

10172021 **The Bible is an amazing book... To the hurting it is a book of healing and hope...To the broken hearted it is a comforting balm...To the Student it is a textbook...To the lost it is a road map...To the arrogant it is the great humbler...To the child it is God's love letter ...To the soldier it is a War Manual... our Position...in the world regarding the spiritual is a soldier...at some point you have to fight**

And that is how we will study it this morning...

- **Only the most naïve Christian does not recognize that they are in a spiritual war...Paul writes**

NLT PHP 2: 25 Meanwhile, I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier.

PHM 1: 1 This letter is from Paul, a prisoner for preaching the Good News about Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. I am writing to Philemon, our beloved co-worker, 2 and to our sister Apphia, and to our fellow soldier Archippus...

2TI 2: 3 Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.

verse 7 Think about what I am saying. The Lord will help you understand all these things.

We will be reflecting on this... Do you realize you're in a spiritual war that greatly effects your earthly life?

****Just as in every war there are two opposing commanders and it is vitally important to identify them ... so there is in this spiritual battle...Jesus and Satan.. Jesus is the creator and knows all...Satan is a created being and knows some...They are both supernatural beings...which means they operate outside the natural realm..**

Now Every war has an objective ... to conquer, possess and rule...

Sun Tzu in 500BC said “ In war then let your object be victory not lengthy campaigns”

“ To direct all efforts toward a decisive, obtainable goal” The goal of war is to win!!

******One of the most powerful tools in winning a war is to bring to bear on the enemy Overwhelming Firepower to drive back or annihilate an attack..or to soften up or crush an intended target.. !!**

No other phrase describes U.S. Army tactics, operations and strategy better. And it sums up perfectly how the U.S. military can destroy any challenger in the world on a high intensity battlefield. **When a unit gets attacked, it responds with all available weaponry. For a platoon, this means two machine guns and then the full firepower of any squads in enemy contact: M-4 rifles, M230 grenade launchers, and squad automatic weapons. If it is a mounted platoon, they will fire hundreds of 5.56, 7.62, 40mm explosive grenades and .50 caliber machine gun rounds at the enemy.**

But the most dangerous weapon of all is the platoon leader’s hand set connected to his radio. For the Radio calls in Air support!!

The same is true in the spiritual realm...when one is attacked usually in the mind by the enemy... or surprises attacks by seizing upon unexpected tragedy, loss or change of circumstances...to launch a spiritual attack....we need all available hands on deck...that is where help, accountability, support, guidance, friendship, comes in...I need more than me to face Spiritual forces whom by their nature are superior to me...

Hence the radio!! commonly called prayer!! in the spiritual realm...to battle a superior spiritual being ..we must be empowered by superior spiritual power...

But to tap into superior spiritual power ...we must be a part of the Kingdom , which has an arsenal of superior fire power...

which in the natural ...we do not possess

***Lets look at this...in a practical way..

- **Before Jesus we lived in the earthly realm and operated Dead spiritually...which means absolutely no power to deal with the Spiritual...**
- **Yet our enemy was Spiritual and used that superiority in warring against us in the natural...we were hopelessly outgunned ...therefore defeated and under his control...and on a personal level operated only by our flesh nature....**
- **But God loved us to much to leave us that way... His love for us rescued us!!**

NIV Eph 2: 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus...

Because of this action on the part of God....

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household...

- **we were received into God's own family and made a citizen of his Kingdom... and we have been seated...in the heavenlies...to deal with our earthly experiences...**

- we have been given every heavenly blessing to deal with every earthly problem....and our spiritual enemy...

In verse 18...Paul prays we understand and use this power...

NIV Eph 1: -18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

- Know in verse 18 means experientially know...Jesus resurrection was a demonstration experientially of that power..
- we are now partakers of that realm and experience ...with only Jesus over us! We have Holy Spirit power...the Devil does not!

What does this mean?? The Devil has a great flaw...he is without the Holy Spirit in him therefore lacks the Holy Spirit's guidance and power it is our ace in the hole!!

