

G R O W

Get focused, Read, Observation, Worship

Spiritual Warfare – Ephesians 6:11

Has anyone ever tried to scam you? My grandmother once got a call from someone posing as my brother, and they were trying to get her to wire money. Once while traveling abroad, I had someone try to trick me into buying something. Unfortunately, people fall victim to these scams and tricks. Unfortunately, people also fall victim to spiritual tricks and traps. The Bible makes it clear that we have an adversary, the devil, who seeks to deceive us and ensnare us. So, we must learn how to combat this enemy, which is what we learn in Ephesians 6.

GET FOCUSED

What distracts you? Is it your phone, television, clutter, or something else? Let us focus our hearts and minds for the new few moments so that we can hear from God in His Word. Take a few moments and silence anything that would distract you: things within you and outside of you.

READ

What's your favorite Bible translation? Many grew up with the KJV, others prefer NIV. There are different translation styles and methods; some carefully translate every word while others paraphrase. You can visit hbcalthon.com/grow to learn about the different Bible translations. It's recommended that you use a literal translation like the ESV, NASB, or NKJV to study the Bible, but reading from other translations can help you understand the verse or passage as well. Take a few moments and read Ephesians 6:11.

OBSERVATION (COMB through the text)

In this step, we want to investigate the passage, to understand its message and meaning. In addition to reading our main passage, read the verses around it to understand the **context**. Verse 10 starts with "Finally," which marks a transition in the letter. In Ephesians 5 and the beginning of Ephesians 6, there has been some instruction for Christian living, and at verse 10, there is a transition to final instructions for Christian living. This final passage focuses on being ready for a spiritual battle; we can have victory over our spiritual enemy by putting on the armor of God.

Next, we want to **observe** the key words and phrases in Ephesians 6:11. What stands out to you? You should see these key words and phrases: whole armor of God, stand, and schemes of devil.

To help understand the **meaning** of these words and phrases, invest in a good study Bible or utilize online tools like netbible.org. The term “devil” means accuser, slanderer, or deceiver. The Devil is an enemy of God and God’s people. Jesus tells us that he is a liar and a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44). In Genesis 3, he appears in the garden, and he deceives Adam and Eve by casting doubt about God’s command. And when they eat of the tree, sin enters the world and death enters with it (Romans 5:12). Peter likens the Devil to prowling and roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Some people are physically possessed or afflicted by Satan and demons, but most are afflicted by falling prey to his tricks and deception.

“Schemes” means cunning tricks and deceit. To scheme means to seek to ensnare or entrap. And whether we want to be or not, we are engaged in a spiritual battle with an opponent that is seeking to out-manuever us and set traps for us. To avoid being taken captive (Col. 2:8), we need to stand strong and put on the armor of God. To “stand” means to set in place or establish. It pictures something that is unmovable, and the pieces of the armor of God helps us know what it takes to be unmovable and strong. It takes faith in Christ, Gospel living, the Word of God, and prayer. We need our lives to be changed by Jesus Christ and we need to get daily strength from His Word and prayer.

So, what’s the **bottom-line**, how would you sum all this up? I must be strong in the Lord to fight against the devil.

WORSHIP

In this last step, we consider how to live all this out. This is what worship is. Worship is more than songs; it is showing who God is in our lives. We can sing all the right songs but still live wrongly, so take a few moments and consider what this scripture means for your life.

We must be aware that there is a spiritual battle taking place, and we must engage in it. We must realize that our only hope and strength is in Christ. To have the supernatural strength required to stand firm and to not fall into the devil’s schemes, we must be in God’s Word and in prayer. We must fully understand the Gospel and we must daily live in it. The Devil is a false accuser, and one of his tactics is to use our mistakes and sin against us. But the Gospel tells us that Jesus fully forgives us and makes us righteous (1 John 1:9, 2 Cor. 5:21). So, we have eternal victory over sin, but we can still struggle with sin and experience the earthly effects of sin. So, we need to fully live in the Gospel so that we can experience the fullness of eternal life here and now. Seek Christ fully and daily: get in His Word, pray, and live for Him. This is our strength; this is our victory.