



## Spiritual Warfare – June 2023

The Bible tells us in Ephesians 6:11, *“Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the wiles of the Devil.”* The question of **WHY** we should put on the full armor of God is answered in verse 12: *“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.”*

If we were able to teleport back to ancient Israel and Mesopotamia 2-3 thousand years ago, we would see that the people of that time were well aware of both the physical and spiritual worlds. The physical world that we live in is seen and known through our 5 senses. But the people in ancient Mesopotamia were also very aware that there was an invisible realm occupied by the God of Israel, and lesser but incredibly powerful eternal spiritual beings; Satan, angels, demons, and lesser gods such as Baal, Asherah and Molech. Since our 5 senses cannot see or detect the spiritual realm, it is really easy for us to dismiss it and assume it is irrelevant in today's political, spiritual and culture war in America. When we look at the Bible there are hundreds of verses that confirm the existence of the spiritual realm. This slide shows just a few of those verses.

A slide titled "Evidence of the Spiritual Realm" with a background of an American flag. The title is in white text. Below the title is a list of Bible verses with their corresponding descriptions.

### Evidence of the Spiritual Realm

- **Genesis 6:1-4** – The sons of God took wives from the daughters of men.
- **Genesis 18 & 19** - Angel of the Lord and 2 other angels talked to Abraham, eat together, rescued Lot, destroyed Sodom
- **Genesis 28:12** – Jacob sees angels ascending and descending on ladder to heaven
- **Genesis 32:22** – Jacob wrestles with angle all night
- **Luke 8:26-39** – Jesus casts out demons (Legion) from man in cemetery and sent them into swine herd that jumps off cliff and drowns
- **Daniel 10** – Gabriel appears to Daniel but was delayed 21 days by prince of Persia (demon over Persian principality)
- **Luke 10:17** – Jesus gives 70 disciples authority to cast out demons
- **1 Corinthians 10:20** – Gentiles sacrifice to demons not God
- **2 Kings 6:17** – The prophet Elisha prayed for his servant's eyes to be opened so he could see the invisible army (chariots of fire) surrounding and protecting them from the Syrian army

You cannot believe the Bible is the inerrant inspired Word of God and believe that Satan, angels, demons, and lesser gods are myths, and do not operate and wreak havoc in our “developed/educated” modern world today. For the most part Satan has blinded America and the developed world to the existence of the unseen spiritual realm. Satan uses greed, wealth, power, education, and materialism to effectively separate the wealthy developed nations from their dependence on God and God’s Word. The last thing Satan wants to do is set off alarm bells that would convince Christians and the “developed” world that he and his demonic legions are **real**, actively involved in the culture war, and set on destroying everything that God calls good.

The Bible describes Satan in John 8:44: ***“...He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”*** Satan and his demonic forces’ successes are highly dependent on people believing the spiritual world is a myth and, in their ability to convince the world that evil is good and good is evil. 2 Corinthians 11:14: ***“And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”***

The reason it is so important that we internalize that this unseen spiritual realm is real is because the powers in the spiritual realm guide, direct, and control many of our physical world institutions, media, leaders, businesses, politicians, judges, and bureaucracies. We know this because the Bible tells us that Satan is the ruler of this world. 2 Corinthians 4:4 tells us Satan is ***“... the god of this age ...”*** Ephesians 2:2 tells us Satan is ***“... the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,”*** John 12:31 tells us ***“... the ruler of this world will be cast out.”***

Our enemy and his legions cannot be defeated using human weapons or by human means. Satan is an incredibly powerful adversary and will only be overcome and defeated through God’s power, God’s Word, and God’s plan for Christians and the church to stand against this evil. Ephesians 6:13-18 tells us how to stand by putting on the full armor of God, ***“Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which, you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”*** War in the spiritual realm is fought differently than war in the physical world.



## Fighting in the Spiritual Realm

- **God's Earthly Army** – The Church & saved believers of Jesus Christ
- **Our Orders** – “Stand against the wiles of the devil”, “withstand in the evil day”, “done all to stand”, “Stand therefore”
- **Battle Ground** – is truth (God’s Word is truth)
- **Training & Preparation for Battle**
  - Being Righteous (walking in God’s will, obedient, blameless before God)
  - Reading, Knowing, Memorizing and Meditating on God’s Word
- **Defense** – Our faith and trust in God (Shield of Faith)
- **Offense** – Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God
- **Communication** – Praying always with fervent spiritual prayer, supplication, and interventional prayer for the saints

In Ephesians 6:11-14 God repeats 4 times that we are to stand against evil; **“Stand against the wiles of the devil”, “withstand in the evil day”, “done all to stand”, “Stand therefore”**. I do not know of any other place in the Bible where God has put so much emphasis on a command by repeating it 4 times in 4 consecutive verses. The Bible does not just order us to “stand,” but to spiritually prepare for the battle and to use spiritual weapons for offense, defense, and communications. The question each of us ought to ask is what does **“standing”** look like for me as an individual Christian blessed with a unique set of skills, spiritual gifts, time, resources, and contacts.

