

A full suit of medieval plate armor stands in the center of the image. The armor is highly detailed, featuring a helmet with a visor, a breastplate with decorative elements, and gauntlets. The armor is set against a large, dark red bat-like symbol that resembles a stylized cross with curved arms. The background is a textured, deep red color. The armor is reflected on a dark surface below it. The title "Why We Wrestle" is written in a white, italicized font across the middle of the image, flanked by two grey rectangular boxes.

“Why We Wrestle”

Carry the Light
Eph. 6:10-12

Eph. 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

12 For **we wrestle** not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

Review

Our theme for 2017 is “Carry the Light.” The conduct of a true Christian, one who is genuinely “born again,” is the outcome of a doctrinal foundation. **We are “living out our faith,”** and our testimony indicates the quality of it, be it good or bad.

As I believe, therefore I live.

We need to believe that spiritual warfare is real, face it, fight it, & live victoriously!

wile

1. A trick, artifice, or stratagem meant to fool, trap, or entice; device.
2. Wiles, artful or beguiling behavior.
3. Deceitful cunning; trickery.
4. to beguile, entice, or lure (usually followed by away, from, into, etc.): <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/wiles?s=t>

ruse

1. A trick, stratagem, or artifice. <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/ruse?s=t>

I. THE REALITY OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

II. THE REASON FOR SPIRITUALWARFARE

III. THE RUSE OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

A. The Source of our Confidence, Eph. 6:10

Psa. 121:2 **My help cometh from the LORD**, which **made heaven and earth.**

B. The Schemes Inflaming our Conflict, Eph. 6:11

Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

1. The Preparation, Eph. 6:11a “Put on the whole armour of God...”

2. The Purpose, Eph. 6:11b “...**that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**”

- The idea of “wiles” = adapt hunting techniques for successful taking of the prey.

We have covered the following “wiles:”

- The first “wile” is DOUBT
- The second “wile” is DISOBEDIENCE
- The third “wile” is DECEIT
- The fourth “wile” is DISTRACTION
- The fifth “wile” is DISCONTENTMENT
- The sixth “wile” is DESTRUCTION = the Ultimate Goal of Satan
- The seventh “wile” is DISCOURAGEMENT

There are many more tactics regarding the wiles of the devil, but this morning we move on to verse 12. In this verse, we are reminded...

“Why We Wrestle”

We are also beginning a new perspective:

IV. THE RESPONSE TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE

A. A Word of Encouragement, 6:10

Eph. 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

B. A Word of Enlightenment, 6:11

Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

C. A Word of Enablement, 6:12-17

Eph. 6:12 For **we wrestle** not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

1. The Arena, 6:12

- a. The Opportunity –
12a “For we wrestle...”

b. The Opposition – 12b-e “...against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.”

(1) Crowned Dignities, 12b
“...against principalities...”

(2) Conquering Deputies, 12c
“...against powers...”

Original Word: ἐξουσία

Col. 2:15 *And* having spoiled principalities and powers,
**he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over
them in it.**

(3) Capable Deceivers, 12d
“...against the rulers of the
darkness of this world...”

(4) Countless Demons, 12e
“...against spiritual
wickedness in high *places*.”

a. The Opportunity – 12a “For we wrestle...”

πάλη

Wrestling (a contest between two in which each endeavours to throw the other, and which is decided when the victor is able to hold his opponent down with his hand upon his neck)

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=G3823&t=KJV>

We have an opportunity to be defeated by those “...in high *places*” or we to be victorious over them
BECAUSE...

1 Jn. 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because **greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**

Original Word: ἑπουράνιος

Transliteration: epouranios

Definition: heavenly, celestial, in the heavenly sphere, the sphere of spiritual activities; met: divine, spiritual. (“...in **high places**.”)

epouránios (an adjective, derived from *epí*, "on, fitting," which intensifies *ouranós*, "heaven") – properly, heavenly, referring to **the impact of heaven's influence** on the particular situation or person. <http://biblehub.com/greek/2032.htm>

- We have opportunity to impact our present world by the impact of heaven's influence THROUGH us.
- We wrestle because we are created for God's glory, and HE has an enemy.

Isa. 43:7 *Even every one that is called by my name: for **I have created him for my glory**, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.*

Mt. 13:27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

28 He said unto them, **An enemy hath done this**. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? ...

39 **The enemy that sowed them is the devil**; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

Ex. 23:22 But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then **I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.**

- The devil, God's enemy, fights against us to prevent us from glorifying God.

Mt. 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that **they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

1 Cor. 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore **glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

1 Pet. 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, **they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.**

We wrestle...properly, referring to **the impact of heaven's influence** on the particular situation or person as God is working THROUGH us.

- After the ascension of Christ, note the achievements of the Apostles:

Mark 16:19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.
20 And they went forth, and preached every where, **the Lord working with them**, and confirming the word with signs following.
Amen.

- We wrestle because God is working in us and through us.

Phil. 2:13 For **it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do** of *his* good pleasure.

Col. 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, **being fruitful in every good work**, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

- In order for us to glorify God at the Judgment Seat is to allow Him to work through our lives in the present.

1 Cor. 3:9 For **we are labourers together with God**: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building. ...

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and **the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.**

- The Scriptures indicate HOW we are to allow the impact of heaven's influence on our lives.

Phil. 4:13 I can do all **things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

Eph. 2:10 For **we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

- The influence of the Scriptures moves us to produce the influence of heaven on earth!

2 Tim 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, **thoroughly furnished unto all good works**.

Col. 3:16 **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly** in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

- As we “run the race” of life, we are encouraged not to be weary.

2 Thess. 3:13 But ye, brethren, **be not weary in well doing.**

Heb. 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and **let us run with patience the race that is set before us,**

2 **Looking unto Jesus** the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, **lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.**

- We are to put on the whole armor of God that we may maintain good works for His glory.

Titus 3:8 *This is* a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might **be careful to maintain good works**. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Heb. 6:10 For God *is* not unrighteous to forget **your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name**, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Conclusion

1 Cor. 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? **So run**, that ye may obtain.

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

26 I therefore **so run**, not as uncertainly; **so fight I**, not as one that beateth the air:

27 But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

