

# Wrestling Against Powers and Principalities

by Keith Malcomson

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*This sermon focuses on Ephesians chapter 6, emphasizing the spiritual warfare that the church faces against powers and principalities. It highlights the need for the church to be strong in the Lord, put on the whole armor of God, and stand against the wiles of the devil. The message delves into the wrestling match the church is engaged in, not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of darkness, rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places. It warns against the deceptive strategies and influences that seek to hinder the church and emphasizes the importance of prayer, standing on the authority of Christ, and resisting the powers of darkness.*

**Scripture:** Ephesians 6:10, Ephesians 6:11, Ephesians 6:12, Matthew 12:25, 2 Corinthians 10:4, James 4:7, Luke 11:34, 1 Timothy 2:1, Luke 10:19

**Topics:** "Spiritual Warfare", "The Armor of God"

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## Description

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## Transcript

We're turning to Ephesians chapter 6 to our second message on this series of spiritual warfare. I said this is where we were going last Sunday morning and we're going to go further next Sunday morning. But this is our second part and I want you to turn to Ephesians chapter 6 reading from verse 10.

Very important messages here. We don't want to overemphasize the devil. That isn't our object.

It is very rare I have dealt with the devil and very rare I've said as much about him as I have in the past month. But I assure you we need to understand what we're dealing with here. We are in a spiritual warfare, not natural, but spiritual.

Reading from Ephesians chapter 6 and verse 10. Ephesians chapter 6 and verse 10. My message this morning.

Wrestling against powers and principalities. Verse 10. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore, or because of this, wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all to stand.

Stand therefore having your loins girt about with truth and having on the breastplate of righteousness and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Above all, take in the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked or the wicked one and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the sword, which is the word of God. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

And for me, that is the preacher, that utterance may be given unto me that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel for which I am an ambassador in bonds and therein that I may speak boldly as I ought to speak. Let's pray together as we come to this message here this morning. Father we come Lord God by your grace and your mercy through the precious name of Jesus Christ being mindful of the power that is in Jesus' blood being mindful that we are seated with Christ in heavenly places that you've called us to walk out this Christian life in the earth in our own individual lives and here this morning I pray that you'll show us that we are to stand and to stand steadfast and to be unmovable in this position in Christ on the written scriptures.

Father I pray that you'd open our minds and our hearts to see the reality of the spiritual warfare that is against the local church that the powers of darkness are waged against it but that you have placed us in the person of Christ greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world we overcome him by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony my God thank you there is a victory over the evil one not by our power but by the power of Jesus Christ we give glory to him we give honor to him and we pray for the opening of our eyes Lord God that we begin to see what this warfare is for the local church in Jesus mighty name amen. Saints I'm dealing here in this second message with wrestling against powers and principalities that statement powers and principalities takes in an awful lot of the working of the devil and I want you to see in a very practical real and personal way maybe in a way you haven't seen it before that we as a local church are wrestling against powers and principalities this is my message from Ephesians 6 again it says in verse 12 for we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against and notice there's four things here principalities against powers against the rulers of the darkness of this world against spiritual wickedness in high places one of the great problems in the church of our generation and ever every generation is either to overemphasize the place of satan in this warfare or to under emphasize it there has to be a balance there is a danger that we see demons behind every tree every situation we blame the devil I actually believe that the devil is the most misaccused person by the church in our generation I believe Christians falsely accuse the devil for things that he isn't guilty of more than any other individual he's become the scapegoat he has become the one that we blame for all sin for why things happen and yet very often that is not true you know the church of our generation they blame everything from nicotine addiction to lying on a demon spirit and yet the bible tells me all of these sins of the flesh they are in the flesh it's not the devil making me do it but it is the flesh it's not binding satan that you need to do you need to repent you need to go to the cross and to crucify the flesh if you do that to the flesh the devil has no room to move I do believe there is a wrong over emphasis upon satan and his wiles in the church of this

