

CALL to PRAYER -

Model Prayer - "...deliver us from evil..."

Intro -The Christian life is a battle. Don't let anyone tell you different. If they do, they are selling you something false. (not prosperity but adversity) The call of the Christian is a call to fight & die daily. You will fight your own cravings and temptations (die to self). You will fight against the world system as it entices you to conform to its thinking (compromise). And you will fight against the Devil as he uses the culture and your own sinful nature to defeat and devour you. This battle is fierce, and it is a battle the Christian cannot win (on his own). He is outmatched by a smarter and stronger opponent. The forces against him outnumber him greatly (multitude of minions). He is small & weak going against a big devil. It is a David -vs- Goliath scenario....but wait...who won that battle? David v Goliath was an epic battle 3000 years ago that is still commonly referenced today. It was real battle...not a parable...but it used as a pattern. A little saint fights a big devil like little David defeated a big giant...not in his own power. David was not a coward. He had confidence but his confidence was in the Lord. I have two main points today from our text to help us in our spiritual warfare. We are to engage in battle: 1] *NOT WITH PHYSICAL STRENGTH* 2] *NOT AGAINST A PHYSICAL ENEMY*. These are two rules of engagement for the Christian warrior.

Ephesians 6:10-12 - Spiritual Warfare (part 1)

NOT WITH

- Eph. 6:10
 - The saint needs strength to live the Christian life and walk worthy of his calling.
 - Just not his own strength
 - Rule # 1 in spiritual warfare is not to rely on yourself
 - Self-reliance is big in our culture....but not in Christian culture.
 - Prov. 28:26
 - Jer. 17:5
 - 2 Cor. 1:9 Don't trust in yourself; trust in God (basic Christian belief)
- I can't but God can
 - John 15:5
 - Phil. 4:13
 - Zech. 4:6 not with physical strength John 6:63
 - 2 Chron. 14:9-12
 - 2 Chron. 20:12
 - When we own our own impotence, ignorance and incompetence then we are ready to fight a spiritual battle.
 - 2 Cor. 12:9
 - 2 Cor. 3:5
- David relied on the LORD to defeat Goliath
 - 1 Sam. 17:37
 - David rejected man's armor
 - 1 Sam. 17:45 (Prov. 18:10)

- The Christian has no self-confidence, but he is no coward because of God-confidence
 - The believer engages in battle - Psalm 144:1
 - David ran quickly toward the battle line to engage Goliath - 1 Sam. 17:48
 - Rev. 21:7-8 (the ungodly are cowardly...but not the Christian)
 - "A man-eating lion would starve to death at a pastors conference."
 - No milquetoast ministers or cowardly Christians in Christ's army.
 - Eph. 6:11
 - The Christian straps up for battle and takes his stand.
 - Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite (boy named Sue) 2 Sam. 23:9-10
 - Shammah took his stand 2 Sam. 23:11-12
 - What are you standing against?
 - What are you standing for?

NOT AGAINST

- Rule #1 - Not with physical strength. Rule # 2 - Not against a physical enemy
 - Eph. 6:11-12
 - Christian warfare is not a flesh and blood battle
 - Spiritual forces are animating and instigating the war against Christ and His church.
 - The Enemy behind our enemies.
 - Just as Israel has targeted the "head of the snake" in their war against evil...
 - We must be aware who is instigating the evil in our world
- Evil people are willing participants but there is a Power empowering/encouraging them
 - Just as the Christian is empowered by The Holy Spirit...unbelievers are empowered by an evil spirit.
 - 1 John 5:19 Eph. 2:1-2
- Eph. 6:12
 - Rulers - there is an evil power behind government power - devilish & demonic policies
 - Powers (they are wicked but not weak) Authorities (disrespect - Jude 9 underestimate - Acts 19:14-16)
 - World forces of darkness. Worldwide in scope
 - Spiritual wickedness Eph. 2:2 - prince of the power of the air
- The Devil's schemes Eph. 6:11 (mention just a few)
 - Place hurdles to keep you from Christian fellowship - 1 Thess. 2:18
 - False doctrine - 1 Tim. 4:1 (bad doctrine is devilish)
 - False teachers/preachers - 2 Cor. 11:13-15 (BEWARE OF THE PREACHERS!)
 - Satan tempted Jesus by misapplying scripture. (the Devil misuses the Bible)
 - Takes away or distorts the Word of God - (Gen. 3:1; Matt. 13:19)
 - Deceives the nations - Rev. 20:3
 - Satan is the father of lies - John 8:44 (his lies permeate our air/airways - Eph. 2:2)
- Nefarious movie tonight
 - Dramatic presentation on how the devil comes to steal, kill and destroy
 - 1 Peter 5:8
- The Christian need not fear in this fearful battle
 - Is. 41:10 Eph. 6:10 James 4:7
 - *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* (#8)