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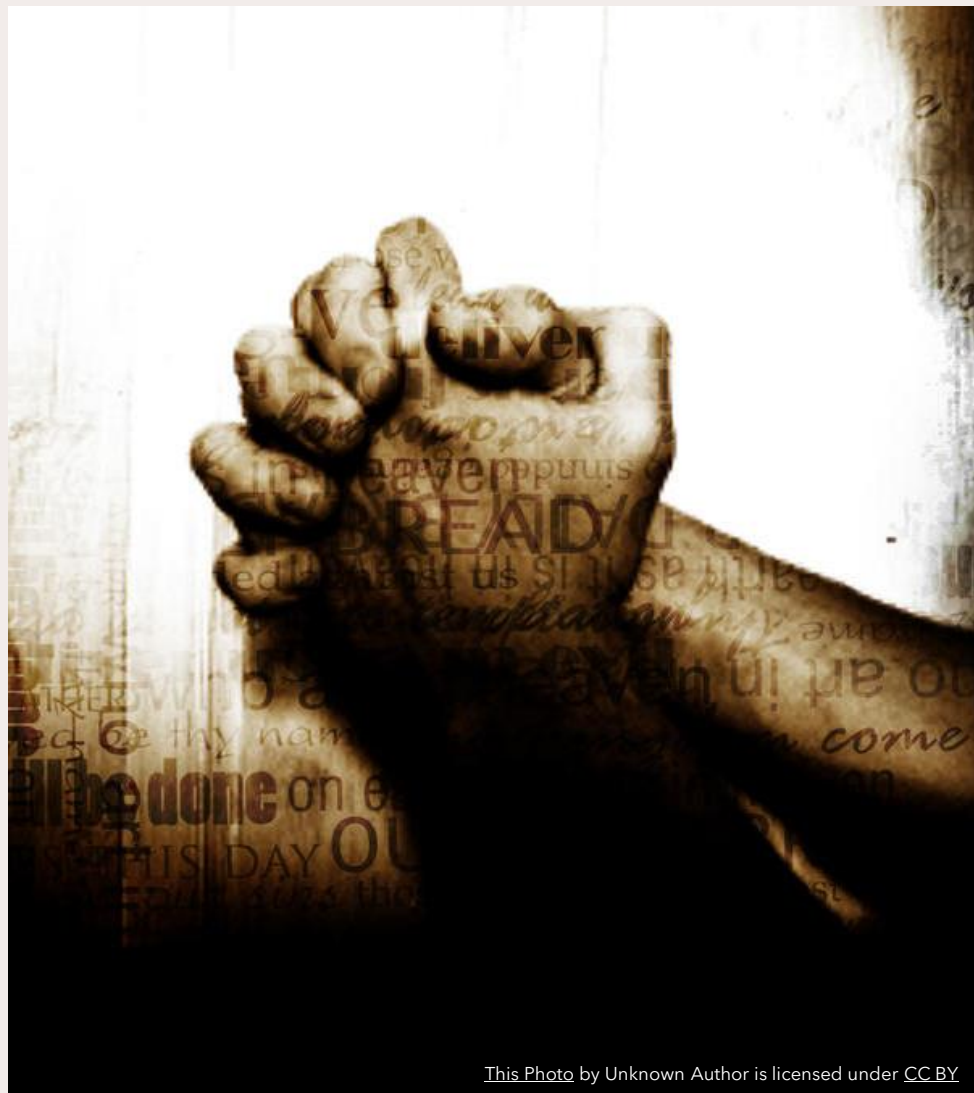
A Study of the Book of Ephesians Life lived in the Spirit

Chapter 6 Stand Firm!



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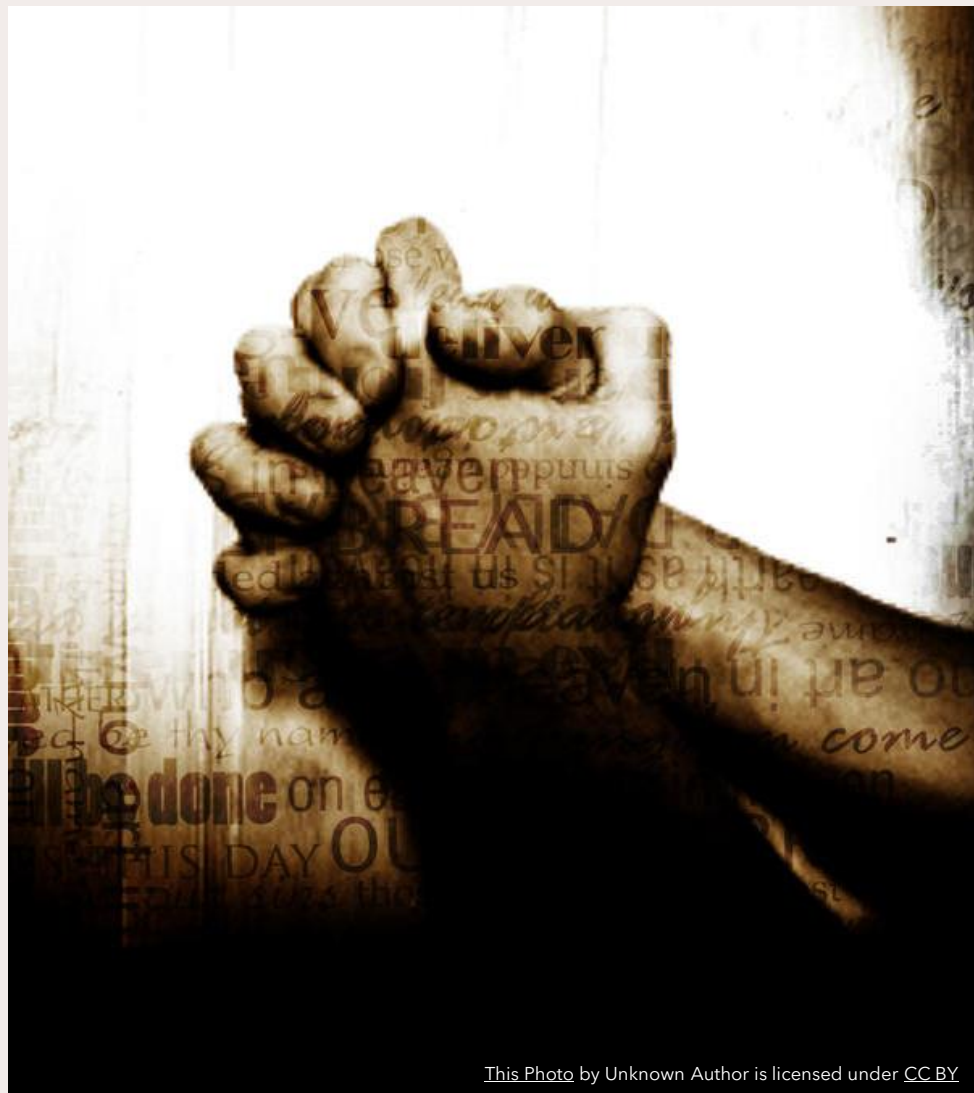
We close out our journey in Ephesians by staying practical, as we look at the Spirit-filled Market place, and then the practical aspects of Spiritual Warfare to include its use, and a clear picture of the mission in which we are to engage.



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IV. Working as Spirit-filled people in the Marketplace.

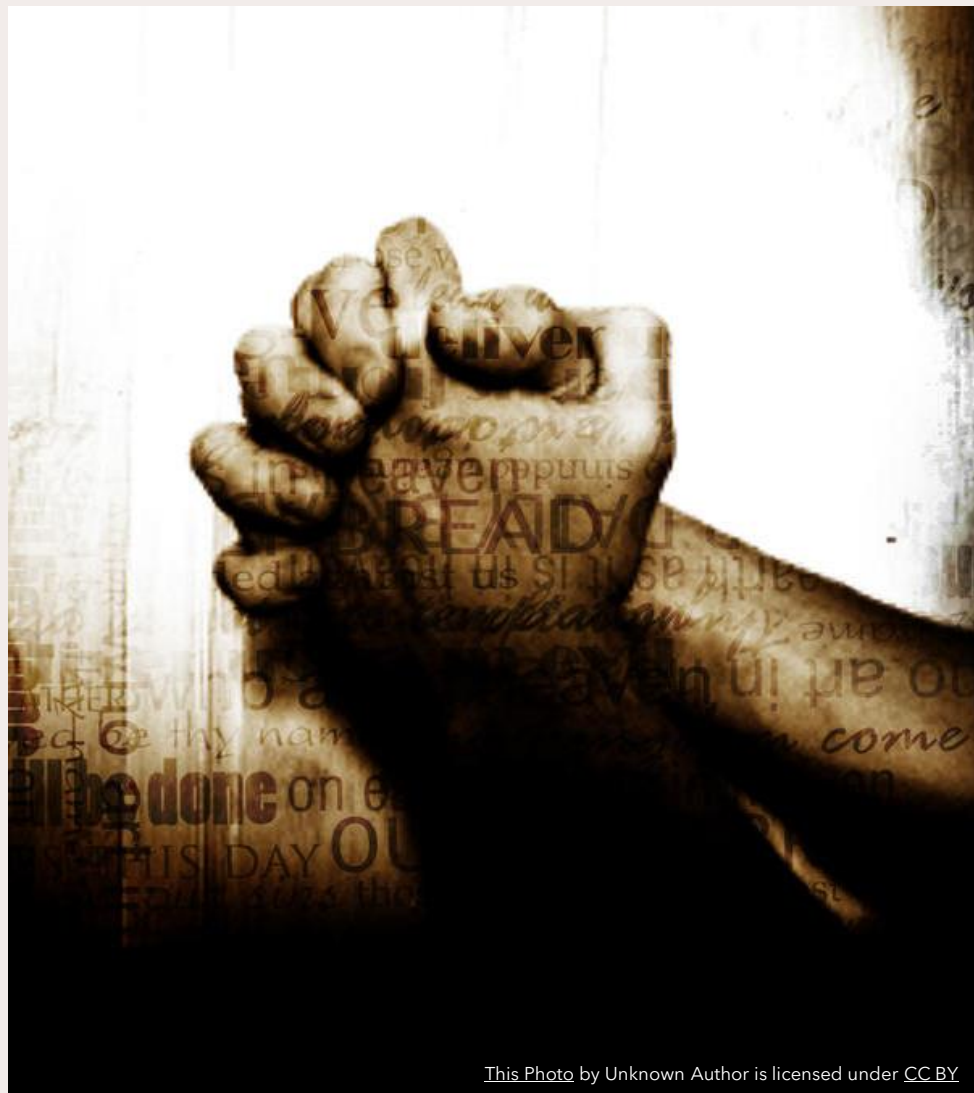
Ephesians 6:5-8 “Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.”



