

Series: MOVED – God Is Moved By Prayer

Sermon: The War

Pastor John Carmichael

[Mat 6:13 NASB95] 13 'And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from evil.

- We are in a war. It is not just you. It is everywhere with everyone. Although, it intensifies, it has been around since Satan's rebellion in heaven.
- NRSV: And do not bring us to the time of trial but rescue us from the evil one.
- NET notes:
 - "into a time of testing."
 - The term πονηροῦ (ponērou) may be understood as specific and personified, referring to the devil, or possibly as a general reference to evil.
- Ephesians 6:10-18 gives us powerful principles concerning prayer and spiritual warfare.

What do we need to know about spiritual war when it comes to prayer?

Here are six important truths about prayer and spiritual war from Eph. 6.

I. God wants us to know that we are in a spiritual battle.

- a. [Eph 6:11 NASB95] 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.
- b. [1Pe 5:8-9 NASB95] 8 Be of sober [spirit,] be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in [your] faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.
- c. Resist the forces of darkness, that are trying to destroy you.

II. God wants us to know that our relationship with people affect spiritual battles.

- a. [Eph 6:12 NASB95] 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual [forces] of wickedness in the heavenly [places.]
- b. Saul, David, Gibeonites. The curse did not lift and the land did not heal until David made things right with the Gibeonites and honor Saul. (2 Samuel 21:9,14)
- c. Prayers are hindered when our marriages lack honor. (1 Peter 3:7)
- d. We can not exercise spiritual authority when our relationships are not healed.

III. God wants us to engage in the spiritual battle.

- a. [Eph 6:13 NASB95] 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.
- b. You are never going to outgrow spiritual warfare, so you might as well learn how to fight.
- c. [Pro 26:13 NASB95] 13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road! A lion is in the open square!"
- d. Jesus had to deal with Satan, Paul had to deal with Satan, we are going to have to deal with Satan.

IV. God wants us to stay prepared for the spiritual battle.

- a. Put on the whole armor of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. Eph. 6:14-18
- b. [Eph 6:14-17 NASB95] 14 Stand firm therefore,
 - i. HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH
 - ii. HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
 - iii. having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

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- iv. in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil [one.]
- v. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION
- vi. the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

V. God wants us to pray as part of the spiritual battle.

- a. [Eph 6:18-20 NASB95] 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, 19 and [pray] on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in [proclaiming] it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
- b. Jesus included it in the prayer pattern He taught.
- c. Pray “in the Spirit”. This includes praying in tongues (I Cor. 14:14-15).
- d. We need to pray for us, our families, our brothers and sisters in Jesus, and for our governmental and ministerial leadership.

VI. God wants us to stay strong in Him while in the spiritual battle.

- a. [Eph 6:10 NASB95] 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.
 - b. [Dan 7:25 NASB95] 25 'He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.
 - c. Times get tough. Some days are filled with hurt and tears.
 - d. Don't quit. Seek God daily. Stay connected with faith-filled people of God. Submit your thoughts to Jesus Christ.
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- We must engage in spiritual warfare against the enemy in the place of prayer.
 - God is ready to move when you pray.
 - **Set a time/rhythm.**
 - **Show up.**