Spiritual Warfare

Every believer is engaged in spiritual warfare against the devil. No one is exempt from this service. The unceasing struggle between the devil against Israel, the church and the world is taught in the book of Revelation. There is an outward conflict on earth and a "war in heaven" (Rev. 12:7) of God against Satan. Rev. 12:12 reveals that the devil has great wrath because he knows that he has only a short time. Rev. 12:9, 10 reveal the enemy's character and mode of warfare: the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world. He is Satan, the adversary of God, the church and the believer; he is the accuser of the brethren, a murderer, the father of lies (John 8:44). This old enemy seeks to pounce on every opportunity to condemn, discredit, discourage and cause dissensions among believers. Who can overcome him?

Rev. 12:11 tells us, "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death." It is our relationship with God through the blood of Christ that enables us to share in Jesus' victory. Eph. 6:11-12 reminds us that moment by moment, we must put on the full armor of God to stand against the schemes of the devil and claim the victory of Christ and safeguard God's kingdom of believers for His glory.

Conscious of this warfare, Eph. 6:10-17 tells us to stand fully armored with:
- "the belt of truth" – having integrity when relating to everyone;
- "the breastplate of righteousness" – practicing righteousness in sanctification;
- "having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace – having full assurance of salvation, and surefooted about why and what we do;
- "the shield of faith to extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one" – holding firm to the unwavering faith in our Lord;
- "the helmet of salvation" – holding fast to our eternal standing in our Lord;
- "the sword of the Spirit" – using the Bible to counter the enemy.

-Borrowed and Adapted