

What is Spiritual Warfare?

Ephesians 6:10-20

Spiritual warfare is: A Christians battle against the devil and the spiritual forces of evil.

Ephesians 6:10–12 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.
¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the **devil**. 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.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your **adversary the devil** prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Spiritual warfare is: A Christians battle against the devil and the spiritual forces of evil. (partially correct)

- Satan is a personal being, with a mind, emotions, and a will ([Job 1](#); [Matthew 4:1–12](#)).
- He is a created being and is not equal to God ([Ezekiel 28:15](#)).
- Satan does not rule hell. Hell was created as a punishment for Satan and his demons ([Matthew 25:41](#)). Neither does Satan live in hell, as the Bible describes how he can enter heaven and roam the earth ([Job 1:6–7](#)).
- The devil can only do what God allows ([Job 1:12](#)).
- Satan is not omnipresent. But he does oversee a horde of demons, called “the powers of this dark world and . . . the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” ([Ephesians 6:12](#)). He uses this network to tempt and deceive people.
- He actively works to nullify the effect of the Word of God in people’s hearts ([Matthew 13:3–4](#), [19](#)), and he blinds the intellect of those who do not believe so they cannot understand the gospel ([2 Corinthians 4:4](#)).
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The devil seeks to tempt people to sin through deception and thus nullify the word of God in believer's heart and mind.

Spiritual warfare is the process of putting to death what is earthly in through the Word of Christ dwelling richly in the believer so that the believer is empowered by the Holy Spirit to be obedient to God's holy commands.

Sanctification

1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification:

Sanctification (hagiasmos): setting apart unto God

Romans 6:13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

Colossians 3:5-10 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Ephesians 6:10-11 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the **schemes** of the devil.

Schemes (methodeia): crafty scheming with the intent to deceive

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for **apart from me you can do nothing**.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might**.

Ephesians 1:15-22 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the

hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, **according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead** and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,

1 John 3:8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. **The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.**

Colossians 2:14–15 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Ephesians 6:10–18 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 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. 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 firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying 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,