

INSIGHT

Angels surround us. They are all over: some protecting and helping us, others attempting to deceive us and lead us astray. Sometimes angels allow themselves to be seen, but most of the time, if not all the time, those who see angels don't even know what they've seen!

There are good angels and bad angels, but all angels share in common the following:

1- **They are not like people.** Jesus, as the son of God is superior to angels, but when He became a human he accepted a position inferior to the angels (*Heb.2:7*). Angels and us are completely different beings (*Col 1:16; Psalm 148*).

2- **They are not like God.** Angels cannot do what God does. They are servant beings made by the most high God, and none of them was made His equal. They have limitations, though they aren't nearly as limited as we are. They are not omnipotent. God can do anything (*Jeremiah 32:27*). Jesus, along with the Father and Spirit, created everything (*Col 1:16; Gen 1:1-2*). Neither angels nor man have that power. They are not omnipresent. God is everywhere (*Psalm 139*). He isn't limited to a specific location or a specific point in time. Angels, on the other hand, like the angel Gabriel, left the presence of God to visit Zechariah (*Luke 1:19*). He couldn't be on Heaven and on Earth simultaneously. Angels can even be delayed in their journey to Earth to answer our prayers! (See *Daniel 10*) No angel has the power to transcend space and time like God can.

3- **They cannot procreate.** God gave humans the ability to procreate (*Gen 1:28*). Angels apparently don't have the ability to have "baby" angels. They were created when God, Jesus and the Spirit made them (*John 1:3; Col 1:16*). From what Jesus shared with a Sadducee about the next life in *Mark 12:25* and *Matt 22:30*, we get the idea that in Heaven there is no such thing as procreation. There is no marriage—no sexual union—no different sexes!

4- **What angels look like.** Angels apparently can appear to humans in any form they wish. Invisible, visible, disguised or in all their glory. One thing is consistent, though. When angels have appeared undisguised to people in the Bible, the experience has been somewhat terrifying for the human! (See *Daniel 10:7-11; Rev 1:10ff*) And these are the good angels!

The Hebrew writer (*Heb 13:2*) therefore encourages us with these words:

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

Spiritual Warfare: Seeing the Unseen Forces at Work Against Us...

Key Text: **Ephesians 6:11-12**

"Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Theme:

The battle we fight in this world is a battle against the power of Satan, who is the prince of this world (*1 John 5:19; John 14:30*). He has established authorities and dominions throughout the Earth to battle against us. He doesn't own the planet, but he controls a lot of the action in it. Particularly the actions designed to lead people away from God, to hurt people, and to hurt God. Our weapons against this sort of war have to be of the spiritual kind, for the fleshly ones hold no promise against evil.

Application:

Here are some practical suggestions:

1. **Don't rely on yourself!** Satan is using any means necessary in his domain (this world) to try and deceive you. Always seek advice and involve yourself with the church.

2. **Don't be ignorant!** Don't think that because you know the Scriptures you are immune to Satan's schemes. Don't be futile in your thinking (thinking about vain things—unproductive). Be sure you are not lacking in God's Wisdom, which is pure and comes from the Scriptures. (**James 3:17**)

3. **Remember God is on your side!** Despite all the troubles you go through remember that nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus (*Rom 8:37-39*)! We are more than conquerors!

May the Lord richly bless you!

SERMON OUTLINE

Spiritual Warfare: *Seeing the Unseen*

I. Last Week: Satan's master Plan

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Ephesians 6:11

1. It is a battle of the heart and of the mind.
2. It is deception vs. truth
3. Learn to delight in Heavenly things!

II. Forces at Work Against Us

A. The Devil is real and He's out to get you!

1. *Ezekiel 28:12-17*
 - a. He was the most beautiful angel created.
 - b. He was the captain of the angels.

B. His pride led him to his fall.

1. He apparently was very powerful; many other angels followed him. *Mat 25:41*
 - a. Hell was originally prepared for the Devil and his angels!
 - b. When Satan sinned he was cast down to Earth with his angels. *Jude 6; 2 Pet 2:4*
2. Now he rules the world. *1 John 5:19*
 - a. He doesn't own it! *Psalms 24:1*
 - b. But he controls a lot of it. *Eph 6:11-12*
3. He also rules the air. *Eph 2:2*
 - a. The air is the atmosphere, the first heaven.
 - b. The third Heaven is God's realm. *2 Co 12:2f*

C. His angels do his bidding! *Eph 6:12*

1. There are angels assigned to different geographical areas. *Dan 10:12-13; 20-21*
2. They are the "eyes" and "ears" of Satan.
3. They carry out the work of the devil himself.

D. The power of the devil. This week's Quiet Times

will focus on the particular powers the devil can use to deceive you and entice you. Don't miss them!

III. JESUS WILL RULE!!!

- A. Jesus is sovereign! *Mat 28:18*
- B. Everything will be subject to Him at a certain time. *1 Co 15:24-27*
- C. At present, we do not see everything subject to Jesus even though He has all authority. *Heb 2:8-9*
- D. And at present, even though you are exposed to the powers of this dark world, you are

conquerors through Jesus! *Romans 8:37-39*

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Warm-up:

Bring the drawing and analogies of the armor of God you drew up from last Thursday's Quiet Times. We will be using it for Wednesday's class.

See To It

Ephesians 6:11-18

- 1- What is the purpose of armor? Physically and Spiritually.
- 2- How did you describe what the *belt of truth* is? How is it an effective piece of armor? How did you rate on wearing your *belt of truth*?
- 3- How did you describe the *breastplate of righteousness*? How is it an effective piece of armor? How did you rate on wearing your *breastplate of righteousness*?
- 4- How does the *shield of faith* protect you? How do we wear this shield? How do you rate on this?
- 5- What is the *helmet of salvation* for? What is a helmet used for? How is salvation analogous to wearing a helmet?
- 6- What is the only *defensive* piece of armor described in this passage? What is it used for? Is it a dangerous piece (*Heb 4:12*)? Are you training to be able to use it well? Is there any other piece you can use for your defense?
- 7- How does a soldier communicate with his commanding general on the battle field? How do we communicate with our commanding general? How do you rate on this important part of your armor of God?

Getting To It:

Brothers and sisters, WE ARE IN A WAR! Would you venture into an active battlefield without your armor and defense weapon? Would you venture into enemy territory without the skills to fight the enemy with your weapon? Would you dare not to take a communication device with you to keep in touch with your commanding officer? He will help you by alerting you

to the schemes of the enemy and guiding you safely home!