

**“Spiritual Wars”**  
*Ephesians 6:10-20*  
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**Introduction**

How do you make sense of what’s going on in the world? I believe there is a spiritual war going on. There is a correlation with what is going on in the world and what is going on in our hearts. We always have to look at things from the lens of the Scripture. Hopefully it will help us to know what is going on universally and personally.

Maybe some of you feel like this – in a rut. You didn’t really mean to get into this condition or state, but you’re in there. Maybe as you think of this last year, you feel like that. Or maybe you had a good year and you’re thinking of the year ahead. If we’re not watchful, we can always fall into something we don’t want to go into.

Some people think that to believe in a spiritual world is too simplistic because you blame everything on spiritual being, but have you ever thought about that is you think everything is just physical in this world, that you are too simplistic. According to the Bible, there are multiple levels of reality that we need to understand and see as we look into Scripture. Everything in the physical world is related to our invisible world – in our mind, in our hearts- and the spiritual realm that is going on in this world. As Christians, in order for us to overcome hardships and difficulties, we need God’s strength and God’s power. From every detail of small temptations that we face in this world, as well as war that’s going on in this world, it’s related to spiritual wars. That could scare us of course, but we have availability of God’s power for us. Look at these few verses:

-Ephesians 1:3 *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,”*

We have every spiritual blessing available to us in Jesus Christ. Even our placement - not just the availability - in the multiple levels of this world we are in Jesus Christ, and Christ is seated at the right hand of God the Father, in the heavenly realms, and when we are in Jesus Christ, we are in Him.

-Ephesians 2:6 *“and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,”*

Even positionally we are in a high place. *‘Already seated’* -notice it’s in past tense - which is the great place of power and great place of intimacy with God as well.

-2 Peter 1:3 *“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,”*

We have availability of all the resources that we need to overcome and be victorious in this world, though we have ups and downs in our lives, though we become defeated at times. *“granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.”* We have everything necessary to live in godliness. We’re furnished with everything necessary, now we just have to use them to overcome and live for God’s glory.

Why do we get defeated often, if not all the time? Simple answer as we look into this passage is because we don’t put on the full armor of God. We got to intensify our fight. If you coast, don’t think about it,

you're already losing. There's no coasting Christianity. We got to fight, got to be aware of what's going on in this world.

## I. Our life is a fight

### A. There is a fight ever so close to us – “wrestle” [12]

The word ‘wrestle’ is used *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood...”* Some people think Paul is mixing analogies; suddenly war analogy, and then wrestling analogy. And that's a possibility, because he does do that in the past. But if a soldier is in the front line, at times when they get so close that they cannot use weapons; they wrestle. So possibly, Paul is saying the fight is so close, all of a sudden in the front lines, facing the enemy, so we wrestle. The enemy is so close to us, personally we can touch it. We're being influenced by the enemy.

### B. There is a fight around us – “flesh and blood” [12]

*“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood”*, so he's going to talk about wrestling with Satan and demonic forces, but when he says we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, doesn't mean human beings are not involved in our wrestling or war. Human beings are involved. What Paul is saying is that we do not ONLY wrestle with flesh and blood. Spiritual battle, other human beings are involved.

-Ephesians 4:25-27

Couple chapters before, it already talks about other people and our spiritual battle involved, Ephesians 4:25, *“Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.”* He's talking with our relationship with other people. Then he says in our relationships, v. 26 *“Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.”* because if you keep your anger, you're giving opportunity to devil to influence you. So don't give opportunity to devil. So in our wrestle, in our involvement with human beings, there is spiritual battle going on. Satan can be influencing us in the midst of our wrestling with flesh and blood. So it means we do not only wrestle with flesh and blood.

So, there is a fight ever so close to use because we wrestle, but also all around us in our interaction with other people. There is a spiritual battle.

### C. There is a fight above us – “Devil” [11-12]

There's Satan working, v.11 *“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”* Spiritual being, *“against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”*

There are multiple levels of evil beings that are working in this world. Spiritual beings are not omnipotent. Only God is omnipotent, omniscient. Demons don't know everything. They know more than us, but they don't know everything. They're not omnipresent - meaning if the demon is over there, he can't be everywhere. So don't worry too much, because ones that are surrounding you – if you are ever attacked by demons – are not strong ones. Strong ones are with the important people, like in Washington DC. There are spiritual forces working in this world, different levels of demons. Satan is the highest. They were angels fallen in rebellion against God. But angelic beings are powerful. One angelic being can kill thousands as we look into the Old Testament. There are multiple levels of demons working in this world. This shows us that we need the power of God to overcome spiritual battles.