As individuals we can sin against God by overt acts of commission such as (worshiping idols, false witness, sexual immorality, steal, kill, covet, etc.) but we can also sin against God by omission. James 4:17 says **“Anyone who knows the right things and fails to do it, for him it is sin.”** James 4:7 **“Submit yourself therefore to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you.”** The sins of omission are running rampant in America today. It is not just the church that has stood by idly as demonic forces have built strongholds in every corner of our society. It’s individual Christians that haven’t committed their time, energy, skills, spiritual gifts, and resources to fight this evil that is devouring our country.



## Where is the Church?

- 1962 – Engel vs Vitale removed prayer from school
- 1970 – California first state to pass no fault divorce (1 in 17 marriages end in divorce)
- 1973 – Roe vs Wade made abortion the law of the land. (70 million babies murdered)
- 1985 - Breen vs Runkel disallowed teachers from praying or reading the bible in class
- 2003 - Lawrence vs Texas legalized homosexuality
- 2010 - New York last state to pass no fault divorce (now 1 in 2 marriages end in divorce)
- 2013 – United States vs Windsor struck down Defense of Marriage act.
- 2015 – Obergefell vs Hodges struck down definition of Marriage between a man and woman
- 2015 - McCreary County vs ACLU remove 10 Commandments from federal buildings
- 2020 - COVID restricts and locks down churches, but allows liquor stores and retailers to stay open
- Jan 6, 2021 – Constitutional rights of January 6<sup>th</sup> election protestors suspended
- Feb 17, 2023 – first “After School Satan Club” meets in primary school in Virginia
- May 1, 2023 – Federal court rules Saucon Valley School District, must allow “After School Satan Clubs” to meet in their school facilities

The first step in this fight is to know and understand the truth so that we recognize and oppose evil instead of good. Organizations like Montgomery County Eagle Forum and Faith Votes play a key role in exposing the truth about legislation, court decisions, elections, school policies, media, culture, etc. Familiarizing yourself with the issues and the evil that is taking place in our country is a necessary and first good step in resisting evil. In fact, the first part of God’s armor in Ephesian 6 is to gird your waist with truth.

Satan has blinded the eyes of many of our fellow citizens by hiding truth and perpetrating half-truths, so that they are unaware that a spiritual battle rages around them. This is a great opportunity for everyone in this room to expose their family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers to the truth. For many others, even people in this room, exposure to the truth is where the story ends. We are informed, we know the issues, we understand the evil, we are upset, we are angered, but we never engage in the battle or ask God where He wants us to stand in this battle.

We need to ask ourselves; do I really know what is happening to this nation? Am I prepared for spiritual war? Do I read and meditate on God’s Word regularly? Have I humbled myself before God, do I pray daily, do I seek God’s face, am I obedient and faithful to God’s Word, am I committing sins of omission? Am I actively resisting Satan and his dominions using the full armor of God? If your answer to many of these questions is no, we are asking you to prepare yourself for spiritual warfare, then pray and petition God to show you where He wants you to stand.

God does not intend for us to be lone wolf warriors fighting demons on our own. He want us to be part of a squad, a platoon, a battalion, an army. God's church is that army that Satan and his demonic forces will not be able to prevail against. Matthew 16:18 Jesus says, ***"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."***

Therefore, each of us should ask am I a member of a spirit filled church that preaches the Word of God, which is not afraid to call out the sins of abortion, homosexuality, fornication, adultery, and greed? If your answer to this question is **NO**, we ask that you become a watchman to warn your church and attempt to convince your current church's leadership of the need to become involved in this cultural, spiritual war to resist evil. If your church refuses to engage in this war you may need to look for another church.

A slide titled "MCEF Spiritual Warfare 2023" with a background of the American flag. The title is in white text on a dark blue background with stars. Below the title is a list of 12 months with their corresponding spiritual warfare topics.

**MCEF Spiritual Warfare 2023**

- **January** – Who is Satan
- **February** – Angels and Demons
- **March** – The Enemies Strategies
- **April** – Principalities, Powers & Government
- **May** – National Day of Prayer
- **June** – MCEF Spiritual Warfare
- **July** – Are there Idols in your Life
- **August** – Recognize & Resist Evil
- **September** – Fear Not & Obey God
- **October** – Love Always
- **November** – Put on the Full Armor of God
- **December** – Characteristics of Great Biblical Victories

All of the MCEF prayer meetings for the 2023 calendar year focus on spiritual warfare. This slide shows our 2023 prayer topics by month. All prior prayer meeting documents are posted on the MCEF website. We believe this war will only be won in prayer on our knees and we encourage everyone to attend the prayer meetings which start 1 hour before the main meeting.