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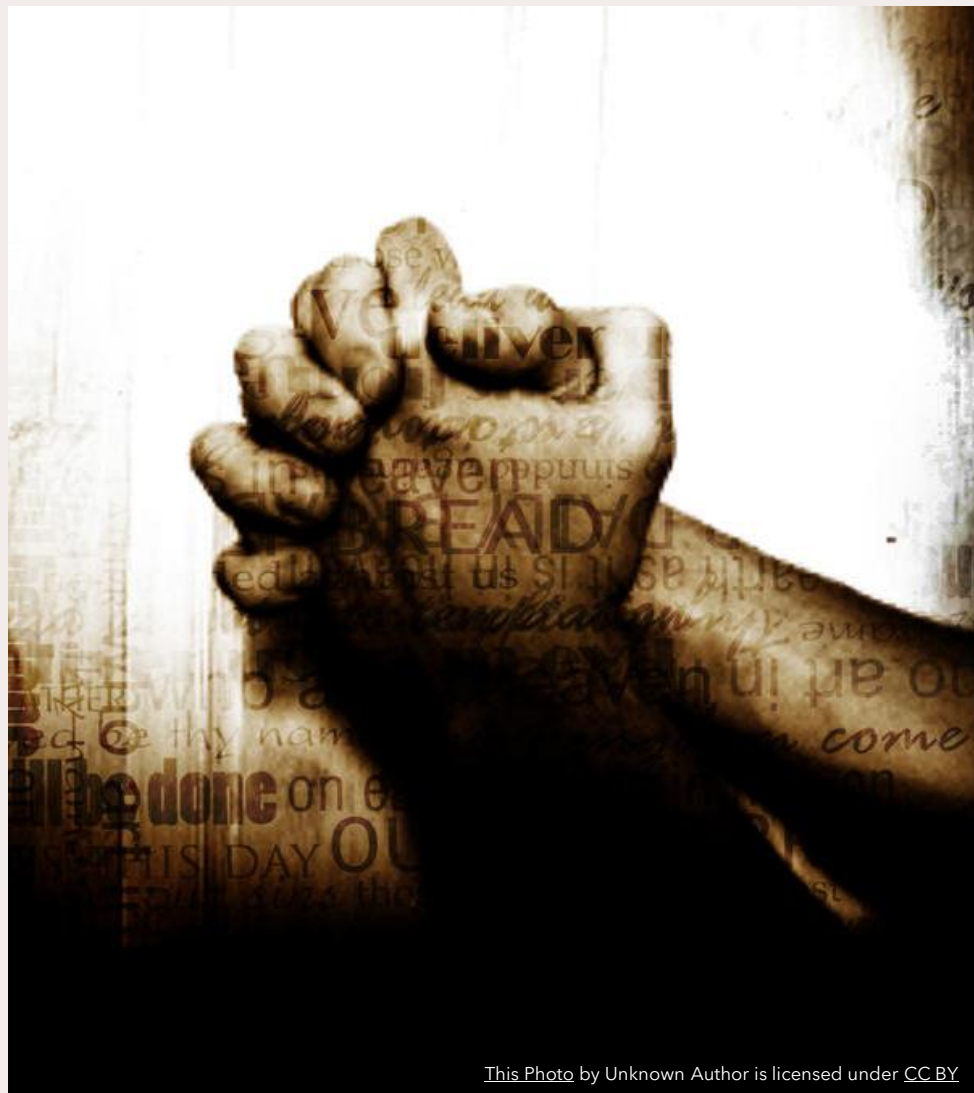
- The Greek word for “bondservants,” is “dulos.”
- Once again, “dulos,” is the Greek word for “slave.”



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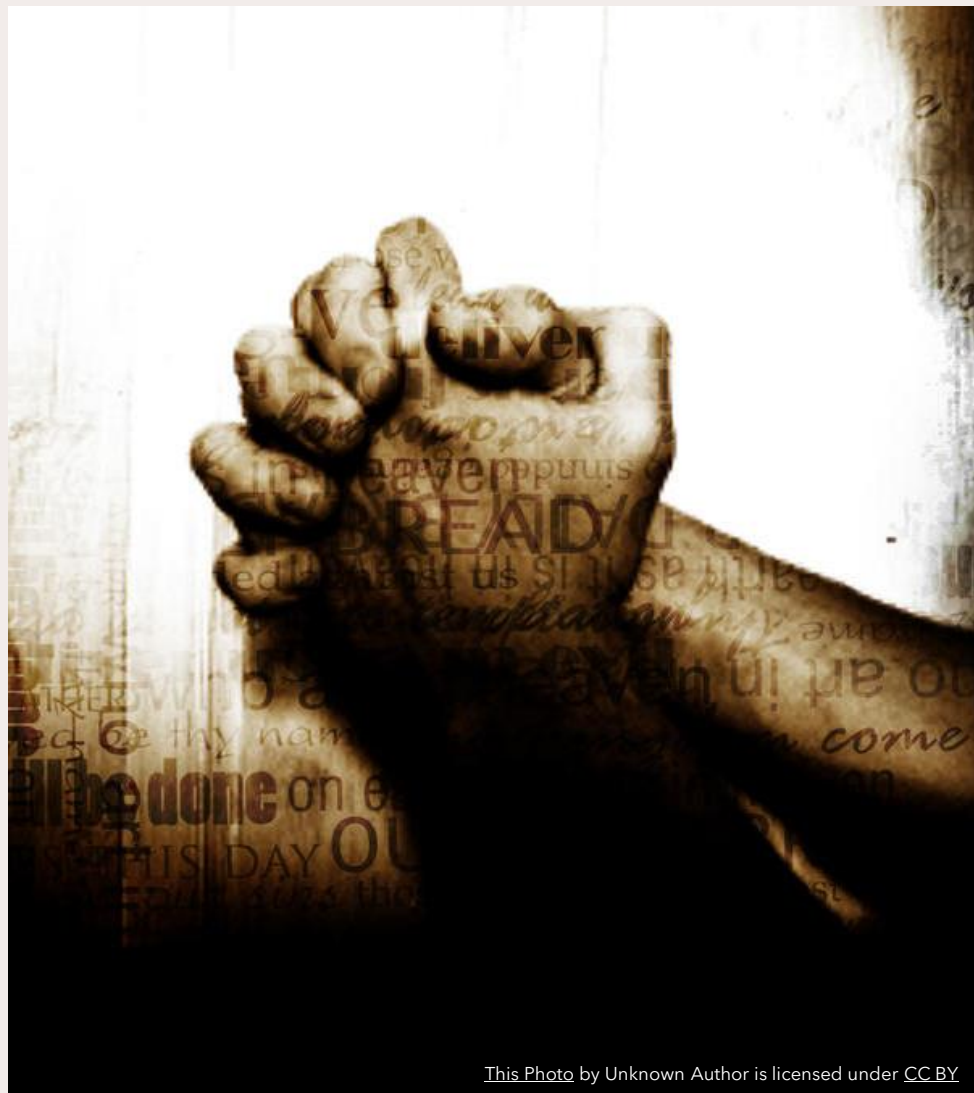
- I understand the cultural sensitivities involving this word.
- Even so, it is important that we put this in the context of our lesson today.
- Paul is addressing a culture where the owning of slaves was engaged in, even by middle-income people.



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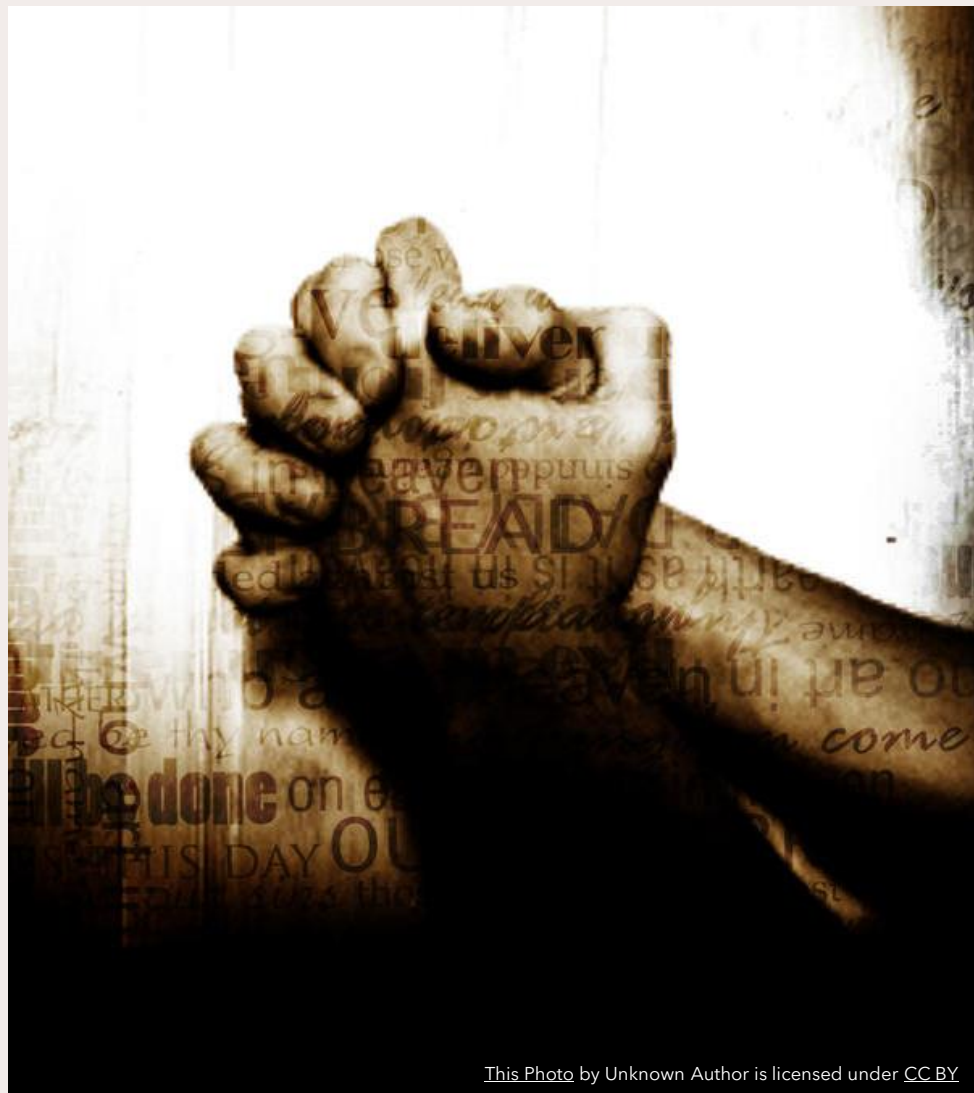
- Thankfully, we have ended the immoral and degrading practice of human beings owning human beings in this country.
- This, however, is not a practice ended the world over.
- What is more, there are NO people groups that have not been enslaved at some point in their history.



