



SUPERNATURAL-1

Spiritual Warfare

KEY POINTS:

What you see is not all there is:

- You are not **alone** in your battles
- Your **prayers** are more powerful than you know
- If you don't know God's Word you're **vulnerable**
- We do not fight **for** victory; we fight **from** victory

LAUNCHING:

- What outward evidence can you attribute to the reality of spiritual warfare?
- In what ways has our thinking about the supernatural been influenced more by movies and culture rather than by God's Word?

CONNECTING:

1. How often do you think about the unseen spiritual battle that is going on around you? What are some of the unseen realities of which we need to be more aware? Do you tend to err in overemphasizing or underemphasizing the devil's existence? What are some reasons we may underemphasize the devil's existence? What are the dangers inherent in overemphasizing spiritual warfare?
2. In what way is the Christian life like a battle? How often are you engaged in spiritual warfare? Where is the battle fought? Why is it important to know our enemy? What part does prayer have in spiritual warfare? How has Christ already won the victory over the devil? Describe what it means to fight *from* victory?
3. **Read 2 Kings 6:15-18. Describe a time when you realized God was doing something, spiritually, that you couldn't see with your natural eyes.** (Maybe God was warning you, or speaking to you, or prompting you to do something.)
4. **As you reflect on the devil's goals (see list above), what has the enemy done, recently, to hinder God's work in you?** What are the spiritual weapons God has provided us? (see Eph 6:10-18) Which ones do you need to implement more often in order to defeat the enemy?
5. **God has blessed you with spiritual armor and weapons that are not of this world. Your armor doesn't cover your backside. Other believers help cover you. Spend some time covering each other in prayer.**

What does the devil do?

- He blinds the minds of unbelievers
- He steals God's word from you
- He sets traps to ensnare you
- He fights to stop you
- He plans to destroy you

TAKE IT HOME:

1. Each morning this week, prepare for battle by praying through Ephesians 6:11-18 (see handout). Stay alert, throughout the day, to the spiritual battle that is being waged all around you. Ask the Lord to give you the discernment necessary to pray according to His will. Write out some key verses on which to meditate, throughout the day.
2. Think back over your life and recognize the many ways the devil has tried to destroy you (not just physically, but spiritually). Then, ask the Lord to show you the many ways He has protected you and brought you where you are today. Ask Him to give you discernment concerning any schemes, temptations or deceptions that you are currently encountering. Pray and take the appropriate steps to resist the enemy (see 2 Cor. 10:3-5; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:6-10)

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

Read Ephesians 6:10-13.

- How do we put on the strength of the Lord? Why do you think Paul used the parts of a Roman soldier's armor to explain spiritual warfare? With whom or what do we struggle? (12) How are we to fight this unseen enemy? (13) What does wearing the armor of God enable us to do? (13)

Read Ephesians 6:14-18.

- Each piece of the armor is descriptive of what Christ has already accomplished for us. In your own words, describe the truth represented by each piece of armor. Are you missing any pieces of armor? How does this make you vulnerable to the enemy? What part does faith play in your experiencing the victory that is already yours in Christ? In what areas does your faith in Christ need to be strengthened?
- What role does God's word play in spiritual warfare? (17) How will you better arm yourself with God's word this week? What role does prayer have in defeating the enemy's schemes? What does it mean to "pray in the Spirit"? How can you stay alert to the enemy's traps? How often do you pray for other believers? Why is this important? Who do you know that needs to be covered with prayer?

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

2 Kings 6:15-18; Dan 10: 12-14; Matt 4:1-11, 13:19-20; John 10:10; 2 Cor 4:4, 10:3-4; Eph 4:26-27; Col 2:15; 2 Tim 2:26; 1 Thess 2:18, 3:5; Heb 2:14; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 John 3:8, 4:4

PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

PREPARING FOR BATTLE

Start each day by spending time with the Lord, putting on each piece of armor (Eph 6:11-18). As you think through the significance of each truth, agree with God (out loud). By doing this you are renewing your mind and standing firm in your faith; faith in what God has done and what He promises to do, for you and through you. The following is an example:

Good morning, Lord. Thank you for a new day and the adventure that awaits me. I surrender my day to you and rest in your promises, which assure me of victory, as I depend on you. To prepare myself for the battle ahead, I put on the spiritual armor (in my thoughts and beliefs) you have given me. Today, I exercise the power and authority that is mine in Christ to defeat the schemes of the devil. I trust your Holy Spirit to give me discernment to recognize Satan's temptations, his attacks and the lies he presents to my mind.

