**Freedom, Satan and Armor**

(Contains *four* commentaries.)

**Subjects:**

[Freedom](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-three.php#Freedom)

[Satan](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-three.php#Satan)

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**Freedom
By Believers Bible Commentary**

*So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman.*

*It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.* ([Galatians 4:31-5:1 NASB](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+4.31-5.1&t=NASB))

The last verse of [Galatians 4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+4&t=NKJV) ([Gal. 4:31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Gal.+4.31&t=NKJV)) describes the believer's position—he is free.

The first verse of [Galatians 5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+5&t=NKJV) ([Gal. 5:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Gal.+5.1&t=NKJV)) refers to his practice—he should live as a free man. Here we have a very good illustration of the *difference* between *law* and *grace*.

The law would say:

“If you earn your freedom, you will become free.”

But grace says:

“You have been made free at the tremendous cost of the death of Christ. In gratitude to Him, you should stand fast therefore in the liberty with which Christ has made you free.”

Law commands but does not enable. Grace provides what law demands, then enables man to live a life consistent with his position by the power of the Holy Spirit and rewards him for doing it.

As C. H. Mackintosh says,

“The law demands strength from one who has none, and curses him if he cannot display it. The gospel gives strength to one who has none, and blesses him in the exhibition of it.”

“Run, John, and live,” the law commands,
But gives me neither legs nor hands;
Far better news the Gospel brings,
It bids me fly and gives me wings.

See [Holy Spirit – Ministries and Filling!](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word.php#Holy%20Spirit%20%E2%80%93%20Ministries%20and%20Filling!)in this site.

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**Satan’s Present Organization of His Kingdom
By Gary Whipple of** [**Beyond the Rapture**](http://www.bibleone.net/BeyondtheRapture.pdf)

*“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high* {places}” ([Ephesians 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.12&t=NKJV)).

According to this verse in Ephesians, Satan’s rule from the heavens over this present earth is organized to accommodate three major ranks. These are:

(1) “**Principalities**” [Gr.*’arche’l*, meaning chief or principle ruler. These are the highest-ranking angelic rulers under Satan himself, who rules over portions of his kingdom, *i.e.* all that he has.

(2) “**Powers**” (Gr.‘*exousia’*) meaning magistrates, potentates, or delegated influences. This second highest rank of rulers, are placed in positions of power and rulership under the Principalities, with full power to carry out and enforce the rule of the “Principalities” and Satan.

(3) “**Rulers of darkness**” (Gr. ‘*kosmokrator skotos’*) meaning rulers-world who under the “Powers” rules the nations of the world in obscurity. These lesser rulers have authority over the territory of this world only, and are probably princes over the nations and cities of the earth. They are the over-rulers of their flesh and blood counterparts, *i.e.* presidents, governors, mayors, etc. who unwittingly carry out their plans and directives, not knowing that they are being used by Satan. Daniel refers to two of these princes of Satan as being rulers of Greece and of Persia ([Daniel 10:13-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.13-21&t=NKJV)). Here, God tells us that one of them (the prince of Persia) had the power to capture an angel, sent from God to Daniel, for 21 days. Only with the intervention of Michael, the archangel, was he able to overcome him.

The appearance of a fourth rank is *not* considered by this writer as a ruling rank. This is called “**spiritual wickedness in high places**” (Gr. ‘*pneumatikos poneria*’), which means supernatural or spirit beings (probably the *demons*) who promote wickedness and iniquity on the earth. These spirit beings make up the lowest position in Satan’s kingdom and they have no rule or authority. They occupy the high places, *i.e.* the heavenly places (Gr. *Epouranious*), meaning above the sky, *i.e.*, earth’s atmosphere as well as the celestial portion of Satan’s kingdom, and are outside the prominence of Satan’s present rule over this earth.

[Bible One - Gary Whipple's Beyond the Rapture](http://www.bibleone.net/BeyondtheRapture.pdf), Ch. 8, Pg. 102.

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**Spiritual Warfare
By Compelling Truth**

There are two primary issues to address regarding spiritual warfare and the Bible. *First*, does spiritual warfare exist? *Second*, what does the Bible say about engaging in spiritual warfare?

