

***Eph 6:10–11 - 10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. **11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.*

THE INVISIBLE ENEMY (pt 1)

Ephesians 6:12-13

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

Two facts about our battle against evil...

I. IT IS AN INTENSE BATTLE

12 For our struggle...against...

Two facts about our battle against evil...

I. IT IS AN INTENSE BATTLE

II. IT IS A SPIRITUAL BATTLE

12...is not against flesh and blood...

*Heb 2:14 - ... since the children share in flesh and blood,
He Himself likewise also partook of the same...*

***Matt 16:17** - And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.*

***1 Cor 15:50** - Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.*

***Gal 1:16** - to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood...*

(Rev 12:4)

HOEHNER – *It is a spiritual battle against spiritual mafia.*

1 John 5:19 - We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

1 Thes 2:18 - For we wanted to come to you--I, Paul, more than once--and yet Satan hindered us.

Job 1:12 - Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.

Rev 2:10 - Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested...

Matt 12:22 - Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him...

***2 Cor 11:13–15** - 13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.*

***1 Tim 4:1** - But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,*

***1 John 4:1** - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

Col 2:20–21 - 20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, 21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!"

Heb 2:14 - Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil...

“Death is the supreme focus of these enemy forces...they smell of death...they revel in it...they spread it.”

Matt 4:1 - Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

1 Pet 5:8–9 - 8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in your faith...

Eph 1:10, 21 - 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth....21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

1 Cor 15:24–26 - 24 then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

FERGUSON: *In his crosshairs he is always focusing on the destruction of the word of God and its reliability; the character of God and his generosity; the righteousness of God and his absolute dependability; the enjoyment of God and its abundant pleasures; the fellowship of the people of God and its harmony and unity.*

KENT HUGHES – *Satan has had multiple millennia to study and master the human disciplines, and when it comes to human subversion, he is the ultimate manipulator.*

The differences between God and Satan...

1. God is **OMNIPOTENT**
2. God is **OMNIPRESENT**
3. God is **OMNISCIENT**

Jude 9

John 8:44

1 Tim 3:7

James 4:7 - Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

MACARTHUR – When Satan attacks, it is foolish to try to do battle with him alone. Like the soldier on guard duty, we should simply report to the commander and leave the defense in his hands.

JOHN WELDON – We were not made with the intellectual capacities to separate the good from the evil, the true from the false, in the occult realm...Man as a falling creature does not have the necessary equipment or ability to sort out demonic matters.

JOHN MACARTHUR – *We know from God's word that Satan and his invisible demons are continually at work in the world and all around us. But we do not have the wisdom to discern exactly when they are present, how many there are, what kind they are, or what they are doing. Saints tread on dangerous ground when they try to deal with things for which scripture gives no instruction or guidance. We are to put on God's armor and report to him, perfectly confident in the knowledge that greater is he who is in us than he who is in the world, 1 John 4:4. The very gates of hades shall not overpower Christ's church, Matt 16:18.*