

What is spiritual warfare?

Spiritual warfare is the day to day battle the Christian enters against the world, the flesh, and the devil. The Christian's captain and ground of victory is Jesus. The Christian's weapons of warfare are those laid out by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6:10-20.

What are these weapons of warfare?

1. Belt of truth.
2. Breastplate of righteousness.
3. Shoes of gospel peace.
4. Shield of faith.
5. Helmet of salvation.
6. Sword of the Spirit.

What does it mean to “put on the armor” or to “take up the whole armor” in Ephesians 6:11, 13?

Since the armor is directly connected to Jesus and the gospel, it's something the Christian already possesses. Because a Christian is, by faith, one with Christ, everything Christ has is at the disposal of the Christian. This includes every single of armor mentioned in Ephesians 6. So to “put on” or “take up” simply means that the Christian is to appropriate what they already have at their disposal in Christ.

Another way to think about this “putting on” and “taking up” is to think about it in terms of what Paul said in Philippians 2:12-23. Just as we are to work out on a daily basis what God has already worked in us, so are we to put on what we have already been given because of our union with Jesus.

Is spiritual warfare an activity we must engage in alone?

Absolutely not! As Paul closes out Ephesians 6 he asks the church to pray for him since he is in chains. He asks the church to specifically pray that boldness would be given to him in the opening of his mouth to proclaim the gospel. As Paul is in chains he is definitely engaged in spiritual warfare. We can take away from his request that this battle is one that must be fought side by side with other Christians. We need other Christians to help us and support us as we wage warfare against the devil, the flesh, and the world.

What are some good resources for studying this important aspect of the Christian life?

Spiritual Warfare: A Biblical and Balanced Perspective by Brian Borgman
Unmasking Satan by Richard Mayhue