NLT 1 Cor2: 11 No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. 12 And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.

- **God know the enemy's tactics...and gives us the power to prevail, over every word and thought used against us**

*ISA 54:17 no **weapon** forged **against** you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me," declares the Lord*

- **So what are the tactics ? he uses...**

- *RO 8:37* No, in all these things we are more than **conquerors** through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- **we are now higher spiritual beings then the enemy...with access to Heavenly power... while still earth dwellers!! How?**

- **WE have Spirit Power....**

ZEC 4:6 So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: '**Not by might** nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

WE have Word Power....

*NLT Hebrews 4:12 For the **word of God** is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.*

These weapons are powerful

2CO 10: 4 The **weapons** we fight with are not the **weapons** of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

- **though we still must wrestle with him...close personal fighting...**

Eph 6:10 **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.*

- **What does verse 13 mean...it is our position that enables us to overcome by putting on our spiritual identity... ..**
- **To stand means to confront from a position...stand in your higher ground and fight from there...**
- **We have the higher ground...the greater position and therefore the greater power..**

1. **get someone to stand around on the floor of the Sanctuary...representing us earthlings...someone standing on the ground representing a child of God**
2. **get someone on first ladder...the enemy operated in the air...or supernatural above us...greater firepower...**
3. **He is a stronger/higher being...with air superiority...**
4. **therefore since we are controlled by this higher power...**
5. **now have someone stand positionally on the higher ladder ..representing our position in Christ**
6. **we have the high ground...the greater position and therefore the greater power..**
7. **The word Stand means to take your position and hold it!!**
8. **His Word is our Sword!!! wield it!!**
9. **Prayer is our long distance canons...fire them**
10. **obedience keeps our advancing steady!!! stop wandering all around...**

11. But that is not all... In War there are casualties...and death... Some do not make it home safely!! But not so in the Kingdom of God...Even the severely wounded Get Home!!

Listen... Eph 1:13When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession....

Maybe you are in a place of failure right now...you are losing a battle...Call in an Air strike!! and fight from your heavenly position rather than our earthly state...

- **Stand in the power of the Holy Spirit in your position as a child of God and a soldier of the Kingdom... and the Devil will flee...**

James 4:7 *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

- **You have overwhelming fire power!!**
- **Be the last person standing in your battles...**

1 Cor 15:57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you.

- **Move you from your position**

End

- **in our human pre- relationship to Jesus condition.. we were separated from God...**
- **Therefore we were under the power of a spiritual force greater than us....but he was our enemy, as he is a higher and more powerful being...**
- **And we were locked into living by our earthly nature..craving that which our flesh desires.. as we shared last week but today as a reminder..**

Eph 2: 2 Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world.^[a] He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.

Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. We win!!!

***Romans 8:37* No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.... The Holy Spirit is overwhelming**

Firepower...

Peter reminds us of this also in 2 Peter 1:10-15

2PE 1:10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2PE 1:12 So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. ¹³ I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, ¹⁴ because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵ And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

This is what He reminded them...

2PE 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

2PE 1:5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

- **Bottom Line...Love God, love yourself, Love others which can only be done as the power of God...Father Son and Holy Spirit...control our lives...**

- **So when I say I want more of Jesus ...I am saying I want more of that!! interaction...relationship, communication...presence and power...**
- **and that is exactly what he wants to give us!**

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Reasons for Writing

1 John 2:12 I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

14 I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father.

I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

There are three groups -- children, fathers, young men. These have no relationship to physical age whatsoever, or to sex. It is possible for a man sixty years old in the flesh to be six months old in the Lord. It is possible for a woman to be a father in the sense used here, a mature, developed, full-grown Christian. A young man of thirty can be a babe in Christ, a father, or a young man according to the terms John uses here. These have no relationship to the time that you have been a Christian, the years since your conversion, or even to the position you may hold as a Christian.

Now let us look at these more closely.

1) These successive stages of the Christian life (and, if you are a Christian, you belong in here somewhere) are introduced by the title, little children. John uses here a word in Greek which means "to be born."

