

# WAR FOR ONE

Aloha everyone and welcome to where being planted in the house of the Lord allows us to flourish in the courts of our God, I'm Pastor Glenn, thank you for joining us today. Now so far we have learned that we are in the middle of a cosmic clash. Spiritual battles have been raging since the dawn of time. We must be aware of the conflict surrounding us in order to address the enemy's existence. Our objective is then to annihilate any schemes plotted against us. So my focus is to not, just, defeat the devil, it is to live victoriously. To live victoriously is to live in the will of God. The enemy would try for you to live otherwise. The reality is, Christ won the victory and by faith, we have the ability and authority to enjoy the full assurance of hope. In order to do so, we need the full armor of God.

Ephesians 6 teaches us to, ". . . <sup>10</sup> be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil" (NASB).

Know that when we put on the full armor of God, we are empowered through our union with Him. It's like putting on a uniform that represents a governing body. When we put on the armor of God, we represent the kingdom of God.

Everyone say, "in the strength of His might." "In the strength of His might" speaks to the authority of Christ which as believers, gets passed on to us. We are the body of Christ and with that comes our ability to walk in confidence as ambassadors of God's kingdom or God's government.

So, when you put on the full armor of God, (everyone say "full armor") you: **"A" walk in God's "Authority."**

Now walking in authority is as the Word of God tells us, that we walk in the light as God is in the light. That means we have fellowship with God and fellowship with one another. That means we are unified, we are one. Stay tuned, as next week, Pastor Earl further emphasizes the importance of remaining in fellowship. Now, as God is in the light and so are we, this light that we carry becomes very offensive to darkness. I've heard it said that everyone lights up a room. You either do it when you enter, others do it when they leave. Ask yourself, which one are you? It's a question of walking in God's authority or walking in the absence of God's authority. We're either walking in the light or walking in the absence of light. Either we're walking in the light of God's truth or walking in the darkness of the enemy's lies.

Verse 12 says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places" (NASB).

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So, we see how the absence of light is darkness and darkness, in this context, is wickedness. Darkness refers to worldly forces of evil intent.

I have to admit, I am a fan of mixed martial arts. When I was young, I remember my grandpa teaching me filipino stick fighting and techniques he learned from his time in the philippine army. Growing up, I was a student of combat sports, not because I physically wanted to hurt bad guys, like Bruce Lee. Well, maybe a little bit of it, but, I genuinely wanted to learn self defense and to be able to protect and defend those I love.

Now, struggling against someone physically, like in a wrestling match, jiu-jitsu, or boxing is easy to comprehend. If they use a particular technique against you, well, you counter with another and you employ a technique of your own.

However, when your opponent is not a physical one, it's difficult to comprehend, to envision and to strategize your victory. When your opponent is not physical, you can't feel his next move, you can't see his next move and you can't hear his next move. Our understanding is therefore, limited.

Many have probably wondered, "How are we expected to fight and defeat an enemy we can't see. The answer is with our spiritual eyes. So let us allow Galatians 5:22 to be our vision in order to recognize the schemes of the enemy. Now, scripture teaches us "the fruit of the (Holy) Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,"

In other words, having the fruit of the Holy Spirit present in your life is having God's presence in your life. That's walking in God's light. So, if the fruit of the Holy Spirit is absent in your life, then God's presence may not fully be there.

That tells us that all things that stand opposed to this list, may very well originate from evil intentions. The presence of hatred, anger, impatience, discord, division, envy, malice and faithlessness are great indicators that dark enemy forces may be at work. You will begin to recognize his techniques quicker, thereby being able to counter and employ our offense.

*"Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. (Everyone say, "stand firm"). 14 Stand firm therefore, having belted your waist with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having strapped on your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Ephesians 6:13-17 NASB ).*

So, gaining a deep understanding of righteousness, having a wonderful sense of justice and knowing intimately the essence of truth will allow you to recognize when wickedness, injustice and deception abound. Notice it says full armor, not partial armor.

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When we put on the full armor of God, (everyone say "full armor") we walk in God's **"A" authority. This enhances our ability to "R" recognize his schemes.** Now turn to your neighbor, wag a finger at them and say, "We gotta put on the full uniform!"

A while ago, I had a conversation with an ex-navy SEAL. I was curious about his experiences, so, he shared some of his endeavors and whatever he could that was not classified. He shared how, at the time, he had been decommissioned from active service, but he volunteered to serve in the aftermath of 9/11. He shared how proud he was to wear the uniform and to stand for a cause bigger than himself. He believes in his heart, once a navy SEAL, always a navy SEAL. I believe that ought to be true for Christ followers as well. It ought to be true for those that respond, that choose, that volunteer to put on the full armor of God. Once a good soldier of Christ, always a good soldier of Christ.