D. There is a fight in our generation – “present darkness, evil day” [12-13]

v.12 “... *this present darkness...*”

v.13 “...*able to withstand in the evil day...*”

We need to stand. That means there is different darkness at different times, different time periods, and different battles. Same enemy, same purpose – to fight against the glory of God – but different intensity perhaps. As we look into Scripture, it gets worse. It intensifies as it gets to the last stages, closer to the coming of Christ, just like pain of pregnant women. The resting period gets smaller, and pain intensifies – the analogy that Matthew 24 uses. There are different intensities, different strategies involved because there are different individuals involved. Satan knows us, so different strategies are incorporated. Different generation has different kinds of spiritual battles. We need to have insight into the world, so we can help this generation overcome the forces of evil, as well as educate our children so they can overcome their spiritual battles in their days.

E. There is a fight within us – “put on” [11]

v.11 “*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.*”

If you were to look at these six or seven things, you would see they are all related. What is the armor of God? As you look into Scripture, it is truth. How do you wear truth? Inside of your mind; inside of your heart. So all these weapons and armor that this passage talks about is within us. Why? Because there is a battle within us. There is fight within us, so we need to put on the full armor of God. There is supernatural evil against us and against this world and that’s why we can’t do it without His strength. We must put on the full armor of God.

But the battle has to be ours; we need to fight this battle. That’s why we need the spiritual armor inside of us. That means real Christianity is a fight. There is dual nature inside of us - spirit nature and sin nature. In fact, as soon as you are born again spiritually, spirit’s nature comes alive. There’s a new fight inside of us. When have you become a Christian? When you started to have a different kind of battle. There’s different kind of joy right? Suddenly you started to love God’s Word. You start to worship, come to church, witness to people, you are on fire for the Lord, and then there’s different kind of battles taking place. That’s probably when you became a Christian. You become a Christian because something invaded your heart, and now there are different kind of battles in your heart, as well as in your life. After spiritual birth, there’s a new fight and new struggle.

Doing well spiritually means there’s a fight in you. If there’s no fight in you, you’re probably not doing well spiritually. Some people think when there’s a fight that you are doing bad spiritually. There’s some validity to that, but possibly because there’s a fight, that means you’re fighting the sin inside of you. The battle of the Spirit of God is working inside of you. Maybe someone is praying for you. The Spirit is jealous that you are going to be glorified – human beings are going to be glorified. The Spirit is weeping in your heart. There’s emotion and intensity and anger. It’s the grace of God working in your heart. Also, there is a fight; each moment is a fight. So when you sin, it’s easy to do it again. Sin is winning in your heart, so we always have to fight. If you don’t, you are knowingly/unknowingly sinning, and living for our own glory; living for the motive of the selfishness of our own heart. When that happens, you become what you have just done. We’re always making marks on our soul. We live forever. We’re making a mark on ourselves that counts forever – every moment, every decision that we make. So, one sin will change you forever. You’re becoming someone you don’t want to become. But, one minute of prayer can change you – one sentence of prayer. We’re eternal beings, our hearts are ever alive, we are ever-changing, never the same. One choice of sin, or one minute in prayer changes us eternally. By His grace, let us choose to

live for Jesus. We need to have a pure heart, constantly understanding what's going on in our hearts, repenting and redeeming and living for God.

## **II. Our fight is deep within us and has multiple spheres**

### A. Body [19-20]

As Paul is talking about spiritual battle he is asking believers to pray for him as he will preach the word of God, so that the word can have fight in other people's hearts, so that there can be battle of spiritual work as they hear the word of God. Then, Paul says in v. 19 "*and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth....*" so his spirit, his mind, filled with God's word, is using his lips – physical body- to fight the spiritual battle. Holy Spirit uses our spirit, our spirit uses our mind and our body, and spirit affects our body. There is a relationship between our spirit and our body.