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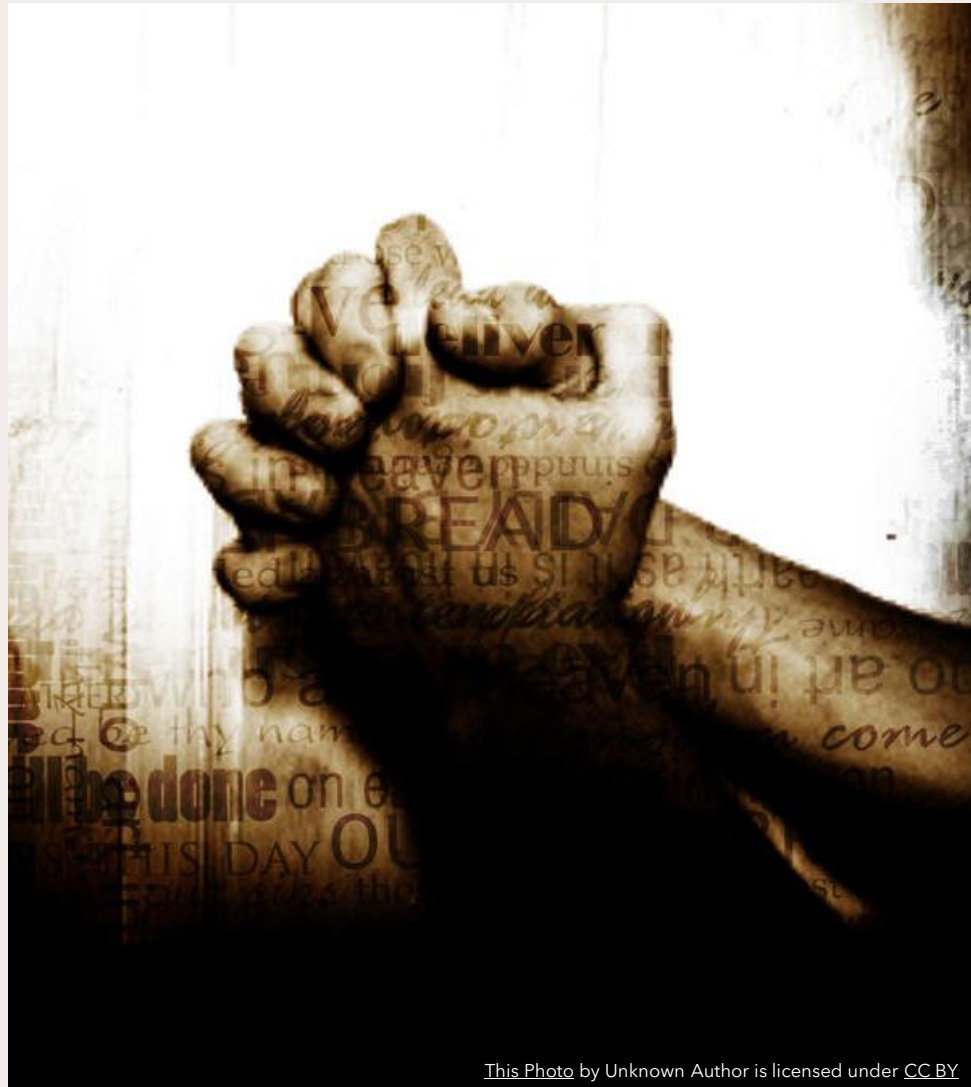
- A conquered people being taken into slavery was a very common practice.
- Even the Chosen People where enslaved for almost 400 years by the Egyptians.



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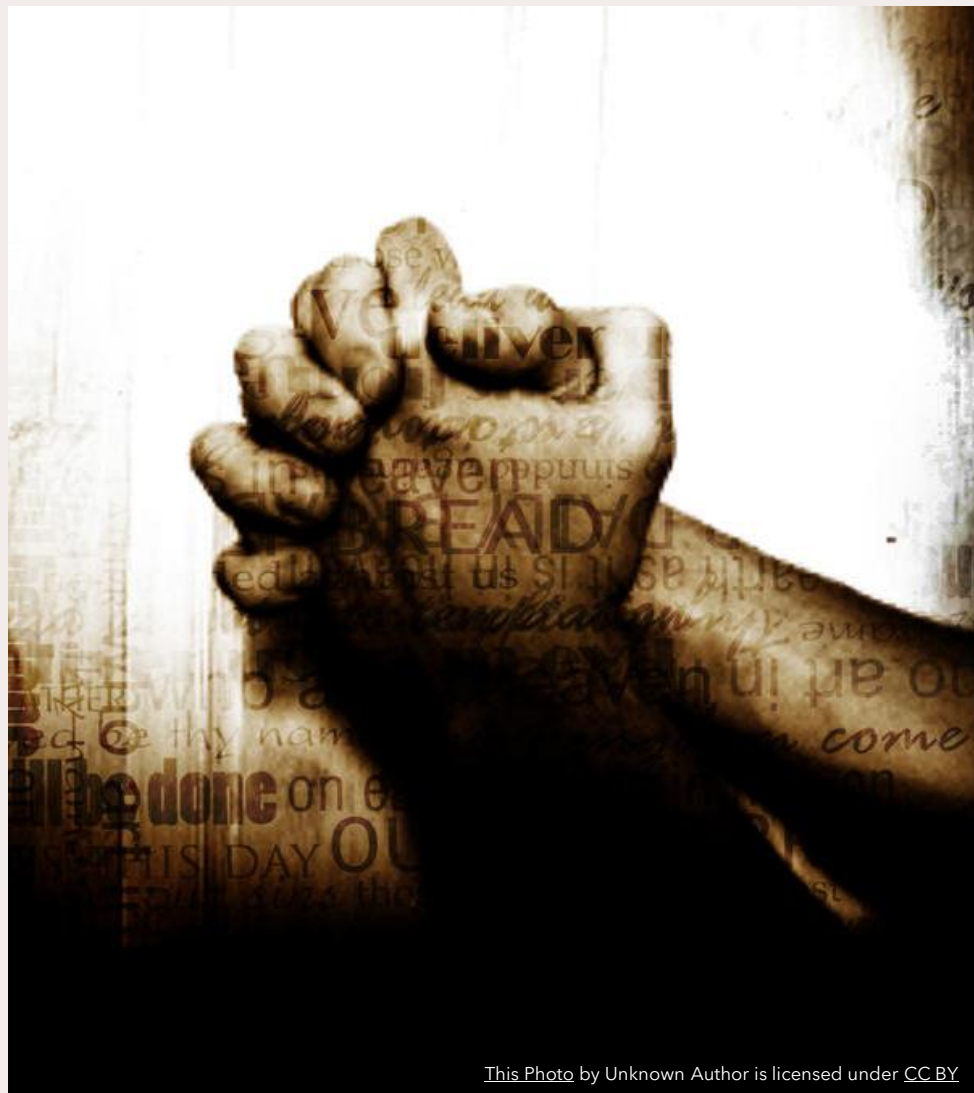
- Why am I spending so much time with this? I am spending time with it because I believe the Bible gets a bad rap, in terms of the promotion of slavery.
- Yes, there are verses that cannot be interpreted as anything but pro-slavery, unless the New Testament is taken in proper context.



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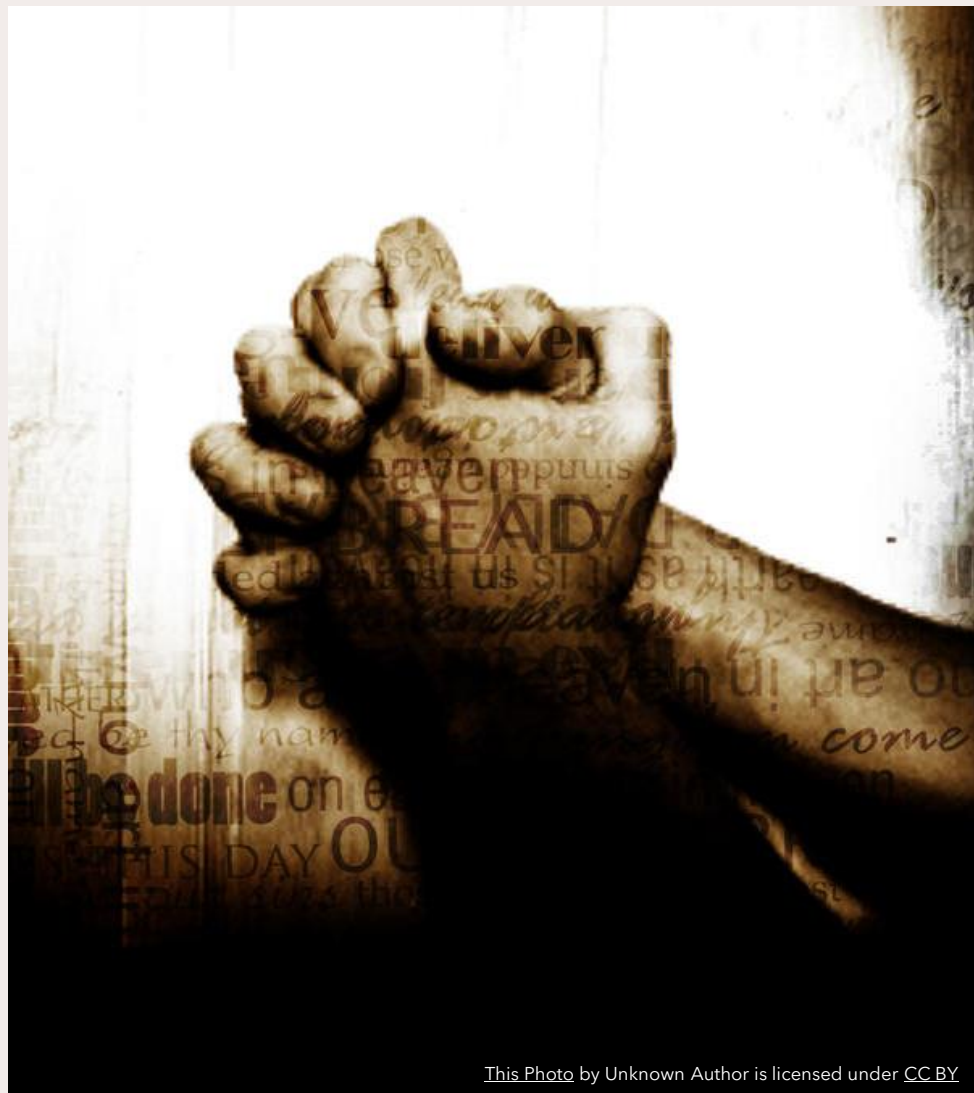
- Letters like Philemon, for example, seek the release of a slave called Onesimus because not only is his owner a Christian, but so too has Onesimus become a believer.
- If Philemon is unwilling to release him, Paul offers to buy the freedom of Onesimus.
- Additionally, passages like Jeremiah 22:13 and 34:9-10, and Matthew 23:10, and 1 Corinthians 7:21 all condemn slavery.



