

Spiritual Warfare

Ephesians 6:10-13 (NKJV) ¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For 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.** ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:12 (ESV) ¹²For 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.**

Who Are The Principalities and Powers and How Do They Work?

Ephesians 1:19-21 (NKJV) ¹⁹and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹**far above all principality and power and might and dominion**, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

Ephesians 2:1-2 (NKJV) ¹And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ²in which you once walked according to the course of this world, **according to the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

Ephesians 3:10-11 (NKJV) ¹⁰to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church **to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places**, ¹¹according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Colossians 2:8-10 (NKJV) ⁸Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰**and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.**

Colossians 2:13-15 (NKJV) ¹³And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵**Having disarmed principalities and powers**, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Colossians 1:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, **whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.** All things were created through Him and for Him.

Some Religious Teachers Allow Their Imaginations To Run Wild

Deuteronomy 29:29 (NKJV) ²⁹“The secret *things belong* to the Lord our God, but those *things which are revealed belong* to us and to our children forever, that *we may do* all the words of

this law.

1 Timothy 1:3-7 (NKJV) ³As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they **teach no other doctrine, ⁴nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.** ⁵Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith, ⁶from which some, having strayed, **have turned aside to idle talk, ⁷desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.**

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NKJV) ³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵**casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God,** bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Spiritual Warfare Takes Place Through Deceptive Messages

John 8:44-47 (ESV) ⁴⁴You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and **has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.** ⁴⁵But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

1 John 4:1 (NKJV) ¹Beloved, **do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits,** whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1 John 4:6 (NKJV) ⁶We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. **By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.**

John 8:31-32 (NKJV) ³¹Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³²And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

1 Timothy 4:1-3 (NKJV) ¹Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, **giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ²speaking lies in hypocrisy,** having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ³forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

2 Corinthians 11:3-4 (NKJV) ³But I fear, lest somehow, **as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the £simplicity that is in Christ.** ⁴For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (NKJV) ¹³For such *are* **false apostles, deceitful workers,** transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also **transform themselves into ministers of righteousness,** whose end will be according to their works.

Through His Deceptive Messages, the Devil Tries to Break Through the Armor of God

Ephesians 6:14-18 (NKJV) ¹⁴Stand therefore, having girded your waist with **truth**, having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**, ¹⁵and having shod your feet with the **preparation of the gospel of peace**; ¹⁶above all, taking the shield of **faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷And take the helmet of **salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is **the word of God**; ¹⁸praying always with all **prayer and supplication** in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

TRUTH

- a. Deceptions about the Existence of God
- b. Deceptions about the Inspiration of the Bible
- c. Deceptions about who Jesus is – just a good man
- d. Deceptions about the Resurrection

RIGHTEOUSNESS

- a. Deceptions about the Gospel – what must we do to be saved?
- b. Deceptions about Marriage and the Family
- c. Deceptions about Purity and Holiness

PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

- a. Deceptions about the mission of the church – attract through social & recreational and meeting physical needs instead of a call to repentance
- b. Deceptions about the nature of the church – institution you attend instead of family members you hold accountable

FAITH

- a. Deceptions about the Nature of God – unjust, unmerciful, unloving
- b. Deceptions about what provides security and happiness (possessions, pleasure, and selfish desires instead of love, worship and service)

HOPE OF SALVATION

- a. Deceptions about priorities – put earthly activities before spiritual, instead of redeeming the time we engage in dissipation

THE WORD OF GOD

- a. Deceptions that say it is not understandable and knowable – just your interpretation, do what you want, everyone has to accept
- b. Deceptions that say we don't need to stay within it – divisions occur

PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION

- a. Deceptions that say it's only purpose is to make us feel better
- b. Deceptions about whose prayer is heard
- c. Deceptions about controlling God – name it and claim it health and wealth gospel