



Tablet of my Heart

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An Overview of the Armor of God by Beth Jones

I am in several online support groups, and recently the topic of spiritual warfare came up in the discussions. Many of the women in these groups are Christians and are entrepreneurs/home business owners, and they sense that the enemy, Satan, doesn't want them to succeed in their businesses.

One reason for this is that when our businesses succeed, we'll then have the finances to bless the church and to get the gospel to the nations. Because we live in this world's economic system, it takes money to spread the good news. "

It was interesting to me that the subject of spiritual warfare came up when my ebook on women and spiritual warfare is almost ready to launch (**The Hands Of A Woman: Everyday Women In Everyday Battles**). You can find out more about my ebook and get a free special report when you sign up here. <http://womensbattles.com/free-report.html>

Several women expressed interest in a Bible study on spiritual warfare and the armor of God, so that we know what the weapons of our warfare are in Christ and how to use them. This article series will cover the armor of God – first, a general overview, and then we will cover each piece of the armor more in depth, and how we're to use that armor in our everyday battles.

Is spiritual warfare real, or just a "charismatic" term?

My husband Ray Jones wrote the forward for **The Hands Of A Woman: Everyday Women In Everyday Battles**, and here is an excerpt that may help you to understand that this is real and the seriousness of the battle:

"We tend to view "spiritual warfare" as something that is not "really" real. War in the natural world is an ugly business. We see the results of it every day on the news. War is bloodshed, shattered lives, broken bodies, tortured landscapes, and rivers of blood. Even the limited "warfare" of a physical fight between two people results in physical pain and suffering, and the emotional pain endured by the conflict in the first place. Spiritual war is JUST AS REAL. The Bible is basically a military manual, teaching us how to engage in warfare against the enemies of God, particularly the devil."¹



Ephesians 4:12 says, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

While I know a few people who might fit the bill of "ruler of the darkness" and "spiritual host of wickedness," God is talking about Satan and his demons here. As believers in Christ, we are in a spiritual war everyday with Satan and his demons. Their job is to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10, NKJV), but God has given us power to trample on them and over all their power. (Luke 10:19, NKJV)

Satan often attacks us with unholy thoughts, health issues, injuries, car accidents, distractions, temptation, fear, depression, worry, doubt, unbelief, unforgiveness, bitterness, envy, jealousy, fatigue, financial problems, relationship difficulties, job loss, and much more.

While Satan is a created, finite being and he isn't all powerful like God is, he is more intelligent and powerful than humans. Because of this, we need God's help to fight him, we need to stay in a posture of prayer, and we need to keep on our armor.

When a soldier goes to war, he doesn't go without his uniform on and without his weapons. God instructed us in the Bible to wear the armor of God each day for the battles we will face

¹ **The Hands Of A Woman: Everyday Women In Everyday Battles**, Beth Jones, forward by Ray Jones, <http://womensbattles.com/free-report.html>.

on earth. The historian Flavius Josephus lived during Roman's military glory days, was made a Roman citizen, and traveled with the Roman legions during the middle of the first century. He was extremely impressed with the Roman soldiers' discipline, and claimed they always carried their weapons with them even when in times of peace and that they constantly practiced in the proper use of their weapons each day.²

"If only Christians would become as familiar with our weapon, God's word! If we would search the scriptures daily (Acts 17:11), we would never fear the day of battle."³

Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God and God's only Son, defeated Satan at the cross over 2,000 years ago when He said, "It is finished!", died for our sins, resurrected, and ascended into heaven. If we are a Christian, our spirit is preserved eternally and we will live with God forever. But we still have to contend with Satan's attacks on our mind, body, and soul each day here on earth until we die – hence, the need for the armor of God.

Scripture on the Armor of God

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. 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." (Ephesians 6: 11-18, NKJV)

If you're like me, a visual learner, you'd rather have a picture of the armor. I found this image below online to help you visualize it. The apostle Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians about the armor while he was in house prison in Rome for his faith in Christ⁴, and was probably writing the letter in the company of Roman legions who stood guard over him.

² *Is the Armor Too Heavy?*, David Padfield, <http://www.padfield.com/1995/armor.html>.

³ *Ibid*, David Padfield, <http://www.padfield.com/1995/armor.html>.

⁴ The Whole Armor of God, Tim Greenwood, <http://www.tgm.org/aogWholeArmor.htm>

He was free to come and go, but was chained to a Roman soldier.⁵ He would have seen their armor, their swords, shields, shoes.



Image resource: <http://www.tgm.org/aogWholeArmor.htm>

Notice that nearly the entire body is covered – all vital body parts are protected.

Paul uses the words “whole armor,” which is the word *panopli* in the original language (Strong's Concordance). *Panopli* means “full” or “complete” armor. This seems to imply that the armor was an all or nothing proposition.⁶ You don't pick and choose what piece to wear!

Every piece of the armor is essential! If you're not wearing all the pieces of the armor, you may be wounded or even killed. A soldier who is shot in the arm, leg, chest, or head puts his comrades at risk because he's not able to do his own job as effectively, and is at risk for worst injury or even death. If you're missing any piece of your armor, you will not be able to fight Satan effectively, and you might wind up a prisoner of war, MIA, or a casualty!