1 John 2:12 I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

- **It is almost the exact equivalent of the Scottish word, *bairns*, born ones. He is referring to the fact that though they are young and immature, nevertheless, they are in the family.**

- They have become part of the family of God. You cannot get into a family without birth.
- Now John immediately describes the experience of all Christians which follows this new birth. "Little children, I am writing to you because your sins are forgiven for his sake." That is the basic Christian position. It is forever true of all Christians that their sins are forgiven, and it is always the first thing they become aware of when they become Christians.
- There is the lifting of the load of guilt, the solving of the problem of destiny, the forgiveness of sins. What a wonderful experience it is.

Interestingly...John does not mention here some of the negative aspects of spiritual infancy.

- He merely marks this one consistent, positive condition that is true of all who come to Christ -- their sins are forgiven. He does not mention that, like physical babies, new Christians can often be rude and egotistical, emotionally unstable and overly dependent on other people.
- That is the way new babies are. They display many negative qualities, but the one thing that is universally true of them is that they are in the family, they have life.

2) John moves on to look at the other end of the growth process, the fully matured Christian, the fathers:

*13A I am writing to you, **fathers**, because you **know him** who is from the beginning.*

- That is the chief characteristic of one who could be called a father, "You know him who is from the beginning." Who is that? Well, that refers to the word with which this epistle opens:

*1JN 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the **Word of life**. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the **eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.***

- In other words, this is Jesus Christ. The mark of a father, then, is one who has come to know Jesus Christ. **The word "know" carries the implication, "coming to know by experience."**
- A father is one who has come to know, by long experience, the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are two inescapable factors about that kind of knowledge.

1. There is personal acquaintanceship; it must be intimate, close, and personal,
- 2, and, it must be over a long period of time.

No one can become a father, in this sense, overnight. There must be years spent in fellowship together. The inevitable result of that kind of activity is resemblance, a mutual identity that grows out of such personal acquaintance over a long period of time.

You often see this on the physical level, do you not? If two people live together a long time, know each other well, and are communicating -- talking back and forth -- they grow to be like one another.

Thus fathers are Christ-like. That is their chief characteristic. They possess in great measure the disposition of Jesus Christ.

They have left behind the signs of immaturity. Remember Paul says, in that great love chapter of First Corinthians 13, "

1 Corinthians 13: ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

The third stage he indicates is that of young men:

13b I am writing to you, **young men**, because you have overcome the evil one.

- **The indicative mark here is that a young man has overcome the evil one.** This is the mark of those who are growing, who are strong, who are moving into maturity.
- They have overcome the evil one. What does that reveal?
 - First it reveals that their eyes have been opened to the true nature of the struggle of life. As Paul put it in Ephesians 6,
 - Our problem is not people.
- **It is the immature Christian who says, "If so-and-so would just leave me alone -- my boss, my mother-in-law, my daughter, my son, my husband, my wife, the Internal Revenue Department -- if they would just leave me alone I would be fine. It's people who are my problem."**
- **But anyone who has learned to overcome the evil one knows differently.** He knows we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers, against wicked spirits in high places, against world rulers in this present darkness.

- The battle is in the mind, with ideas, with attitudes, with subtle and alluring temptations that come in hidden ways. Here is the true battle, and these young men have had their eyes opened to the struggle and have come to grips with these powerful invisible forces that wreak such havoc today.

They have learned to live deliberately and consistently in fellowship with the Son of God, for that is the only way to overcome the evil one. You cannot do it by your own might. You cannot do it by your own intellectual power, you will be beaten every time if you try that as, consistently, men and women have been beaten for centuries by the wiles and the guile of the devil.

How do you overcome? Well, as Paul puts it again in Ephesians,

Eph 6:¹⁰ 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.

- These young men have learned this. They have learned how to walk in the Spirit. They have learned to avoid the perils which John mentions earlier in this letter, the peril of ignoring light, of denying the possibility of sin, and of rationalizing their wrong-doing, giving it more appealing names.
- They have learned to walk in fellowship, walking in the Spirit.

