May 19, 2013 Sermon Application Handout
"Spiritual Warfare"
Ephesians 6:10-12

I. Introduction

1. Before you begin, take a moment to pray and ask God to help strengthen you as you read His Word in the power of His might; to put on the full armor of God, fully submitting to God so that you can resist the schemes of the devil (Eph. 6:10-11, James 4:7).

2. Read Ephesians 6:10-12 in one sitting. According to verse 10, what adverb does Paul use to begin this section of Ephesians? How does verse 10 link back to what we have already learned in Ephesians? How does it link forward to what you just read in verses 10-12?

II. The N_____ of our Enemy.

3. According to Ephesians 6:11-12 who are we called to stand against? Who are we really struggling with? Is it a physical struggle or a spiritual one? How widespread is this and in what ways do you see its effects in our world today?

4. Read Genesis 3:1-5 and Ezekiel 28:12-18. In the beginning before the fall, there was no war or rebellion against God. But as you think through these passages carefully, what event occurred that marked the spiritual battle that we are now in? What is the root of Satan's rebellion against God? What is Satan's ultimate goal?

5. In light of what you've just read above, why does Paul exhort believers to stand strong in the Lord? Why must we take this so seriously? (See Ephesians 1:3 and 1 Peter 5:8-9).

6. We must not be naïve; believers fight an enemy who knows them very well. He is not omnipresent (everywhere present) but he is aware of the believer's weak spots. As you consider this carefully, what are some practical ways you can resist (taking a firm stand) against the devil? (See Eph. 6:14-17; Phil 2:12-13; Col. 1:29; 1 Tim 1:18-19; 1 Peter 5:8-9, 2 Peter 1:3-4, 5-7; James 4:7).

III. The S_____ of our Enemy.

7. What doctrine does biblical Christianity hold to that is unlike any other religion in the world that Satan seeks to hinder (Gal. 2:21; 1 Thess 2:18)?

8. What is your adversary the devil hoping he can convince you of that believers are actually responsible for (see James 3:13-4:1-3)? What is the correct response of a believer to this truth (Rev. 2:13-16)?

9. What is another scheme Satan is intent on creating when it comes to the church (Prov. 6:14, 19)? What are some practical ways to guard against this (1 John 3:23)?

10. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Describe yet another scheme that Satan tries to use for evil? According to this text; what are some ways that God can use this for good in a believer's life?

IV. Application

11. Read Matthew 4:1-11. How does Christ's example motivate you to resist the devil? What will you do the next time you are tempted to sin?

12. Go to prayer and ask God to give you a greater awareness of the spiritual battle you face each day. Pray that God will help you apply what you've learned from today's lesson and implement it for His glory.

Resources:

- *The Holy War* by John Bunyan
- *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis
- *Standing Strong: How to Resist the Enemy of Your Soul* by John MacArthur
- *Power Encounters* by David Powlison
- *Powers of Evil* by Sydney Page
- *Demons: A biblically based perspective* by Alex Konya

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive an unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both error, and hail a materialist or magician with the same delight."
(C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters, pg 3).