generation but at the exact same time I believe there is an over emphasis the other way a denial of his working an ignorance of his working an absolute apathy towards how he operates these two extremes are out of balance with the scripture since we need to be taught of the word of god we don't want to emphasize the devil neither do we want to so ignore him that we become a victim of his wiles of his strategies and through ignorance that we come under him in any sort of way it says in second corinthians chapter 2 and 11 and this is the apostle paul speaking less satan should get an advantage of us in other words paul is saying there that you need to be very careful that satan doesn't gain an advantage over you that he doesn't stretch into areas of your life that he has got no business being in that he doesn't overstep the mark in your life it says for we are not ignorant of his devices in other words if you're ignorant of satan's devices he can gain advantage of you and so we don't want you to be ignorant because when you are ignorant in other words when you don't think about it when you don't understand when you don't know the biblical teaching of satan's devices against you and against the church you can actually be so ignorant or lacking an understanding of the bible that satan gains advantage of you as soon as you know what the bible says you can draw a line you can say this far no further i am going to stand and fight in this hour you know it says there that less um he gains advantage over us through his devices listen carefully that word device means an intellectually purposed plan in other words when we deal with the devil we are dealing with a remarkable intellect it means the devil exercises his mind he is not ignorant he is not without knowledge he has a mind and intellect and he uses that ancient mind of his to actually concoct plans and purposes against the local church and against christians the bible commands you and i be not ignorant of satan's devices you know what he's talking about there unforgiveness in the church when there's unforgiveness within believers amongst believers you know what it says satan is using that to try and gain an advantage i want to assure you when you realize that unforgiveness can be used by the devil you suddenly begin to say i don't want it in my heart i don't want to give any advantage to satan i don't want it in the local church i don't want any unforgiveness any wrong attitudes in the heart because as soon as it is the enemy moves in to use that we must recognize and identify the strategies the plans of the devil and as soon as we recognize unforgiveness is a thing that can be used in the local church we're gonna be on our guard we're gonna be very careful it isn't innocent it's not just something you can have in your heart it is something the devil can move on since i want to understand the plans the strategies the devices of satan not by special revelation not through a dream or a vision or a rhema word of knowledge i want to understand his devices from the written scriptures and i believe in ephesians 6a a remarkable revelation of how satan comes against the local church is written there clearly for us for our learning do you know when this gets exposed this morning we're going to be on our guard we're going to say i don't want that in the local church i know how the devil operates you see we're commanded we're told that we don't wrestle against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities there is a wrestling against demon powers it says there in a period of two verses six times that we are against these powers of darkness six times we are against them if you don't know your enemy how are you going to be against it if you can't identify his devices how do you stand against it if his devices and plans are not exposed if you don't understand this how are you going to resist how are you going to say no way how are you going to begin to fight and wrestle you see we're not told that wrestling is an option it's not something you're commanded to do but as a born again christian and as a local church we do wrestle you may not have been aware of but you have been wrestling this church has been wrestling not against flesh and blood not against men not against circumstance but we have been wrestling against powers and principalities and can i tell you i am against them six times the apostle writes what we are against can i ask you what are you against what are you against do you know what you are against are you against unforgiveness or do you tolerate unforgiveness if you're not against it i assure you you're tolerating it paul lays out here in this wrestling against powers

and principalities we are set against in a certain direction we are against certain things you've got to be against certain things or you're going to be overcome by powers and principalities i i i am persuaded here that so much of the church does not know what it is against it is against men individuals other people family members and they don't know how to fight but you've got to realize our battle is not against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities we've got to know their devices we've got to know how the enemy operates and then we set ourselves against it this is something very definite very clear very obvious and very precise there's no shadow of darkness here we've got to be against something do you realize what you're against reveals a lot about you if you tell me you're not against anything that reveals an awful lot about you you see i am against some things i am very against some things i am against what the bible is against i am against what the enemy is trying to do i am against it i am opposed to it i resist it i actually stand against it and since there are some things that i hate i want to tell you do you realize that unless you hate certain things you don't know how to love if you were to tell me that you don't hate anything i would have to question you biblically and spiritually if you don't know how to hate certain things that go on in the church you don't know how to love the church to the degree you hate you do love and you can never separate hatred from love you see i believe one of the greatest men who hated was the lord jesus christ but no man loved like the lord jesus christ you want a scripture for it i'll give you a scripture hebrews chapter one and verse nine listen carefully and this is a prophecy from the old testament concerning the messiah the lord jesus christ listen carefully thou has loved righteousness and hated iniquity therefore god even i god has anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows this was the lord jesus christ why did god anoint the lord jesus christ why did he baptize him in the holy ghost why did the power of the holy spirit come upon him when he stood in the jordan you know why this was one who loved righteousness and hated iniquity do you know christ hates certain things he hates iniquity it's very clear what iniquity is you've got to know what iniquity is and then you've got to hate iniquity if christ hated iniquity you've got to hate iniquity if you if he loved righteousness we have got to love righteousness if there's any confusion in these concepts we have a problem we have a serious problem you know christ was anointed with the oil of gladness a man who hates iniquity will have great joy a man who loves righteousness will have the joy of the lord upon him i want to tell you the most joy-filled christians i've met in my entire life they knew what to love and they knew what to hate it and god anointed them with the oil of gladness they weren't demure characters but they knew what was dangerous in the body of christ listen again in revelation chapter 209 and this is christ speaking to the church there in that chapter it says but this thou has in other words this is something good about the church what church was this the church at ephesus the exact same church we're reading about in ephesians chapter 6 that received that now listen to what he says but this thou has in other words this is something good i want to encourage you about that thou hast hated the deeds of the nicolaitans which i also hate when jesus spoke to the church at ephesus in that written letter when he spoke to them he says you know what there's something good you're doing you hate certain deeds certain actions certain doctrines certain ways of functioning in the church there are the nicolaitans have come into the church and you know what they do they like to exalt themselves in authority to abuse the people of god to subdue the people of god and to bring them into bondage that is the nicolaitan doctrines you know what jesus said you hate that doctrine you hate their deeds and you know what you are hating the same thing i hate isn't that amazing that christ is commending a church for hating certain things for hating the deeds of certain people the doctrines of certain men in the church he says i commend you you're hating what i hate i hate their deeds and you're hating their deeds you see a church is known by what it loves and by what it hates if you don't hate anything you're a bankrupt christian if you don't know what you are against then you don't know what this spiritual warfare is about true spiritual warfare is to understand what you are set against in the church and outside of the church hear my