Yet they are not mature. They are spiritual, but they are not mature. They lack yet the full range of Christian experience.

- There is great confusion in Christian circles at this point. There is a difference between spirituality and maturity.
- Maturity is the final goal. It is what the Spirit of God is aiming at, for you to be a grownup, mature, experienced Christian.
- Spirituality is the process by which you get there. Maturity is produced by time spent in fellowship, in spiritual relationship, to the Son of God.
- **That is why you can live for years as a Christian and never mature, for the years are not spent in fellowship but in walking outside this relationship of fellowship with the Son of God.**

This growing experience enables us to grow in compassion and love towards others giving the same compassion we have received from God to others...

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- Who can bring a charge against us that sticks? no one for God is the Judge

³⁴ *Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.* ³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?* ³⁶ *As it is written:*

*“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

³⁷ *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* ³⁸ *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,* ³⁹ *neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- **So...Our Job...don't let our hearts be troubled ...mixed up in thinking...stuck in a place between the worlds ways....and God's ways...**
- **troubled has the idea of tossed to and fro....**
- **AND DON'T BE AFRAID? fear of what? bad things happening...evil.... Why? would I not fear evil? loss/evil feels so wrong and oftentimes is so wrong...**Because Evil ultimately will not win...Life is bigger than loss, and God is bigger than life....****
- **Do not be a prisoner in bonds of fear..... you are walking with the Lord if His Spirit convicts and directs your heart according to His Word**

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First we must realize that the devil/Satan is not a fable, allegory, or myth but he is a historical salient being one with a beginning and will have an end and whom Jesus and every NT writer referred numerous times too.

******* Now The Devil has a great flaw...he is without the Holy Spirit in him therefore lacks the Holy Spirit's guidance and power it is our ace in the hole!!**

NLT 1 Cor2: 11 No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. ¹² And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.

NLT 1 Cor2:13 When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. ¹⁴ But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.

2 Corinthians 4:7But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body.

Because the Holy Spirit gives gifts spiritual power, Wisdom, understanding and gifts....He also produces fruit in our lives ...which cannot be produced without him!! we possess great weapons !!!

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

- **You know what this means? It means we can only overcome the passions and desires that war against us by the power of the Holy Spirit....producing life giving fruit in us!**
- **Two since we have a spiritual enemy who wars against us ..we now have the power to overcome him....**
- **which means ...these are probably our best weapons against him!!**
- **He has no patience...when you are patient...you will outlast him**
- **He has no love...when you love he can't take it!!**
- **He has no self control...and tries to talk you out of it too! that's how you know it is him...his way is always indulge!**
- **He has no Joy! that is why Joy is our strength...He loves misery and tries to get us to indulge**
- **He is not kind, good or faithful...these defeat his intentions...**
- **That is what resisting the devil is all about....the fruit has nothing to do with law or rules...it has to do with relationship with the Holy Spirit!!**
- **Our submitting to him...growing in godly character or fruit...is our resistance to the devil and he will flee**

You may suffered setbacks of every kind...these aren't setbacks...there regrouping...

- **Our disappointments are instructional... Our failures were not final...Merely stop signs... delays and obstacles...**
- **And that they will prove to be strategically necessary!!**
- **For through them they would learn some of life's greatest war weapons... such as Faith, patience perseverance and hope...long suffering**

- **We come to see defeats as the avenue for change in direction...**

John 7:38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.

And we have the Holy Spirit who has been given to overcome all the attacks of the enemy!! His words and crafty wisdom.. The Holy Spirit teaches us the truth...

what do we do in the battles...we learn to stand in our position and throw Holy Spirit fruit at the enemy!!

