

# WRESTLING WITH DARKNESS



Seems like Christians are doing a lot of wrestling these days.

Wrestling against pagan laws.

Wrestling against Christians who aren't fighting against those laws.

Wrestling on behalf of Israel.

Wrestling for our constitutional rights.

Sounds legitimate.

Until we check in with the Apostle Paul, who tells us where the real wrestling happens.

***For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.***

We need to understand who the enemy is and where the real battle is taking place.

If we're busy fighting against flesh and blood, while the real battle is with the principalities and powers of darkness, we are not only fighting the wrong war, we are being conquered by those powers of Darkness!

***Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.***

***Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace.***

When we fight against flesh and blood our feet are never shod with the gospel of peace!

The breastplate of righteousness also disappears when we get tangled up in human conflict.

***Besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.***

***And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.***

***Ephesians 6***



Bottom line:

If our Christian wrestling is against flesh and blood, the Powers of Darkness are in control.

If we wear the armor of God as we strive against the Powers of Darkness, we will win the war that counts.

Satan offered Jesus the same short-cut to the kind of power many Christians are pursuing today.

***And the devil took him up, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory; for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will.***

***If you, then, will worship me, it shall all be yours."***

***And Jesus answered him, "It is written, `You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'"***

***Luke 4***

A deadly war is going on in which every follower of Jesus is involved whether we like it or not.

This war is not taking place in Washington or London or Ottawa or Jerusalem.

This war is raging at the door of our hearts.

It is a war between Darkness and Light.

Between Truth and the Lie.

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are bringing the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet to their final destination.

In this battle we need the armor of God---which does not mix with guns, money or political influence.

***For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.***

Lord, give us the wisdom to discern!

*Prayer: Lord I admit when thinking about all that's wrong with this world, I spend a great deal of time stewing over who is wrong and what should be done about it. I am wrestling with flesh and blood and am overwhelmed by disappointment and despair because there is no worldly fix to end oppression and wickedness. Help me to put down swords that I have no right to carry and rescue me from the need to control the world. Forgive me for these battles I fight that place a barrier between me and you and that are robbing me of the life and joy that are found in your presence. Without your covering I am wanting and naked. Clothe me so I can withstand the evil that permeates this world. Shod my feet with your peace, cover my heart with your righteousness, give me the weapons to fight the true battle. And yes give me the wisdom to discern, open my mind to who the real enemy is. And finally, Lord Jesus, wrap me in your arms where darkness cannot harm me, where there is no fear and where I can rise victorious.MM*



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Art: All art from Chris Powers at the Full of Eyes website. The first and last piece are stills from an animation called "The End of Night" that I stumbled into after writing the prayer. <https://www.fullofeyes.com/project/the-end-of-night-an-animation/>

## Maranatha Mirror Messages

[mmirror.net](http://mmirror.net)

[maranathamirror18@gmail.com](mailto:maranathamirror18@gmail.com)

586-530-6983