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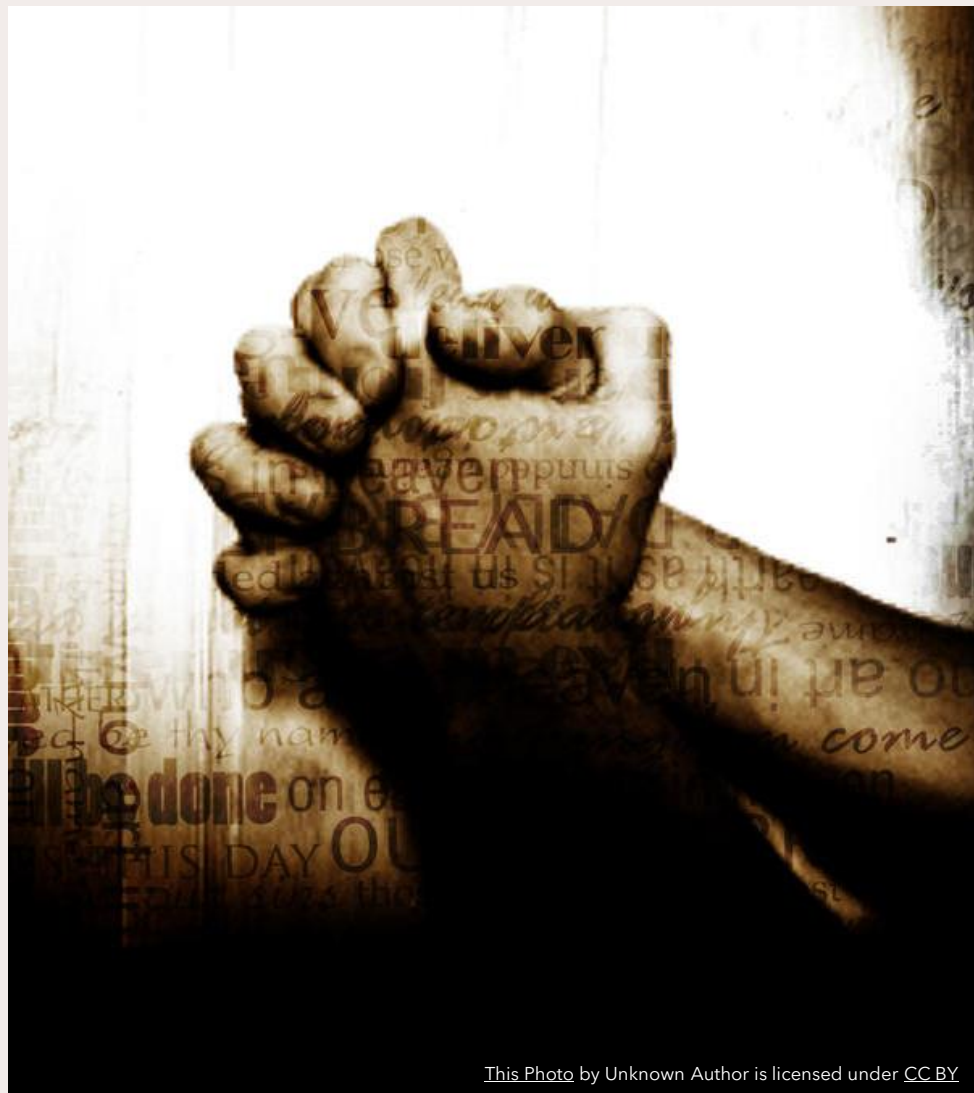
- Paul's focus was not on the worldly conditions in which believers occupied.
- Instead, he lived as if the return of Jesus was imminent.
- Therefore, his council was to remain wherever you are and live out the Gospel in the hopes of introducing and even bringing your master to faith.



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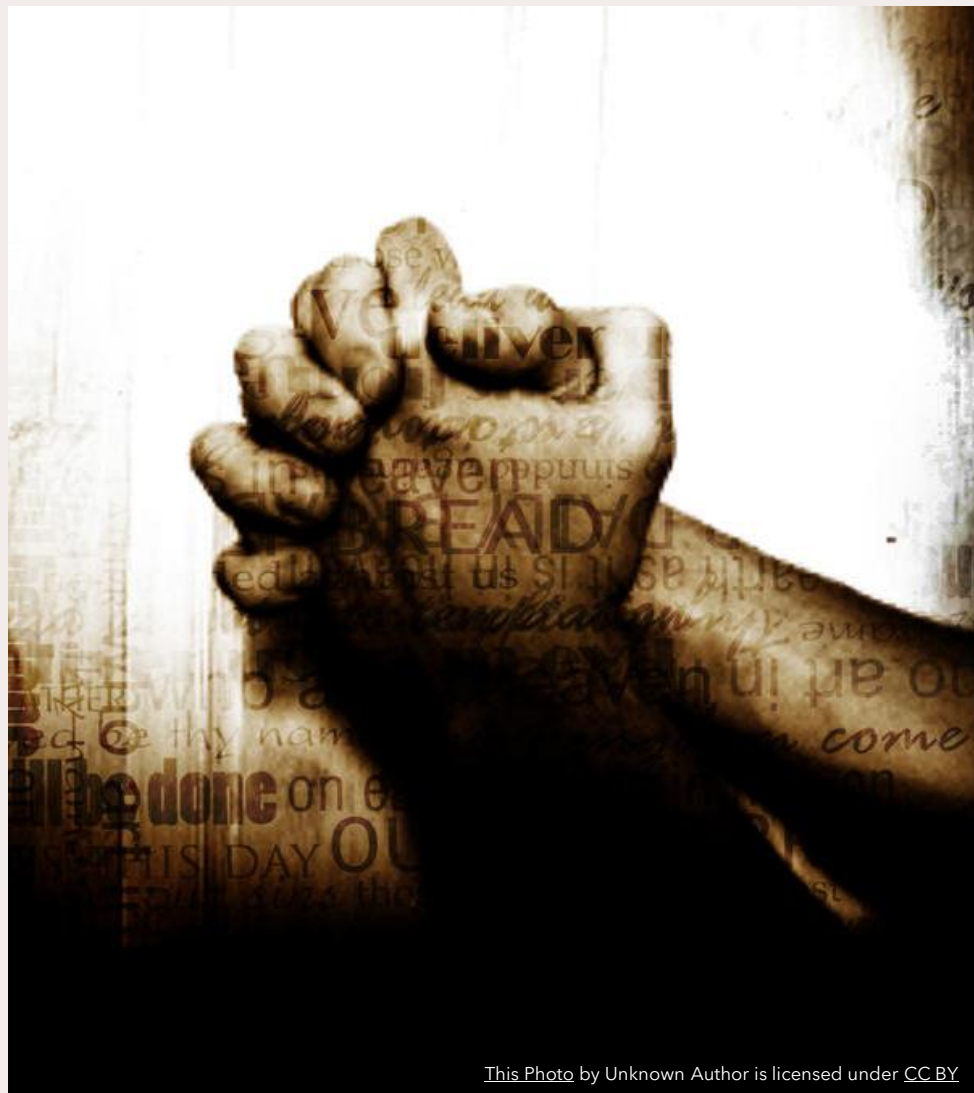
There was but one mission for believers:
TO DECLARE THE VICTORY PLAN and TO LIVE THE VICTORY PLAN in whatever circumstance you find yourself..



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IV. Working as Spirit-filled people in the Marketplace.

- Paul is NOT promoting or sanctioning slavery, he is speaking to believers, advising them NOT to focus on their circumstances.
- In other words, the mission is the same wherever you find yourself.



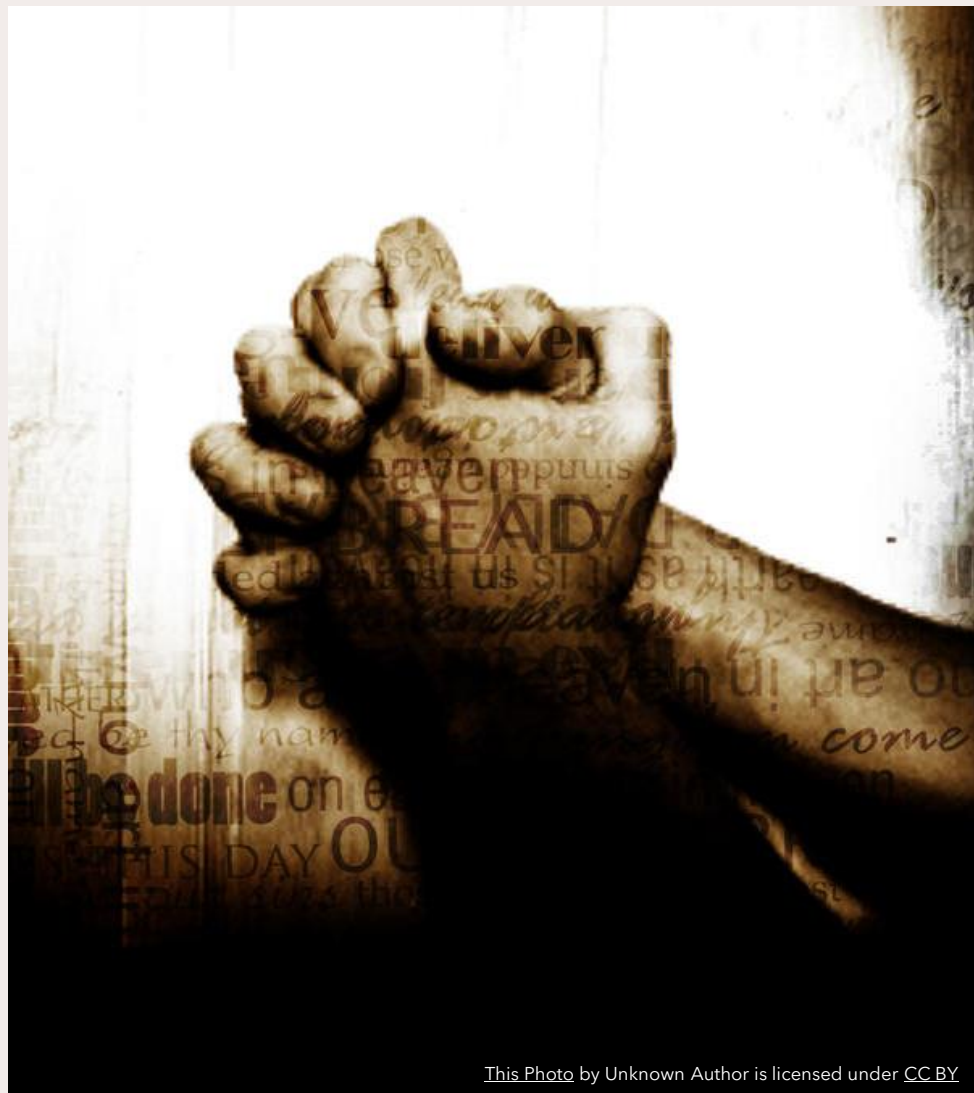
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IV. Working as Spirit-filled people in the Marketplace.

