**The Spiritual Warfare**

By Arlen L. Chitwood

**Commentary by Charles Strong**

Christians are presently engaged in a battle against powerful angelic rulers in the spirit world. These angels, ruling in the kingdom of Satan, are striving for the souls of men; and the outcome of this conflict, like any conflict, is determined by proper or improper preparation as one engages the enemy.

A properly prepared Christian can enter the conflict and consistently win battle after battle, but an improperly prepared Christian entering the conflict can only experience defeat time after time.

*Victory* is achieved through engaging the enemy within the framework of the Lord's instructions in **Ephesians 6:10**ff. A Christian though who engages the enemy after any other fashion is entering the conflict apart from the Lord's instructions, leaving himself in a very vulnerable position, one in which the enemy can consistently achieve victory.

Thus, in this respect, *victory* on the one hand or *defeat* on the other is determined by the Christian's preparation for the conflict at hand. A Christian can either heed the Lord's instructions or he can ignore the Lord's instructions. There is no middle ground (**Matthew 12:30; Luke 11:23**). The former will produce *readiness for battle and result in victory*, but the latter will leave the Christian *very vulnerable to attack and can only result in defeat*.

Victory for the Christian will actually be determined by how badly he wants to win. The overriding thought in Ephesians has to do with *individuals being saved for a revealed purpose*. Christians have been saved by grace through faith (**Ephesians 2:8**) in order to realize an inheritance in heavenly places (**1:3, 11, 18; 2:6, 7; 3:1-6**). The task of a pastor-teacher is to lead Christians into a mature knowledge of this inheritance, a mature knowledge of the things surrounding the purpose for their salvation (**4:11**ff), resulting in their being filled with the Spirit (**5:18**ff) and being able to engage the enemy after the fashion given at the end of this epistle (**6:10**ff).

How badly do Christians really want to achieve victory over the enemy and one day realize the proffered inheritance with God's Son? *That is the question* that will determine what a Christian does about the Lord's instructions concerning proper preparation for the battle at hand.

[Bible One - Charles Strong's Commentary on The Spiritual Warfare by Arlen Chitwood](http://bibleone.net/TSW.htm)

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