

**Outline of  
the Messages for the Full-time Training  
in the Spring Term of 2025**

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**GENERAL SUBJECT:  
THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES—  
EPHESIANS**

Message Fifteen  
**Spiritual Warfare**

Scripture Reading: Eph. 6:10-20; Matt. 6:10; 12:22-29; Psa. 110:3a

**I. “Our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies”—Eph. 6:12:**

- A. In 6:10-20 we see that the church is a warrior to defeat God's enemy, the devil, and his spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
- B. In verse 11 Paul refers to the stratagems of the devil, and then in verse 12 he explains that our wrestling is against Satan's evil forces.
- C. *Blood and flesh* refers to human beings, and behind them are the evil forces of the devil, fighting against God's purpose.
- D. Our wrestling, our fighting, must not be against human beings but against the evil spiritual forces in the heavenlies.
- E. *This darkness* refers to today's world, which is fully under the dark ruling of the devil, who rules through his evil angels—Rom. 13:12; 1 John 2:11.
- F. The world-rulers of this darkness are the princes Satan has set up to rule over the various nations; because of the working of Satan, who is the authority of darkness, the earth and its atmosphere have become “this darkness.”
- G. In Ephesians 6:12 Paul also speaks of “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies”:
  - 1. Here *the heavenlies* refers to the air (2:2); Satan and his spiritual forces of evil are in the air, but we are seated in the third heaven above them (v. 6).
  - 2. Satan and his evil forces are under us, and their fate is to be defeated by us.
  - 3. We must fight against these spiritual forces.

**II. Ephesians 6:10-20 is the clearest portion of the New Testament dealing with spiritual warfare:**

- A. Ephesians 6:10-20 reveals that the church as the new man is a corporate warrior fighting against the enemy for God's kingdom:
  - 1. The church as the one new man is the corporate man in God's intention, and this new man will fulfill the twofold purpose of expressing God and dealing with God's enemy—Gen. 1:26.
  - 2. Not only must God's eternal purpose be fulfilled and the desire of Christ's heart be satisfied, but God's enemy must be defeated; for this, the church must be a warrior.
- B. Spiritual warfare is necessary because Satan's will is in conflict with God's will—Eph. 1:5, 9, 11; Matt. 6:10; 7:21; Isa. 14:12-14:
  - 1. If we would know how the church as the new man can be God's warrior to engage in spiritual warfare, we need to realize that in the universe there are three wills—the divine will, the satanic will, and the human will—Rev. 4:11.

2. Spiritual warfare has its source in the conflict between the divine will and the satanic will—Matt. 6:10; Ezek. 28:12-19; Isa. 14:12-14.
3. As the church, our fighting is to subdue the satanic will and defeat God's enemy—Eph. 6:13.
- C. The warfare between the church and Satan is a battle between us who love the Lord and who are in His church and the evil powers in the heavenlies—v. 12.
- D. The principalities, the authorities, and the world-rulers of darkness are the rebellious angels who followed Satan in his rebellion against God and who now rule in the heavenlies over the nations of the world—Col. 1:13; Dan. 10:20.
- E. Spiritual warfare is not an individual matter; it is a matter of the Body, the new man—Eph. 1:22-23; 4:24; 6:13:
  1. The church is a corporate warrior, and the believers together make up this corporate warrior; after we have been formed corporately into an army, we will be able to fight against God's enemy.
  2. The whole armor of God is for the Body, not for individuals; only the corporate warrior can wear the whole armor of God.
- F. By putting on the whole armor of God, we are able to stand against the stratagems, the evil plans, of the devil—vv. 11, 13-14:
  1. To sit with Christ is to participate in all His accomplishments, to walk in His Body is to fulfill God's eternal purpose, and to stand in His power is to fight against God's enemy—2:6; 4:1; 5:2, 8; 6:13-14.
  2. In fighting against the enemy, the most important thing is to stand; having done all, we need to stand to the end.

### **III. The purpose of spiritual warfare is to bring in the kingdom of God—Rev. 11:15; 12:10:**

- A. Spiritual warfare is the warfare between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan—Matt. 12:26, 28; Rev. 12:11.
- B. The kingdom of God will not come automatically; in order for the kingdom to come, there is the need of spiritual fighting—Matt. 12:22-29.
- C. Wherever the devil has been cast out and wherever the work of the enemy has been displaced by God's power, the kingdom of God is there—v. 28.
- D. In the Lord's recovery today we are on the battlefield, and we should be fighting against Satan's aerial forces so that we can gain more of Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ, setting up and spreading the kingdom of God so that Christ can come back to inherit the earth—6:10.

### **IV. "Jehovah declares to my Lord, / Sit at My right hand / Until I make Your enemies / Your footstool. / Jehovah will send forth / The scepter of Your strength from Zion: / Rule in the midst of Your enemies. / Your people will offer themselves willingly / In the day of Your warfare, / In the splendor of their consecration"—Psa. 110:1-3a:**

- A. In a spiritual sense, we are now in the day of Christ's warfare, and for this we need to be a voluntary offering, a freewill offering—Lev. 22:18; Deut. 12:6.
- B. In order to engage in spiritual warfare to defeat God's enemy and bring in the kingdom of God, we need an absolute and thorough consecration to the Lord; in the eyes of God, such a consecration is a matter of splendor—Psa. 110:3a.