■ Summary

➤ TO WORKERS (VV5-8):

- 1) We are to work with integrity whether someone is closely supervising us or not.
- 2) When you work, why are you doing what you do? Are you just punching a clock for money, or just doing your work to please another human being? Or, are you doing your work to please the Lord, as if to the Lord.



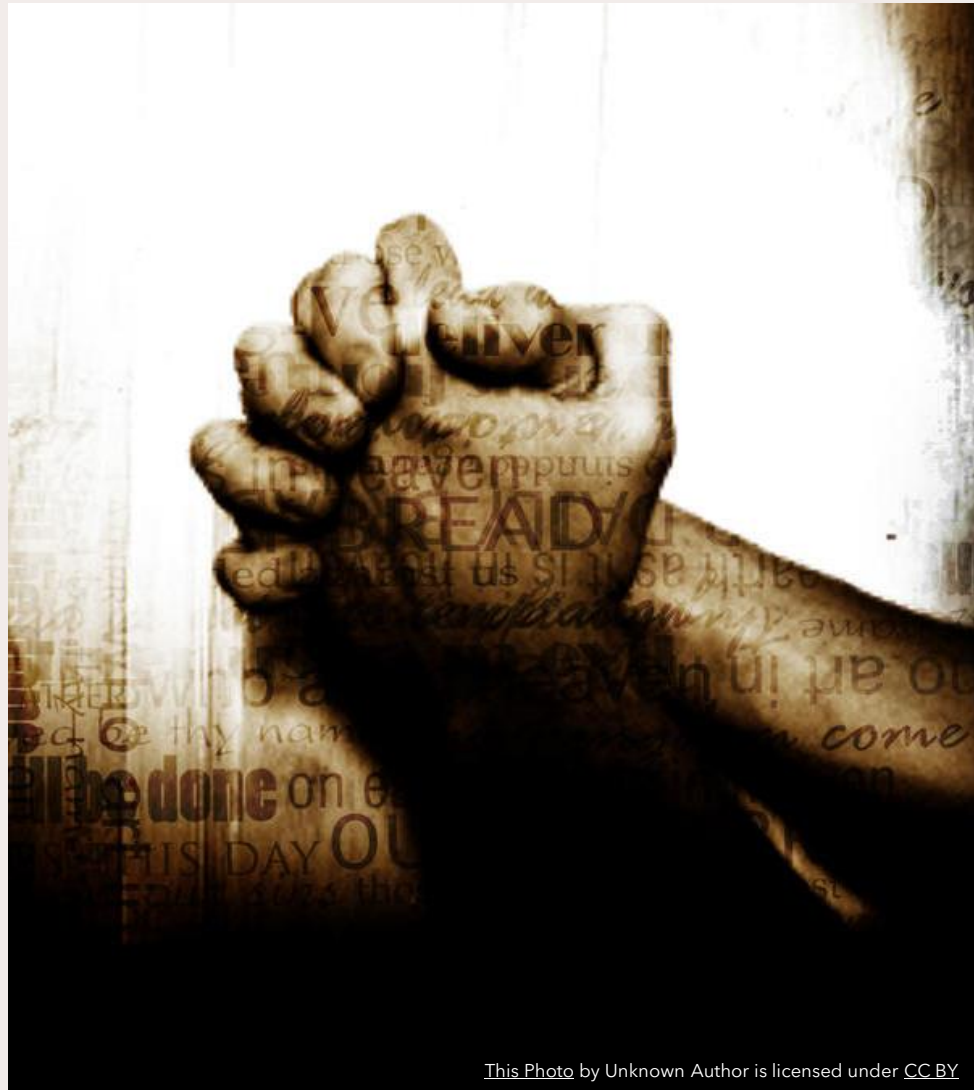
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IV. Working as Spirit-filled people in the Marketplace.

▪ Summary

➤ TO WORKERS (VV5-8):

Whatever you do, do it as if to an audience of One, because as workers, you will be held accountable for the way you worked.



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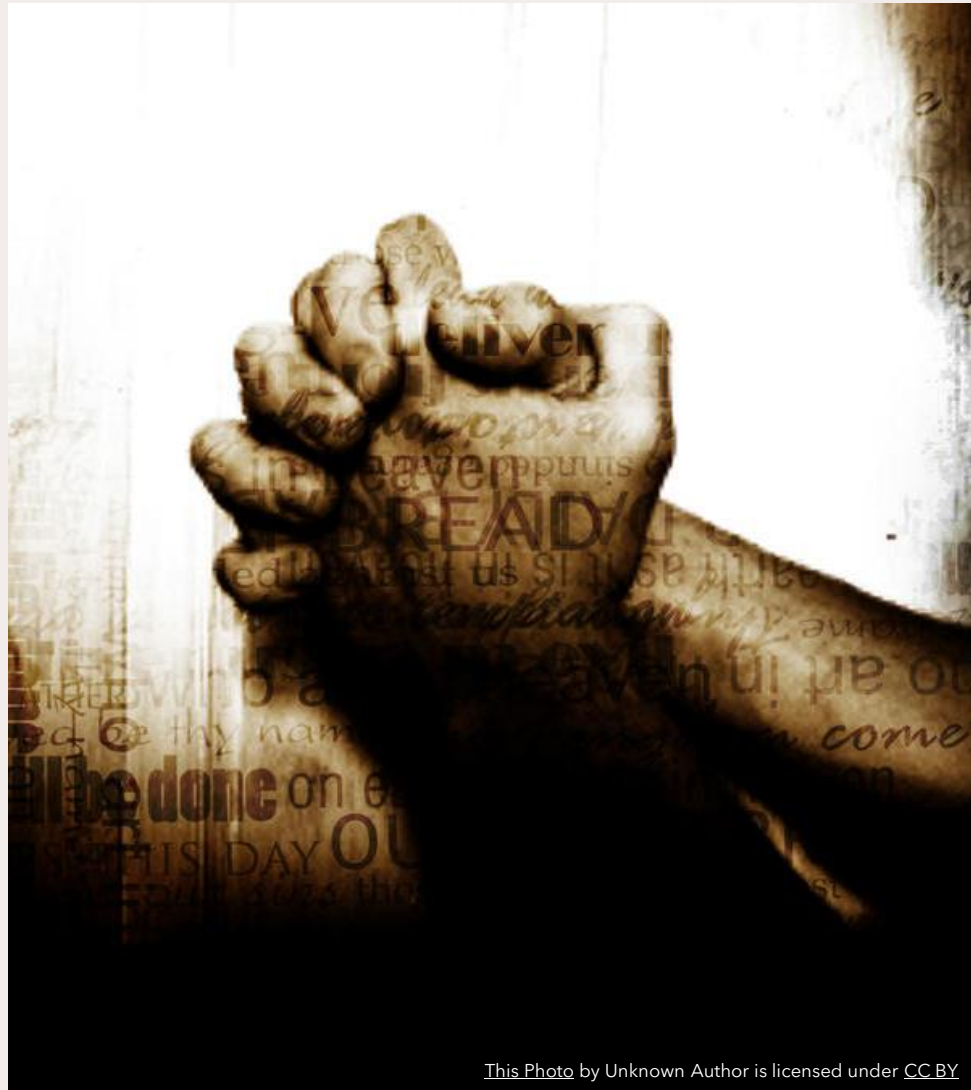
■ Summary

➤ TO THE EMPLOYER:

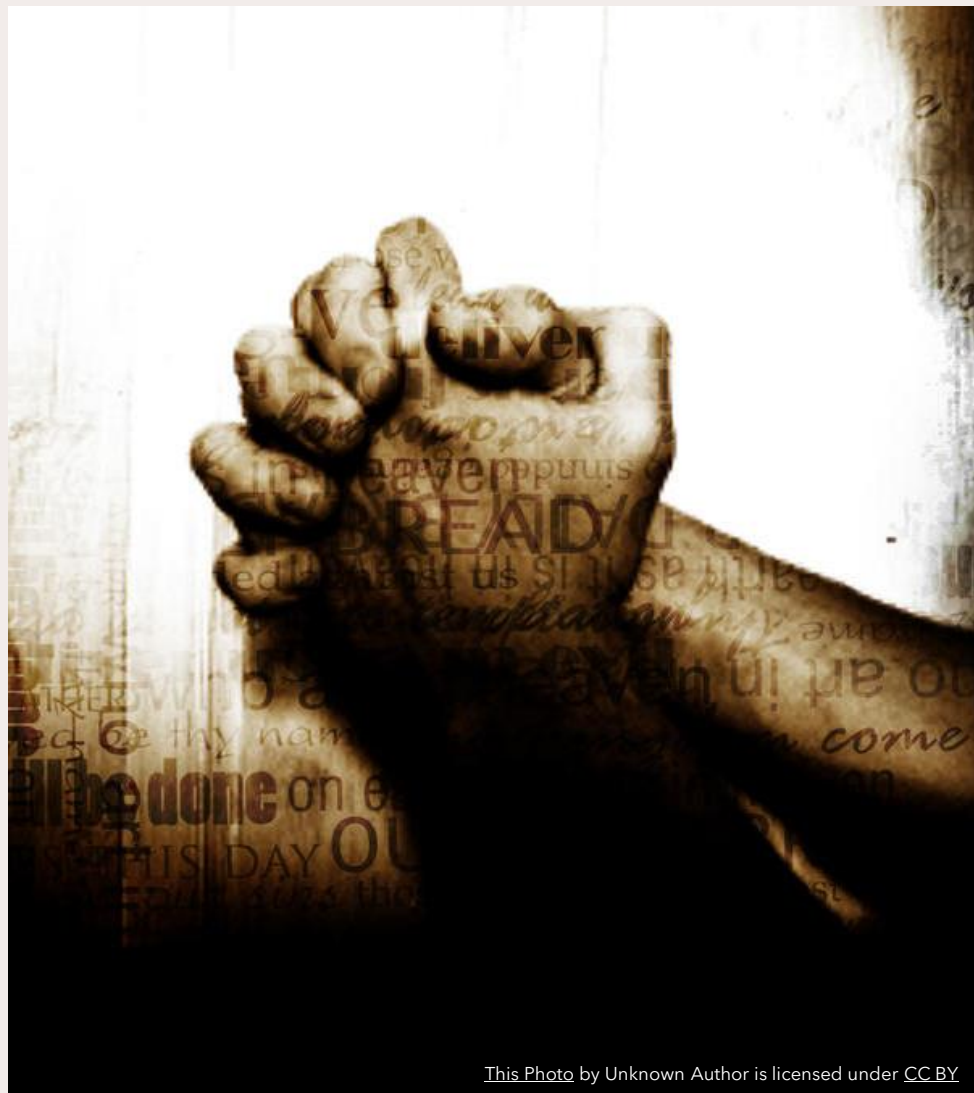
1) You are to treat your workers the way you would want to be treated. In other words, treat them as if Christ is watching you...because He is!

