

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Before we enter into today's teaching, I want to encourage you to be strong and "Don't let Your Faith Slip" We are facing a time and a situation many of us have never seen before. We may have been caught off guard. BUT God was not.

We hear about numbers going up in those who have contacted the virus and the death totals rising. I just want to assure you God is still on the throne, and he knows your name and your address. The Blood of Christ is still just as powerful today as it was before this.

You have His promise to protect you and to keep you. That is His word to us that believe.

The reason for me to start this series on Spiritual Warfare is because we must walk in wisdom and "Fight the Good Fight of Faith.

- I. "What are the wiles of the devil in Ephesians 6:11?"
- II. "Who is Satan?"
- III. "The Believer's Authority"
- IV. "The Believer's Responsibility"

"If what you see is all you are seeing than you, then you are not seeing."

2 Kings 6:16-17 (NKJV) So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who *are* with us *are* more than those who *are* with them." ¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

This past Friday was windy a very strong wind. We could hear the wind from inside the house. Laster, we had to go to the church. While driving there I was seeing things that had been blown down by the wind. Things that had not been secured to prevent the wind from causing damage.

Even though I could not see the wind I could see its effects.

Even though we may not be able to see into the spiritual realm we can see its effects.

- The first heaven is the firmament (Sky). This heaven is the closest to the Earth. Genesis 1:8 And God ...
- The second heaven is the space is where the sun, moon and stars are located. Deuteronomy 4:19 ...

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- The third heaven is the location of God's throne: situate to the utter most north from the earth.

I. "WHAT ARE THE WILES OF THE DEVIL IN EPHESIANS 6:11?"

Ephesians 6:10-13 (NKJV) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand **against the WILES (DECEPTIONS, TRICKS and MANIPULATIONS) of the devil.** ¹² For we do not **WRESTLE** against flesh and blood, but against **principalities**, against **powers**, against the **rulers** of the darkness of this age, against **spiritual hosts of wickedness** in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

a) "What are the wiles of the devil in Ephesians 6:11?"

Wiles are DECEPTIONS, TRICKS or MANIPULATIONS designed to **deceive** someone. Wiles of the devil are those clever schemes used by **Satan** to ensnare (Trap) us through temptation, threat, or intimidation.

Here are some of the devil's wiles we see in Scripture:

1. Challenging God's Word. [Genesis 3](#) gives us a detailed look into this tactic of our enemy. It led to the first human sin, and Satan still uses it because it works so well. The first recorded words of the devil, through the serpent, were these: "Did God really say?" ([Genesis 3:1](#)). With those words, the devil invited the woman to reconsider what she understood God to have said. By adding her human interpretation, she convinced herself that God's Word was far too restrictive.

By suggesting that we should reexamine the clear teaching of God's Word, Satan invites us to add our own interpretation and thereby nullify God's stated will. Entire church denominations are falling prey to these wiles of the devil. "Did God really say that homosexuality is wrong?" he hisses, and churches crumble. "Did God really say there are only two genders?" he suggests, inviting us to put our own spin on reality, making ourselves gods in place of the Lord.

2. Challenging our identity. [Luke 4:1-13](#) gives insight into several of the devil's wiles. Satan came against Jesus to tempt Him in the wilderness. On two different occasions, Satan began his temptations with these words: "If you are the Son of God." Satan knew exactly who Jesus was ([Mark 1:34](#)). Jesus was there when Satan fell "like lightning from heaven" ([Luke 10:18](#)). Significantly, the devil chose a time when Jesus was physically weak and hungry to attack His identity.

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Satan does the same with us. To make his wiles (DECEPTIONS, TRICKS and MANIPULATIONS) more effective, he hits us during a crisis or a spiritual struggle and suggests, “If you were a child of God, this wouldn’t happen. If you were actually a Christian, God would help you right now.” Again, we need the “helmet of salvation” firmly in place to withstand such attacks against our identity and God’s character ([Ephesians 6:17](#)).