By faith I put on the BELT OF TRUTH.

The TRUTH about You, Father—You are infinitely wise, strong and loving. You are good all the time and you have always loved me. You knew me and chose me before you created the world. You sent Your Son to rescue me from darkness and death. You have made me your child and given me the privilege of sharing your love with others. Thank you for loving me even when I was still a sinner. I yield my life to You because You alone are worthy of my trust and worship.

The TRUTH about You, Jesus — You are my hero. You have rescued me from the hand of the enemy, forgiven all my sins and redeemed my life. At the cross You paid the price for *all* my sins and by this you defeated Satan and abolished death. Now, You are alive in me and the devil can never separate me from You again. I give you freedom to do *with* me or *through* me anything that will bring honor and glory to You. Thank you for making me a new person and giving me eternal life. I declare my dependence on you, today, and trust You to work all things for my good. Thank You that you will never leave me nor allow me to be tempted beyond what I am able to bear.

The Truth about You, Holy Spirit—You are my helper, counselor and teacher. You give me supernatural power and direct my steps. Apart from you, I can do nothing. I surrender my life to you (my time, my family, my finances, my job, my thoughts, etc.). Fill my soul today, renew my thoughts and give me clarity. Motivate and empower me to do the Father's will and to bring glory and honor to Jesus. I declare that my life is not about *me*, but about Christ *in* me. Allow me to reflect His character and love today with everyone I encounter. Holy Spirit, open my eyes to the spiritual battle going on all around me. Guide me and warn me when danger is near.

The TRUTH about me. — Lord, I am Your child, and nothing can separate me from Your love. Jesus, I live in You and You live in me. Thank You for giving me a new heart and spirit, which are good. I am a new person, a lover of God who still battles sin, Satan and the world system, every day. I choose, today, to walk by faith and I claim the victory over _____, victory which is already mine through Christ.

Lord, by faith, I put on the BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Thank you for making me righteous, holy and blameless in my spirit. I will guard my heart and my emotions from receiving any self-righteous thoughts or desires. Jesus, You are my righteousness. I put no confidence in my flesh. I will walk by faith, trusting in You to live through me. I will not allow my heart to attach itself to anything that is impure. I will not allow my emotions to rule in my decisions. I will set my thoughts on what is right and good and just. I will live today by what is true, not by what I feel.

Lord, this morning I put on the SANDALS OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE.

You have made me a peacemaker and a minister of reconciliation. I choose to pray for my enemies and forgive those who have sinned against me. I am available to You. Send me where You will. Guide me to those who need encouragement or physical help of some kind. Use me to resolve conflicts whenever they may arise. Make me a calming presence in every circumstance in which You place me. I will not be hurried or rushed, for my schedule is in Your hands. I will not leave a trail of tension or strife. I will leave tracks of peace and stability everywhere I go.

I now take up the SHIELD OF FAITH, Lord. My *faith* is in You and You alone. Apart from You, I can do nothing; with You, I can do all things. I choose to walk by faith and not by sight. With every temptation, You will make a way of escape. I will not be afraid of man or anxious about the future; for You are going with me throughout this day. Whatever I encounter, Your grace will be sufficient. When I am tempted, I will declare victory, out loud, ahead of time; for You have promised victory to those who walk in agreement with Your Word and purpose.

Lord, by faith, I am putting on the HELMET OF SALVATION.

Thank You for Your free gift of salvation and all its benefits. Through Your grace I have been blessed with every spiritual blessing. Because Satan bombards me day and night with lies, doubt and fear, I put on this helmet to protect my thoughts. I may feel the impact of his attacks, but nothing can separate me from You. I choose to stop every impure and negative thought at the door of my mind. I will take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ and I will dwell only on what is good and right and pleasing to You.

Last, I take up the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, which is Your Word.

Thank You for the precious gift of Your Word. It is strong and powerful and able to defeat even the strongest of Satan's attacks. Your Word says that I am not under obligation to the flesh, to obey its lusts. Your Word says that He that is in me is greater than he that is in the world. Your Word says that I am dead to sin and alive to God. So, *by faith*, I take up the strong and powerful sword of the Spirit, which is able to: defend me in times of attack, comfort me in times of sorrow, teach me in times of meditation, and prevail against the enemy on behalf of others who need the TRUTH to set them free.