2) WARNING! You may be the big boss here, but there is ONE BIG MASTER in Heaven. Know that with Him, there is no favoritism. You and your employees will stand on equal ground before Father God.

V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!



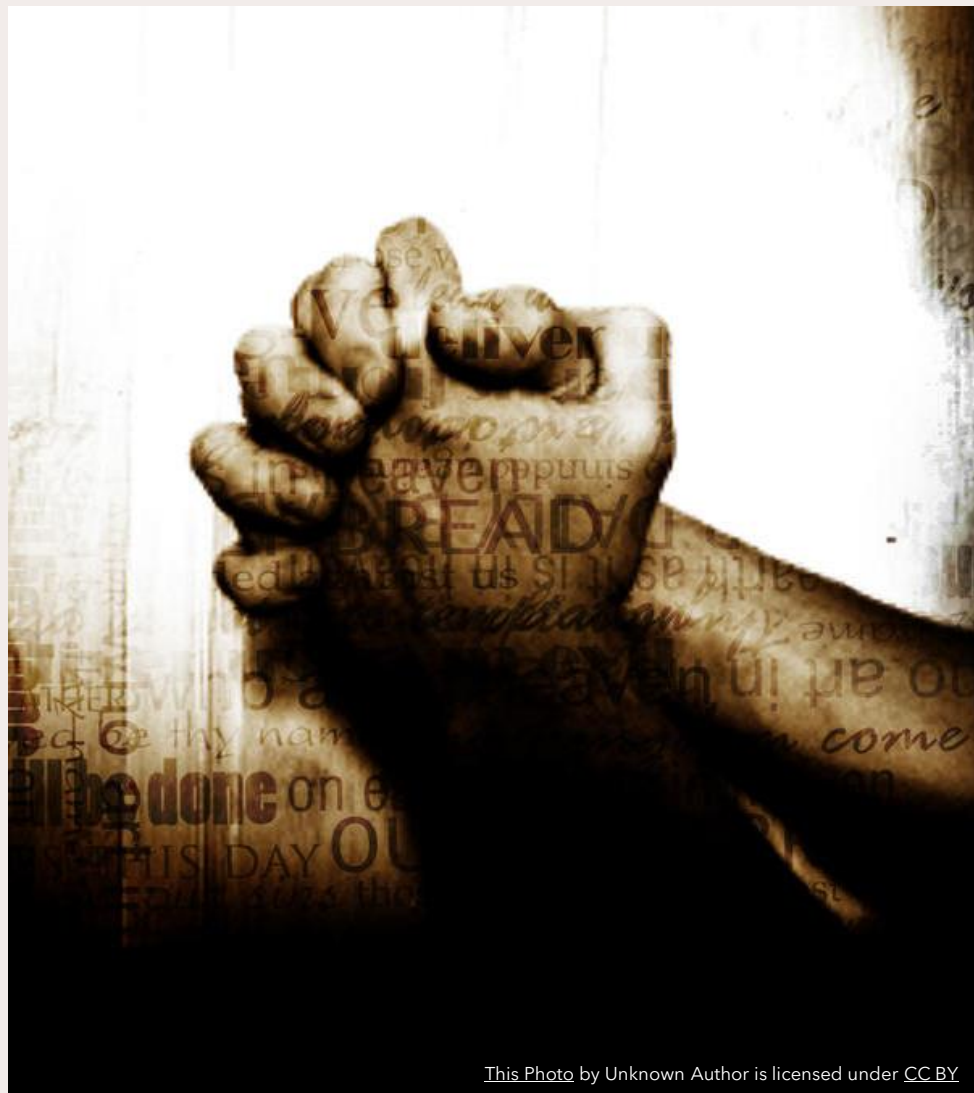
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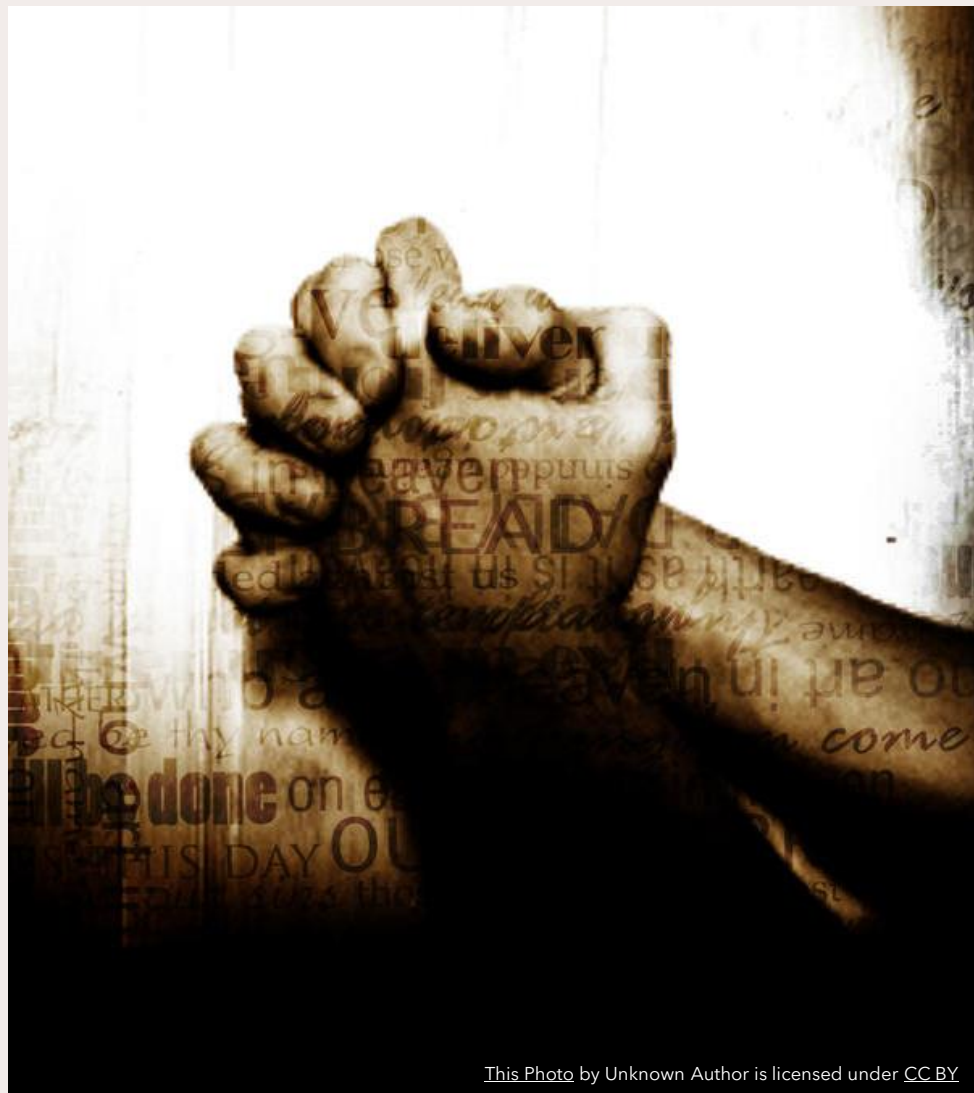
- At the very moment when Jesus, on the cross, gave up His spirit and cried out, “It is finished,” Satan and his demonic host knew the rebellion had failed miserably.
- They cannot touch the Heavenly Host whose eyes are wide open now to satan’s failure.
- Therefore, the only miserable and cruel objective left, is to take as many people with him to defeat as they possibly can.



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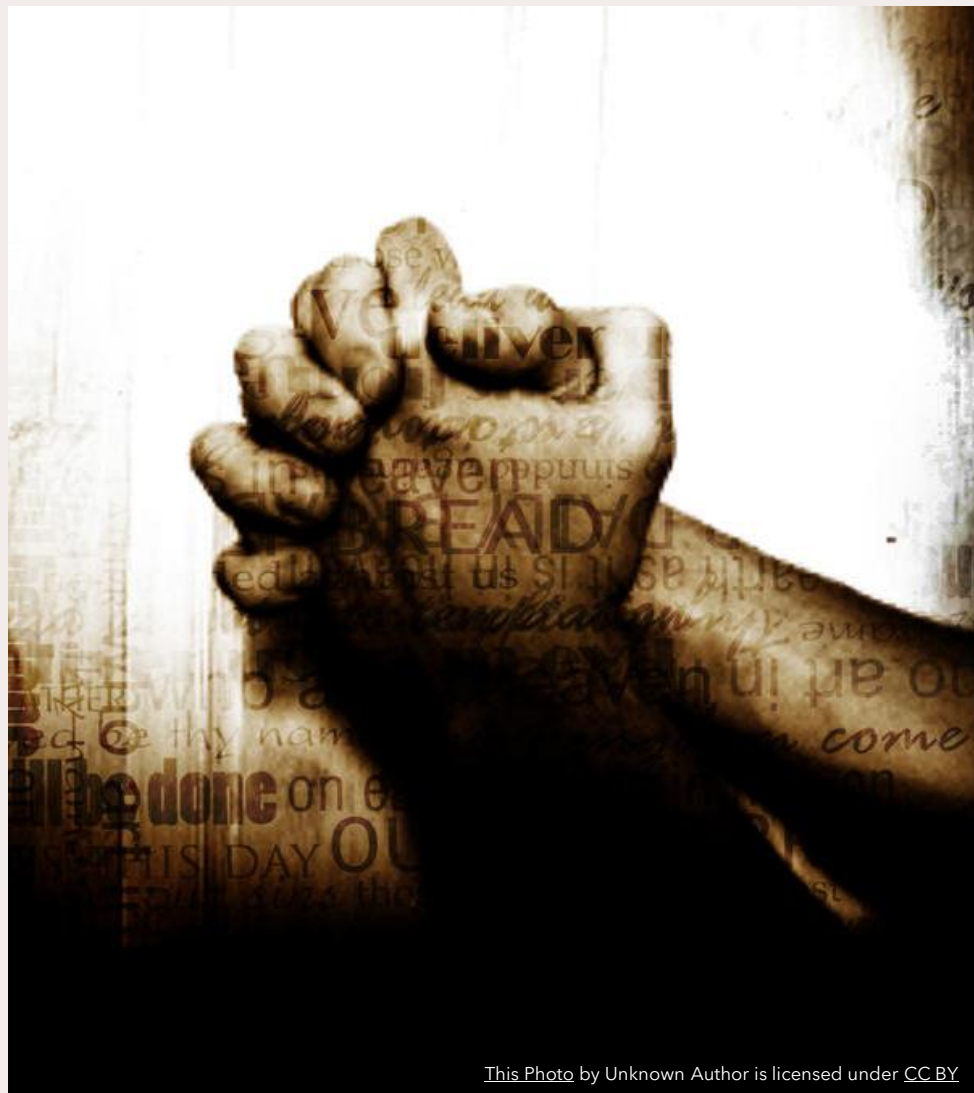
- Thus, satan;
 - 1) wars against believers to damage or taint our witness