⁵ The Whole Armor of God, Tim Greenwood, <http://www.tgm.org/aogWholeArmor.htm>.

⁶ Ibid, <http://www.tgm.org/aogWholeArmor.htm>.

Paul tells us what the armor is for. It's to stand against the wiles of the devil. The word "wiles" is the word *methodei* in the original language (Strongs concordance), and means cunning arts, deceit, trickery. One of Satan's greatest weapons against believers is that he deceives or lies to them, just as he did to Eve in the Garden of Eden.⁷

Methodeia is a Greek word (Strongs) that implies a path or roadway that is traveled over. This is because the devil tries constantly to get a foothold (an area where you are weak spiritually) in your life, so he can build a stronghold (a fortress of lies and deception) in your mind.⁸ Where are you weak spiritually? Are there any footholds or strongholds in your heart and mind? Ask God to reveal this to you in prayer and in studying His word. He will set you free as you come to Him, repent, and ask for His help to deliver you.



What enemy are you fighting?

Ephesians 6:12 says that we don't wrestle against flesh and blood. So our armor and our weapons aren't to be used against humans. A lot of times, though, new believers put on the armor of God and fight with unbelievers, and seasoned believers battle with other believers.⁹

We wind up shooting our own wounded, and fight the wrong enemy! How can we be effective soldiers for Christ if we're fighting each other instead of Satan, the true enemy?

⁷ The Whole Armor of God, Tim Greenwood, <http://www.tgm.org/aogWholeArmor.htm>.

⁸ Ibid, <http://www.tgm.org/aogWholeArmor.htm>.

⁹ Ibid, <http://www.tgm.org/aogWholeArmor.htm>.

Our real war is with the god of this world, Satan, and his demons. Satan's evil kingdom apparently has a hierarchy with a particular order of evil spirits. I obtained the following information from the article, *The Reality of the Spiritual Realm*¹⁰:

In conducting word studies, there's real distinctions in the terms Paul used:

- **Rulers - From Strong's Concordance, "rulers" translates "arche"** -has a variety of possible meanings that includes a commencement, or chief, beginning, magistrate, power, principality, principle, rule. This word implies one who is the head of or "in charge". It also appears first in the list in the passage, which could indicate its preeminence.
- **Authorities - From Strong's Concordance, "authorities" translates "exousia"** (in the sense of ability); privilege, force, capacity, competency, freedom, or mastery (magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control), delegated influence (authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength). This word indicates those with powers or influence in this age where evil exists.
- **Powers of this dark world- From Strong's Concordance, "powers" translates "kosmokrator" indicating a world-ruler** or an epithet of Satan. "Dark" translates "skotos," which indicates obscurity (literal or figurative) or darkness. "World" translates "aion," meaning an age. So this phrase indicates those who rule in this present age of darkness or evil - spiritual forces with a very high stature or a wide area of responsibility.
- **Spiritual forces of evil - From Strong's Concordance, "spiritual" translates "pneumatikos," meaning non-carnal, e.g. supernatural or spiritual.** "Forces of evil" translates "poneria," meaning depravity or wickedness. Paul is talking about spiritual beings on the side of evil.

These could actually be titles or positions of the demonic order, or roles that are carried out by different demons, ordered in these terms from most to least important:

Rulers - these would be the "generals" in the Army of Satan.

Powers of this dark world - these would be "commanders" or "captains."

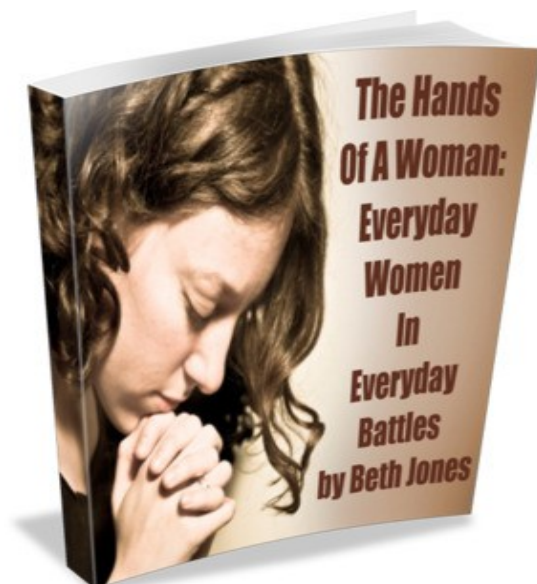
Authorities - these might be "lieutenants."

Spiritual forces of evil - this phrase may refer to the "GI Joe soldiers" or the basic rank and file members.

¹⁰ *The Reality of The Spiritual Realm*, <http://wordtruth.com/BibleStudies/SpiritualWarfare/swreal3.htm>.

In our next article in this series, we're going to talk about the first piece of the armor, the belt of truth. Remember- each piece of the armor is essential for us to stand in this war!

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Have you been going through a difficult time lately? Are you battle-weary? Would you like to learn more about spiritual warfare? My new ebook, **The Hands Of A Woman: Everyday Women In Everyday Battles**, has eight women's true, inspirational stories of their greatest spiritual battles and shares how they obtained victory through faith in Christ. Right now you can purchase this ebook at **a special 25% discount and complimentary gifts**, when you sign up for my update list here. <http://womensbattles.com/free-report.html>



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