Often times the issue of spiritual warfare gets convoluted by sensationalism and superstition.

This morning we will consider 3 principles of spiritual warfare as it affects us.

I. WE CAN ALWAYS STAND THROUGH GOD'S MIGHTY POWER

Ephesians 6:10

It is not our strength that equips us to stand; it is God's strength invested in us: when we submit to God.

James 4:7-8

Satan won't flee from our power; it is only God's power within us that overcomes him.

Victory comes from God and we must receive our strength from Him.

1 Corinthians 10:12

Our strength will only stand as long as our opposition is weak, or temptation is small.

Only those who stand on the rock of Christ have the power to withstand!

II. SATAN IS MERELY A FALLEN ANGEL

Revelation 20:1, 2

1. All angels must obey God regardless of their stature.

Any angel who will not obey receives swift judgment.

2 Peter 2:4

2. Satan may hate God, but he also knows where his boundaries are.

The only power the Bible attributes to Satan is:

- a. The ability to deceive those who are willing to believe his lies.
- b. Limited power to perform a specific task that he has permission to do. [Job]
- 3. Satan's power

Ephesians 6:11-12

- a. The strategies of the devil are deceit and trickery.
- b. <u>Deceit</u>, <u>seduction</u> and <u>lies</u> are <u>the powers of Satan</u>. **No more, no less**.
- c. He can only devour those he can convince to submit to him.

The power of Satan is his ability to convince you to act contrary to God's will.

III. GOD'S PROVISIONS FOR RESISTING THE ENEMY

Ephesians 6:13

God protects us from blind attacks and prepares us for victory.

All of the advantages of this war are in our favor.

Ephesians 6:14-17

- a. The Belt of Truth: Truth is the foundation on which everything is built.
- b. The body armor of God's righteousness guards the heart and vital organs.
- c. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News.

The believer with the best footing will have victory on the battlefield.

d. Hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.

Faith is your shield. If you don't trust God, you will not withstand Satan's attacks.

e. Put on salvation as your helmet

Salvation only comes by receiving God's gift of grace.

To receive salvation, there must be a submission to Christ.

f. Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

This is the only offensive part of the armor.

The gospel of Christ advances by the word of God.

The power of the church is a direct reflection on the spiritual condition of God's people.

Ephesians 6:18