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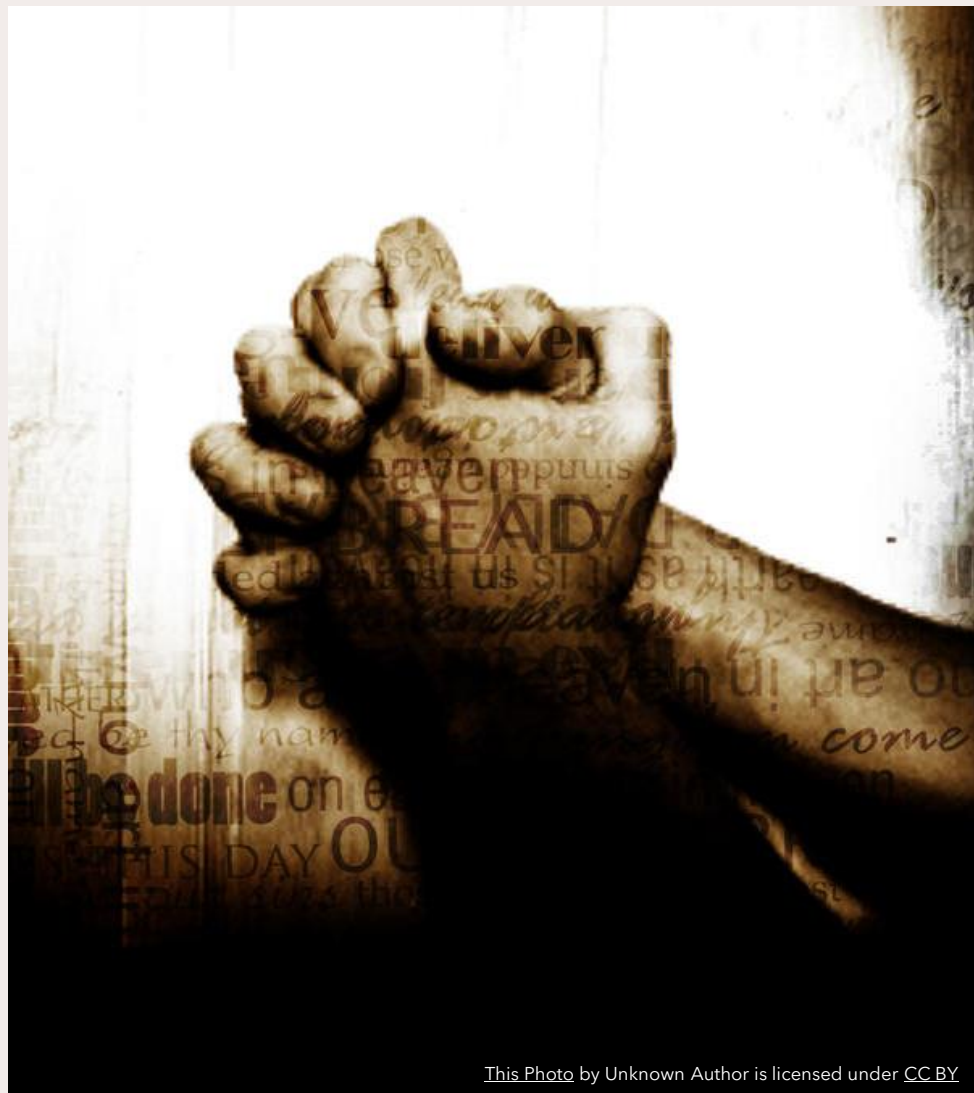
- Thus, satan;
 - 1) wars against believers to damage or taint our witness
 - 2) he wars against the mind to try and lead us into a poisoned intellectualism that puts the teaching of humanity above the revealed Word of God



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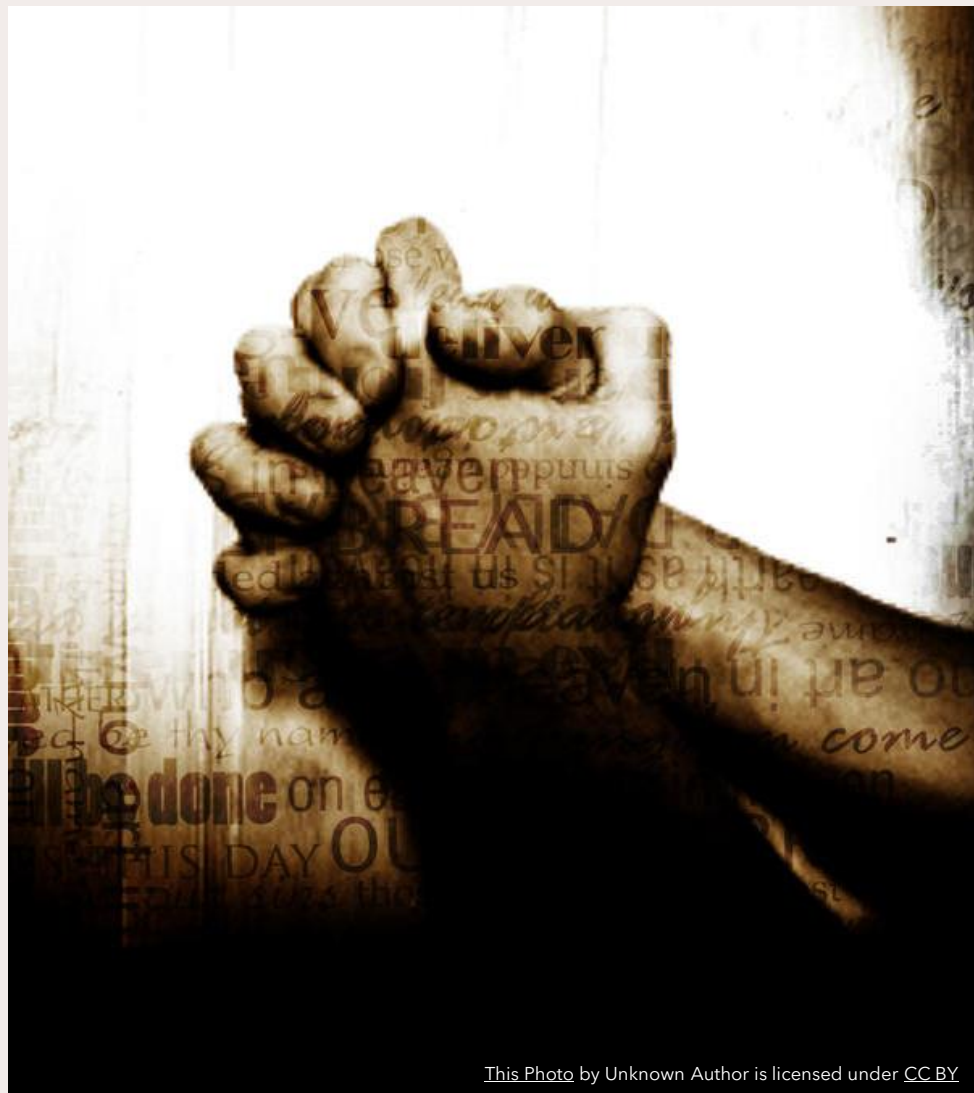
- Thus, satan;
3) he wars against our feelings with tools like, “taking offense,” “racism,” and “classism,” to cause us to at enmity with each other.



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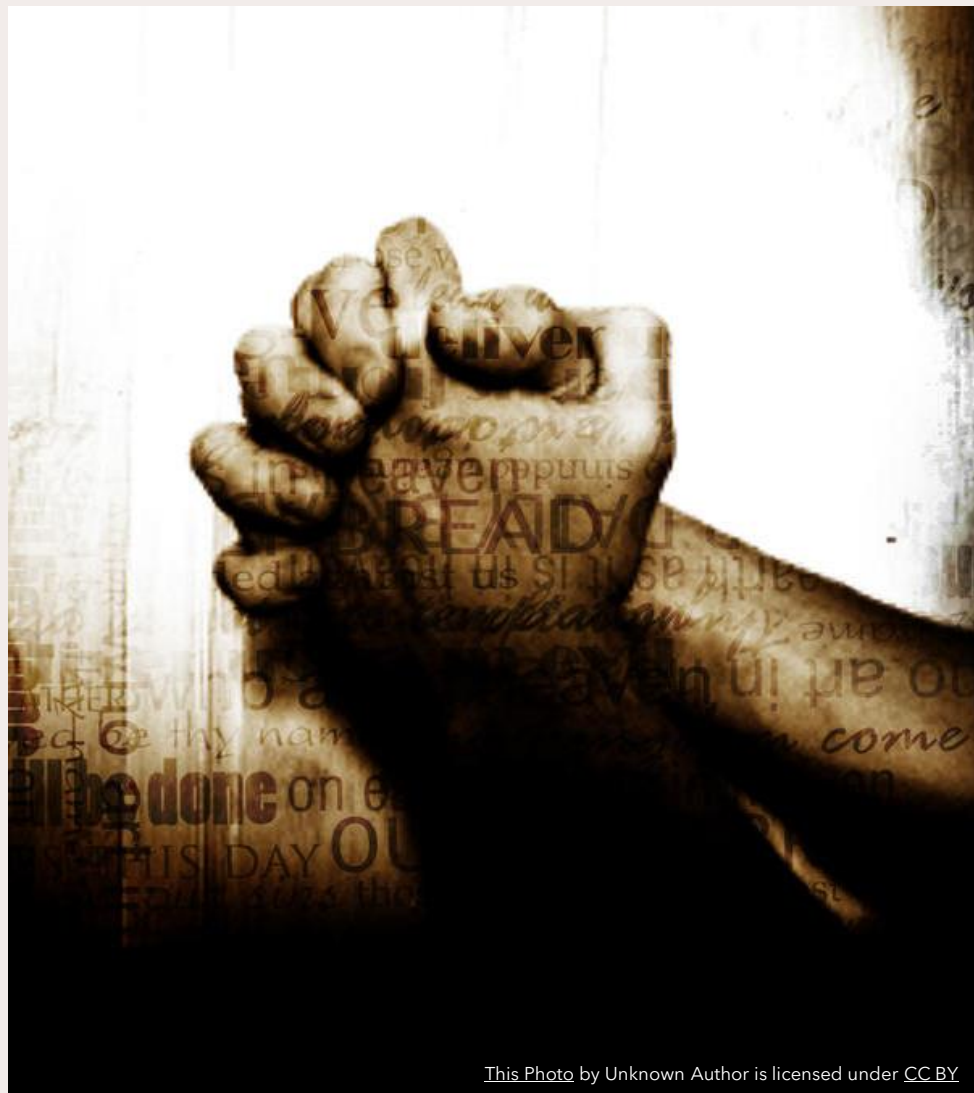
- Thus, satan;
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 - 4) he wars against our circumstances to make them bigger than they are



