

Beginning the Battle

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 6:10-13.

B. This Scripture asks the question why humanity is so helpless and powerless against evil.

C. Paul turns his audience to the problem of spiritual powers.

D. Responses to spiritual powers.

1. Some reject the reality of it. When we pin our hopes on man himself, our hopes are restless.

2. Some reject the existence of the devil, but this is irrational because the same authorities that speak to the existence of God speak to the existence of the devil.

E. No other explanation considers all things other than this explanation.

II. The only ones who can successfully battle against these spiritual forces are Christians.

A. The people of Jesus' day claimed that He cast out demons by the devil's power, but Satan never fights against himself.

B. The whole world is under the power of the wicked one, and hence the man by himself cannot solve the problem. Education or improved environment does not change a man.

C. Jesus is the stronger one who can handle the devil. Only Jesus can set us free from the power of Satan.

D. There is no neutral ground—one is either with Jesus or against Him.

1. The influence of your life reveals whether you are with Him or against Him.

2. What is the character of your life—self-centeredness or self-giving?

III. One is either a victim or a victor.

A. This comes down to a decision for Christ that delivers.

B. This decision makes the Lord's Supper a heartwarming experience.

C. One can make this decision now.

Application questions:

1. How would you defend the reality of evil spiritual forces as an explanation for evil in the world today?

2. Why is man helpless against these forces?

3. How does identification with Christ solve the problem of the work of spiritual forces in the believer's life? Explain.