The Bible is very clear on the existence of spiritual warfare. Peter warns

*"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour"* ([1 Peter 5:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+5.8&t=NKJV)).

Our adversary or enemy, the devil, refers to Satan, who is a real entity, not a mythical creature or invention. Other titles of Satan include the tempter ([1 Thessalonians 3:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+3.5&t=NKJV)) and the accuser of the brethren ([Revelation 12:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.10&t=NKJV)).

Three of Satan's titles indicate his authority in this world:

the ruler of this world ([John 12:31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+12.31&t=NKJV)),

the god of this age ([2 Corinthians 4:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+4.4&t=NKJV)), and

the prince of the power of the air ([Ephesians 2:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.2&t=NKJV)).

Satan also transforms himself into "an angel of light," a description that highlights his capacity and inclination to deceive ([2 Corinthians 11:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+11.14&t=NKJV)).

Spiritual warfare, the idea that humans battle in some way with supernatural powers, is also the testimony of the apostle Paul in [Ephesians 6:10-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10-18&t=NKJV). Here, Paul notes that believers battle against the devil's schemes and that this is a spiritual battle, not a physical one. We are to be fully aware of Satan's evil plans ([2 Corinthians 2:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+2.11&t=NKJV)). Paul further describes the warfare in which we are engaged as we battle throughout our lives "against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" ([Ephesians 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.12&t=NKJV)). Clearly, such powers exist.

The second question—what does the Bible say about engaging in spiritual warfare? — is somewhat more controversial. The problem typically arises when we either over emphasize spiritual warfare by seeing every occurrence in life as part of it or under emphasizing it by ignoring the spiritual realm altogether.

Several biblical texts inform our understanding of this issue. First, Christians must remember we are already conquerors ([Romans 8:37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.37&t=NKJV)) and that Satan has already been defeated ([Colossians 2:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+2.15&t=NKJV); [1 Peter 3:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+3.22&t=NKJV)). Second, the power of Christ within the believer is greater than the power of Satan ([1 John 4:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1John+4.4&t=NKJV)). We have no reason to live in fear of Satan or evil spirits as believers. Satan can harm, but he cannot defeat the believer in Christ.

Third, we must not forget that Satan can be allowed to attack believers ([2 Corinthians 12:7-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+12.7-9&t=NKJV); [James 1:2-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+1.2-4&t=NKJV)) in order to fulfill God's perfect plan for His people. This was the case of Paul's thorn in the flesh and was also seen in the example of Job's life ([Job 1–3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Job+1%E2%80%933&t=NKJV)). Satan's power over us is limited, however, to only that which God ordains for His purposes—to bring His children to maturity and bring glory to Himself.

Fourth, Satan's primary strategy is to blind us to God's plan for our lives ([2 Corinthians 4:3-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+4.3-4&t=NKJV)). Rather than a supernatural battle between angels and demons that is often portrayed in modern culture, the general tactic used by Satan is to turn our eyes away from God's truth and toward self. However, we cannot blame every temptation on Satan, since the Bible also teaches that we are tempted and enticed by our own evil desires ([James 1:13-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+1.13-15&t=NKJV)).

Fifth, the method to defeat Satan is to resist him and stay near to God. [James 4:7-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+4.7-8&t=NKJV) instructs, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you." A close walk with God is the best protection against Satan's activities.

Sixth, Paul exhorts us to arm ourselves for the spiritual battle which is part of the Christian life by putting on the "whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil" ([Ephesians 6:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.11&t=NKJV)). This armor includes truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, the Word of God, and prayer. These weapons will enable us to "be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might" ([Ephesians 6:10-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10-18&t=NKJV)).

Ultimately, spiritual warfare is not about a technique to defeat Satan or demons, but a heart that walks closely with God. When God is first and foremost in our lives, Satan lacks power over us, despite his attempts to weaken our efforts to pursue Christ.

As a final warning, it is important that we do not take our God-given power over Satan as an opportunity to display arrogance. In [Acts 19:13-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+19.13-16&t=NKJV) we find the account of Jewish leaders who attempted to use God's power to overcome evil for their own benefit and received a harsh punishment for doing so. This stern warning should reveal our need to depend on a humble and personal walk with Christ to overcome evil rather than an external display to feed human pride.