### B. Mind [14, 17, 18]

How do you protect yourself? V.14 "*... therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth...*" – something relating to your mind. How does the Word of God come into our mind? Osmosis? Osmosis doesn't take place. It has to be internal. I have to meditate, I have to understand, and I have to pray with the Word.

v.18 It talks about prayer and supplication – content of your prayer. Some people say, 'let your mind be free, pray what you want.' Sometimes that is good, but most of the time, as you look into the Bible, the Bible says we need to use our mind - content, request, and specific requests. We need to put that into prayer, and using our minds to ask.

### C. Spirit [17-18]

v.17 "*and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit...*" which is the word of God. When we use God's word in our minds, or through our lips to others, the Holy Spirit uses those things. The Holy Spirit uses our words that is in our mind that came from our heart. There is spiritual battle taking place in our heart.

V.18 "*...in the Spirit with all prayer and supplication...*" So pray in the spirit, pray in your Spirit's nature, with intent in your mind. As you pray, the Holy Spirit uses your prayer, as well as the Word of God. The Holy Spirit uses the Bible and our prayer so that can be spiritual beings powerfully working in the minds and hearts of other people, and in the world.

So, we must have a multi-dimensional view of the problems of evil in this world. There are rebellious desires in the hearts of people, and some type of information is going into their minds and they are acting out. If we stop them with laws, we might stop them from killing or we might stop them from other things, but their hearts are still never changed. Eternally speaking, we need to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No matter how much we help, how much we stop them, how much we abstain them from the problem of this world, we need to do those things. But, that is still a temporary solution. The real problem is a change of heart; each heart, one heart at a time.

There's a spiritual war going on, and as they rebel at home there's an incredible spiritual battle going on in their hearts. We need to help them to fight. So that they will learn how to fight, their spiritual battle in their own generation - different kinds of temptation. We need to have a multi-dimensional view of problem of evil in this world as well as multi-dimensional view of ourselves and our hearts.

## **III. Our enemy has schemes**

How is Satan working in this world? Often times we look too shallow: Satan in possessing these people that are doing all these things. That's a shallow way of looking at it; somewhat true, but shallow.

Ephesians 6:11 *"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."*

The word scheme, means method, strategy, device, careful plan. Satan is very smart, incredibly intellectual and intelligent, as we look into the Bible. The Devil has schemes. So what is his scheme?

A. Satan's goal is not to win, but to hurt – Purpose

Revelation 12:12 *"Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"*

Satan knows he is defeated through Christ. He's smart. He's smarter than people. Some people think Satan doesn't know, or didn't know until Christ died on the cross. Satan knows he's already defeated – even before Christ came, by Christ that will come. Satan knows he is defeated. He knows he cannot defeat God. But what is he doing? He's doing whatever he can to hinder God. Inflict pain on God by inflicting pain on the ones He loves.

That's why only few people are worshipping Satan. They are worshipping something else, thinking they are worshipping God. As long as we are not worshipping God, glorifying God - that's Satan's strategy. He knows he's defeated; he just wants to inflict pain, hinder the glory of God. If that is true, we need to re-strategize, our thinking process, our battle in our spiritual lives because we think opposite. We think as long as we're not sinning, we're fine. But our goal in Christian life is not not-sinching, but glorifying God. So there are ungodly things in this world – sin – of course we're involved in that. But there are non-godly things – neutral things in this world that often replaces what is beneficial to us in our Christian life – what will help us to love God more, what will glorify God more.

1 Corinthians 10:31, *"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."*

It doesn't say don't sin, but it says do it all for the glory of God. Whether you eat or drink, don't just do the minimum, do the maximum. Live for the glory of God. So often, we are involved in neutral things so we're not involved in the best things. We're involved in so many things that will divide our time and our hearts away from God that we would live for God's glory, but we live for our own pleasure. Guess who's happy? Satan's happy because as long as we don't worship God and love God, he is hindering the glory of God. That's what Satan wants. Satan uses whole world and scattering all over the world things that will get our hearts away from God, so that he would hinder the glory of God. Remember the goal of our life is not nearly to avoid sin, but to grow like Jesus, which brings glory to God. The goal of our life is not the minimum, but achieve the maximum. The goal of our life is not to be less wicked, but most holy. The goal of our life is not to be better than others, or a better church than other church, but to be most like Christ. The goal of our life is not least involved in our sin nature, but most growing in our spiritual nature, so that Christ can be glorified. A huge way that Satan works is that most things in our life are neutral, and he wants us to focus on those things and not live for the glory of God, especially in an affluent Western culture. There are so many neutral things, things in life are neutral things, and when we are involved in those things, Satan is happy. Neutrals in life hinder you from growing to become like Christ, just as much as sin hinders that growth. If Satan is working to keep you away from God, making you skip church, whether you are involved in sin or watching TV, it will still do the job. Satan wants to keep you from reading the Bible whether you are reading pornography or playing computer games – these have the same

