giving thanks is overwhelmed with His peace that will guard our hearts and minds in the wisdom of Jesus.

When Paul says, "Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might..." I believe what Paul is saying, is this, "Be WISE [in] the Lord and in the MEANS [of] His might... and the "might" he's speaking of is the might and stability that comes from His knowledge, understanding, and discernment. There are plenty of other truths to support this thought... but one of the clearest indicators is the way he explains the method and gauntlet of attacks that the enemy will use to distract and deceive...

- Notice the method... Paul uses terms like principalities, powers, and rulers to drive home the point that our battle is not physical but mental. It's a battle of ideas and thoughts. Think about it in the natural realm. It's the thinkers in these places of authority that govern and write laws for each corresponding age, based on public opinion or opposition. And these ideals influence public life and order. But someone is behind all of these thoughts and ideals that govern a fallen world, as they leave God and His kingdom out of the picture. Your battle is not with them but with what governs them. Thoughts and ways that are contrary to the wisdom and knowledge of God's kingdom that he just explained. He's explaining the method of God's enemy is to overthrow the way you think, as a servant of Jesus. The enemy has already duped the world in his darkness and deceit and he is going to use them and the principles that govern their thought life to distract you from fully trusting and leaning on the mind of Christ.

- Paul graciously outlined in Ephesians the beauty and abundant blessings of God's wisdom and design for His people living under the influence of His Spirit and walking worthy of His gospel. He covers enough in those three chapters to give us insight into how the believers and our families should walk, live, and function in everyday life. It ran counter-cultural with most societies then and

even more so today. These teachings were a segue into the idea of warfare over the minds of a culture that has been given a new way of living with Jesus. And in chapter 6 he reminds the church that there's an enemy to all that he just shared. He knows when these principles and promises are known, believed, and lived out by faith, they will be life and joy to everyone who walks by them and is a witness to them. He also knows they are a threat to the enemy's agenda... and that the enemy is out to dilute and water them down.

- Seeing the enemy longs to deceive you, that He may destroy you, he uses things to distract, distort, disrupt, deflate, and derail your ideas and thoughts on the will of God, His gospel, Spirit-filled living, kingdom marriages, biblical submission, honor, obedience, long life, service, business, and leading others for the glory of God.

- What's the key? We need to be truth-ready. We need to be righteous-ready. We need to be gospel-ready. It's all about readiness. Because we're not putting on any physical armor. It's saying we're ready for a battle. And how do we ready ourselves? How do I, how do we ready ourselves for the battle in the kingdom — with truth, righteousness, faith, assurance, the mindset of salvation, a heavenly way of thinking, and the gospel? We must be gospel or mission-ready. And if we're missing one of these keys, we're not ready, and we'll be prone to attack. We're subject to be attacked because we're not ready for the battle. The only way to be ready for the battle is through truth, righteousness, assurance, faith, the word of God, and the gospel of Jesus.

- Go brethren and fight the good fight.

- #nestingwithjesus #ephesians #ephesians6 #ephesians5 #ephesians4 #2corinthians #2corinthians10 #persuaded #readied #preparedwithananswer #armedwithlightandlife #traps #webs #webofliesanddeception #spiderweb #putonthefullarmorofGod #wiles #schemes #kingdomminded #putonChrist #isaiah33and6 #daniel2and22thru24 #philippians4 #1peter2 #psalm94and20