In summary, spiritual warfare is a *very real part* of the Christian life, but should *not* be an opportunity for either fear or pride. Instead, the reality of Satan and his evil forces should cause us to draw near to God all the more, realizing His power can conquer any foe we may encounter.

[Compelling Truth - Spiritual Warfare](http://www.compellingtruth.org/spiritual-warfare.html)

Also see [Battles between a Christian's New and Old Natures](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#Battles%20between%20a%20Christian's%20New%20and%20Old%20Natures) and [How I Learned to Pray for the Lost](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-two.php#How%20I%20Learned%20to%20Pray%20for%20the%20Lost) in this site.

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**Full Armor of God
By Compelling Truth**

The armor of God is described in [Ephesians 6:10-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10-18&t=NKJV). In this passage we are told that our *primary* battles are of a spiritual nature and that we need spiritual armor to be able to stand firm in the midst of these battles. The armor includes the following pieces:

**Belt of truth**: The belt of truth is the first item in our arsenal. A belt holds the other pieces of clothing and armor together. It secures the outfit and allows a soldier to move freely. Truth both secures us and gives us freedom ([John 8:32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+8.32&t=NKJV)). One of Satan's greatest offensive tactics is to deceive us; he is the "father of lies" ([John 8:44](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+8.44&t=NKJV)). With the belt of truth around our waists, we are prepared to defend against this. This truth also applies to the way we live our lives. When we live with honesty and integrity, the other pieces of our armor – what could be considered our spiritual selves – stay intact. A life of integrity is not easily torn asunder.

**Breastplate of righteousness**: The breastplate of righteousness covers our hearts and other vital organs. In a sense, the breastplate covers the most vulnerable areas of a warrior. [Proverbs 4:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Proverbs+4.23&t=NKJV) says, "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life." The righteousness that guards a believer's heart is the righteousness of Christ ([2 Corinthians 5:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+5.21&t=NKJV)).

**Footwear of the readiness of the gospel**: Our feet are to be "fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace" ([Ephesians 6:15 NIV](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.15&t=NIV)). Because we know the good news of Christ and by that knowledge experience peace in Him ([John 14:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+14.27&t=NKJV)), our feet are willing to move. In obedience to Christ, we will flee temptations ([1 Corinthians 10:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+10.14&t=NKJV); [1 Timothy 6:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+6.11&t=NKJV); [2 Timothy 2:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+2.22&t=NKJV)) and walk into whatever He has called us to ([Psalm 86:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+86.11&t=NKJV); [Isaiah 30:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+30.21&t=NKJV); [John 15:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+15.10&t=NKJV)).

**Shield of faith**: The shield of faith is used to "extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one" ([Ephesians 6:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.16&t=NKJV)). When Satan attacks us, our faith in Christ lessens the blow. We are able to withstand the attack because we know whom we have believed ([2 Timothy 1:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+1.12&t=NKJV)).

**Helmet of salvation**: A helmet protects the brain, basically our minds. It is because of salvation that our minds can be sound. We are assured of our eternities, and made righteous recipients of peace, practitioners of faith, and knowers of truth. Our minds are protected because of Jesus' work on the cross; we have been given the mind of Christ ([1 Corinthians 2:12-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.12-16&t=NKJV)). A helmet can also serve as a signifier. When the enemy looks at us, he sees that we belong to Christ. We carry with us the seal of the Holy Spirit ([Ephesians 1:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.13-14&t=NKJV)).

**Sword of the Spirit**: The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. This includes God's written Word (the Bible), God's incarnate Word (Jesus as Logos), and God's spoken Word (the Holy Spirit within us). The sword is the one offensive weapon in the list. We are told, "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" ([Hebrews 4:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.12&t=NKJV)). [2 Timothy 3:16 NIV](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+3.16&t=NIV) speaks of Scripture as being "God-breathed." When God spoke creation came into existence. He breathed life into man. There is power in the Word of God; this is why it is our best offense.

[Compelling Truth - Full Armor of God](http://www.compellingtruth.org/full-armor-God.html)

Also see [Holy Spirit – Ministries and Filling!](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word.php#Holy%20Spirit%20%E2%80%93%20Ministries%20and%20Filling!) in this website.