

The Spiritual Battle We Face

Recognize the Battle:

Have you ever felt like you were in a battle, a conflict that went beyond the personalities involved to some deeper level? Perhaps you felt your inmost being was at war in some way. Maybe it even seemed your family and your church was under some type of attack.

Though the Christian life is characterized by love, joy and peace, it is not a “walk in the park”. The concept of a battle is often used in Scriptures. What does it mean? How do we prepare for the battles we may face? Read Ephesians 6:10-18 (New Living Translation) below. Consider some of the questions at the bottom of this page as you explore this area of vital importance? Discuss and contemplate each of the questions in your group.

10A final word: Be strong with the Lord's mighty power. 11Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil. 12For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms. 13 Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm. 14Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. 15For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News, so that you will be fully prepared. 16In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. 17Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere.

1. Describe the Battle we are in as Christians.
2. How do we identify the enemy?
3. Where is the battleground? Are some battles of our own making?
4. Who is able to help us when we feel alone in this battle? What resources have been provided for us?
5. Describe some of the battles that you can think of from Scripture?
6. What principles can we glean from these biblical battles?
7. Doesn't God fight our battles for us? Are we really supposed to “fight”? Isn't the Christian life supposed to be characterized by peace?
8. Where can we draw strength during the battle?

Arm Yourself:

Putting on a uniform or some distinctive type of clothing is an everyday thing for many people. In many stores and restaurants you may identify employees by their uniforms. Students sometimes wear uniforms. Police & Fire Departments as well as the military require uniforms to protect as well as identify many employees. In our daily lives we face a variety of battles. Has God provided a dress code or uniform for us as we face battles in the spiritual realm? This next section considers God's provision for the battle we face each day.

9. What is a spiritual battle and how does one recognize it?

10. What armor has God provided? What are the dangers of entering a battle without the armor?

11. How does one put on the armor? How is the armor a defensive mechanism for us?

12. What is the helmet of salvation”?

13. What is the breastplate of righteousness?

14. What is the shield of faith? What role does it play?

15. Describe the belt of truth.

16. What is the gospel of peace and how do we wear the word?

17. Do we have a responsibility to others who are in the battle?

Victorious Prayer

We will face times in our spiritual journey that either we, or someone we love, is in the midst of a battle? Before long, we find that we cannot manage to defeat the enemy in our own strength. A call for help is often our response. Who do we turn to? How should we pray during those times? Can we effectively support others in prayer? This final section explores the place of prayer in spiritual battles.

18. How does one recognize that they are in a spiritual battle?

19. How can one pray offensively? How can we use prayer to advance into the enemy territory with victory?

20. How does God fight our battles for us?

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