

A full suit of medieval plate armor, including a helmet, breastplate, gauntlets, and greaves, is shown from a rear-three-quarter view. The armor is highly detailed with rivets and decorative elements. Behind the armor is a large, black silhouette of a bat or a similar winged creature, set against a dark red, textured background. The armor is reflected on a dark surface below it. The text "Carry the Light" is overlaid in a white, italicized font across the center of the image.

Carry the Light

Eph. 6:10-11

Eph. 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

Review

The conduct of a true Christian, one who is genuinely “born again,” is the outcome of a doctrinal foundation. We are **“living out our faith,”** and our testimony indicates the quality of it, be it good or bad.

As I believe, therefore I live.

We need to believe that spiritual warfare is real, face it, fight it, & live victoriously!

It is personal and it is dangerous! Here is a quick review of last week:

I. THE REALITY OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

II. THE REASON FOR SPIRITUALWARFARE

We began by considering **the reality of spiritual warfare**, then we looked at **the reason for spiritual warfare**. Last week, we began looking at **the ruse of spiritual warfare = “the wiles of the devil.”**

- The idea is to adapt hunting techniques for successful taking of the prey.
- The first three “wiles” that we considered were DOUBT, DISOBEDIENCE, DECEIT.

Over 2600 years ago, Sun Tzu penned The Art of War, which is still read by CIA operatives, soldiers and students of warfare.

“If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.” — Sun Tzu, The Art of War

<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/3200649-s-nzi-b-ngf>

There are only two verses in the Bible where the word *wiles* is used:

Num. 25:18 For they vex you with their **wiles**, wherewith they have beguiled you in the matter of Peor, and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of a prince of Midian, their sister, which was slain in the day of the plague for Peor's sake.

wile

1. A trick, artifice, or stratagem meant to fool, trap, or entice; device.
2. Wiles, artful or beguiling behavior.
3. Deceitful cunning; trickery.
4. To beguile, entice, or lure (usually followed by away, from, into, etc.):

<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/wiles?s=t>

ruse

1. A trick, stratagem, or artifice.

<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/ruse?s=t>

III. THE RUSE OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Eph. 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

A. The Source of our Confidence, Eph. 6:10

Eph. 6:10 Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord**, and in **the power of his might**.

- The KEY to engaging spiritual warfare is to realize the source of our strength.
- If we truly realize the essence and quality of such strength, we will have confidence to battle courageously.

Psa. 121:2 **My help cometh from the LORD**, which **made heaven and earth**.

B. The Schemes Inflaming our Conflict, Eph. 6:11

Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

1. The Preparation, Eph. 6:11a “Put on the whole armour of God...”

2. The Purpose, Eph. 6:11b “...**that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**”

- The first three “wiles” that we considered were DOUBT, DISOBEDIENCE, DECEIT.
- The fourth “wile” is DISTRACTION

Distraction

1. The act of distracting.
2. The state of being distracted.
3. Mental distress or derangement:
4. **That which distracts, divides the attention, or prevents concentration:**
5. **That which amuses, entertains, or diverts; amusement; entertainment:**
6. **Division or disorder caused by dissension; tumult.**

<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/distraction?s=t>

Prov. 6:16 These **six things doth the LORD hate**: yea, **seven are an abomination unto him**:

17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

19 A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

- God's hate list looks like an inventory of satanic wiles and all are distractions from doing God's will!
- Peter was following God's will, was doing great, and then...got distracted.

Mt. 14:29 And he said, **Come**. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

30 But **when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid**; and **beginning to sink**, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

- Distractions may come in many forms, but the motive is to take our eyes off the Lord and hinder our relationships from intensifying our love and service for His glory.
- The fifth “wile” is DISCONTENTMENT

“When the enemy is relaxed, make them toil. When full, starve them. When settled, make them move.”

— Sun Tzu, The Art of War <https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/3200649-s-nzi-b-ngf>

- A tactic, or wile, of Satan is to cause discontentment.

Num. 11:4 And the mixt multitude that *was* among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, **Who shall give us flesh to eat?**

5 We remember the fish, which **we did eat in Egypt freely**; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:

6 But now **our soul is dried away**: *there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.*

- While in the wilderness, wandering, some Israelites showed their discontentment with what God had provided for them.

Psa. 106:13 They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel:

14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.

15 And **he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.**

- Discontent leads to greater discontentment!
- Some leave their mate, children, job, area, being discontented, looking for “greener pastures”...but find “leanness into their soul.”
- They get what they want, then realize what they lost.

- The grass is ALWAYS GREENER...on the other side...
- ...but, it is just as hard to mow!
- Some find that after their baby is born, discontentment affects the marriage.

Must babies always breed marital discontent?

After having a baby, most married couples become less satisfied with their relationships, and that can have negative mental health consequences for their children.

By Sadie Dingfelder

Monitor Staff

October 2011, Vol 42, No. 9

After having a baby, 67 percent of couples see their marital satisfaction plummet, according to research presented at APA's 2011 Annual Convention by John Gottman, PhD, and published in the *Journal of Family Psychology* (Vol. 14, No. 1)....

The Gottmans' workshop is based on their "Sound Relationship House" theory, which posits that there are three key domains of marital satisfaction:

1. Friendship and intimacy,
2. Constructive conflict
3. Shared meaning.

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/2011/10/babies.aspx>

- A subtle "wile" of the devil in a marriage is simply discontentment.

Watch out for traps in your marriage

By Tara Parker-Pope, O, The Oprah Magazine

July 12, 2010 11:25 a.m. EDT

In many marriages, "a lack of compatibility" is really a catchall phrase couples use to **express general discontent about the relationship...**

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/LIVING/07/12/o.marriage.traps/index.html>

Phil. 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: **for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.**

- Love that is wrapped in acceptance and appreciation will avoid the discontentment that leads to divorce.

1 Tim. 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith **content.**

- Sometimes, after our adversary tempts us with discontent, he offers us something **good** in order to keep us from something **better**.

Prov. 10:22 The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and **he addeth no sorrow with it.**

- Consider the example of Eve, Lot, and Achan:

Gen. 3:6 And **when the woman saw** that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, **she took** of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Gen. 13:10 And **Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan**, that it *was* well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, *even* as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

11 **Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan**; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

Josh. 6:18 And ye, in any wise **keep yourselves from the accursed thing**, lest ye make *yourselves* accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

19 But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, *are* consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.

Josh. 7:20 And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done:

21 **When I saw** among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, **then I coveted** them, **and took** them; and, behold, they *are* hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it. ...

25 And Joshua said, **Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day.** And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.

Josh. 8:2 And thou shalt do to Ai and her king as thou didst unto Jericho and her king: only **the spoil thereof, and the cattle thereof, shall ye take for a prey unto yourselves**: lay thee an ambush for the city behind it.

- Discontentment is a “wile” that destroys many lives and smothers much potential blessings.
- Don’t settle for something *good*, when God has something *better* for those who wait for His blessings!

Gal. 6:9 And **let us not be weary in well doing**: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Conclusion

If I Were the Devil – Paul Harvey

Psa. 27:14 Wait on the LORD: **be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart:** wait, I say, on the LORD. (Psa. 31:24)

