



STRUGGLING WITH EVIL

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. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:11-13 NIV.

When the events of October 7th came to light about the attacks of Hamas on Israel the world was stunned by a brutality not seen since the Nazis Holocaust of World War II. We are accustomed to war but this in-your-face evil shocks us to our core as it should. In my 30 plus years of ministry I have heard sermons and lessons on sin but I can't recall ever hearing a presentation on evil. Yet the apostle Paul in Ephesians 6:11-13 makes it clear that God's people should be fully aware of the forces against us in a cosmic spiritual battle.

God's people cannot become complacent in our struggle against evil. The Devil is an excellent strategist!

This came home to me recently when I was called upon as a CT State Police chaplain to participate in a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) after a fatal auto accident and, later, an Officer Involved Shooting. My role as chaplain was to discuss how these tragic events contributed to each responder's spiritual injury, an assault on one's beliefs, values, and sense of well-being. What occurred to me in these CISDs was that our officers were confronted with an evil situation which threatened their beliefs or properly their faith.

One cannot overemphasize the insidious nature of evil which is what Paul was warning the Ephesian Christians and future generations of believers. The only way to withstand this threat is to put on the full armor of God as the only effective defense. In today's military environment it is called spiritual resiliency.

(cont.) →



IN MEMORIAM

Bonnie Lipford

Concord Street Church of Christ, Orlando FL
passed Feb 5, 2024. She and husband Chuck Lipford were one of the first Key Couples for AMEN in the early 1970s. After retiring as a Navy pilot Chuck preached at the Navy Recruit Command in Orlando for 22 years.

William Earl Seal

Lake Highlands Church of Christ, Dallas TX
passed Dec 22, 2023. Earl was one of the early AMEN missionaries traveling throughout Europe preaching the Gospel and recruiting for the White's Ferry Road School of Preaching. He was instrumental encouraging military Christians and many went on to become preachers.

MILITARY MINISTRY RESOURCES



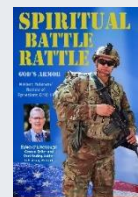
God's Word for Warriors

'Intersection on Military and Civilian Culture'.
(615) 964.7450

--or--

www.godswordforwarriors.com

Spiritual Battle Rattle: God's Armor



Spiritually Wounded Warriors: An Army of One Another

Both books available on Amazon or contact Ed Linebaugh (USA Ret.) directly at more@minister.com

Struggling With Evil (cont.)

What makes military ministry different from other church programs is that our uniformed personnel are at the forefront of encountering evil. They train for conflict and run towards crisis. Crucial to their training is to be fully armored up, to know how to use one's Personal Protective Equipment, or PPE, to survive. Paul says religion is the only way to counter evil derived from the heavenly powers opposed to God's will. Listen to his language, "...belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, 'shoes' fitted by gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and sword of the Spirit."

The role of religion is to bring a person to spiritual maturity. Hebrews 5:12, 6:1-3 is clear, "In fact though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again....Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgement." The events of October 7th remind us that God's people cannot become complacent in our struggle against evil. The Devil is an excellent strategist!


Let us heed the words of 2 Chronicles 20:15, "Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's".


 **Help the Ministry** by donating monthly or one-time to provide workshops, books, and travel to promote the spiritual wellbeing of our Servicemen and women.

www.amenministry.org (Donation Tab)
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Contact Us


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 AMENMINISTRY of the churches of Christ

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Key News

Joint Base Langley-Eustis – My wife,

Keri and I have been active members at Denbigh Church of Christ in Newport News, VA.



(www.denbigh.org)

We are located a couple miles outside Joint Base Langley-Eustis with many members (retired or active) in the Air Force, Army Navy, or Coast Guard. We have been partners with AMEN Ministry for a number of years, providing connections with new recruits as they attend AIT following basic training. We welcome these young men and women recruits to possibly their first "church home" away from parents since graduating high school.

Being fresh out of basic training has some hurdles for these men and women to go through before they can receive a pass to go off base and worship with us. Our prayer is always that this happens in a timely manner, and they connect with us before they go off to their first duty station.

We currently offer:

- Sunday morning in-person worship.
- Wednesday night Bible classes.
- Men's group meets every other Monday.
- Women's group meets on Tuesday and Saturday mornings.

--Roger Brown (Associate Minister)

CARE PACKAGES

Spring Brook Hills Church of Christ (Dewitt, MI) sends morale packages to members of the Church from Michigan area. Contact Jeff Murray with names & addresses at (517) 945.2155 or fop70@aol.com.

