

LIVING WATER

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FIGHT FOR YOUR SOUL

by **Ethan Yochum**

As a country America is fairly young when compared to others, but even for being young we have seen our fair share of wars. There have been 11 congressionally declared wars in our history and many more conflicts we have been involved with. The bible documents several historical battles as well as references the current battle we as Christians face. We even have multiple hymns we sing that mention soldiers or other military terms. So some may ask what is it that is being taken so serious as to be compared to a battle. The answer is the greatest battle you or I can ever wage, the one for our soul.

This battle is not like Earthly battles where we fight against another country or group of people. Ephesians 6:10-12 says:

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the might of His strength. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

If you know your enemy then you can defend against them. This battle is one where we fight for our soul against the forces of evil and to prevail we must be prepared.

The equipment of a soldier going into battle is important as it keeps them safe from harm and defend themselves. The equipment that Christians are to put on comes from Ephesians 6:13-17.

"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 firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

With the proper equipment we can fend off the temptations and influences of this world.

In this battle unlike those in the world we already know the outcome. 1st Corinthians 15:53-56 says:

"So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting: O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Christ gave himself up so that victory could be claimed for all those who desire to follow him. But just because we have the battle won does not mean we shouldn't stay vigilant.

The last thought I want to leave you with is this. As we know our adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour 1 Peter 5:8. A lion preys on the weak and careless because they are easier targets. We must choose each and every day to put on the armor of God, and stay vigilant so as not to fall prey to the devil and his temptations.

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