**October 21, 2018 “Spiritual Warfare” Ephesians 6:10-17**

**Part 1**

Whenever this passage comes into a study schedule, there will be questions as to why we should spend our time thinking about demons or Satan. I am sure that all Christians at one time or another have asked that question or at least something similar to that question.

I would like to start off our study on this passage with six reasons why we should engage in this study.

1. If you are a Christian and you have trusted Jesus Christ as your only means of salvation, you already are victorious over the devil. Jesus Christ defeated him and destroyed the works of the devil. (I John 3:8) which is the power of sin in your life and mine. Every Christian does not fight for victory but rather from victory.
2. Why should we study about spiritual warfare? The main reason is that God has chosen to reveal this warfare to us. This war started in in Genesis 3 in the Garden of Eden and will only end when Satan and all his hordes are cast into the Lake of Fire in Revelation 20:10. How else would we explain the book of Job? (Job 1 & 2)
3. We should study this subject in the light of God’s Word and not from some so-called expert on; exorcism or spiritual mapper or from someone who identifies territorial demons in some fashion or another. Many Christians can get so involved in unscriptural practices that those practices consume their time and render them nearly useless for the work of the kingdom. This too is a deception from the devil. If he cannot keep you from heaven he can and will try to keep you so busy chasing after him that you are virtually of no value to the kingdom of God.
4. Matthew 24:24 “for false christs and false prophets will arise and will show greats signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the very elect”. Throughout Scripture there are warnings that in the last days spiritual deception will increase and we cannot be unaware of the dangers of this unseen war. (II Thessalonians 2:1-12)
5. Understanding spiritual warfare will help us to make sense of the world around us. We will see with spiritual eyes the motivation behind many of the so-called movements of today which only author more and more confusion in the ranks of the unsaved. (I Corinthians 14:33… “for God is not the author of confusion”. (Romans 1:24-32) (Jude 11-16)
6. We need to know that we have an unrelenting enemy seeking to destroy our lives and lives of loved ones. (I Peter 5:8) he is always looking for an opening… always.

I would not call this last example a reason to study spiritual warfare but rather it is something that we should all remember at all times, every day. We are to focus on Jesus Christ and not on the devil. In all of Pauls’ letters (Romans. I & II Corinthians… etc.) he only uses the word Satan 10 times and uses the work “devil” only 6 times. Conversely, he uses the name of “Jesus” 219 times; “Lord” 272 times and “Christ” 389 times.

What do you think that is telling us? (Revelation 5) in all of heaven and earth there is only one Overcomer!!!!