message this morning as i come to it and i've got three points for you here in this message as we look at wrestling powers and principality point number one the local church's position in jesus christ look with me here in ephesians 6 and 10 it says finally my brethren this is the sixth chapter for five previous chapters paul has been teaching them he comes down to his finally brethren his very final point here but he's already taught for five chapters what he is about to say now in this last chapter about spiritual warfare in this letter is only the conclusion of what he has already said in the five previous chapters do you know there's three great things that he marks out in this letter to the ephesians in ephesians chapter one all the way through to chapter three he looks up sitting with christ in heavenly places that's what he says he actually teaches on what it means to be seated in christ at the right hand of the father in other words in a spiritual position that is a finished position in the work of christ we are chosen in christ we are redeemed in christ we are blessed in christ that's what he deals with for three chapters in this letter in jesus christ this is your position since you're saved this morning you're born again your sins have been washed away you're forgiven of all of your sins you are a blessed man and woman that's where he begins you're seated with jesus christ all of these blessings in christ belong on to you that's where paul starts then as he comes through to chapter four and chapter five he talks about our walk how to live out the christian life he talks about walking worthy of this call in other words you can walk unworthily he talks about your marriage he talks about how you raised your children he talks about how you function in the local church he says don't lie to one another don't lie to one another this is your walk that's the second area but when we come to ephesians 6 there is a third area not just to be seated in christ not only to walk out the christian life in a very practical way but when we come to ephesians 6 we see the word stand sitting walking standing and this is my point here as we begin to look at spiritual warfare and wrestling against powers and principalities you are in no position to wrestle unless you are standing you've got to be sitting in christ blessed in christ hidden in christ you've got to be walking in christ walking in the light of his word but also standing what a marvelous word standing this is and paul uses it here as we look at spiritual warfare before you ever think of wrestling with the devil you've got to know that you're standing in jesus christ standing upon the promises of god weren't we singing it before we came uh into this preaching here this morning standing on the promises of god what an amazing thing that that's where i'm standing are you standing on the promises today i i mean do you know what stan means you're not moving around you're not trying to get in somewhere you're not just trying to fight your way in somewhere no paul says you you're not trying to fight your way into a place of blessing you're simply standing the wrestling comes against you now look what he says here be strong in the lord finally my brethren be strong in the lord and in the power of his might you're not asked to be strong in yourself you're not asked to be strong in your own abilities or your own knowledge or your own spirituality no saints look to the lord jesus christ this is a finally of outstanding be strong in the lord another word be empowered be enabled receive the strength of the lord jesus christ inwardly in your spiritual life if you're going to stand be strong in the lord if you're going to stand in this battle and play your part be strong in the lord notice it's in the lord not in you not outside of him you've got to see that your strength comes from the lord you might tell me i'm very weak i don't feel i can do this i don't believe i'm able to face this battle then i would say be strong in the lord it's not your strength it's not your power but the power of his might it is his strength it is his power you've got to be strong within it and so the apostle says strong in the lord listen why the g may be able to stand you know the difference between a christian who stands and one who doesn't stand in this wrestling in this warfare is that one has found the strength in the lord and so he can stand those who do not stand have not found their strength in and yet they think it's because of them i'm not strong enough i'm not able enough i'm not spiritual enough it's got nothing to do with that since the reason you stand in this warfare is because you find your strength is in the lord that he is your mic that he is your power that he is your ability that is why you stand show me

