

Battle Lines

May 25 | Weekly Devotionals

Introduction

Welcome to our newest sermon series: Battle Lines. We know that spiritual warfare is real, but we often encounter two problems with it: (1) We may not think about it enough; or (2) We think about it too much! That's why our goal is to spend three weeks talking about its importance and impact. To that end, over these next several weeks, we'll spend time digging into God's Word, memorizing Scripture, praying, and reflecting.

Each week will look roughly the same. And while there may not be specific "daily" assignments, it may be best to divvy up this content into a daily rhythm to get through it. Here is our agenda for the week:

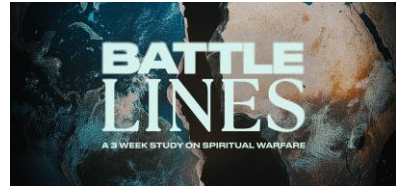
1. Read Ephesians 6:10-18
2. Work on memorizing Ephesians 6:10-18
3. Study the idea of spiritual warfare in this passage
4. Reflect on how spiritual warfare is impacting your life
5. Spend time in prayer

Let's begin!

READ

Read **Ephesians 6:10-18** below.

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray



in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

MEMORIZE

Spend a few minutes beginning to memorize this passage. This scripture encourages believers to stand firm in faith, equipped with truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and God's Word.

Start by reading the passage daily, breaking it into smaller sections (e.g., verses 10-12, 13-15, 16-18) to focus on a few verses at a time.

Try writing the verses by hand or typing them to engage muscle memory. Try listening to the passage during commutes or downtime on the Bible App. Create mnemonic devices, like associating each piece of armor with a vivid mental image (e.g., a glowing shield for faith). Utilize the Bible Memory app for help.

Recite the verses aloud regularly, perhaps with a partner or group, to reinforce retention.

Consistency is key—spend 5-10 minutes daily, and soon you'll have this passage in your memory bank!

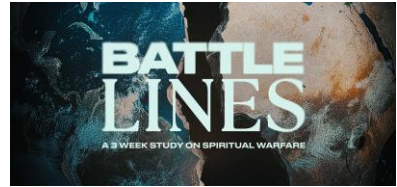
STUDY

In Ephesians 6:10-18, there are SIX different images that Paul gives us that correspond to a particular spiritual weapon which also corresponds to a particular Old Testament passage. Each week of this series you'll be guided in to look at two of them.

Answer the following questions below pertaining to each "image" Paul gives us of the armor of God.

#1 - "Belt" (Ephesians 6:14)

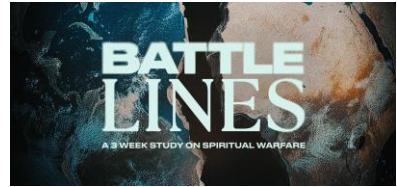
- What trait is associated with the "belt" here in Ephesians 6:14?
- Read Isaiah 11:5. How does this Old Testament passage inform your understanding of this trait?



- Why do you think that this trait needs fastened to you?
- In what ways is this particular trait important for spiritual warfare?
- Where are you needing to don this trait in your own life today?

#2 - “Breastplate” (Ephesians 6:14)

- What trait is associated with the “breastplate” here in Ephesians 6:14?
- Read Isaiah 59:17. How does this Old Testament passage inform your understanding of this trait?
- Why do you think that this trait needs fastened to you?
- In what ways is this particular trait important for spiritual warfare?



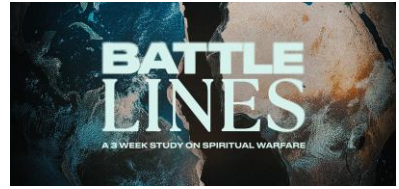
- Where are you needing to don this trait in your own life today?

REFLECT

In our culture today, a lot of spiritual warfare comes through three main avenues: deception, division, and distraction. Take a few moments to prayerfully reflect on how these are at play in your own life today. Use the following reflection questions to do so:

- **DECEPTION** – In what ways have you been tempted to listen to lies (about yourself, God, the world) rather than the truth?
- **DIVISION** – Are there any areas in which you feel disunity with your family, friends, or other Christians? Where? Why?
- **DISTRACTION** – Colossians 3:2 says, “Set your mind on things above...” So, often however, we are distracted from doing so. What has been garnering your attention lately? Is it on the things of God? Things you deem important? If not, where is it going? What has contributed to any distraction in your life?

PRAY



As you finish your time with this weekly work, spend a few final moments in prayer. Look over your thoughts and reflection from this week's work. Take these things to God. Ask Him to help. Ask Him to supplant deception with truth, division with unity, and distraction with attention.