

LIVING WATER

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THE NATURE OF THE BATTLE

by JT Carlson

There is a battle that rages on. It is not one fought between physical nations or groups. Rather, it is a spiritual battle. One that involves Satan and his armies against the Lord and his armies. What is at stake is the souls of men. Paul wrote about this battle in Ephesians 6:12. He wrote, ***“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”***. In verse 11 of chapter 6, Paul implores his readers to ***“put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able stand against the wiles of the devil”***. He says again in verse 13 to ***“take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand”***. Paul encourages his readers to stand and fight the fight of faith. He does so with reason. The reason being the victorious side has already been declared. Paul wrote to the brethren at Corinth, ***“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57)***.

Even with this knowledge, at times in this life, it may appear the battle is being lost. We see things through a physical lens because that is what we experience daily.

So, when we lose one unexpectedly and it doesn't make sense as to why them, they were such an encouragement and integral part to the Lord's work and to me personally; or when one is put at a disadvantage in school, activities, or a career and appears to be persecuted for doing as God commanded; or when a physical nation seems to go further and further away from God's will, and his children suffer as a result, we begin to doubt, waiver, and question who is victorious. This is why an understanding of the nature of the battle will help us amid the circumstances we might be in. Seeing the battle through the proper lens will help us in our fight. Consider the below verses:

1 John 5:4-5: “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

Romans 8:37: “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”



This knowledge and understanding is vital because although we are in a spiritual battle, Satan uses what we experience physically to distract us from the battle. No doubt, Satan is crafty and cunning. He is good at getting us to fixate our attention on the physical, distracting us from the spiritual. In doing so this puts us in a less than ideal place in the battle. However, if we keep our focus on the spiritual nature of this battle, we remove this tactic of Satan. Remember, the book of Revelation and its theme, "victory in Jesus". Although, at times things may appear bleak, and they certainly did to those under Roman rule, the victory has already been won. Jesus Christ is victorious in this battle. If we keep this focus,

understand the nature of the battle, and see things through a spiritual lens, it will no doubt help us in our fight of faith. So, let's do as Paul implored. Let's take up and put on the whole of armor of God, doing all we can to stand against Satan, not falling victim to his wiles, and with full confidence and assurance of victory through Jesus Christ, fight the fight of faith.

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