

**“Pushing Back the Darkness”**  
*Spiritual Weapons for a Spiritual War*

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*Ephesians 6:10-20*

**I. Introduction –**

The experience of 9/11 teaches us that we can be at war and not realize it.

**II. In order to experience victory over our enemy, we must understand the nature of the war and our enemy. (Eph. 6:10-12)**

**A. We are in a spiritual war.**

**B. Our struggle is with the Devil and the spiritual forces of evil that scheme against us.**

1. Schemes of the Devil

2. List three specific ways in which Satan schemes against you:

a)

b)

c)

**III. In order to experience victory over our enemy, we must prepare ourselves for battle, resist the enemy, and stand firm against him. (Eph. 6:13-17)**

**A. We must take up the full armor of God.**

1. The armor belongs to and comes from God.

2. We are to take up the FULL armor of God.

a) *We must gird our loins with truth.*

b) *We must put on the breastplate of righteousness.*

c) *We must shod our feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.*

d) *We must take up the shield of faith.*

e) *We must take up the helmet of salvation.*

f) *We must take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.*

**B. We must resist the Devil.**

**C. We must stand firm against the Devil.**

**IV. In order to experience victory over our enemy, we must go on the offense against the enemy. (Eph. 6:18-20)**

- A. We go on offense against the enemy through wielding the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.
- B. We go on offense against the enemy through consistent, intense, strategic prayer.
- C. We go on offense against the enemy by fighting in the strength of God's might.

**V. Conclusion –**

- A. How prepared for the battle are you? Take time to rate yourself in the following areas (circle your answer):

- 1. In the past week I was cognizant of spiritual attacks/schemes of the enemy:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
None of the Time			Some of the Time				Much of the Time		

- 2. I am confident of my salvation and consider myself to be well grounded in the knowledge of God's Word (the Scriptures):

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Strongly Disagree			Somewhat Agree				Strongly Agree		

- 3. My prayers and prayer life can be described as consistent, intense, and strategic:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Strongly Disagree			Somewhat Agree				Strongly Agree		

- B. In light of my answers above, I commit myself to (please fill in ways in which you intend to address areas of needed development) ...