



## **GROWING – The Spiritual Battle 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020 Brian Greenaway**

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

### **Connect:**

*“On the 3rd of September 1939 the then British Prime Minister went live on air and read this speech:*

*“I am speaking to you from the cabinet room at 10 Downing Street. This morning the British ambassador in Berlin handed the German government a final note stating that unless we heard from them by 11 o'clock that they were prepared at once to withdraw their troops from Poland, a state of war would exist between us. I have to tell you now that no such undertaking has been received, and that consequently this country is at war with Germany.”*

*8 mins later the air raid sirens went off in London.*

*Nobody had any choice. They could not decide to take part; they were at war.*

*On Saturday 25th November 1944 at around 12:30pm my grandmother had heard that there were some saucepans for sale in Woolworths in Lewisham High St. Rare in wartime – metal. So, she got on her bike and off she went, as she approached the town centre a massive explosion hit the town and she was thrown from her bike, unscathed but shaken. A V2 rocket, fired somewhere in mainland Europe, destroyed Woolworths, the coop leaving 168 dead and 122 injured. A few minutes harder cycling would have meant that I would not be here today.”*

As told by Pastor Brian Greenaway during his sermon.

### **Engage:**

1. Read and discuss [Ephesians 6:10-12](#)
2. Read and discuss [2 Corinthians 10:3-4](#)

**“We see physical realm.**

**But we also live in a spiritual realm. Whilst every believer will agree with this, many do not live by that truth.**

**There is a spiritual realm which affects our everyday lives. And we, by our actions, also affect the spiritual realm.”**

Pastor Brian Greenaway

- Not only do we live in a spiritual realm but the Bible describes it as a spiritual battle. When you become a Christian engagement in the spiritual realm is not an option. But we are in need of revelation, like when Elisha prayed for his servant in [2 Kings 6](#).

### **Framework:**

3. In earlier preaches Pastor Brian has referred to Paul and Jesus speaking about the ruler or god of this world. ([John 12, 14](#) and [16, 2 Corinthians 4:4](#))

#### **Where Jesus is:**

[Ephesians 1:20-22](#) tells us that Jesus is ‘far above all principality and power and might and dominion’

#### **Where we are:**

Read [Ephesians 2:4-7](#)

Read [Ephesians 3:8-12](#)

Although we don’t see it, the truth is that to the spiritual realm God has done something very public, which the world does not see. Our relationship with Him gives us authority – He has disarmed principalities and powers – He has made a public spectacle of them.

**“But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ’s triumphal procession. Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume.”**

2 Corinthians 2:14

### **We need two things to be the winner:**

- A realisation of who we are in Christ

- A determination to be obedient and stay under authority
4. Do you look for people to blame when things go wrong in your life?
  5. Do you know Satan's tricks and schemes?
  6. Do you easily fall for his tricks and schemes?
  7. Know your enemy:
    - If we want to ensure we are not tricked by Satan, we need to know his schemes - Read [2 Corinthians 2:11](#). Satan cannot stop you being saved, he will seek to contain you, often by fear. Satan's character is described in the Bible as, a deceiver, a causer of doubt in God, a liar, a tempter and, if he can, a devourer.

**“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.”**

C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters

8. Are you building on Biblical teachings<sup>1</sup> or just the experience of others<sup>2</sup>?
  - If you answered 1, how are you doing this?
  - If you answered 2, how can you begin to build on Biblical teachings instead?
- Old Testament battles were not just physical, but spiritual. All other societies were demonic and out to destroy people of God. There were spiritual aspects to those battles; from the escape from Egypt to the conquering of the Land.
9. Going back to Ephesians 6:11; why does Paul use the word “stand”? What does it mean?
10. One of the aspects of Ephesians is this idea of “putting off” the old man, and “putting on” the new man.
 

In Ephesians 6:10, the idea is to be strong or to make strong, with the idea of clothing oneself with strength; just as you would put on a garment. So, the concept is to receive strength; its passive.
11. Why is it strange that the concept is passive?
12. What could this concept of ‘passiveness’ be translated into?
  - When we look at these words in Ephesians 6, we could be tempted to think that we need to summon our best efforts and to draw up our strength from within. But it is not about self-effort - ‘Be strengthened’ is about dependency.

**“Our enemy is not completely subdued, the effects of the resurrection are that Jesus is the victor, but we are not in the endgame yet. There is still work to be done, and as Satan’s forces are in retreat before the kingdom of God we have to be engaged.”**

Pastor Brian Greenaway

13. We are fighting a holy war – and the imagery in Ephesians 6 comes from [Isaiah 59:17-19](#), where God Himself dons His armour to go out to war. Isaiah takes us through salvation history, right through the birth, crucifixion, resurrection of Jesus. Then it continues through the future (our future) and the victorious war of the Messiah on the forces of Satan.
14. Do you believe that you are on the winning side?
15. Are you truly prepared to fight the battles that need to be fought?

### **Prayer:**

“Heavenly Father, please help me to stand strong in you and your spirit. Help me recognise that although I am in a spiritual war, I am not alone in this war. Thank you that I am on the winning side, that I face a real but defeated foe. Thank you, Lord, that I don’t need to fear because I am in a living relationship with you. In Jesus Name Amen.”