



### Spiritual Warfare

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

Life is a battle. We all sense it, even when we're just fighting traffic. Challenges arise at every turn. Challenges we need to take on. Finishing school or finding a job take ongoing focus and effort. Food doesn't magically appear on the table, and the rent doesn't pay itself. The good things of life come to us day by day as a result of our ongoing battle with inertia, distraction, and fatigue.

Still, life is good and filled with blessings—even the demands of work and the joy of exertion. But our exertion takes place in the context of battle and conflict. We have to “take on” every day. Our motivation is the faith that good will come of our effort, and blessing will result from the battle.

Spiritual warfare is about what is true, not in an abstract sense but in an operational sense. Before it is an argument about how to think, spiritual warfare is a battle over what to believe and whom to trust. The primary goal of spiritual attack is to undermine our faith and keep us from trusting God. Disobedience is fundamentally a lack of trust in God. We doubt the wisdom of His ways and ability to care for His own.

But He always will. We have His promise.

Our temptation is to let our spirits to be controlled by influences other than God's Word and His Spirit. We let our mood, not His Word, define our faith. We yield to our desires, not trusting His wisdom. Our pride becomes our motivation instead of His glory, and the spirit of the age, not the Lord of Eternity, leads our lives.

Now, like always, the battle belongs to the Lord. Living the battle of daily life means trusting God to fight life's battle for us. Perhaps the best way to put on the whole armor of God is through prayer.

- *Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.* Lord Jesus, take on the tempter for us, since our power is insufficient. Everything we will ever need comes from you.
- *Put on.* Lord, it's our responsibility to trust and obey—to rely on you and receive you enabling. We understand that you are the One who fights for us, and we choose to trust you in everything.
- *Whole armor of God.* Lord, open our eyes to see that you fight on behalf of your people for your name's sake. You wore the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, and the helmet of salvation into battle when you fought for Israel. Thank you that we can wear the same armor today.
- *Stand.* Remind us, Lord, that Christ defeated Satan, and hell is broken. Enable us to stand firm in the faith that your victory is ours and you keep us by the strength of your might.
- *Schemes of the devil.* Dear God, Satan's lies sound so convincing. His schemes take us by surprise, and his temptations are so appealing. Deliver us from the sins we like to commit, the lies we want to believe, and the flattery that sucks us into his wicked plans for our lives. Keep us on the path that leads to you and your eternal treasures.
- *Wrestle.* Keep us aware that our inner struggles are not just in our heads. Our doubts and disobedience have eternal consequences in the spiritual battle that has raged through the ages.
- *Flesh and blood.* Open our eyes to the spiritual reality behind the physical world surrounding us. Make us aware of the true battle we wage in our hearts and lives. Give us compassion for the victims of spiritual warfare and faith in your power to save.
- *The rulers ... authorities ... cosmic powers.* Give us discernment to distinguish good from evil and light from darkness. Train us in the ability to see who we are trusting to rule our lives—God or Satan.

- *This present darkness ... spiritual forces of evil.* Teach us to hate evil and love good as you define them. All that is good comes from you, and what is not good is not of you. Shine the clear light of your truth through us to lead others to you through the darkness.
- *In heavenly places.* You have blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places (Ephesians 1:3). Keep Satan and his demons from robbing us of your free gift.

God has revealed Himself to us in all His goodness. We are walking with the king, basking in His love, laying hold of His power. We know the richness of His forgiveness, the enabling of His grace and the hope of His promise. Our confidence does not come from our own strength but from His eternal power. Through prayer, we receive His power and lay hold of the victory that Jesus Christ has won, for our blessing and to the praise of His glory.

### Prayer for the Leadership of Northpoint.

- Seek God’s guidance and provision for **John Sloan and family**. Pray for God’s clear direction, warm fellowship, and ongoing support along the way.
- Pray for our **Pastors and Directors**, Brent Whitefield, Scott Williams, Terilyn Brown, Geoff Grant, Taylor Mendoza, Tamene Menna, and Marty Wiegman, learn to seek God in new ways through prayer, so they learn to lay hold of the blessings God has for us as a church through prayer.
- Pray for our **Lay Elders**, Tim East, Steve Flood, Mark Kiker, Mike Russell, and Vinoj Zechariah, to receive strength, wisdom, and judgment to honor Christ as they lead our church and seek God’s face individually and as a group.
- Pray for our **Church Staff**, Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, Andria Brucks, Jacob Williams, Carolee Jefferson, Josh Figueroa, Amber McEwen, Mark Norland, Corie Saunders, and Teri Vaughn, to receive God’s love and power to be effective in their lives and ministries.

### Prayer Record

Record specific prayers you have below. Note when and how God answers your prayers. It will help you to see that He really is paying attention.

Date	Request	Date	Answer

*For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.*

–2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:3-5