





Wrestling Against and Defeating The Ambushes of the Enemy

- Eph. 6:11-12-13 – wrestling against demonic ambushes
“...so you will be able to **stand firm** against the **ambushes** of the devil. For our **wrestling** is **not against flesh and blood**, but against principalities and authorities, against the rulers of this dark world, **against the spiritual entities of evil in the spiritual realm.**”
- Eph. 6:11—*methodia* “wiles/schemes” – snares/traps-- to lie in wait to trick and deceive (demonic ambush)
- Eph. 6:12-- “*kosmokratos*”—“world-rulers” (of this darkness)— in Greek mythology, “Kratos” was the god of physical strength, force, domination through physical power

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- **2 Cor. 2:10-11** –**know** the typical demonic **strategies**, like unforgiveness
 - **2 Cor. 2:11**—**noema** – strategies (carefully thought-out, strategically laid traps) cunning strategies/designs well-planned in advance)

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- **1 Peter 5:8-9** – need for “**sobriety and vigilance**” – constant necessary attitudes in order to effectively **resist** the enemy’s attacks/**prowling**
 - warfare involves **suffering**



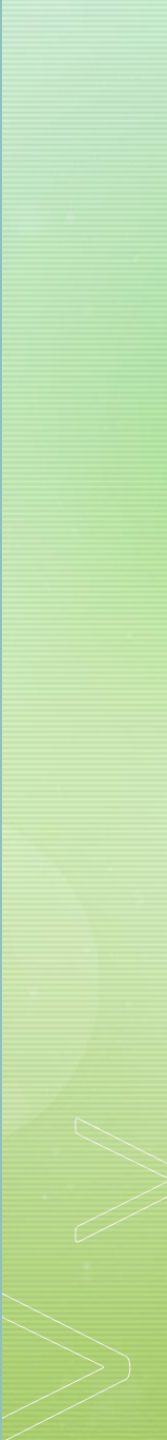
Spiritual Warfare Attitudes

- “**Be sober**” – be unintoxicated, clear-minded, fully aware
- “**Be vigilant**” – literal meaning—to be awake; spiritual meaning—to be on the lookout, watching out for attack like a sentry/watchman on duty
- **Alertness Big in the NT:** Jesus: Matt. 26:41—“Keep watching and praying so you may not enter into temptation” – Paul-- Col. 4:2—Stay alert in prayer...” Paul—1 Co. 16:13—“Stay alert, stand firm...” Paul: 1 Thess. 5:6-8—“Therefore let us not sleep, but let us ***be alert and be sober...*** putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.”



Resisting Produces Suffering/Hard Stuff

“Sufferings” (*pathema*) in us because we must “wrestle” (resist) against demonic forces both externally (circumstantial attack and suffering—calamity, misfortune, accidents) and internally (attack in our souls and suffering—thoughts, feelings, decisions)




■ **Spiritual Warfare is Wrestling (Eph. 6:12)**

- the nature of Greco-Roman wrestling
- standing wins; the need to “stand” and “remain standing”
- three times throwing the enemy wins the contest

Example: Jesus in the wilderness – Matt. 4:1-11:

Jesus wrestled against the devil-- 3 temptations; 3 defeats of the enemy; use of the sword of the Spirit, the word of God; devil “flees”

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- **Eph. 6:11—"The Ambushes by the Devil"**—Suddenlies (lighting-quick assaults) from the enemy—external and Internal (out of the blue!)
 - **External ambushes:** circumstantial (specifics)
 - **Internal ambushes:** in our souls—James 3:15 –"This wisdom (this intrusion of thoughts) is not that which comes down from above (i.e. from the Spirit) but is earthly, natural, demonic... (specifics)
 - **Demonic suddenlies pull us** to act in the wrong direction—if our actions produce sin, the enemy wins: key: refuse to give in to sin!

How to Prepare & Defeat Demonic Ambushes

1. Be **sober**, aware of wartime footing, not intoxicated
2. Be **on the alert** (opposite: asleep), able to detect an attack when it occurs, or even before it occurs (to pre-empt it)
3. **Resist**, actively “**stand against**,” using scripture (sword) and “NO in Jesus’ name) (wrestle—resist the enemy three times?)

1 Sam. 17:45, 47—“You **come against** me with sword and spear and javelin, but I **come against/ stand against** you in the name of the Lord...for the battle is the Lord’s.”

4. **Attack power fades** – “and he will flee from you” **Victory!**