

Spiritual Warfare

(Ephesians 6:10-13 NKJV) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness 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.

We wrestle -

We are wrestling

Word used is the greek word *pal'-ay* which literally means: to wrestle, but it is another form of the word *bal'-lo*: literally to throw, strike, throw down, thrust.

This is a scrap.

But, are you awake for it?

Example:

Wrestle someone way under your class, it's still a match.

Royce Gracie, UFC Champ for UFC's 1, 2 and 4.
6'1" 176 Lbs.

Victory over Ken "The Most Dangerous Man In The World"
Shamrock in the UFC 1 Semi-Finals. 6'0" 216 Lbs.
40 Lb weight difference.

Victory over Dan "The Beast" Severn in UFC 4 - 6'2", 260
Lbs. 84 Lb weight difference.

Beat guys 3 weight classes over himself.

During UFC 5, longest UFC match ever @ 36 minutes
ending in a draw against Ken Shamrock in the so called
"Super-Fight".

Wrestle a corpse, brutal unfair fight.

Imagine a corpse taking such blows, takedowns, submissions.

Are we awake? Can we feel the sweat, the cage, the canvas? Can we
taste the blood?

The fastest way to lose a battle is to fail to recognize we're in a battle.

David, the great warrior/king suffered his greatest defeat while he was asleep.

Extremely public defeat.

(2 Samuel 11:1, 2 NKJV) It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the kings house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold.

David did not recognize the battle. He didn't even know he was in one.

But David knew battle.

He knew how to prepare.

But he found himself defenseless in this battle.

He knew how to handle a sword.

But he was completely unarmed in this battle.

He knew when and where battles would happen.

But he wasn't looking for **this** battle.

David knew where battles took place. Or he thought he did.

*(Ephesians 3:16 NKJV) that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to **be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,***

So, why would the Lord strengthen the "inner man"?

(Matthew 12:34 NKJV) Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

So this is the place of battle. Right here in our hearts, in the inner man

*(Luke 22:31 & 32 NKJV) And the Lord said, Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. **But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.***

Jesus didn't just destroy the threat, He prayed that Peter would be able to stand in the "evil day." Notice, from [Ephesians 6](#), "evil day", not "days."

Peter would be facing such an "evil day" very soon. But Peter was not the only one.

Judas, I'm sure, was similarly requested by Satan. And they both were ensnared by the enemy. And they both fell hard. But their reactions were very different.

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*(Proverbs 24:16 NKJV) For a righteous man may fall seven times
And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity.*

The Lord is willing to equip our inner man, to guard it, to defend it:

*Ephesians 3:16 (we just read) & Ephesians 3:20 & 21 - Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, **according to the power that works in us**, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

(2 Timothy 1:14 NKJV) That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

We have, as believers, the Holy Spirit of God, dwelling in us.

*(1 John 4:4 NKJV) **You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.***

So we have a defense built in. But non believers do not.

(Romans 8:9 NKJV) But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

If you are not born of the spirit, born again, you do not have the Holy Spirit living in you.

So without salvation, and by extension, the Holy Spirit inside you, you are without defense against a powerful enemy.

Jesus gives insight on this in *(Mark 3:27 NKJV) No one can enter a strong mans house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house.*

So, the Holy Spirit is a built in and powerful defense against any spiritual foe that would seek to plunder and destroy.

I don't desire to spend too much time talking about the enemy, and his character, but dismissing him is a huge pitfall and will cause us to lose spiritual battles. We cannot underestimate our enemy.

A great example to follow is in *(Jude 1:9 NKJV) Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke you!*

Michael is no slouch.

Sennacherib in 2 Chronicles 32, 185,000 mighty men were slain by "an angel", un-named.

Michael the "Arch-angel."
Daniel 10, one of the chief angels in heaven.

Mentioned four times in the bible, always in battle.

The battle described in Jude is of a different sort than the rest, and perhaps different than how we imagine spiritual battles fought.

