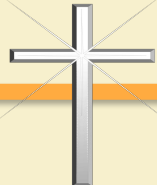


My growth and joy in Christ

Justification
Adoption as a child
Control by the Holy Spirit
Fruit of the Spirit

My own plan of redemption:



I give up

Pressure

Justification
Adoption as a child
Control by the Holy Spirit
Fruit of the Spirit

God's Word
Suffering
I bear fruit of Spirit

Humble
Confess
Wise People
Faith work



Driven desires

by my fears

Thoughts
Idols

Driven by what I desire / fear

Treasure/Idol

Aggression
Depression
Destructive conflict
Hate

Idols

Alcohol
Money
Jealousy
Sex

Gossip

Uncontrolled anger
Addiction

Thorns

Spiritual Warfare Eph 6:10 ff

Is there such a thing as Spiritual Warfare?

The term does not appear anywhere in the Word but Christians have always understood that we have a 3fold enemy:

The world, the devil and our flesh with death hanging over everything. All these enemies are ruled by Satan, the prince of the world

4 Ways to Understand SW:

SW is a metaphor for standing on the Lord's side in his battle against his enemies. You choose side as BC and protect the children from the light (Eph 5: 8) so as not to be drawn into darkness; calls the rest of humanity (Eph 2: 3) out of darkness into the light.

SW is a conflict over who you are, what you believe and how you live. Our trials, suffering in whatever form, provide opportunities to stumble or stand in the light. E.g. Job: Satan causes the death of Job's children; lose wealth; disease; his wife's evil counsel. But the battle was about his heart, his loyalty - who will he serve, who will be his shepherd. James 3: 13-4: 12 shows the same struggle: I am god, I want it. James shows how Satan works on our hearts, desires; He lies but flees when we resist him by confessing to God and turning to Him in humility (3: 10)

Spiritual Warfare Eph 6:10 ff

SW is the struggle of our Christian existence. This is war because Satan is involved in all that is evil and wrong.

SW is about the battle, who is ruler of my heart. Whom shall I serve, in whose image I am formed. Will you be formed in his image who lays down his life for his sheep or the liar and destroyer. This struggle is waged throughout our lives.

SW is not the whimsical extraordinary event where demons are cast out with formulas.

Reality of Satan

Bible does not ignore Satan and his powers but he is not the central figure. He does not just act on extraordinary or extremely evil occasions. He's especially busy in everyday life, that's his business. Central to the Bible are God's children and his relationship with them!

Now and then He shows us what is going on behind the curtains. One of the clearest descriptions is John 8 when the Lord speaks to the religious leaders: he is evil; he is a father with children; he comes all the way from Gen 3. 1 John 5:19: "The whole world is caught up in the power of the evil one." See also Ephesians 2: 1-3. by the ruler of the power that is in the air... ...; 1Pet shows how Satan uses our suffering.

Spiritual Warfare Eph 6:10 ff

Satan works behind the scenes in every day life. But if you make him the focus, it's the same when you pay attention to other influences on your life:

Physical problems

Cultural and friends' influences

Situation stressors

A mixture of these aspects is always present but the focus remains on the person who responds to these different influences. This is what BC is focusing on. How can I correctly understand what is happening in someone, in his situation and thus help in the right way?

SW is either seen as a scary, bizarre thing and the again people do not see this war: SW is not a reality; There are no evil seducing forces greater than ourselves. People say: Oh it's just my personality or it's my parents, friends, country's fault that I act like that.

Spiritual Warfare Eph 6:10 ff

Ephesians 6:10, Eph.

Jesus Christ is the Lord (devil is not center). The life-giving power of God working in us (Eph 1:19; 2: 5,10; 3; 16-20)

The spiritual forces of evil (devil, flesh, world) work in synergy (1:21 - 3:10). We must take position (4:27)

We live in difficult times (4:14; 5: 3-17)

We live as children of light; It is about the loyalties of our heart (1: 12-19; 2: 8-10; 3: 14-6: 9)

Pray for others (1: 16-23; 3: 14-21)

SW: Conflict with evil and overcome with Christ all that is evil, dark and deadly.

Ephesians 6:10 is about Jesus himself and how we can participate in his victory through his power that is in our work.

Spiritual warfare is done together - Eph is about the **body of Christ** - Eph 6 the same (not a lot of males running around with combat gear). Each does his part as part of Christ's body. Individual members, husband and wife, and the body as a whole.

Spiritual Warfare Eph 6:10 ff

Greek word for armor - "combat equipment" does not mean defensive equipment but means we have a complete set of equipment (not Roman equipment). He speaks of the **King Himself**. The Lord God Himself comes in Person to correct what is wrong. We need to see these verses as getting ready for the attack. He himself leads it.

This is what BC is all about! To participate in this. 2Cor 6: 7 On the attack - weapons of the right hand and left!

What are these weapons?

Left hand: Identity in Christ - his righteous life

Right hand: humility, **love**, truth, courage, faith, goodness and wisdom!

Unusual weapons but we fight like Jesus did when He came to this dark world. We fight like he fights now!

