

# ***Fighting the Battle***

**Scripture:** Ephesians 6:10-18 NIV  
2 Corinthians 10:4-5 NIV

## **Introduction**

God wants to teach us to cooperate with Him. If we are to become victorious in our fight against our most damaging habits, temptations, and failures, we must cooperate with God, and allow Him to change us and our methods.

### **I. Identify the enemy**

***Ephesians 6:12 NIV*** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the power of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

***James 1:17 NIV*** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

A. Our battles originate in:

1. In our sinful nature

***Romans 13:14 NIV*** Rather clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

2. In the satanic realm

B. The satanic realm motivates people, including Christians

C. Our weaknesses are exploited by this unseen realm

### **II. Evaluate your resources**

***2 Corinthians 10:4-5 NIV*** The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

A. The Holy Spirit

B. The word of God

C. Prayer

D. The armor of God

### **III. Prepare to initiate the conflict**

***Ephesians 6:10-11 NIV*** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the whole armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

A. Make up your mind who you will serve and obey God

B. Decide to depend on God and His resources

C. Go into training

***2 Timothy 2:3-4 NIV*** Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs -- he wants to please his commanding officer.