

The Force Wars

“Battle Deployed Disciples” Ephesians 6:12

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away . . . that is the start of all the Star Wars movies, but our story, while beginning a long time ago takes place in our very own milky way galaxy and on planet earth.

Satan has unsuccessfully tried to usurp the authority of God in heaven and been exiled to the lower stratosphere. His efforts to sabotage God's plan are now targeted toward the human beings created in the image of God. His most successful work is done under cover and camouflaged from detection.

In fact many humans are oblivious to his existence, which is just as Satan would have it. However, God gives divine revelation to those who know and follow him about this supernatural and invisible warfare. This is that unfolding story.

Spiritual warfare is . . .

- a special kind of prayer
- to accomplish God's will
- by recognizing and neutralizing demonic efforts that oppose it

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Ephesians 6:12 NIV

Paul gives us three biblical insights into the nature of spiritual warfare in this verse. Let's look at them closely.

1. Spiritual warfare is a struggle.

- “our struggle”
- a “*harax legomenon*” (**ἅπαξ λεγόμενον**), that is a word that is used only once
- KJV “wrestle”
- The Septuagint use in Genesis 32:24-25
- The personal nature of the engagement
- The good fight (1 Timothy 1:18b-19; 2 Timothy 4:7)
- How engaged are you in this struggle?

2. Spiritual warfare is supernatural.

- “not against flesh and blood”
- Both Old and New Testaments reference Satan and demonic activity (Job 1:8a; 1 Samuel 16:14; Daniel 10; Luke 10:17-20; 1 Peter 5:8)
- How readily do you recognize the unseen realm of the spirit?

3. Spiritual warfare is strategic.

- “against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”
- Spiritual warfare is all about authority (Mark 3:27; Luke 9:1-2)
- Our authority comes from Christ (Matthew 28:18; Colossians 2:10,15; Ephesians 1:18-21)
- The connection between how we live and the unseen realm (Ephesians 2:1-2)
- Whose authority are you living in?

Spiritual warfare is a special kind of prayer to accomplish God's will by recognizing and neutralizing demonic efforts that oppose it.