- 1. in our battles we learn..to pray through doubt until we hit faith**
- 2. in our battles we learn...to overcome evil with good..**
- 3. in our battles we learn...to persevere, and keep on marching**
- 4. in our battles we learn...to be strong in Him..not in our selves**
- 5. in our battles we learn...to stand firm..when we want to quit**
- 6. in our battles we learn...to be victorious through prayer air strikes..**
- 7. in our battles we learn...to war against that which wars against us**
- 8. in our battles we learn...to walk out our talk**
- 9. in our battles we learn... to grow in compassion for others who are struggling in their own battles**
- 10. in our battles we learn..to conquer that which previously conquered us..fears, substances, pride...**
- 11. in our battles we learn...to trust the character of God, when we don't understand his ways**
- 12. in our battles we learn...that we will win!**

13. So we can and should run to our humble God when in need...

In our battles we to to cry out for more of the Holy Spirit

We are fighting for the people of our home earth!!! while we fight our way to the throne of God in the heavenlies!!!!!!

But that is not all... In War there are casualties...and death... Some do not make it home safely!! But not so in the Kingdom of God...Even the severely wounded Get Home!!! ^{Eph 6:10} *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...* **What does verse 13 mean...**

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- **The word Stand means to take your position and hold it!!**
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Lets look at this...in a practical Way....

- **Before Jesus we lived in the earthly realm... and operated Dead spiritually...which means absolutely no power to deal with the Spiritual...**
- **Yet our enemy was Spiritual and could exercise that realm in warring against us in the natural...we were hopelessly outgunned ...therefore defeated and under his control...and on a personal level operated only by our flesh nature...**
- **Among other powers he had Air superiority**
- **Get two volunteers...**
- 12. **walk around on the floor of the Sanctuary...us earthlings**
- 13. **the enemy operated in the air...or supernatural above us...greater firepower...**
- 14. **He is a stronger/higher being...with air superiority... until we became citizens of a stronger Kingdom! thereby accessing the Air support of that Kingdom...**
 - A. **and our realm is now seated with Christ in the Heavens...Get a chair on the stage...put the person on the floor ...on that stage on the ladder.....above the enemy...**
- **we are now higher Spiritual beings than the enemy...because we have God!**
- **while still being earth dwellers!!**
- **another volunteer on a ladder...**

1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome **them**, because **the** one who is in you is greater than **the** one who is in **the world**. So as we live we gain territory ...ie souls, and when we die we win!

2 cor1: ²⁰ For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. ²¹ Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in

Christ. He anointed us, ²² set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Romans 8:11 And if the Spirit of him **who** raised Jesus from the dead **is living in you, he who** raised Christ from the dead will also give life to **your** mortal bodies because of his Spirit **who** lives **in you**.

we win

- You know what this means?
- **It means we can only overcome the passions and desires that war against us by the power of the Holy Spirit....**
- **Two since we have a spiritual enemy who wars against us ..we now have the power to overcome him....**
- **And It means the Devil has none of these qualities!**
- **which means ...these are probably our best weapons against him!!**
- **He has no patience...when you are patient...you will outlast him**
- **He has no love...when you love he can't take it!!**
- **In Fact Love is our major weapon!!...**

1 Corinthians 13:8 *Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.*

- **love is to powerful for Him..it is of God!!**
- **even gifts will go...but love never fails!!**
- **He has no self control...and tries to talk you out of it too! that's how you know it is him...his way is always indulge!**
- **He has no Joy! that is why Joy is our strength...He loves misery and tries to get us to indulge**
- **He is not kind, good or faithful...these defeat his intentions...**
- **That is what resisting the devil is all about..**
 - **the fruit has nothing to do with law or rules...it has to do with relationship with the Holy Spirit!!**
 - **Our submitting to him...growing fruit...is our resistance to the devil and he will flee**

God loved and He gave...we believe and receive...

1 John 5:4 *for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

We are more than conquerors of anything the enemy throw at us...

Romans 8:37 *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

When it is said in Gen 3: 15, "thou shalt bruise His heel", it cannot mean His literal heel of flesh and blood, but suffering, more temporary in character. When it is said (verse 15), "He shall crush the head", it means something more than a skull of bone, and brain, and hair. It means that all Satan's plans and plots, policy and purposes, will one day be finally crushed and ended, never more to mar or to hinder the purposes of God. This will be effected when Satan shall be bruised under our feet (Romans 16:20). This, again, will not be our literal feet, but something much more real.