So, Lord, I go now, rejoicing that You have equip me to defeat the devil and to reach out to others who are lost and dying. *May they see Jesus in me*, and may Satan and his hosts shudder as Your power is made manifest in me. In Jesus' name I pray.

AMEN



SUPERNATURAL-2

Holy Spirit

KEY POINTS:

The Holy Spirit gives you the power to:

- be **saved**
- make the right **decisions**
- live a **holy** life
- share Christ **boldly**
- Make a **difference** with spiritual gifts

Spirit-filled Advice:

- Don't **resist** the Spirit
- Be **filled** with the Spirit

LAUNCHING:

- **The trinity is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. What (if any) ideas did you have growing up about the Holy Spirit?**
- What do *you* think it means to live a supernatural life?

CONNECTING:

1. What was the Holy Spirit's role in bringing you to Christ ? (see John 3:3-7) When does a person receive the gift of the Holy Spirit? (see Eph 1: 13) How often do you think about the fact that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit? Is it possible to be saved without having the Holy Spirit? (see Rom 8:9)
2. Why is it important that we acknowledge and depend on the Holy Spirit in our daily life? What does the Holy Spirit do for us, for which we often take the credit? (see John 14:26 and 16:13) What does the Holy Spirit produce in us, as we walk in dependence on Him? (see Gal 5: 22-23) How does this make a difference in our behavior, emotions, and relationships?
3. How do you recognize the leading of the Holy Spirit in your life? Paul instructs us in Gal 5:25 to walk by the Spirit. In practical terms, what does this mean? How do we, personally, benefit by being filled, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit? In what specific ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit empowering you to live a holy life?
4. **Read Eph. 4:30-32. Describe a time you believe you resisted or grieved the Holy Spirit.** How have you tried to live a holy life in your own power and what was the result? What role does surrender play in being filled with the Holy Spirit? What areas of your life do you need to surrender to the Holy Spirit's control?
5. **Read Rom. 12:6-8 and 1 Cor. 12:27-31. The Holy Spirit gives each of us gifts to minister. Describe two of your spiritual gifts. How are you using them to make a difference? (If you are not using them, how could you?)**

TAKE IT HOME:

1. Get to know the person of the Holy Spirit better by studying the verses listed below. Write a thank you note to the Holy Spirit, acknowledging the many ways He has enriched your life and made a difference in and through you. Start each day by acknowledging His presence and asking Him to fill you and lead you, moment by moment, as you surrender your life to Him.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you anything that would prevent Him from filling you. (This might include things such as: unconfessed sins, unbelief, bitterness, areas of rebellion, pride, self-reliance, or putting other people/things before God.) Humbly agree with God concerning these hindrances and express to Him your desire to be filled with the Spirit, so that your life brings glory to Him.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

- **Read John 7:37-39.** To what kind of thirst was Jesus referring? In what ways have you tried to satisfy your thirst apart from Christ? What did Jesus promise those who believe in Him? (7:38) What word picture does Jesus use to describe being filled with the Spirit? (7:37) What do you think this means? How do others benefit from the Spirit flowing out of us? Are you currently experiencing the Spirit like a river, a stream, or a trickle?
- **Read John 14:16-24; 15:26-27; 16:13-15.** What names does Jesus use to describe the Holy Spirit? List the different things Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will do for us. Reflect on how you have experienced the Holy Spirit doing these things for you. How often do you credit Him with your spiritual growth?
- **Read Ephesians 5:8-10, 15-21** What is God's will concerning our spiritual walk? What are the characteristics of those "walking in the light"? How are we to make the most of our time? To be *filled* means to be motivated, stimulated, empowered and influenced by something (example: a person *filled* with anger) Do you think it is possible to please God *without* being filled with the Spirit? Why do you think Paul contrasts being filled with the Spirit and being intoxicated? How does the Holy Spirit desire to impact our thought life? Our relationships? What indications do you see in your life that you are filled with the Spirit?

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

John 3:5-6, 6:63, 16:7, 13-14; Acts 2:38-39, 4:8-13, 31, 7:51; Rom 5:5, 7:6, 8:1-17, 26-27, 12::5-8, 15:23 1 Cor 2:4-5, 10-16, 6:19-20, 12:7-13; Gal 5:16-18, 22-25; Eph 3:14-21, 4:30, Phil 4:13; Heb 2:4; James 4:5



SUPERNATURAL-3

Satan and Demons

KEY POINTS:

Where did Satan come from?