a christian who's standing i mean standing through everything and i'll tell you it's not by their mind it's not by their power but it is by the power of the lord they've found that he is their strength he is their mind he is their power they're hiding in him the g may be able to stand stand you're not fighting your way into the victory you already have the victory you already have the strength you're not trying to win this fight you actually stand in a position of the finished work of the cross of the precious blood of the lamb of the written scriptures of the the full provision of the lord jesus christ since standing up you actually fight from a position of victory you fight your way out of a position of blessing and of his full his provision and it says that you might be able have the ability to stand against the wiles of the devil now let me notice uh point something out to you this is my first point the local church's position in christ do you know ephesians 6 isn't about the individual christian the armor isn't about the individual christian the wrestling is not about the individual christian all of the things mentioned in this chapter are about the local church the church at ephesus in other words when they are seated they're seated as a church when they walk they walk as a church when they stand and wrestle against powers and principalities they're doing that as the church aren't you glad you're not alone in this battle since let us stand together you know the old roman armies they stood shoulder to shoulder side by side all of their shields lifted not just one man with a shield but my shield beside your shield my shield covering your head or covering your back you know the roman army when they went into battle some of them lifted their shields above some of them had their shields in front some of them had their shields to the left or to the right the apostle paul says spiritually about the armor of god spiritually on the left and on the right what was he talking about that we all join together our shield of faith to stand together since we're in this together in the spiritual battle you're not alone in this fight you're not wrestling alone but we as a local church i i want to assure you that the local church has to find its position in the lord jesus christ we as a church in limerick we are not fighting from a position of defeat we're not trying to fight our way into the victory we are standing at calvary it's because of the blood i'm born again by the grace of god he showed me mercy and forgave all my sin that's why i'm standing in the battle here this morning and he actually says there that we might stand against the wiles of the devil he's talking about the church to stand you know what stand means i'm on a bit of ground and i'm not for moving you're not going to move me out of the way you're not going to push me back you're not going to cast me to the ground my feet are on this position i'm not moving off this position i'm standing on redemption ground i know what you are able here this morning as a church i want to encourage you you are able to stand against the wiles of the devil to stand against it to absolutely stand what are the wiles of the devil what are these arrows that he fires the greek word here is methodea where the methodist got their name from methodea if you're standing in the finished work of the cross you can stand against the wiles of the devil this word methodea means methods it's where we get our word method from it means strategies secretive schemes cleverly hatched plans are tricky strategies it is a remarkable work you see the devil comes against the local church the gathering of god's people individually and cooperatively together the devil actually has methods listen the word methods means cunningly hatched methods of guile or deception it means well thought out tailor-made plans the devil doesn't just attack a church he thinks about it every attack against a local church is well thought out and planned specifically for that local church the attacks of satan come first from a plan he thinks about it he plans it he decides it then he attacks the local church and you know what if we're standing if we're standing strong in god those wiles of satan will have no effect methodea also means regularly well used in other words there's nothing new in the devil's arsenal anything he throws at the church has been used for 6 000 years we have seen it in previous years there's nothing new under the sun they are regularly well used systematic ways in other words a pathway regularly used by the devil the devil's plans and attacks are well thought out chosen carefully their use is carefully timed against the church they are secretive and deceptive that's what this word methodea means

it means that they come from a supernatural ancient intelligence and they come against the church since we are not wrestling against flesh and blood in this local church we never have been for seven years and we won't be in the future every attack against this church it is deceptive it comes secretly there is a plan behind it and you know what if we're not ignorant of satan's devices if we simply shine the light upon it it is exposed and loses its power we are able to stand against these things we are able to gain the victory we will overcome the devil has his methods of coming against the church but you know what we're commanded to stand verse 13 wherefore take on to you the whole armor of god that ye may be able to stand next sunday morning i'm going to deal with the armor of god this is going to be our message but i want you to see the enemy i want you to see the danger i want you to see the methods of hell because you know what next week i'm going to show you how to wear the armor what it means to wear the armor and how you overcome all the attacks of the devil it says take on to you the armor of god that you may be able to withstand not only stand that's one thing but it says to withstand everything that comes against you that means to oppose to resist you see if the enemy comes against you you better come against the enemy if the devil is bringing unforgiveness or something else into the church you better be against that i mean if he comes against this church we better rise up as one and say we are against this thing that's the beauty of unity that's the beauty of being led by the written scriptures of god in verse 13 here it says that you'll be able to withstand in the evil day that means a hurtful day a day of decay this is an actual title of a certain period of time every day every year in church history is not an evil day you see this evil day is a period that is notorious these are famous days of iniquity when sin abounds in the world it is a notable day when the devil comes against the local church when satan is coming to fight and there is a great wrestling between local churches and the power of darkness it is a very real thing the spiritual warfare it says in james four and seven submit yourself there to god resist the devil and he will flee from you what a promise if i resist the devil he will flee powers and principalities will have to flee but make sure you submit if you're not submitted to god to god's word to god's commands how will you resist you say as you submit to god you are able to resist the devil and he will flee from you or what about on peter five and nine whom resist steadfast in the faith how do you resist the devil is it by proclaiming something it is by steadfastly resisting him on the basis of the faith whom resist steadfast in the faith not with faith it's not talking about your faith that you believe but that faith is the body of doctrine what the bible says when you resist the devil on the basis of the word of god his power is broken and he's gotta flee he cannot stand before you again in verse 13 and says having done all to stand again it says here in these verses stand stand and having done all in this warfare just stand some churches think they're not doing much when they just stand but i want to tell you it is a supernatural thing for a local church to stand on the word of god to stand in the victory of christ to be unmoved by the wiles of hell it is a miraculous thing you know what to stand means i'm going to stay here enough for moving i'm going to continue i'm going to be established i'm going to stand straight we don't need churches that are falling on the floors in this hour we need churches that are standing their ground unmovable so that's my first point this morning is the local church's position in jesus christ it is essential and we're going to come back to this next week our position in jesus christ to gain a victory but i want to emphasize here this morning and my second point the local church's enemy in the fight the local church's enemy in the fight i don't want you just to think of spirits out there somewhere in the heavenlies i want to bring this fight in very practically that you begin to understand what it means about wrestling with powers and principalities the local church's enemy in the fight i want to expose the enemy that comes against limerick city church and we have four clear points here under this the local church's enemy in the fight and as i show you you're going to suddenly see the strategies of satan against the church of what we are wrestling against it is a hand-to-hand fight for we it says in verse 12 we wrestle not against flesh and blood but we do wrestle against powers and principalities our fight is not individuals in the church or

