



- The reason we continue to carry questions is because we refuse to **ask** God.

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

James 1:5 (NLT)

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

10 ...Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 12 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. 13 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. Ephesians 6:10-13 (NLT)

- You are in a very real **battle**.

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)

- The life of a Christ follower is a **battleground**, not a playground.

For God has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, 14 who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. Colossians 1:13-14 (NLT)

Rules of War:

- The first rule of war is that we have to stay **engaged** in the war.

- If we don't know we're in a battle, we've already **lost** the battle.

We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one. 1 John 5:19 (NLT)

- If we don't know our enemy, we're already **defeated**.

...Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)

12 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. Ephesians 6:12

- If we don't know how Satan attacks us, we're **unprepared**.

...so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes. 2 Corinthians 2:11 (NLT)

How the enemy attacks:

- He **tempts** us to sin.

But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:3

- He blinds the **minds** of unbelievers.

The god of this age has **blinded the minds of unbelievers**...2 Corinthians 4:4

- He **steals** God's word from you.

"When anyone hears the message about the kingdom **and does not understand it, the evil one** comes and **snatches away** what was sown in his heart." Matthew 13:19

- He sets **traps** to ensnare you.

...and that they will come to their senses and escape from the **trap of the devil**, who has taken them captive to do his will. 2 Timothy 2:26

- He fights to **stop** you.

For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but **Satan stopped us**. 1 Thessalonians 2:18

- He plants **thoughts** in your mind.

While supper was taking place, the devil had already put the idea of betraying Jesus into the mind of Judas.

John 13:2

- He **Lies** to you.

...he has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44 (NLT)

The enemy lies to you to get an **emotional** response from you.

- If we don't know what God has given us then we're **unprotected**.

Our protection in the battle:

- You're not **alone** in your battle.

10 ...**Be strong in the Lord** and in his mighty power. Ephesians 6:10 (NLT)

"The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still." Exodus 14:14

When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked. "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are **with us** are more than those who are **with them**." And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 2 Kings 6:15-17

...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 1 John 4:4

- You've been given **armor**, use it.

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. Ephesians 6:14-18 (NLT)

Belt of Truth: Live from God's **Truth**.

Breastplate of righteousness: Live with confidence that **Jesus** makes you right with God..

Shoes of Peace: Let your peace with God be expressed to **others**.

Shield of Faith: Live with confidence in God's **word**, God's power.

Helmet of Salvation: We choose **thoughts** that reflect our salvation.

Sword of the Spirit: Use God's Word to **correct** the lies you have believed.

- Your **prayers** are more powerful than you know.

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

"Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come." Daniel 10:12-14 NLT

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Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you find this to be an important question?
- Is it easy to forget that we are in a very real spiritual battle? Explain.
- Do you find yourself engaged in the war or running from the war?
- If we don't know our true enemy we make people our enemy; How does this hurt us?
- Do you feel prepared for the attacks on you?
- Talk through the points under the sub-heading: "How the enemy attacks". Which one of these surprised you? Which one do you experience most and how do you combat it?
- Do you have confidence that you are protected in this battle? Explain.
- What does it mean to you that you are not alone in this battle?
- Do you understand and use the armor of God? Talk through the points of the armor of God and how to live them out?
- Do you believe that your prayers are more powerful than you think?

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Today's Talk..



Why is Spiritual Warfare Important?

Sunday, May 21st, 2023