effectiveness to Satan. If you cannot see the danger of the neutral things, Satan will have a landslide victory over churches in the Western world because most things in life are neutral things. I believe more than sinful things, there is great danger in American Christianity being involved in worldly things – non-godly things: not necessarily sinful things, ungodly things. We must be aware of these things. How can we love Christ more, how can we live for Christ more, how can we grow in our spiritual life? Otherwise, we are living for our own selves. Our hearts are divided, and we aren't maximally glorifying God. Neutral things of this world are the enemies of the best things of heaven as we look into the Scripture. As long as we do not love God, our hearts are divided for our own pleasure; maximum pleasure, minimal pain. Satan is happy and that's his strategy – to get our hearts away from God. That's his goal. Make sure he hinders glory of God. God's people love other things more than God. God's people hate each other – divisions in the church and in the family.

#### B. Satan works through lies and accusations – Methods

Satan is Hebrew word. Devil is the Greek word. Satan means adversary, devil mean slanderer or accuser. We can see Satan works through lies.

-Revelation 20:3 “... so that he might not deceive the nations any longer...”

Not only is he deceiving, but he is deceiving the nations.

-Revelation 12:9 “...deceiver of the whole world...”

Deceiving means lies as well as half-lies. It means there's an involvement of our willingness – choice; not just possessing everyone. He's lying to everybody. In order to help make us fall, it involves our will. One Puritan writer said Satan needs double permission: permission from God, (Job 1-2), but also permission from us. We need to be willingly involved. Of course, we're not saying, 'Oh, I want to listen to you Satan,' but stimulation through our sin nature, stimulation through thoughts so that our hearts can be divided.

#### 1. Lies against Biblical principles

Everything against the Bible, pervasive philosophy in this world. Even Satan came to Adam and Eve, he immediately said, 'Did God really say...' against what God says. The whole world is filled with philosophies and principles that are contrary to the Bible. What happens when wrong philosophy stimulates our sinful desires, whether it's false religion, false philosophy, live-for-yourself worldly thinking? We sin, and then our hearts are divided away from God. God says 'you will die' when you eat that. And Satan says 'not you will die'. Hebrew conjunction in that is just one word was added 'lo', which means not, changed the whole human history. Lies. That's how Satan still works in this world. There are all these lies because churches are not biblically strong. Churches buy into wrong philosophies, wrong things, and as a result, churches are defiled. Then what happens? Their hearts are divided, and churches are weak in this generation.

#### 2. Lies about sin

This happens often before we sin. Before Adam and Eve sinned, (Gen 3) Satan says, 'not you will die,' but in fact when you eat that God was afraid that you would become wise. Eating the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil was bad, and yet the worst thing that can happen to you is you become wise. Lies about sin make sin attractive. This world is like that, euphemizing sin. What the Bible says is adultery, the world says affair. Pre-marital fornication – 'Oh, we're just dating'. Murdering a baby – pro-choice. Homosexuality, birth, human rights. He is not possessing people as much as he lies to people through the pervasive philosophy in this world. We need to know the Scripture and discern.

### 3. Lies about God and about us – accusation

This is especially after we sin. Gen 3, ‘Did God really say...’ Then Satan accuses God. Satan was afraid that if you eat the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, you will be like God.’ Then Satan is accusing God as a bad person. That is why he told you not to eat the fruit of good and evil. Same thing he accuses God and people, so that even after we sin, we will be guilty, we will not go to God for repentance.

-Revelation 12:10 “... *Accuser of our brothers... who accuses them day and night before our God...*”

Satan is constantly accusing, and when there is accusation in our mind, sometimes in the form of self-accusation, we need to be aware of the scheme of Satan, which we might have gotten from the philosophy of this world. We don’t think God is forgiving, merciful, so we can’t go to the cross to receive forgiveness, and so that we can keep on fighting. Satan might be working in our hearts and in our minds.

