

The Prayer Course Slide - register to be a part of this small group.



We Fight The Battle Together

D-Day

Yesterday was D-Day - the day we remember the 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy via land and sea. In 2001 the tv series called Band of Brothers was released and instantaneously became a classic. The tv show depicted the Easy Company of the US Army's 101st Airborne Division as they prepared for and eventually fought in the infamous invasion at Normandy, France. There is a famous quote from the movie that captures the essence of the film.:

Men, it's been a long war, it's been a tough war. You've fought bravely, proudly for your country. You're a special group. You've found in one another a bond, that exists only in combat, among brothers. You've shared foxholes, held each other in dire moments. You've seen death and suffered together. I'm proud to have served with each and every one of you. You all deserve long and happy lives in peace. Quote from the movie.

As we said last week, we are in a battle. The difference for the believer is that the end result is finished but the battle rages. We fight in light of Ephesians 1:21

Jesus Is Far Above Every Ruler Authority, or Power

We are reading this in the context of Ephesians 1:21 though

Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else--not only in this world but also in the world to come. (Eph 1:21 NLT)

Let's read Ephesians Six Again:

Our Spiritual Battle In The Context of Soldiers In An Army

Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 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. Therefore, put on **every piece of God's armor** so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. **Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.** (Eph 6:11-18 NLT)

What Exactly Are We Fighting?

Arche - Principalities - the highest echelon of the fallen angelic world who report directly to Satan. They are primarily assigned to governments and governmental leaders. Actually, the Bible seems to indicate that these principalities are concerned mostly with governmental leaders – with heads of state, with kings, with presidents. It is the picture of evil angels influencing governments and seeking to thwart the plan of God in the world. It is an awesome scene, and we are caught up in it! So, how do we “wrestle against principalities?” Well, we do it through prayer. We do it when we pray for our president and Vice President. We do it when we pray for our Senators and Congress people. That is an important part of our ministry as Christians, and we dare not neglect it, for “*we wrestle against principalities.*”

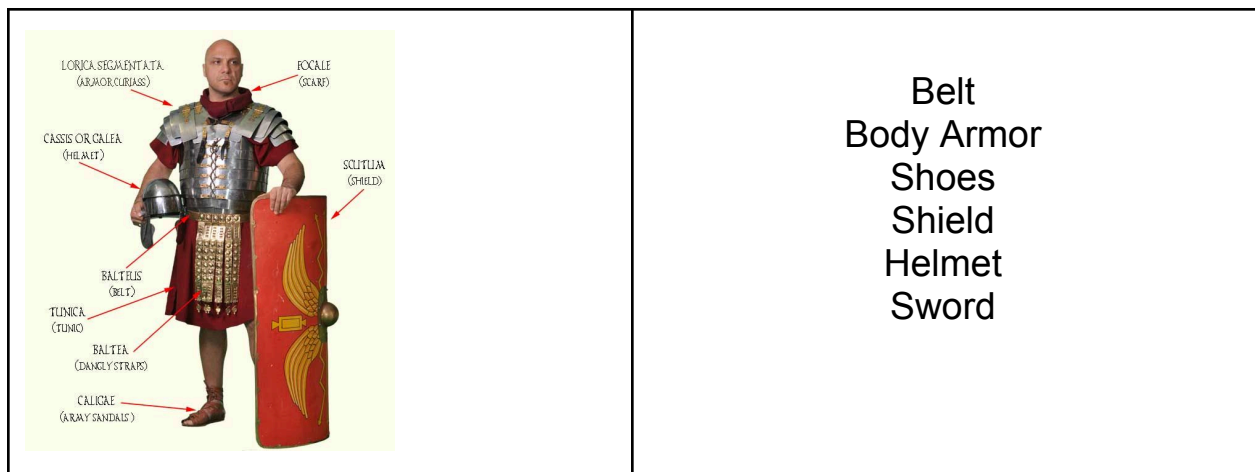
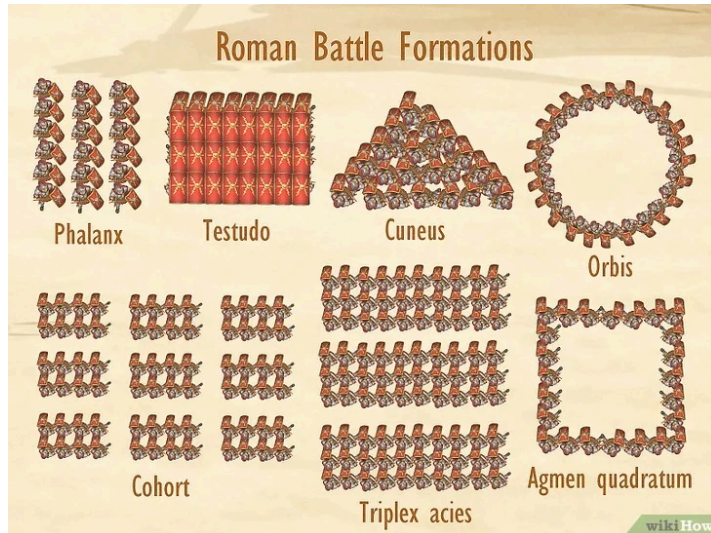
Exousia - Powers - The next level of spiritual forces are the ones who have been delegated authority by the arche. Just like our military might have generals, captains, lieutenants, and infantry, the devil also has an organized militia. They take orders. There's a chain of command.

Kosmokrator - Evil Forces in this world

- 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. (2Co 4:4 NLT)

We Fight The Battle Together

Just like our enemy has schemes against us in battle formations so we must fight together. Remember Ephesians 6:12 says WE are not fighting against flesh and blood. Stay alert in your prayers for all believers everywhere.



Belt
 Body Armor
 Shoes
 Shield
 Helmet
 Sword

An Example From The Old Testament

So David and his 600 men set out, and they came to the brook Besor. But 200 of the men were too exhausted to cross the brook, so David continued the pursuit with 400 men. ...

Then David returned to the brook Besor and met up with the 200 men who had been left behind because they were too exhausted to go with him. They went out to meet David and his men, and David greeted them joyfully. But some evil troublemakers among David's men said, "They didn't go with us, so they can't have any of the plunder we recovered. Give them their wives and children, and tell them to be gone." But David said, "No, my brothers! Don't be selfish with what the LORD has given us. He has kept us safe and helped us defeat the band of raiders that attacked us. Who will listen when you talk like this? **We share and share alike--those who go to battle and those who guard the equipment.**" From then on David made this a decree and regulation for Israel, and it is still followed today. (1Sa 30:9-10, 21-25 NLT)