outside the church are sinners in society our fight is with spiritual powers of darkness the word wrestle means a hand-to-hand combat it's not a distant fight it is face-to-face hand-to-hand two sweaty wrestlers that's the picture here two men in a wrestling match in the city of ephesus when they wrestled do you know how they wrestled they wrestled to the point where one pushed the other opponent into the ground and he gouged out his eyes that was wrestling in the first century that's how they wrestled that man's gonna lose his eyes if he loses this wrestle match he won't be able to see by the end of it i'll take your eyes or you'll take the eyes of me it was a wrestling match that was very intensive and it was whoever could hold that other person down do you realize the fight against the local church is a wrestling match against spiritual powers of darkness we see this all through the bible in the old testament we read of a lying spirit being sent into the mouth of 400 prophets there were false prophets who prophesied good things they spoke smooth words and it was all blessing blessing blessing do you know what the source of that was it was lying spirits demonic powers that come in amongst those that claim the name of god claim to be prophets of god and yet an entire spiritual movement in an entire generation in an entire nation it was a lying spirit and there was only one prophet stood against them who had the true word of god since i'm showing you about a very real warfare that goes on or what about king saul anointed of god chosen by god in a position of authority and yet the spirit of god could lift off him and another evil spirit would come upon him that would torment his mind you know in his heart he was angry he was suspicious there was murder and hatred in his heart that's what was in saul's heart no wonder the devil came in on that king no wonder the issues in his heart left him wide open you had a man a king on the throne throwing a spear at young david do you know what was behind it the devil was behind it or what about philip the prophet he gave lots of great prophecies to god's people accurate prophecies and yet we're told he used necromancy necromancy sorcery that's what he was involved in when we come over to the new testament we see that satan puts betrayal in the heart of judas he's an apostle he's walked with christ he's had his feet washed he's seen the love of christ but you know what as soon as he's seen it wasn't gonna make him money the devil put betrayal in the heart of judas right in the heart of that church betrayal in the heart fired from satan since this is a wrestling match you better know betrayal as a sin if you don't know betrayal as a sin you're gonna lie in your heart and i'll destroy you betrayal is unfaithfulness what about the apostle paul with his thorn in the flesh it was actually a messenger from satan every time he went to every city there was a demon spirit was there before him or thereafter him and stirred up trouble in the church opposition you know where that opposition came from a messenger of satan paul once writes he said i would have come on to you but satan hindered me satan hindered me it is very real you see paul even writes about the local church that satan disguises himself as an angel of light in other words he comes in the appearance of being an angel of god of being a spiritual influence for good and yet he comes to deceive do you remember when jesus even had a rebuke peter said get thee behind me peter get me behind get thee behind me satan he wasn't dealing with a man peter said you don't need to go to the cross you don't need to suffer you don't need to die you know what he just moved away from the message of the gospel and jesus said i know who is using peter i know that the spirit of god would never change this message of the way of the cross you know what he said get thee behind me satan there's a lot of sympathy and sentiment in the church it comes from hell it comes from the devil it looks smooth it looks nice and yet it's the devil in it it's against scripture it's against the cross and it's very dangerous i'm just showing you in the bible this battle is a wrestling match it comes in really close or what about ananias and saphira wasn't it the devil who conceived in their heart to lie to the holy spirit to lie to peter about selling that money they they did give money but they lied about it we don't think anything of that now in today's church you know what happened then they died they died in a church meeting how serious is it i assure you it is serious the warfare we are involved in let me give you the four points here and explain them in verse 12 it says we