3. Twisting Scripture. Another of the wiles the devil used against Jesus was to quote Scripture, but with a twist. In [Luke 4:10-11](#), Satan quotes [Psalm 91:11-12](#) in an effort to persuade Jesus to act in the flesh rather than follow the Spirit (see [Galatians 5:16, 25](#)). But Satan failed to complete the thought of the psalm. The next verse, [Psalm 91:13](#), says, “You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.” Those animal references are metaphors for fierce and dangerous enemies—and the devil is likened to both a lion and a serpent in Scripture ([Genesis 3:15](#); - Serpent [Revelation 20:2](#); - [1 Peter 5:8](#); cf. [Romans 16:20](#)).

The true meaning of the passage in [Psalm 91](#) is that God will protect and empower His servants as they overcome the enemy, Satan. One of the wiles of the devil is to leave out key parts of Scripture in order to twist its meaning to fit his agenda.

We see these wiles of the devil in action today, as [false prophets](#) quote Scripture in selfish and misleading ways. They use enough of God’s Word to sound authoritative, but they twist it to fit their personal agendas. Cherry-picking the Bible for verses that affirm whatever we want to believe or do is a widespread problem, and most participants have no idea they have fallen victim to one of the wiles of the devil.

4. Offering a tempting alternative to obedience. Another scheme or wile of the devil used in the temptation of Jesus was to suggest another path, avoiding strict obedience to God’s will. Cunningly, Satan knew better than to suggest that Jesus forget the whole salvation plan and go back to heaven. Instead, he offered an alternative. In [Luke 4:5-7](#), “the devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, ‘I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.’” This temptation was aimed at the humanity of the Son of Man.

Jesus now knew what it felt like to be in the flesh. He knew what spikes would feel like in His hands and feet. He knew what rejection and mockery would feel like when He was stripped naked and paraded before the crowds. Satan was offering Him a compromise. What if Jesus could “save the world” without having to suffer crucifixion? What if He could take a shortcut and possess all the world’s kingdoms now?

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One of the most sinister wiles of the devil involves his ability to offer a religiously tainted compromise. He knows he can't come at mature believers with a frontal attack on their values and convictions. So he slides in the back door, posing as a friend with a reasonable alternative:

"Well, yes, technically it might be wrong for someone to move in with a boyfriend, but you can witness to him better as he watches you live out your faith." Or this: "You don't need to go to church to be spiritual. You connect better with God alone in the woods. Those people are all hypocrites anyway, and you are too righteous to associate with them." We must beware of the devil's wiles when he offers something other than total obedience to God's will.

4. FEAR, THE DEVIL ATTEMPTS TO CAUSE FEAR.

a) I can't

The worst thing about the "I can't" lie is that it stops us before we start. It fills us with fear as we face our biggest obstacles and challenges.

"I can't overcome alcohol." "I shouldn't expect to have a good marriage." "Everything I touch turns out wrong." "I'm a failure." "I can't follow God." "I can't start that business."

b) God won't

"God won't help me." "God won't forgive me again." "God won't hear me." "God won't love me." These are real cries of the hurting heart. And God is ready for that: "As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear him. God is not frustrated at our weaknesses and failing.

Ask Peter after his denial of Christ. Ask the woman who was so ashamed that she could not even look up but washed the feet of Christ with her tears.

"The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart." [5]

c) Nobody cares

This is a lie from Satan, "the accuser," much too close to the first recorded lie. His approach to Eve was that God did not have her best interest at heart. She could have more than God was offering.

God cares. "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

And people care. It is natural to retreat from people when we hurt, to hide, to isolate ourselves. It is natural, but it is counterproductive. The healing comes as we choose the supernatural, God's plan. And God's plan involves accepting the provisions God has made, including people.

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d) I don't matter

You matter to God. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." [8] You are worth God assuming human flesh, dying on a cross to take the punishment for your sins, and rising again.

You matter, not because of what you can do, not because of who you are, but because of whose you are, if you are a child of God. A loving parent cares for the child, even in the child's failures.