Isa 14:12-14 and Rev 12:7-9

What do demons do?

- Influence the leaders of **nations**
- Desire to inflict **suffering** on you
- Scheme to **lure** you away from God
- Want to paralyze you with **fear**
- Don't treat the enemy **lightly**
- Don't **flirt** with darkness
- Don't fight with your own **power** but with God's **authority**

LAUNCHING:

- How do you see demons influencing today's national leaders?
- Do you lean more toward seeing a demon behind every bush or being totally unaware of demonic influences?

CONNECTING:

1. **Demons try to harm people, daily, by inflicting suffering, luring people away from God, and paralyzing people with fear. How have you been hindered by the schemes of the evil one? Explain.**
2. **Read James 4:6-8.** Who is behind the pride that shows up in our thoughts and attitude? Why is humility important when resisting the enemy? **How are you learning to resist the devil?** In what areas do you need to humble yourself?
3. The spiritual battle is primarily fought in our minds. Satan and his demons try to gain access to your life by planting evil thoughts and desires in your mind. Share an example of thoughts that the enemy has used to lure you away from God or to paralyze you with fear. What thoughts are you currently battling and how are you taking these thoughts captive and making them obedient to Christ?
4. **Jesus fought off the devil by quoting scripture three times in Matthew 4:1-11.** How is the enemy tempting you or trying to lure you away from dependence on Christ? **What scripture are you using to fight the enemy today?**
5. Scripture tells us to stay alert because our adversary is on the prowl. When was the last time you were aware of demonic activity/affliction in your life? What were some of the clues that you were under attack? How do you know when it is a spiritual attack versus normal, everyday thoughts or trials? How can we keep from treating the enemy lightly without giving him too much attention? What are some ways we can *flirt* with darkness? What danger is there in this? How do we properly use God's *authority* when battling demons?

The Christian life is a battle against Satan and his demons. When battling the darkness:

TAKE IT HOME:

1. For whom or what is God calling you to pray, regarding our nation? (Hint: What, in the news, bothers you most?) How might demons be involved? Utilize your spiritual authority in prayer to come against the enemy's schemes.
2. Recognize the areas in where you are vulnerable to the enemies attack. With which scriptures do you need to arm yourself this week? Practice putting on your spiritual armor every day.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

- **Read James 4:6-10.** Who does God oppose? To whom does He give grace or favor? What does submission to God have to do with humility? When pride shows up in our attitude, with whom are we siding? How can we tell if we are battling a spirit of pride? (see James 3:13-18) How does the devil react when a person resists him? Why is humility and submission to those in authority necessary, when resisting the enemy? How does God respond to the person who humbly submits to Him?
- **Read 1 Peter 5:6-10.** What is the difference in humbling yourself and *being* humbled? What does God do for the humble? What are we to do with our anxieties/ fears? What does Peter say the devil is doing? How were these believers instructed to respond? What means do you use to resist the devil? How can you be more alert to his schemes? Why do you think Peter used a lion to depict our spiritual enemy? What are some ways the devil devours people? How have you, as a believer, suffered? What suffering are you going through now that you can attribute to the adversary? What does God promise to do for us in our suffering? How does this encourage you?
- **Read 2 Corinthians 2:11, 4:3-4, 10:3-5, 11:3-4.** How does Satan take advantage of us? (2:11) What are some of his schemes? To what does Satan blind unbelievers? (4:3-4) What are our divine weapons? What are we destroying? So, where is the spiritual battle being fought? What are we to make obedient to Christ? What thoughts do you need to bring into agreement with Christ? What did Paul fear the enemy would do? (11:3-4)

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Deut 18:10-12; Psalm 91; Isa 14:12-14; Ezek 28:12-17; Dan 10:13; Matt 4:1-11, 10:1, 7-8, 17:15-18; Mark 5:1-20; John 8:44, 12:31, 14:30, 16:11; Acts 19:11-19; Eph 4:26-27; 1Thess 3:5; 1Tim 4:1; 2 Tim 1:7; Jude 9-10; 1 John 4:1-4; Rev 12:7-9



SUPERNATURAL-4

ANGELS

KEY POINTS:

- Who are angels?
 - Angels are worshippers
 - Angels are warriors
 - Angels are messengers
- What do angels do?
 - Give you direction
 - Protect you from danger
 - Minister to you

LAUNCHING:

- As a child, what did you believe about angels?