And we have the Holy Spirit who has been given to overcome all the attacks of the enemy!!
The Holy Spirit is overwhelming Firepower...

what do we do in the battles...we learn to stand in our position and throw Holy Spirit fruit at the enemy!!

14. in our battles we learn..to pray through doubt until we hit faith
15. in our battles we learn...to overcome evil with good..
16. in our battles we learn...to persevere, and keep on marching
17. in our battles we learn...to be strong in Him..not in our selves
18. in our battles we learn...to stand firm..when we want to quit
19. in our battles we learn...to be victorious through prayer air strikes..
20. in our battles we learn...to war against that which wars against us
21. in our battles we learn...to walk out our talk
22. in our battles we learn... to grow in compassion for others who are struggling in their own battles
23. in our battles we learn..to conquer that which previously conquered us..fears, substances, pride...
24. in our battles we learn...to trust the character of God, when we don't understand his ways
25. in our battles we learn...that we will win!
26. So we can and should run to our humble God when in need...

27. In our battles we to to cry out for more of the Holy Spirit!!

You may suffered setbacks of every kind...these aren't setbacks...there regrouping...

- Our disappointments are instructional
- Our failures were not final...Merely stop signs... delays and obstacles...
- And that they will prove to be strategically necessary!!
- For through them they would learn some of life's greatest war weapons... such as Faith, patience perseverance and hope...long suffering
- We come to see defeats as the avenue for change in direction...

Be the last person standing in your battles...

^{Eph 6:13} 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.

- **What does verse 13 mean....To stand means to confront from a position...stand in your higher ground and fight from there...**
- **we have the high ground...the greater position and therefore the greater power..**
- **James 4:7** Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- Stand and he will run...

end

We are fighting for the people of our home earth!!! while we fight our way to the throne of God in the heavenlies!!!!!!

Lets look at this...in a practical Way....

- **Before Jesus we lived in the earthly realm... and operated Dead spiritually...which means absolutely no power to deal with the Spiritual...**
- **Yet our enemy was Spiritual and could exercise that realm in warring against us in the natural...we were hopelessly outgunned ...therefore defeated and under his control...and on a personal level operated only by our flesh nature...**

- Among other powers he had Air superiority

- Get two volunteers...

15. walk around on the floor of the Sanctuary...us earthlings

16. the enemy operated in the air...or supernatural above us...greater firepower...

17. He is a stronger/higher being...with air superiority... until we became citizens of a stronger Kingdom! thereby accessing the Air support of that Kingdom...

B.and our realm is now seated with Christ in the Heavens...Get a chair on the stage...put the person on the floor ...on that stage on the ladder.....above the enemy...

so as

end

^{1JN 4:4} You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

^{Eph 6:10} **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... **What does verse 13 mean...**

- it is our position that enables us to overcomeTo stand means to confront from a position...stand in your higher ground and fight from there...
- The word Stand means to take your position and hold it!!
- we have the high ground...the greater position and therefore the greater power..
- His Word is our Sword!!! wield it!!
- Prayer is our long distance canons...fire them

- **obedience keeps our advancing steady!!! stop wandering all around...**

But that is not all... In War there are causalities...and death... Some do not make it home safely!! But not so in the Kingdom of God...Even the severely wounded Get Home!!!

2 Cor 10: ³ For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. ⁶ And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

Since there is an enemy of God masquerading as an angel of light...

Well John gives us that test...

1JN 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

^{1JN 4:4} You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

- The work of the Holy Spirit also is to authenticate who Jesus Christ is and his work...
 - He came in the flesh in bodily form
 - He came from God...was in heaven before
 - He is the son of God...and is God
 - Other spirits (satanic inspiration) will testify to something different and perhaps show what would appear to be convincing proofs...and produce false prophets.

@@@@@

When did this happen...before creation

Eph 1: ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of

sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding...

When does this manifest??

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

*[√] ^{HEB 4:14} Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been **tempted** in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*