wrestle against principalities not against flesh and blood but against principalities this word principality is the greek word archie it means chief ruler it means a prince or a king in other words the first one it's where we get the word arch attack it's archie or the word monarch a king that's where we get this word archie in other words there are spiritual powers called archies they are the first the highest in authority they make the decisions they make commands they rule over the kingdom of satan they are the source of all methods against the church they are the highest power they are the first and the top and priority you see we're told and paul teaches here we the local church wrestle against principalities it's not men and women walking out of the church it's not false brethren primarily it's not false teachers coming against the church in behind that are principalities and that's who we are wrestling against jesus and in the gospel of john talks about satan himself being a prince or anarchy three times in the gospel of john that letter of love he warns about the devil you know satan is often exposed by christ christ many times preaches about the devil exposes the devil and he warns about the devil we ought to do the same in john 12 31 he actually says the prince of this world will be cast out who's the prince of this world it's the devil he is a prince a principality jesus is saying he's going to be cast out or in john 14 30 it says the prince of this world he cometh and he has nothing in me there's nothing in my life that he can get a hold of he is the prince of this world and you know what this great prince this great leader of the kingdom of darkness he did come against christ he did tempt him he he come against him with much provocation in chapter 14 30 it says that he has nothing in me in chapter 16 and 8 it says because the prince of this world is judged the holy spirit judges him so we see that satan lucifer is on this higher echelon of the kingdom of satan he is the archie the highest the command giver the one who rules over we know that the jews accused jesus of being bells above the prince of the devils they said you have power to cast out demons you are of the devil you see the church has often been accused of being of the devil men who are righteous who are holy who hate sin and they're accused wrongly jesus was accused of being the prince of all the powers of hell since this first realm of archie is what the church has to contend with we don't see them we may never feel them and yet we are wrestling against the archie the highest powers of darkness we've already looked at daniel chapter 10 and as we read there daniel is in prayer for 21 days he is praying and no answer comes he is fasting and it seems that heaven is silent and yet all the time there is a spiritual warfare going on daniel's in a warfare and he doesn't know it's the powers of darkness there is an archie there is a prince of darkness there is a high authority a principality and you know what that 21 days of fasting and prayer he is wrestling with god he is wrestling he's not buying the demons he's not rebuking satan he is praying unto god he has said oh god restore your people again and it seems there's a resistance when we come to daniel 9 we see what the resistance was the prince of the kingdom of persia withstood the angel coming with an answer to prayer daniel was hindered an angel from god who had the answer was hindered who was the hinder it was the prince of the kingdom of persia persia was a natural kingdom a real country daniel was there in that empire at the heart of it and we see this wrestling against powers and principalities since i'm showing you where the wrestling it is it is in our prayer life of this church limerick city church do you realize we are wrestling against principalities they are trying to hinder our prayers do you hear me this morning do you realize we are in a vicious battle you know last night i went to prayer i went to prayer i know i'm wrestling against something 12 o'clock last night i went i can't go to bed until i get a victory in prayer there is a fight going on i am wrestling against more than feelings emotions and thoughts of the mind there is a spiritual warfare and you know what it's only one in the place of prayer there are spiritual weapons we're not wrestling against flesh and blood men systems organizations we are wrestling against principalities you see there was a power of darkness wanted to affect the kingdom of persia in other words affect its laws its regulations and there was a great warfare one saint in the city of babylon wrestling in prayer in the unseen realm the powers of darkness a principality is trying to stop the prayer but there is a

man of god wrestling in prayer for 21 day saints of god i'm talking about a real spiritual warfare do you know this church has encountered that you you may have said i i just don't know why i can get through i am so discouraged don't you realize there is a warfare behind all opposition when something isn't natural when some darkness comes on you and it's not natural i tell you you need to stand there was also a prince of greece that was yet going to come in the days ahead since we are seeing in daniel chapter 10 a real warfare that goes on behind the scenes in our generation in the church of our generation the church of the 21st century is wrestling against principalities princes of darkness that are trying to stop the prayers of the saints and you know what they want to affect the governments of america and of ireland and of the eu and of the un don't you know there's spirits of darkness that are coming to affect legislation and laws and they are against the church and there's going to be a church that knows how to wrestle face-to-face combat on our knees in prayer since i am going to war or aren't you going to war let us as a church go to war on our knees we're not fighting with words we're not fighting with natural weapons but we are fighting principalities of darkness it's very real the bible says in 1 timothy 2 and 1 i exhort you that first of all supplications prayers intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men for kings and for all that are in authority that we may lead a quiet and a peaceable life in all godliness and honesty there is a warfare against principalities it is very real saints and you know what we need to pray for kings and prime ministers and presidents and leaders and political parties this is where we fight since not on your facebook page not in just a demonstration the church doesn't as a citizen you can do that as a good citizen of any nation go and demonstrate but not as a church of jesus christ we fight on our knees we prevail in prayer we are against principalities i know the devil is affecting nations at this time our entire world is changing our entire world is going to go in a direction and yet the church doesn't realize we're wrestling against principalities not men not systems second of all against powers not only principalities but powers this word powers is the greek word exousia it means authority those given some right to rule now i want you to know that exousia is different than dunamis authority is different than power let me give you an example there was an official from the irish government came to a farmer just outside of limerick and he said to him i've got a letter here from the government and it says i've got authority and he says i've got authority from the government to say you've got to move that ball out of the field the farmer looked at it and he said well um i see you do have the authority now let's see if you have the power to move that ball out of that field many people claim authority who have no power to do what they're called to do i'm going to show you there are powers of darkness that we the church wrestle against they are called exousia they have authority they have rights to rule they have a legal right to come against the church and you know what if they're like an army of lawyers coming against the church they know every loophole they know every clause they know every commandment and they come against the church the devil knows the bible a lot better than you i can assure you they know their legal rights responsibilities how to wield power they are delegated authorities principalities have given authority to these powers it is a delegated authority they have been sent they serve their messengers in this work of darkness do you realize the church is wrestling against powers against authorities they actually know their rights they know there's an authority they come waving their authority since you better know your authority in christ you better know how to stand you better know how to stand against them and resist them in cautions 1 and 13 it says concerning christ who hath delivered us the act of deliverance means he snatched us he dragged us he rescued us from terrible danger if you see a child run out into the road you grab them you rescue them that's the word here he delivered us from the powers of darkness the exousia do you realize when you are saved and born again you were saved from the authority from the exousia from the legal right of the power of satan when you were in the world as a sinner the devil had rights over your life he could accuse you he could resist you he could lead you but you know what because you're born again you've been rescued from the authority you

