

## 14. Keep a Heart for the Battle

Ephesians 6:10-20 details for us the spiritual protection that is available to every Christian when doing battle with the devil. All those who have committed their lives to Jesus Christ know (or should know) that the kingdoms of God and of the devil are locked together in mortal combat. And Christians, whether they like it or not, are thrust right on to the cutting edge of that conflict. Many Christians are pacifists when it comes to the matter of earthly warfare, but no one can be a pacifist when it comes to the matter of spiritual warfare. Once we enlist in the army of God, we are then expected to train in the art of offensive and defensive spiritual warfare. At certain times and occasions in the Christian life, we find ourselves in a battle that demands fierce hand-to-hand combat with the forces of darkness, and unless we know how to handle these situations, we shall easily be overthrown.

The Bible shows us that the devil and his minions are bitter enemies of God, but because they are powerless against the Almighty, they turn their concentrated attention on those who are His followers - you and I. Did you notice how many times in Ephesians 6:10-20 the word "against" appears? It occurs six times in all, showing that when anyone comes over to the side of Jesus Christ, they are immediately identified as being for God and against the devil. There can be no compromise on this issue, no peaceful co-existence pact. To be for God is to be against the devil.

This is the spiritual warfare in which we, God's people, are continually and steadfastly engaged. When men and women take their Christian faith seriously, they can expect satanic opposition. I am deeply convinced that we can understand life only when we view it as the Bible views it. The Bible says that for every believer there is a war on. But keep in mind that in this war the outcome is already decided; we win.

- *Adapted from "Every Day for Jesus" by Selwyn Hughes*

### Keep a Heart for the Battle Daily Quiet Times

Date	Week 14
20-Aug	Romans 12:1-2
21-Aug	Psalms 139:23-24
22-Aug	Philippians 3:12
23-Aug	Jeremiah 17:10
24-Aug	Nehemiah 6:16
25-Aug	Nehemiah 6:3
26-Aug	2 Timothy 2:15

# Keep a Heart for the Battle

## PART 1

### Passage(s) to Study

Ephesians 6:10-20 is perhaps the clearest picture of the spiritual war which we find in the Bible. It not only assures us that there is a spiritual war, but it warns us that apart from utilizing the weapons which God has provided for us, we are hopelessly underpowered. This passage informs us as to what our God given weapons are. The weapons which God has provided for us are those weapons which best repel the attacks of Satan, and thus we can learn a great deal about the nature of Satan's opposition from simply considering each of the weapons at our disposal.

**Read:** Ephesians 6:10-20 and write down 5-10 observations that you make about the spiritual we are engaged in and who our enemy is. In light of verse 12, how might being aware of who are real enemy is change our outlook on trials and tribulations? What does Paul say about our weapons of warfare?

## PART 2

### Questions to Ponder

**[Q]** Read 2 Cor. 10:1-5. According to these verses how does Paul describe the spiritual war that he is in? What are the thoughts that stick out to you from these verses? What are the strongholds that Paul is destroying?

**[Q]** In Matthew (4:1-11) and Luke (4:1-13), the account of our Jesus' temptation by Satan is recorded. What was Satan tempting Jesus to do? How did Jesus combat the temptations?

**[Q]** Do you think it is important for us to understand what the spiritual battle that we are in is and its impact on our lives & relationships? Why or why not?

**[Q]** Psalms 139:23-24 is a very deep and penetrating request by David for God to do some very specific things in his life. What is David asking God for? What do you think was produced in him through his request? How is this part of the battle? Summarize in your own words.

**For further study:** Bill McCartney, former CU head football coach and founder of Promise Keepers once stated, "We are in a war but we are not at war." Realizing that you are in a spiritual battle with very real consequences, are you at war yet with your real enemy? What is your battle plan to experience the victory that God provides through Jesus Christ?

## PART 3

### Making it Stick

**Write out 1-2 of the main things that God impressed upon you this week from your time reading the daily devotions on hungering for the Word of God.**

**Write out in your own words a prayer to God asking him for a heart for the battle for a lifetime. A sample has been provided below:**

**Prayer:** *Gracious and loving Father, help me get my perspectives clear. Train me in the art of spiritual warfare so that I will be able to resist every onslaught of the devil and come through every conflict through your power victoriously. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

#### **Recommended resources:**

*'Enemy Within: Straight Talk about the Power and Defeat of Sin'* by **Kris Lundgaard**