

We Wrestle Not Flesh and Blood

Scripture

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual [hosts] of wickedness in the heavenly [places].” (Eph 6:10-12 NKJV)

Devotion

Here the opposition is revealed. We do not fight against men, not men only for they are energized and controlled by spiritual forces of wickedness. Yes the system is in place and men occupy principal positions, but there is more to this battle than meets the eye.

First of all, the chief enemy is the devil for it is against his strategies we must stand. Satan has control over the darkness of this world, at least measured control. God has allowed him to be the god of this world, the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2, 2 Cor. 4:4).

He uses his powerful army of fallen angels to influence men and governments to counter our faith. Remember when he tempted Jesus? After he took Jesus up on a high mountain to show Him all the kingdoms of the world he said, “. . . All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me” (Mt 4:9 NKJV). The devil has at his disposal the entire world system and the men and women in it, “whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them” (2Co 4:4 NKJV).

However, we are not to lose hope in the face of such terrible and wicked opposition. Rather, we are to stand against him and his horde, but not with the arm of flesh. Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might! As the song says, “faith is the victory!”

We will look at the details of the armor of God tomorrow, but think about the opposition today. See him unmasked and you will be more likely to see the need to put on the armor. This battle is not just an internal struggle with your natural tendencies. There is a real enemy out there doing all he can to trip you up and stop you from spreading the good news about Jesus Christ.

I don't want to point out specifics because I fear you will start seeing a demon behind every tree, but any open-eyed look at our society will tell you that Christianity is under attack. The system, called the world in Scripture, is set to create opposition at every turn.

Therefore, as the passage says, let us be strong in the Lord and the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God.