

Stand Firm: The Reality of Spiritual Warfare

Introduction

This week, it's hard not to have seen the brokenness of our world. The assassination of Charlie Kirk shocked many people and reminded us that evil is real. It was a vivid picture of the battle between good and evil that the Bible says is taking place all around us. Jesus Himself warned that the world would hate His followers (John 15:18–19), and moments like these make those words very real. They force us to ask: What is really happening here? Is it just random? Or is there something deeper going on behind the scenes?

The truth is, this was not just a political event but a spiritual one.

Ephesians 6:10–12 reminds us of this. Paul writes that as God's people, our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against *cosmic rulers, authorities, and spiritual forces of evil*. In other words, there is more happening than just what we see on the surface. There is a bigger, unseen war taking place—one that affects every person on earth. This war is not just about politics or culture; it is ultimately about the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness. The good news is that Jesus has already won the decisive victory at the cross. Evil does not get the final word.

The Reality of the War

Paul begins by telling us to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. The strength we need to face this battle is not something we find within ourselves—it is something we receive from God.

Paul uses the language of wrestling to describe the conflict. Wrestling is close and personal. It is not distant, abstract, or theoretical. The Bible takes the reality of the spiritual realm seriously, and so did Jesus. Throughout His ministry, He confronted demonic forces, cast them out, and showed His authority over them.

Christians must avoid the temptation to dismiss this as superstition or something that belonged to another time. Scripture calls us to take this war seriously, not to fear it, but to recognize it for what it is.

Daniel 10 gives us a rare glimpse into the unseen battle. Daniel prays and fasts for three weeks, and when an angel finally comes, he explains that he was delayed because of a spiritual battle with the 'prince of Persia' until Michael the archangel came to help.

This does not mean God was powerless to act, but it shows that there are real *assignments* and *conflicts* happening in the heavenly realms. Daniel's persistence in prayer mattered because his prayers were part of that bigger war. Our prayers today still matter. They play a role in what God is doing both on earth and in the spiritual realm.

However, though the enemy is real—he is defeated. Colossians 2:15 says that at the cross, Jesus disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, triumphing over them.

Satan is not equal to God—he is a created being whose defeat is certain. We do not fight for victory; *we fight from victory*. But this war is fought on three fronts.

The flesh is our own sinful nature that must be put to death daily (Romans 7:15–25; Galatians 5:16–17). The world is the system of values that tempts us to love other things more than God (1 John 2:15–17; Romans 12:2). And the devil is the personal adversary who uses the first two to try to pull us away from Christ (Ephesians 6:11–12; 1 Peter 5:8–9).

Understanding which of these we are facing is crucial, because not every struggle is demonic. Sometimes the flesh is just the flesh, and sometimes the world is just the world.

Paul calls us to awareness, not obsession.

Some people ignore the spiritual battle altogether and are caught off guard. Others fear the enemy so much that they give him too much power. Still

others become so focused on demons that they try to cast out things that are really matters of the heart or the world's influence.

The safest and most biblical response is simply to know Jesus deeply. When my mom worked at a bank, she learned to spot counterfeit money by handling the real thing every day until any fake stood out instantly. We are called to be so close to Jesus, so rooted in His Word and presence, that evil and lies stand out clearly.

The Authority of the Believer

Paul does not just tell us there is a war — he calls us to stand firm. We are able to stand because of where we stand: in Christ. Luke 10:17–20 tells us that Jesus gave His followers authority over the enemy, but He warned them not to rejoice in their power but to rejoice that their names are written in heaven.

Our identity is not found in spiritual experiences, but in belonging to Jesus. This keeps us from pride on one hand and fear on the other. We resist the enemy not as self-appointed warriors but as children of God standing in the victory of Jesus.

James 4:7 shows us the order of spiritual warfare: *'Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.'* Submission comes first, then resistance. If we try to resist the devil without submitting to God, we are fighting in our own strength—and we will lose.

But when we are walking in obedience, living under Christ's lordship, the enemy has no right to stay. Spiritual warfare is less about shouting at demons and more about staying close to Jesus. When we walk in the light, darkness cannot hide.

Standing firm means living daily in relationship with Christ. It means prayer, worship, and obedience. It means letting His truth shape how we think and live so that the enemy's lies lose their power. The closer we walk with Him,

the less foothold the enemy has in our lives. Our confidence is never in ourselves, but in the one who has already won the victory.

Conclusion

Paul finishes by telling us to take up the whole armor of God so that we can stand firm (Ephesians 6:13). Truth, righteousness, faith, salvation, Scripture, and prayer are not just ideas — they are the practical ways we stay rooted in Christ. This is how we stand strong when the world around us seems dark.

This message is not only for those who have been Christians for years. It is for anyone who will come to Jesus. The victory we are talking about is not only over the devil but over sin itself. The Bible says we were dead in our sins, but God, rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ. If you turn to Him today — if you trust His death and resurrection — you can be forgiven, rescued from darkness, and adopted as God's child. You will never face the storms of life alone again, because the Prince of Peace will be with you.

If you have not taken that step, let today be the day. You can leave knowing your sins are forgiven, your eternity is secure, and your life is built on the solid rock of Christ. And for those who already know Him, take courage. The war is real, but Jesus is greater. Stand firm in His strength and live in the victory He has already won.