CONNECTING:

- How has your understanding of angels changed? In this series, “Supernatural”, we’ve examined spiritual warfare, the role of the Holy Spirit, demons and angels. What is the most significant thing God has shown you? How is this making a difference in your daily life?
- Have you ever encountered an angel? If so, when? Share a time when you believe God (or one of His angels) divinely protected you? How should the knowledge that God sends His angels to protect us affect our life?
- Like us, angels are created beings. In what other ways are we alike and in what ways are we different from angels? What can we learn from the angels’ examples? What do you think is meant by “we will judge angels”? (1 Cor 6:3)
- Since angels sometimes appear in human form, we are to be hospitable to strangers. (Heb 13:2) Share a time when you think a stranger *might* have been an angel sent by God to minister to you. Also, angels can give us directions from God; through a vision, a dream or an audible voice (Gen 21:17, 28:12, Matt 1:20, 2:13,19; Acts 10:3). Have you ever seen an angel in a dream or vision or heard one’s voice?
- The Bible instructs us *not* to worship angels (Col. 2:18; Rev 22:8-9). How do we guard against this? Is it okay to ask God to put His angels around us, for protection? If we don’t ask for this, does that mean we aren’t protected? Do you know of any examples in the Bible where believers prayed for angelic protection or direction? Would you like to have an encounter with an angel? Why or why not?

TAKE IT HOME:

- In what situations do you become fearful and need to remember that God has His angels protecting you? Ask the Lord to make you more mindful of the fact that his angels are real and are here to direct, protect and minister to you. Memorize Ps 91:11-12.
- We need to realize that there is more going on than our natural eyes can see. Investigate God’s Word regarding angels in the affairs of mankind. Ask the Lord to enable you to comprehend and become more aware of the invisible, eternal realm. Regularly express gratitude to God for the presence of His angels, protecting, directing and ministering to you and those you love.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

Learn more about angels by looking up the verses and filling in the blank.

Angels are mentioned in the Bible more than 250 times. Angel means *messenger* and they were created by _____ (Ps 148:2,5; Col 1:16). Angels are not physical but _____ beings (Heb 1:14). They often take the appearance of _____ (Mark 16:5-6, Luke 24:4). When people see angels they feel _____ (Luke 1:11-12, 2:9) so angels must tell them, “_____” (Luke 1:13, 30, 2:10). Angels minister in many supernatural ways (see Dan 6:22, 8:15-19, 9:21-23; Acts 7:35, 12:7-8, 11). They sometimes show up in our _____ (Matt 1:20) or in a _____ (Acts 10:3).

There are _____ angels in heaven (Heb 12:22; Rev 5:11). Angels can even be seen by _____ (Num 22:25-27). _____ are assigned angels (Matt 18:10). They do not _____ or _____ (Luke 20:33-36);. Angels announce _____ (Rev 14:6-7) and inflict _____ (Gen 19:12-13; Rev 15:1) We are not to _____ angels (Col 2:18; Rev 22:8-9). Angels are at war with _____ (Rev 12:7). Sometimes they ride _____ (2 Kings 6:17)

Only three angels are mentioned by name: _____ (Luke 1:19) who acts as God’s _____ (Luke 1:26); _____ (Dan 10:13,21) who is always mentioned in the context of _____ (Rev 12:7); and Lucifer (Isa 14:12 KJV) who was once a beautiful _____ (Ezk 28:12-17) before he fell from _____ to _____ (Isa 14:12).

Three types of angels are mentioned in scripture: _____ (Isa 6:2) which continually _____ (Rev 4:8-9); _____ (Heb 9:5) who guarded the _____ (Gen 3:24) and covered the _____ (Ex 25:18-22); _____ (Jude 1:9) which may refer to their rank. The words translated *principalities* in Rom 8:38 and *rulers* in Col 1:16 begins with the prefix “arche,” suggesting archangel.

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Gen 18:1ff, 19:1-22, 22:15; Num 22:21-35; Ps 34:7,103:20,148:1-2; Isa 6:3; Dan 4:13-17; Matt 1:18-24, 2:13, 4:5,13, 28:1-6; Luke 1:26-38, 2:8-15, 24:1-9; John 20:11-13; Acts 1:10-11, 8:26; 1Thess 4:16; 2 Thess 1:7; Heb 1:4-5, 2:9,14,13:2; 1 Pet 1:12; Rev 7:1, 8:2,19:10