



## **Ephesians 6:12** **Our Battle Against Spiritual Darkness**

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## **Not Against Human Enemies**

### **Ephesians 6:12a (ESV)**

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood...

- The term for “wrestle” (*pale\_*) denotes a “wrestling match”
- This battle is not against humans but spiritual forces arrayed against believers
- The wrestling metaphor and soldier metaphor (armor) illustrate a face-to-face encounter against an opponent

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## **Spiritual Opponents**

### **Ephesians 6:12b (ESV)**

...but **against** the rulers, **against** the authorities, **against** the cosmic powers over this present darkness, **against** the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

- We need to know that these beings exist
- We need to know the nature of the battle
- We must not seek information from their realm that is not revealed in Scripture

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## **Beings in the Heavenlies**

- Rulers: *arche\_*
- Authorities: *exousia*
- Cosmic powers: *kosmokrato\_r* (over this present darkness)
- Spiritual forces: *pneumatikos* (of the evil)

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## **Implications and Applications**

- All believers are in this spiritual battle whether they believe in the existence of these beings or not
- The realms of darkness and light are spiritually opposed to each other and completely incompatible
- The only way out of spiritual darkness is through faith in Christ

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## **Satan Attacks Believers**

### **Luke 22:31-32 (NASB)**

“Simon, Simon, behold, **Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat**; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, **when once you have turned again**, strengthen your brothers.”

- The first “you” is plural (all the disciples), the 2<sup>nd</sup> is singular (Peter)
- Peter’s great need is for steadfast faith
- (vss. 33, 34) Pride—then a fall!

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## Spiritual Blindness

### 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (NASB)

But if indeed our gospel is veiled, it is veiled among those who are perishing, among whom **the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers**, so that they would not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- The gospel is clear, not cryptic
- Paul was spiritually blind, then saw true light, was physically blinded, then healed!

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## The Only Way Out

### John 12:46 (NASB)

"I have come as Light into the world, so that **everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.**"

- The spiritual reality is that fallen humans love darkness (John 3:19)
- Jesus promised light to those who follow Him (John 8:12)

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## The Results of Having Been Rescued From Darkness

### Colossians 1:13, 14 (NASB)

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have **redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

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