Thomas Brooks, a puritan writer in the 1600s, wrote a small book called Precious Remedies against Satan’s Devices, and he talks about how Satan lies. He wrote several suggestions about how Satan lies. I picked a few of them, so we can be illustrated with how Satan works

1) By presenting the bait and hiding the hook  
Satan makes sin look attractive, but he hides the pain.

2) By making sin look attractive

3) By showing great men's sins and hiding their virtues, sorrows, and repentance  
“If he does it, then it’s fine by me!”

4) By presenting God only as merciful  
Especially before you sin: ‘He’s going to forgive you so go ahead and sin, just one more time.’

5) By making people courageous to venture to sin  
“Try it!”

6) By representing successful sinners  
“They don’t go to church, but look how blessing they are!”

7) By presenting the difficulty of Christian life  
“What good is doing this? Do you really have to do that?”

8) By causing saints to compare themselves to worse sinners  
“You’re not that bad. Look at him/her.”

9) By polluting souls and judgments  
We have worldliness in our minds, so we don’t know how to judge or discern.

10) By leading men to choose bad friends  
You cannot influence them, they’re influencing you to sin more. If you cannot change your friendship, you need to change your friends.

Let's also look at accusations:

1) By causing saints to remember their sins more than their Savior

We act as if our sin is greater than the blood of Jesus Christ. One drop of blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse all the sins of human history.

2) By causing saints to make false definitions of their graces

Thinking you have to earn grace. 'You can't receive that grace when you sin again and again and again.'

3) By causing saints to make false conclusions about their suffering

Thinking God must be hating me, or must not be powerful; it might be the punishment for my sin.

4) By suggesting to saints that the conflict that is in them is found also in hypocrites and profane souls

Thinking you are terrible and a hypocrite, "What good is it, I've already failed."

5) By suggesting to the saint who has lost joy and comfort that his state is not good

You're unhappy, you are miserable in your Spirit's nature, you don't have feelings of joy, that means you are doing badly; you're not blessed. How many times does the Bible say love your enemies? How many times do you feel like loving your enemies? Feeling does not indicate your love for God or faithfulness. Your desire, sometimes joyless, feeling-less love for God activates and moves our soul to follow Christ. You're not happy, you're not in the will of God.

6) By reminding the saint of his frequent relapses into sin formerly repented of and prayed against

"You're falling again and again, are you really Christian?" "Do you think God will forgive you again after you sinned yesterday?"

We need to understand how Satan works so that our hearts can be divided, and that we will not go to the grace of God, forgiveness of God, strength of God, so that we will be less effective, loving Christ less, so that we will be less full of his grace and mercy, and power to impact the world for the glory of Gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### **IV. Our armor is available for our fight**

There is in every sphere of our body involved in spiritual battle. Our enemy has schemes. Often he's visible in persecution, but often he's invisible in temptation and causing our heart to be less in love with God, less bright as light, less salty as Christians.

A. We must put on the full armor of God [11]

What is putting on the full armor of God? You need to understand the language of Ephesians.

Ephesians 4:22-25 *"to put off your old self," ... "put on the new self"*

There is sin nature. If you keep choosing to sin in your mind, in your heart, and then you do it, it becomes a part of you. It becomes your character. That's who you are, you become, and you act with your sin nature. Now, put on the new self. That sin nature is DNA of Adam, but after you are born again, Spirit's nature has come into you, born in your heart. Now the DNA of Jesus Christ is in you. So, you put on a new self. You choose. The Word of God in your mind stimulates Spirit's heart; you act, you do, you go to

your enemy, you love, you pray. At times you don't feel like it, but you love Christ, so you do it, you fight. Then what happens? You're putting on new self, becoming more like Jesus. Jesus is your armor. You become like Jesus. Someone who does that, proof of who that is like the people in the end days who overcome temptation and the power of Satan.

Revelation 12:11 *"And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony"* – meaning the Word of God has been internalized into their hearts, so they act, they do, they live, they overcome their selfishness. Whatever they do is selfless and loving. It says *"for they loved not their lives even unto death."*

You can see they are wearing, putting on new self. So what is put on? The armor is being put on, using the benefit and privilege of the Gospel, appropriating what is true of the Gospel, what is true of justification into glorification. We are in Christ – in position-, now Christ is coming into you. You are becoming like Christ, you are glorifying Christ – becoming like Jesus. You are putting on the armor of God. You are using what is objectively true subjectively. What is externally true, you're putting in yourself internally; it is becoming true of you. What is true of Christ, what is true of Christians, is becoming true of you. You are becoming like Christ. These truths are a part of you and in you – they have become your foundation. Your knowledge has become your experience. You are choosing to deny yourself, and living for him has become a new reflex. You deny yourself and love Christ, you love others. What is true of justification – you are in Christ – is becoming true in your glorification – Christ is coming into you. The fight in your heart has become the condition of your heart. I need to fight sin; I need to turn it off; I need to get out of this room. It has become the condition of your heart, part of your character. This does not mean you never fail, but it is a predominant character of your heart. We must put on full armor of God.