know the devil come and tell you you deserve to be depressed you deserve to be guilty you deserve that i would come against you you deserve to be defeated in holiness the devil actually comes no one is legal right you haven't done this you've done this what sort of voices do you listen to are you listening to the exousia authorities of the kingdom of satan are they preaching to you from the bible telling you that they have rights in your life and that you should tolerate certain things in your family are they arguing you out of the blessing of heaven in your life you see we've been delivered from the power of darkness if you're born again washed in the blood that satan has no more power no authority no legal right you can be like that old irish farmer saying uh you work away if you can get that bull out of that field then work away but i assure you you may have a bit of paper you may threaten me with authority but you've got no power you can't enforce it do you know where all the power is with the lord jesus christ i have been delivered out of the kingdom of satan and have been translated into the kingdom of his dear son what a marvelous thing i've been translated i come out of under the authority of satan and i'm under the authority of jesus christ aren't you glad this morning that as we wrestle we have thoughts the legal lawyers of hell are coming telling you why you should remain defeated but i rise up and say no i've been delivered by the lord jesus christ i've been translated the word translated there means to change your position your place or your condition the greek word means to transfer from one place to another place to change your situation to change sides or to change country it also means to change your citizenship from being under the authority the influence and the impact of satan's kingdom and now i am a citizen of heaven you can't be under both authorities you can't be in both kingdoms i have been translated and made a citizen of the kingdom of heaven one who has changed countries and who has therefore come under a new entire system of authority and dominion it is the authority of christ and you know what he says i gave you authority over all the power of the devil in fact it's the aorist tense which means it was an immediate transfer not gradual it happened once your citizenship was changed you you were translated over it didn't take me months or years in one moment christ put me under his authority it is a different authority it is his dominion it is a different kingdom i am wrestling against you know when the accuser of the brethren comes against you this is who you're dealing with it's not flesh and blood it's not your own thoughts it's the accuser of the brethren and you are wrestling authority third of all says in verse 12 against the rulers of the darkness of this world we are wrestling against the rulers of the darkness of this world that term rulers in the greek is aeon it means world rulers or powers in other words those who exert strength to gain positions of power and authority it's talking about rulers who desire to dominate seize control those who want to have the command in the church over the church over your life to determine to steer this word was often used in the greek world for gods those with authority those you've got to serve that's how world rulers are there are demonic spirits that are world rulers that the local church has to wrestle against they are seeking to gain power to gain influence to give commands i'm never going to let the devil tell us what to do as a church there is no way these are world powers you know when i look at a man in the last century like he was a man who wanted to be a world ruler hitler wanted to be a world ruler napoleon wanted to be a world ruler don't you realize there was powers of darkness behind these men wanting to dominate to control to take over but also the local church wrestles against rulers of darkness these rulers of darkness want to exert an influence over the local church it says they're rulers of darkness that's the word scotus it means to operate in the shade in the shadow in obscurity i'm talking about the warfare of a local church of real christians there are there are spirit rulers of darkness and they want to operate in the realm of deception lies untruth lack of clarity where there's no light where it's not black and white where the scripture doesn't draw a line and say this is what the bible says do you know there's spiritual powers working to bring us into a realm of darkness in the church it is very shadowy obscure things aren't clear anymore do you know what you're in a dangerous position if that's where you are as a christian the bible is light the word of god is truth the preaching of the

