



Series Schedule:

- April 6:** Introduction
April 13: Battlefields – Part 1
April 20: Spring Break / Narnia Movie
Voyage of the Dawn Treader
April 27: Battlefields – Part 2
May 4: The Stand / Our Response
Armor of God – Part 1
May 11: The Stand / Our Response
Armor of God – Part 2
May 18: Question & Answer Night

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. ~ **Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)**

¹⁰⁻¹² And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.

¹³⁻¹⁸ Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out. **Ephesians 6:10-18 (The Message)**

Perspective

“There are two ways to be fooled; one is to believe what isn’t so, the other is to refuse to believe what is so.” ~ Soren Kierkegaard

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve their existence. The other is to believe and feel an unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.”

~ C. S. Lewis (**Screwtape Letters**)

“Demonism is neither funny or phony. It is real. It is, in fact, as serious and significant a subject as can ever be considered. But, strangely, it remains one of those unmentionables. Almost like, ‘Let’s not talk about it and maybe it will go away.’ We Christians avoid it like the plague. And when we do discuss it, our comments fall somewhere between traditional superstition and downright ignorance. Even though we have ignored it, the world has explored it. By twisting the truth and pushing the hot buttons of human curiosity and gross sensuality, slick promoters have turned it into a money-making extravaganza...a weird sideshow attraction with all the crowd-pleasing gimmicks. *And the devil could not be happier.* The last thing he wants is to have his presence and his strategy exposed.” ~ Chuck Swindoll

An Overview of Spiritual Warfare

We are engaged in a face-to-face conflict with spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (**Eph. 6:12**) which is fought on a spiritual plane with spiritual weapons. (**Eph. 6:11, 2 Corinthians 10:4**).

Satan is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour; (**1 Peter 5:8**) therefore, it is not a matter of if the day of evil comes, but when. (**Ephesians 6:13**) In order to implement his strategy (**2 Timothy 2:26, Ephesians 6:11**) the enemy must first get our eyes off Jesus (**Hebrews 12:1-2**) or he will not be able to get a grip on us. (**1 John 5:18**)

So, Satan lies to us (**John 8:44**) using temptations (**1 Thessalonians 3:5**), accusations (**Revelation 12:10b**) and deceptions (**2 Corinthians 11:14**) hoping to trap us (**1 Timothy 3:7**), establish strongholds in our lives (**Ephesians 4:27, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5**), and take us captive to do his will. (**2 Timothy 2:26**).

We are not to fear the enemy (**1 John 4:4, 2 Timothy 1:7**) for he is a defeated foe! (**Colossians 2:15, 1 John 3:8, Hebrews 2:14-15**). We are to understand our position in Christ (**Ephesians 2:6**), submit every area of our lives to the lordship of Christ (**James 4:7-8**), and be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, (**Ephesians 6:10**).

Put on the full armor of God (**Ephesians 6:10-18**), be alert (**1 Peter 5:8**), resist (**James 4:7**), stand firm (**1 Peter 5:8**), stand against (**Ephesians 6:11**), not give ground (**Ephesians 4:27, 6:13**), destroy strongholds (**2 Corinthians 10:3-5**), advance (**Matthew 28:19-20, 16:13-19**), and overcome all the power of the enemy (**Luke 10:19**).

* *Some information and material taken from “Not Against Flesh and Blood” by Dr. Ed Laymance*