



Stand - Our Warfare With the Enemy

Key idea:

Every Christian is called to draw upon the strength of Christ to take a stand against Satan and his kingdom, praying for the spread of the Gospel and the kingdom of God.

Key text:

Ephesians 6:10–20 (ESV)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Key points:

1. Every Christian is inevitably involved in spiritual warfare.
2. The mandatory preparation to STAND against Satan is drawing strength from being seated with Christ and walking in obedience to His commands.
3. Our enemies in spiritual warfare are Satan and his demons, not other humans.
4. We must actively prepare for and engage in spiritual warfare.
5. Christians engage in spiritual warfare from a position of victory, from being seated with Christ in heaven.

6. Spiritual warfare is primarily conducted through prayer, with the focus of the advance of God's kingdom and the Gospel.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. Why must SIT come before STAND? What provisions for spiritual warfare has God given me in Christ?
3. What is the relationship between WALK and STAND? Is it possible for me to STAND against Satan if I do not WALK in obedience to God's commands? Why or why not?
4. Paul says our spiritual warfare is not against flesh and blood (other humans). How should I think of humans who are tempting me or others to sin or disobey God? Do I conduct warfare against them? How do I respond to them?
5. What is my part in spiritual warfare? What must I do to successfully STAND and engage in spiritual warfare?
6. CS Lewis said "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight." What do I think about this phrase? Which of these errors is more of a temptation for me?
7. Is all prayer spiritual warfare? How much of my prayer is concerned with spiritual warfare and the cause of the Gospel? What are the dominant themes in my prayer life?
8. How can Scripture teach me how to pray? How can I use Scripture to guide my prayers and spiritual warfare?
9. Whom can I pray for, share what I have learned, and invite to church this week?

Preview of next week: What Is God's Character Like? (Catechism Question 7) (Isaiah 6:1-8)