

“For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.”

Ephesians 6:12 NLT

lectio // Ephesians 6:10-18

So this is Paul's strategy to NOT hate the people he's supposed to love and lead to Christ. Because hating people is no way to win friends and influence people right? Paul must have had an amazing filter to sift all of the nonsense, all the legalism and all of the political maneuvers he had to deal with. It's not them, it's the unseen forces, the evil rules and authorities behind the **idiots**, I mean the government or haughty-heads he dealt with. He had to see past their faults and frailties to love them and “be” Jesus to them. So that means the weapons Paul writes about are not to be “used” against the humans that beat him, belittled him or battled against him - his human forces had forces beyond them yanking their chain. I think we've tried to weaponize the God given tools toward people and not the unseen, mighty forces that drive evil. So what happens when we use truth and the body armor of God's righteousness or shoes of peace that comes from the Good News, or the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil, or salvation as your helmet and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God against carnal humans? We should quit using godly weapons against humans and use them for who they were intended!

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Dad,

If I'm reading this right, it means I should be doing a lot - A LOT - more fighting in prayer than taking on people I find difficult. These are spiritual weapons that I should wield in the spirit! I don't know if humans respond well to spiritual weaponry. I have some folks right now who are really bothering me. I'm going to practice this principle today and see what happens.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root