B. We must learn to deal with lies and accusations with God's Word [14, 17]

v. 14 *"Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth..."* all the armor pieces of armor are relating to the Bible and truth, *"having put on the breastplate of righteousness"*, having the helmet of salvation, sword of the Spirit, the Word of God – truth. We need to know how to overcome all those lies with truth. We'll just do accusations here:

1) By causing saints to remember their sins more than their Savior

We need to remember the Gospel. Jesus died for me. I'm going to be forgiven, and by His grace I am going to fight, I'm going to overcome. My Savior is greater than my sin.

2) By causing saints to make false definitions of their graces

I don't earn grace, Jesus died for me – he has achieved everything for me – he is my righteousness. I'm as righteous as Jesus. I'm forgiven, and by his grace I'm going to fight. I'm going to hate sin. If you keep sin, you are going to hate yourself.

3) By causing saints to make false conclusions about their suffering

Suffering doesn't mean he hates me. God, in love, puts me into suffering. He put his loving Son on the cross in our behalf. He went through suffering – doesn't mean hatred. Suffering can mean as we are going through the fire, you will be disciplined; you are going to grow to be like Jesus in the context of our suffering. But he's going to help us. Fiery suffering will overcome, so that our hearts can be on fire for Christ.

4) By suggesting to saints that the conflict that is in them is found also in hypocrites and profane souls

“Sure, that’s who I am in my sin nature, but that’s going to be gone when Christ returns. Who I am is this: I am a saint in Jesus Christ. Spirit’s nature is in me, this is who I’m going to be for the rest of eternity. But I’m going to fight my hypocrite and profane soul in my heart.”

5) By suggesting to the saint who has lost joy and comfort that his state is not good

Temporarily in this world, we may be miserable. There might be glimpses of joy because of the presence of Christ, but after a short period of a time of misery, we will have eternal joy in Jesus Christ, but my joy will be Christ even now and forevermore.

6) By reminding the saint of his frequent relapses into sin formerly repented of and prayed against

Yes I’m going to go up and down, which proves I’m a sinner, which proves that Jesus is a great savior. There is an ocean of mercy that will never run out. He is great and awesome, faithful, forgiving, loving God. He’s in the process of changing me. I’m going to keep on going because my righteousness is in Jesus Christ.

C. We must be in constant communion with God – Prayer and the Word [17-18]

The power of God is the power of Holy Spirit inside of me, Holy Spirit uses the word and prayer. V.17 *“the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication...”* As I pray, the Holy Spirit uses it. As I instill the Word in me, the Holy Spirit uses those words. Our hearts are pumped up and motivated. The Word is God’s ordained means that God instills his love into me, I’m going to inject God’s Word into me, I’m going to meditate, he’s going use those words to strengthen me, empower me, so that I can overcome temptation. So put the full armor of God on before temptation, constantly be in communion with Him before we get to hardships and difficulties.

## **Conclusion**

We cannot put on the armor of God during the fight. We have to wear the armor before we go into the battle. Just like an athlete that needs to practice, but the mistake of athlete may cause you to lose a game. However, the mistake of soldier can kill a person. We must put on the armor of God before the battle, and put it on during the small battles every day. We face small battles, learn to repent and redeem the small things in life. There is a constant desire to either live for ourselves or live for Christ, and as we practice in every moment, during the small battles in our lives, we already have the full armor of God on when the big battles come. We will be able to overcome. The ones who lose in the big battles are the ones who have lost in the small battles. We need to practice and learn how to win small battles, so that when we face bigger battles in life, we overcome, so that the greater glory of Christ can happen in us and through us. In all these things, remember our God is great. Fight back. Let’s think about the present time and look forward and make some commitments so we will be more fully aware. Wear the armor of God so that we will be powerful people that will live maximally for the glory of God. Let’s pray.