word should be clear and you know what you have there you have the spiritual warfare to bring us into the darkness jesus even said in matthew 6 he said if your eye be evil your whole body will be filled with darkness if your eye isn't clear and looking in the right direction your entire body you know what the eye represents intelligence the mind if your mind your intelligence is looking in the wrong direction isn't clear you know what your whole body is filled with darkness if therefore the light that is in you is darkness how great is that darkness do you realize your mind if you are not renewed in your mind by the light of god the word of god you could dwell in a place of shadow of darkness half light half darkness the absence of clear light and as you dwell there you you don't know what is right and wrong anymore it says rulers of the darkness of this world that word world aeon means the contemporary age i define this as the term culture the word aeon means an age a period of time the age we live in a specific period a generation or what we call the contemporary you know every generation the young people rise up and they grow their hair in a different way they dress differently they act differently and they think nobody for 2 000 years every ever done this no every young generation when they come along say we're the new generation we're the contemporary generation nobody's ever dressed like us sure all of them are doing it all of them are doing it you know what that is that is this world it is the contemporary world paul constantly had to fight against the wisdom of this world now notice carefully here in corinthians he talks about the wisdom of this world it looks wise it's the wisdom of the greeks but it's of this world of this contemporary world and you know what the bible says here concerning the church that we wrestle against rulers of the darkness of this world in other words we're wrestling against spiritual forces that hide in the shadows that try to bring us into the shadows of deception where nothing is clear where nothing is right or wrong anymore and you know what that is the mark of this world of this contemporary generation and paul says the wisdom of the greeks it sounded wise it sounded right but you know what it was the wisdom of this world it was the contemporary cutting-edge wisdom of this hour and generation in the church in the church you know all through the church of our generation is the wisdom of this world and there's a spiritual power behind it it is darkness it's not the bible it's the wisdom of man it comes out of the heart of man it's got nothing to do with the clarity of god's word so many in the church have moved to the shadows where nothing is right or wrong nothing is clear it's a place of deception and they don't realize in the church you you are actually being affected by powers of darkness and you know what we as a church we need the armor of light on and we need to wrestle against this i'm not for abiding in the shadows i'm not for the wisdom of this world you see god's wisdom often looks foolish or old-fashioned or out of step with the world thank god i am out of step with this world we may seem out of step with the latest teachings in the church strategies kindness of great wisdom and yet it's not biblical you know what it is it is the shadows satan is the god of this world of aeon the god of this generation of this world culture he is behind the fashion trends he is behind all of the the media that is molding our world i want to warn you it's a serious battle we are but he also gives us a fourth thing here against spiritual wickedness in high places spiritual wickedness in high places it's the word pornea it means depravity malice mischief plots are sins it also means any type of inequity are damaged under someone else evil purposes and desires now this is the fourth thing so we have principalities we have powers we then third of all have rulers of darkness of this generation the latest things that come through you know all the teachings that come through like a wind of doctrine it's the devil in it paul the apostle writes about this to ephesians about the winds of doctrine we're also told in paul's letters about doctrines of demons are teaching demons in other words devils that teach they get inside the church like jezebel they begin to prophesy and yet it's a demonic power behind it since we are wrestling against all these things you may wonder why is it that we're in a fight why is it as a preacher i'm a fighter i'm not having a holiday i'm not having a picnic i'm here in this meeting preaching i'm i'm in a war i'm in a war for souls for some young lady who's caught up in lesbianism i i'm after a christian that's discouraged

this morning i want to help him and show him it's not a natural fight he's in i i'm here wrestling for the church of god to come out of the shadows and to stand in the brilliant light of the authority of scripture we are in a real intensive warfare but this last one against spiritual wickedness in high places since this word for spiritual wickedness is used six times in the new testament twice by christ four times by paul one time in connection with this spirit that the church wrestles with five of the other times it said the word wickedness is a sin of the heart of man it's wickedness in the flesh or that comes out of the heart of man jesus twice says the wickedness is in the heart of man he says in matthew 22 and 18 jesus perceived their wickedness and said why tempt ye me you hypocrites you know all the pharisees they come with smooth words asking questions trying to catch out in doctrine do you know what jesus said he said there's wickedness behind this you're trying to tempt me and you're hypocrites i assure you religion stinks to high heaven and jesus will expose it every time do you know when i see that wickedness in the church of motives of agendas of arguments i assure you there's a spiritual power very often behind it jesus also says in luke 11 and the lord said unto him now do you pharisees may cling the outside of the cup and the platter but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness you know what jesus is saying here he's saying you look good on outside you sound good you're very religious but see inside there's wickedness what is wickedness it is a sin of the flesh it will do damage to others it plans it plots it is against but it's hidden within the heart of man it's evil purposes and desires within the heart you know what paul is saying as a local church in ephesus you need to wrestle not against flesh and blood not against people you're in a fight there in that church i assure you you are wrestling against spiritual wickedness in high places don't think of high places think of high places when we think of high places we think it's very high out there somewhere do you know what the bible shows us about this wickedness it's in the heart of men it's in the heart of men and when that gets into the church we've got a problem when that gets into the pulpits of the church there is a spiritual influence behind it i'm showing you four realms of the enemy of methodologies since the latest trend going through the church isn't innocent it's not innocent wickedness in the heart of individuals it's not innocent false teachers are not innocent the warfare against our prayers is not innocent it's not just you the darkness that engulfs us at times there's something behind that and i'm telling you as the church of jesus christ we are in a real warfare for the for the very hearts of men praise god i've got more to say here this morning but i want you to be prepared for what i'm going to deal with next week i want you to be aware there is a warfare don't underestimate it don't make too much of the enemy but never underestimate that a lot of the things that come marching into the church that look like men women individuals that look like teachers are popular opinions or ideology or wisdom actually has a power of darkness behind it and you know what the only thing that reveals it is the word of god i'm not living in the shadows i'm living in the light i want my whole being to be filled with the word of god pray with me here this morning father we call on you we realize that we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities my god i pray waken us up to realize that we as a church are right in the midst of the fire we're in a spiritual warfare for truth and righteousness we want a holy church we want a soul-saving church we want a missionary church we want to pray in church and father i know through the preaching of the word and the prayers of the saints we are involved in this every time i preach there is a warfare every time we go to prayer there is a warfare every time we gather together we there's opposition but lord god thank you that we're standing thank you there's a victory this morning thank you we overcome by the precious blood of the lamb thank you i'm standing on the word of god i resist the devil and he must flee from me i overcome by the written scriptures this morning and lord god thank you there is authority you've given us authority we're in a new kingdom we have power over all the power of satan and lord god we are looking to reign and to rule with you when jesus comes hallelujah hallelujah god bless you here this morning

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