Think "This Present Darkness."

The combat he engaged in against the devil here was not fought in his own strength, but in another's.

*(Ephesians 6:10 NKJV) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the **Lord** and in the power of **His** might.*

We cannot afford to leave behind the only strength we have.
This is not a physical fight.
Knife to a gunfight.

Sons of Sceva:

(Acts 19:11-17 NKJV) Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them. Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches. Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you? Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

You need the Holy Spirit.

(1 Peter 5:8 NKJV) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

We need to be awake and aware, knowing that we are being hunted and fought against.

Our enemy is active and powerful. And he knows us:

Because he knows us, we can understand some of his tactics.

(Ephesians 6:11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

"Wiles", in the greek means "methods" and "trickery."

He knows our weaknesses:

(1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJV) No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

The temptations are always the same, and they've always been.

(1 John 2:16 KJV) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

1. The lust of the flesh, of the body: wrong desires of the heart, the appetite of indulging all things that excite and inflame sensual pleasure.
2. The lust of the eyes: the eyes are delighted with riches and possessions; it's the insatiable lust of covetousness.
3. The pride of life: as humans we desire the glorious life; we thirst for honor and applause, for power and respect, to be revered.

He experimented with these in the garden, they worked, and they've been working ever since.

He will do his best to exploit our weaknesses, and he is patient.

(Luke 4:1-13 NKJV) Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. And the devil said to Him, If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread. But Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours. And Jesus answered and said to him, Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, You

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shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve. Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you, and, In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone. And Jesus answered and said to him, It has been said, You shall not tempt the Lord your God. Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him **until an opportune time.**

This also shows that the Lord truly does know exactly what we go through:

(Hebrews 4:15 NKJV) For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Our enemy knows our names:

(Luke 22:31& 32 NKJV) And the Lord said, Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you...

But we need to remember, in all these trials, the Lord is in it. We're not going it alone. He is with us.

The Lord knows about the attack. Not only that, I think it can come recommended:

(Job 1:6-12 NKJV) Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. And the Lord said to Satan, From where do you come? So Satan answered the Lord and said, From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it. Then the Lord said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? So Satan answered the Lord and said, Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face! And the Lord said to Satan, Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person. So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

He allows it for our perfecting:

(James 1:2-4 KJV) My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Back to Job:

(Job 2:1-10 NKJV) Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord. And the Lord said to Satan, From where do you come? Satan answered the Lord and said, From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it. Then the Lord said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause. So Satan answered the Lord and said, Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face! And the Lord said to Satan, Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life. So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes. Then his wife said to him, Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die! But he said to her, You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity? **In all this Job did not sin with his lips.**

Another form of attack leveled against us:

Counterfeits.

*(1 John 4:1-4 NKJV) Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. **You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.***

Another way we're attacked:

Indirect.

(Revelation 12:10 NKJV) Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

"You mean he's up there day and night, accusing God? What kinds of things? EVERYTHING.

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"Day and night?" Day and night.
Doesn't that ever get old?
The part that never get's old is Jesus' role in all this.

(Romans 8:27 NKJV) Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

(Romans 8:34 NKJV) Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

(John 17:14-17 NKJV) I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Then, an awesome example of Jesus interceding for us, now, back then in the garden:

(John 17:20-26 NKJV) I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.

And I love that example, because Jesus doesn't ask Peter to pray for us, to intercede on our behalf. He does it himself. We don't need a priest, we don't need a pope, Jesus does it Himself.

We need that spiritual armor of God:

[Ephesians 6:13 - 18](#)

A battle well fought: [1 Samuel 17:20 - end](#)

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David already had armor on when Saul offered his armor. David was prepared for this **spiritual battle**.

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:15, 16 NKJV)

(1 Peter 5:6-10 NKJV) Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

(Revelation 12:11, 12 NKJV) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.

(1 Corinthians 15:55-58 NKJV) O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.