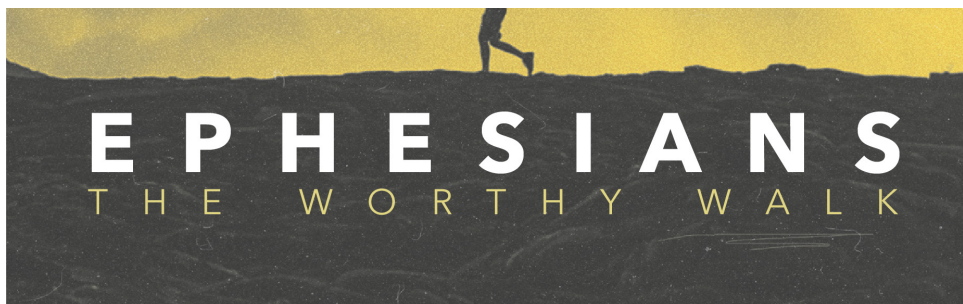




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THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE: SEEN AND UNSEEN

*Put on the whole armor of God,
that you may be able to stand against
the schemes of the devil.*

Ephesians 6:11

INTRODUCTION

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Ephesians 6:10-13

I. WHO IS THE DEVIL?

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Revelations 12:7-9

II. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SCHEMES OR STRATEGIES OF THE DEVIL?

A. I'm not HERE.

B. FEAR is one of the Enemy's most common methods of INTIMIDATION.

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NIV)

C. Let's Make a DEAL.

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Matthew 16:23 (NIV)

III. WHAT SHOULD OUR RESPONSE BE?

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

James 4:7-8

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Ephesians 6:13

What's Your Next Step?

1. What are some of the ways that the Enemy has asked you to compromise: in your life, your marriage, your job, your integrity? What has he offered in return?
2. What would it look like for you to resist the Enemy and to stand firm?