So, I thanked him for his service. He, then thanked me for my service and asked me how many times I had the opportunity to "mobilize." I told him it wasn't anywhere as near as he did. Everyone say "mobilize." To mobilize is to assemble and to make ready for war. It means to prepare and organize for active service. It means to deploy, to put into movement or circulation.

When we put on the full armor of God, everyone say "full armor" we **walk in God's "A" authority. This enhances our ability to "R" recognize the enemy's schemes because we are all "M" geared to mobilize to be THE powerful force of good in the world.**

So, always carry the shield of faith wherever you go. Faith shows the reality of what we hope for. It is the evidence of things we cannot see physically. Faith is the expectation of what is to be and to allow expectation to be our soil in which faith brings forth a harvest of miracles, signs and wonders.

To live powerfully is to understand the power of God's spoken Word (everyone say "word"). To live victoriously is to wield God's Word as an offensive weapon. To pray then, becomes our offense, our counterstrike and our strategy to live victoriously. Remember, Christ already won the victory for us. So when we pray, we don't pray for victory, we pray from victory. Knowing this, with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength, is our shield of faith.

*"With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be alert with all perseverance and every request for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:18 NASB).*

Let's have some fun! "S" plus Word equals "sword." The capital "S" is the Spirit, the Holy Spirit and the Word is the prayers that we speak. Thereby, the prayers we pray and the Word of God that we speak, guided by the Holy Spirit, is our victory. As we remain unified with God, we remain connected to the heart of God. As we remain connected to the heart of God, His thoughts become our thoughts and therefore our prayers are righteous as we pray by the

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thoughts of Christ. God's Word also reminds us there is power in the Words that are spoken by righteous people.

The great worship leader Steven Curtis Chapman wrote: *"Let us pray, let us pray, everywhere in every way. Every moment of the day, it is the right time. For the Father above, He is listening with love and He wants to answer us, so let us pray. Let us pray without end and when we finish start again. Like breathing out and breathing in, let us pray."*

When you put on the full armor of God, (everyone say "full armor") know **that "A" you have the authority to overcome dark spiritual forces. This authority allows you to "R" recognize the schemes of the enemy because we are all "M" mobilized to be THE powerful force of good in the world with the Word of God as our "O" offense to convey faith, hope and love.**

This of course, doesn't mean life is going to be perfect. You can render the devil powerless, that doesn't mean he's going to stop being a pest. However, as we persistently pray and persevere in living with the full armor of God, we are able to take our spiritual eyes off ourselves and to place them on other people.

You see, a scheme of the enemy seduces us to live selfishly. Living selfishly, limits the expansion of the kingdom of God. When we live for self, we disregard others. When we are consumed with ourselves we lack the ability to envision establishing the Kingdom of God. When we are blinded by self, we fall pray as a victim. Scripture urges us to intercede for others. Scripture urges us to pray for others. Scripture urges us to persevere. Scripture urges us to serve others into the kingdom of God. According to the world, this is very counterintuitive, but with the shield of faith, believing in what could be, trusting in what ought to be and expecting what will be, leads us to live in the victory of God's will.

In conclusion, when we put on the full armor of God, (everyone say "full armor") know that **"A" you have the authority to overcome dark spiritual forces. This authority allows you to "R" recognize the schemes of the enemy because we are all "M" mobilized to be THE powerful force of good in the world. Of course the Word of God is our "O" offense to convey faith, hope and love and finally to put on the armor of God is to live in a way that "R" resists the enemy's evil plans.** Amen!

One final thought. It's one thing to learn to put on the full armor of God and to wear it confidently. It's another thing to assist others to do the same and to help them wear theirs confidently. I want to encourage you, brothers and sisters, to pray about, who you can assist in putting on the full armor of God and to teach them to teach others. As we obey the Words of Christ and that is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to also love others, wearing the uniform becomes easier, more natural and very comfortable. One of the best ways to wear the armor boldly is to help others do the same. In Jesus' Name.

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Until next time everyone, may the presence of grace and truth continue to fill your heart and homes.

## **Questions for OG groups**

1. Reflect on God's authority in your life. How has God authorized you to live? What does it mean to walk fully in the authority given to us as Christ followers?
2. Seeing with our physical eyes, although wonderful, doesn't always reveal truth. How well do you see with spiritual eyes? Recall a time where you've prayed to have better understanding regarding a situation. What was the outcome?
3. Understand that being in the family of God is the best family we could ever be a part of. How have you been mobilized to share God's love and invite others into the family of God?
4. Prayer is communication with God and is evident by your communion with God. How are you at expressing your love to God? What have you been asking God for? What have you been asking God to help with your understanding?
5. Recall a time when your faith was tested. What does it mean to stand firm? How well is your faith? Is it firm or flabby? What can you do to fortify your faith?