

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood,
but against principalities, against powers,
against the rulers of the darkness of this age,
against spiritual hosts of wickedness
in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12

Keeping First Things First

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Remember the chess board example.



Keeping First Things First

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Keeping First Things First

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but it's the ever-diminishing light.

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Christ is light, and therefore, so are you.

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Christ is light, and therefore, so are you.
And Scripture describes the enemy as darkness.

Light and Darkness

Light and Darkness

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John (the Baptist). This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light (Christ), that all through him might believe. He was not that Light (Christ), but was sent to bear witness of that Light (Christ).

John 1:6-9

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This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light (to what degree) and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5

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Which means what for each of us?

Light and Darkness

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If we say that we have fellowship with Him (light), and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:6-7

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Note: We are “in Christ” or “in the Light” and therefore must “walk” or live as children of light.

Light and Darkness

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Fact:

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Command:

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Ephesians 5:8

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Fact: For you were once darkness,
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Note: We are now (present tense) light in the Lord.
We possess the Holy Spirit and take on the nature
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Fact: For you were once darkness,
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Command: Walk as children of light.

Ephesians 5:8

Note: We are now (present tense) light in the Lord.

We possess the Holy Spirit and take on the nature of Christ (Rom. 8:29), who is Light (1 John 1:5).

And that makes us divinely powerful in Him.

Light and Darkness

Light and Darkness

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn (*krínō* – to pronounce guilt and punishment on someone in a legal context) the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

John 3:16-17

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John 3:18

And what does that condemnation look like?

Light and Darkness

Light and Darkness

“And this is the condemnation, (what) that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, (why) because their deeds were evil.

For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, (why) lest his deeds should be exposed.

But he who does (action) the truth comes to the light, (why) that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

John 3:19-21

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John 3:19-21

Keeping First Things First

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So how are we to be light in this dark world?

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So how are we to be light in this dark world?

And how do we fight against the darkness?

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In Him (Christ) was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend (*katalambánō* – to take, apprehend, overcome, to seize the position of and defeat, to gain control) it.

John 1:4-5

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Keeping First Things First

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How do we fight against the darkness?

Keeping First Things First

How do we fight against the darkness?

Or, better yet, how not to fight against the darkness?

Keeping First Things First

How do we fight against the darkness?

Or, better yet, how not to fight against the darkness?

Anger

Keeping First Things First

How do we fight against the darkness?

Or, better yet, how not to fight against the darkness?

Anger

Revenge

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How do we fight against the darkness?

Or, better yet, how not to fight against the darkness?

Anger

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Politics

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How do we fight against the darkness?

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Anger

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Politics

Personal Strength

Keeping First Things First

How do we fight against the darkness?

Or, better yet, how not to fight against the darkness?

Anger

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Politics

Personal Strength

Plotting, Scheming, Manipulating, etc.

Keeping First Things First

How do we fight against the darkness?

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Anger

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Human Wisdom and Human Power / Influence

Keeping First Things First

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When we surrender ourselves to the Lord,
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And He has promises for those who choose
to trust Him, even in the thick of battle.

Keeping First Things First

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Remember the questions in Romans 8?

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“Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect?”

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And the one where our faith either grows or fails...

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Remember the questions in Romans 8?

“Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect?”

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”

And the one where our faith either grows or fails...

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors
(how) through Him who loved us.”

Keeping First Things First

Keeping First Things First

So how are we to let the light of Christ Himself shine even brighter in us, especially in the heat of battle?

Keeping First Things First

So how are we to let the light of Christ Himself shine even brighter in us, especially in the heat of battle?

Answer:

Keeping First Things First

So how are we to let the light of Christ Himself shine even brighter in us, especially in the heat of battle?

Answer: Surrender.

Keeping First Things First

So how are we to let the light of Christ Himself shine even brighter in us, especially in the heat of battle?

Answer: Surrender.

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil (our part) and he will flee from you (God's part).

James 4:7

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So how are we to let the light of Christ Himself shine even brighter in us, especially in the heat of battle?

Answer: Surrender.

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them (spirit of antichrist), (how) because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

1 John 4:4

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So how are we to let the light of Christ Himself shine even brighter in us, especially in the heat of battle?

Answer: Surrender.

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them (spirit of antichrist), (how) because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

1 John 4:4

Keeping First Things First

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Keeping First Things First

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And what is our greatest weapon?

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Prayer

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And what is our greatest weapon?

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Which is something every one of us can do.

Keeping First Things First

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Which is something every one of us can do.

There's no age or educational requirement, no special gift needed. In fact, if you don't know how to pray, the Holy Spirit promises to pray through you in ways and words you cannot even understand (Rom. 8:26).

Keeping First Things First

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All you have to do is commit to fighting spiritual battles God's way and not your own, which is almost always in the flesh.

He even provides guidance on how to do just that.

Fighting God's Battles, God's Way

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Finally, my brethren, be strong in (who) the Lord and in the power of (what) His might (and not your own).

Ephesians 6:10-11

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And then the Lord gives us a glimpse of the big picture.

Fighting God's Battles, God's Way

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Reason:

Ephesians 6:12

Fighting God's Battles, God's Way

Reason: For we do not wrestle (*pálē* – struggle, hand-to-hand combat) against flesh and blood (each other, human institutions, etc.), but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

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What are we to do?

Fighting God's Battles, God's Way

Fighting God's Battles, God's Way

Command:

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Command: Therefore (based on what we just learned about our warfare) take up (what) the whole (all, complete, both offensive and defensive) armor of (who) God,

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Fighting God's Battles, God's Way

Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

1. Belt of Truth

Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

1. Belt of Truth
2. Breastplate of Righteousness

Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

1. Belt of Truth
2. Breastplate of Righteousness
3. Feet Shod (bind) with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace

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4. Shield of Faith (with promise)

Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

1. Belt of Truth
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4. Shield of Faith (with promise)
5. Helmet of Salvation (renewing of your mind)

Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

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6. Sword of Spirit (Holy Spirit) which is the Word of God

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6. Sword of Spirit (Holy Spirit) which is the Word of God
7. Praying Always (how) in the Spirit

Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

(you – implied) Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, (you) having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and (you) having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, (you) taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Ephesians 6:14-16

Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

(you – implied) **Stand therefore**, having girded your waist with truth, (you) having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and (you) having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, (you) taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

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Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

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And (you) take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; (you) praying (how often) always with all (*pás*) prayer and supplication (how) in the Spirit, (you) being watchful to this end with all (*pás*) perseverance and supplication for all (*pás*) the saints.

Ephesians 6:17-18

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Ephesians 6:17-18

Let me show you how this is done.

Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

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Ephesians 6:17-18

Now, let's get to the part we all can do – pray.

Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

Remember...

Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

Remember...

The problem today is not the increasing darkness,

Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

Remember...

The problem today is not the increasing darkness,
but it's the ever-diminishing light.

Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

Remember...

The problem today is not the increasing darkness,
but it's the ever-diminishing light.

Be the light.

Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

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The problem today is not the increasing darkness,
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How?

Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

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The problem today is not the increasing darkness,
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How?

By letting His light shine in and through you.

Putting On Our Spiritual Armor

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The problem today is not the increasing darkness,
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How?

By letting His light shine in and through you.

And you can begin that adventure today.