He is the Lord of light and calls us to bring the light of his love into this dark world.

Spiritual Warfare Eph 6:10 ff

SW is to take the battle to the powers of darkness with Jesus as our power and our protector. It is to stand up against the evil forces.

Armor - Combat equipment:

- 1. Truth as a belt around your hips** - belt holds everything! The truth that is in Jesus is Eph's message. Jesus is the Truth. Christ holds everything - He holds us. He overcame sin and darkness and death! Paul gets the belt / belt from Isaiah 11:5. Jesus is not defending but on the attack. He invades this earth where evil forces now bring pain and death. The end of this war is clearly Isa 11:9

“Nothing or no one will wreak havoc or evil on my holy mountain ... As we still experience the lies in the world and in our own hearts (false identity eg in what people think of me; I must have control) Jesus brings the truth about who we are in Him! We can now also put on the belt of truth - we know who we are in Him. His power works in us!

Spiritual Warfare Eph 6:10 ff

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Armor / Combat equipment:

2. God's righteousness as breastplate (Eph 6:14). Satan can no longer charge us, we have Christ's righteousness - you no longer have to listen to the charge - Satan has no case against you anymore. **Our identity is now:** acquitted in Jesus - we no longer have to believe the lies: You are not OK because people like you, you are successful, you have control over others - **you are OK because Jesus has his perfect life given to you.** But more than that we can also go on the attack: **justice is about loving others,** being good to others, having faith and being humble - it comes down to how we treat others. So we live as children of light. Christ's strategy is to do and say what is right, good and can help others. (It comes from Isaiah 59:17) - He alone corrects what is wrong. He is on the attack and we are with Him - in His power! Every believer's word and deed builds the body and pushes the darkness back into this World! Biblical counseling is about this goodness and love that goes to others! It's all part of the war and we have Christ's acquittal - What can we hold back? BC is about understanding it and helping others in the right place to understand it in their life situation.

Spiritual Warfare Eph 6:10 ff

SW is to take the battle to the powers of darkness with Jesus as our Power and our Protector.
It is to stand up against the evil forces.

Armor / Combat equipment:

1. Truth - belt
2. "Righteousness - breastplate
3. **Therefore, then: Put on the readiness to preach the Good News of peace, as shoes on your feet.** "This is the news in Eph. about reconciliation with God and one another! Forgiveness drives anger out and this good news brings peace. (Isa. 52: 7). These shoes are the Lord's presence that comes in **His Person self**. He's the good news - people need good news. We put on these shoes and bring them to people in need. Not alone, but with Him and with one another.
4. **"Under all circumstances bear the shield of faith.** With it you can put out the fire arrows that the Evil One shoots down. The enemy fights back, he wants to make us his slaves through his lies and wants to enslave and kill us (it's just the way I am). Ef. 4: 25-27 shows us where lies and enmity control any relationship where the devil is in control. Faith seeks protection from the Lord (Ps 18) and so evil is defeated. In BC we as believers are constantly pushing back evil. Our Lord goes before us.
5. **"Use God's salvation as a helmet to protect your heads - our thinking**
6. **And use the sword of the Spirit, it is the Word of God "that opens the intentions of the heart (Heb 4:12)**

Spiritual Warfare Eph 6:10 ff

SW is to take the battle to the powers of darkness with Jesus as our power and our protector. It is to stand up against the evil forces.

We now take up our weapons while we have the full combat equipment. We bring the Word of salvation in the Lord, the sword of the Spirit in B Counseling because people are trapped in their sin without God and without hope and Our Savior who saved us is in Person there.

He came for us and now we go to others and we live this salvation. He made us alive and delivered us from death and destruction (Eph 2: 5). So when we stand in the salvation with others in this war and get **new courage in his grace!** People are overwhelmed by the wrong / bad in themselves, the world and evil forces, **they need the Lord Himself and He Himself comes to save. (Isa 59:21)** He is here where we talk through His Holy Spirit. His Word is the wisdom of the Spirit of God. In biblical counsel our words must be faithful to the Word -

Spiritual Warfare Eph 6:10 ff

SW is to take the **battle to the powers of darkness with Jesus as our power** (Lion - Rev 5:5)and our protector. It is to stand up against the evil forces bringing the Lamb - lov and care Rev 5:6).

People often heard the Word: Sermons, Bible studies, Bible reading, music but it did not click so we not only quote verses for people in biblical counsel, but their struggle, their hurt, fears must be wrapped in the Word, the **sword of the Spirit and the belt of Truth - Jesus himself!** "What has helped you in the past" - what part of the Word? These are still the parts that will help again now - the same themes of the things we want too much or fear often remain in our lives.

The whole armor is the power of God that Jesus raised from death and that works in us too!
Therefore,

do everything through prayer and supplication. Let the Spirit guide you in prayer every time. Stay on your guard in all circumstances and pray for all who belong to God. Pray for me too... ..Pray that I, as it should be, will preach the Good News with boldness "(6: 19-20). Those who counsel you, need your prayers and you who counsel also need prayers. Paul says he needs God's help as much as you and I and therefore he asks the believers to pray for him!

This is BC.