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- Thus, satan;
 - 3) he wars against our feelings with tools like, “taking offense,” “racism,” and “classism,” to cause us to at enmity with each other.
 - 4) he wars against our circumstances to make them bigger than they are
 - 5) he wars against our family to keep us distracted from the mission

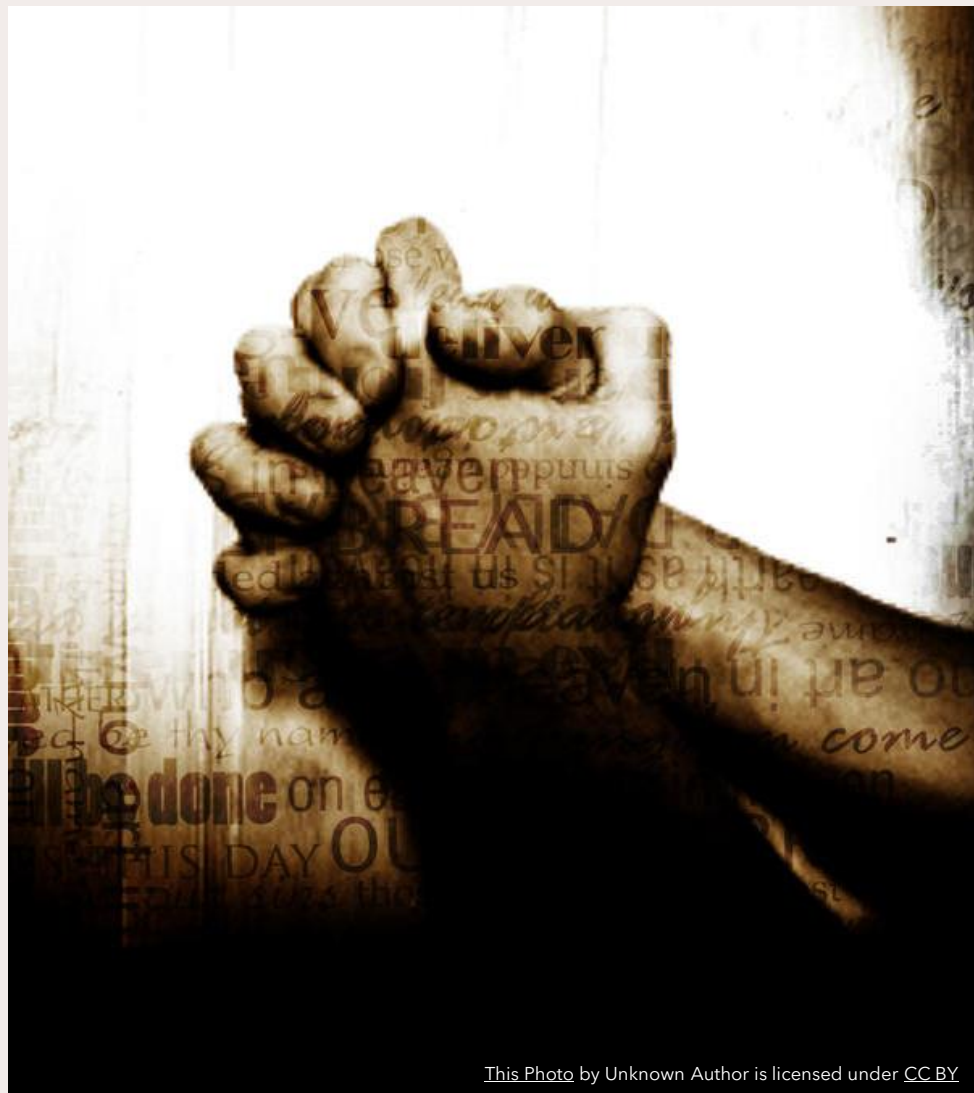


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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

- Thus, satan;
6) he uses the power of deception to cause us to call evil, good and good, evil.

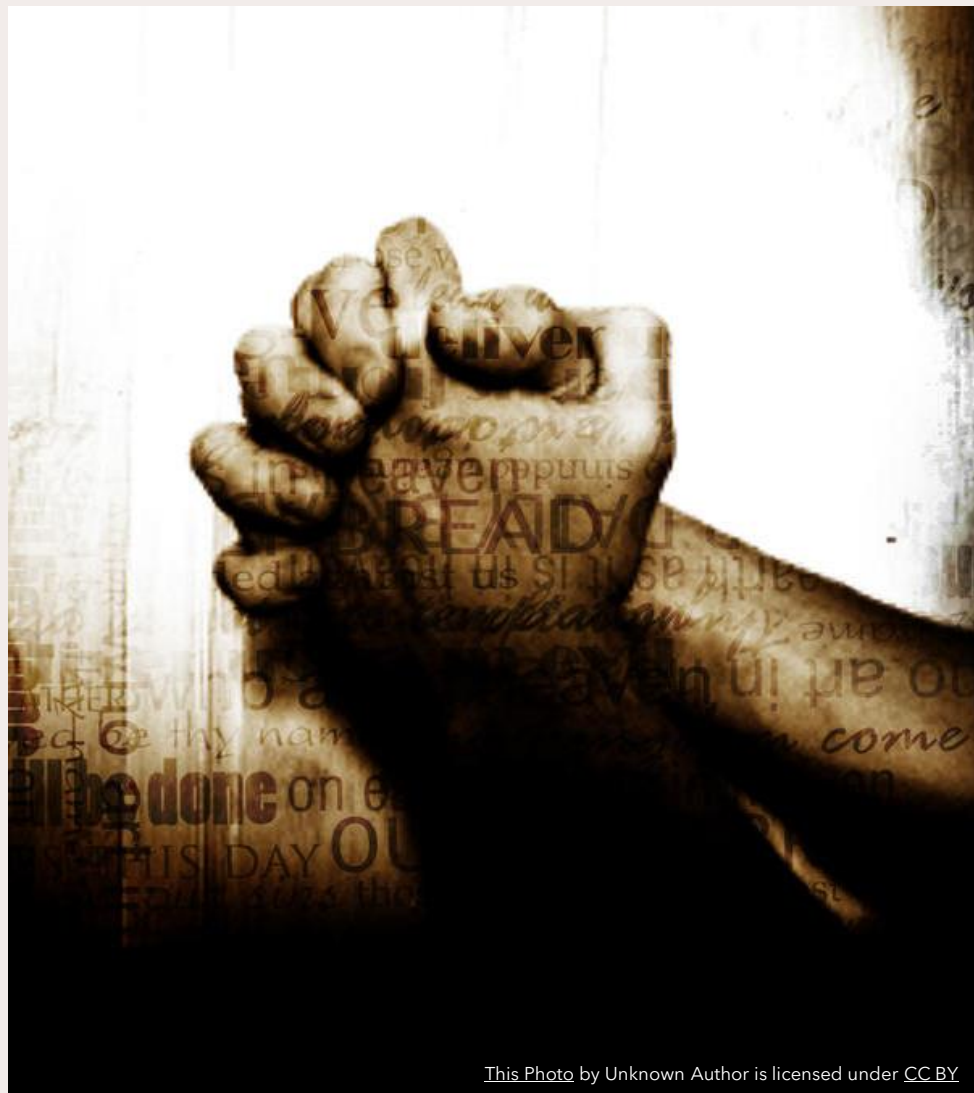
Isaiah 5:20, ***“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”***



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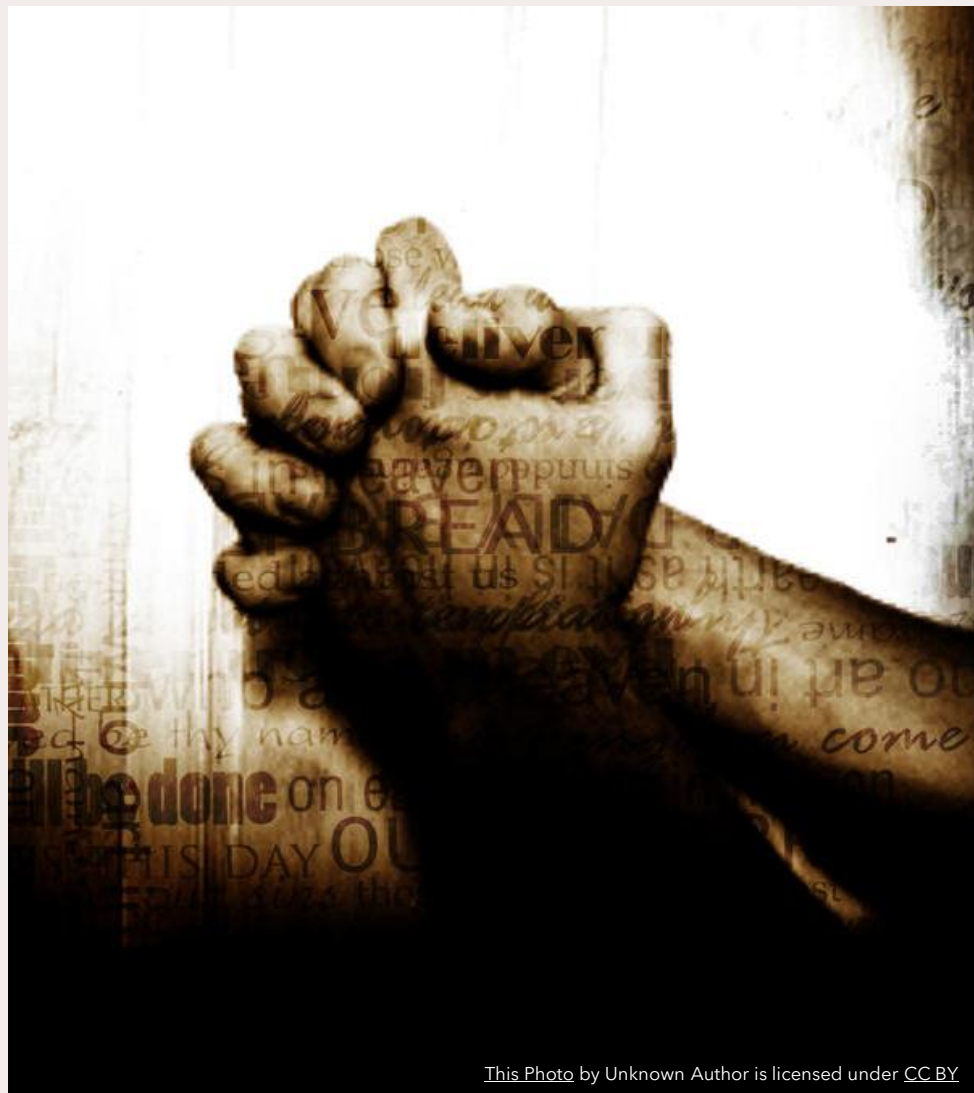
- The war may be over between Father God and humanity, but the war **CONTINUES** between humanity and the demonic hosts.



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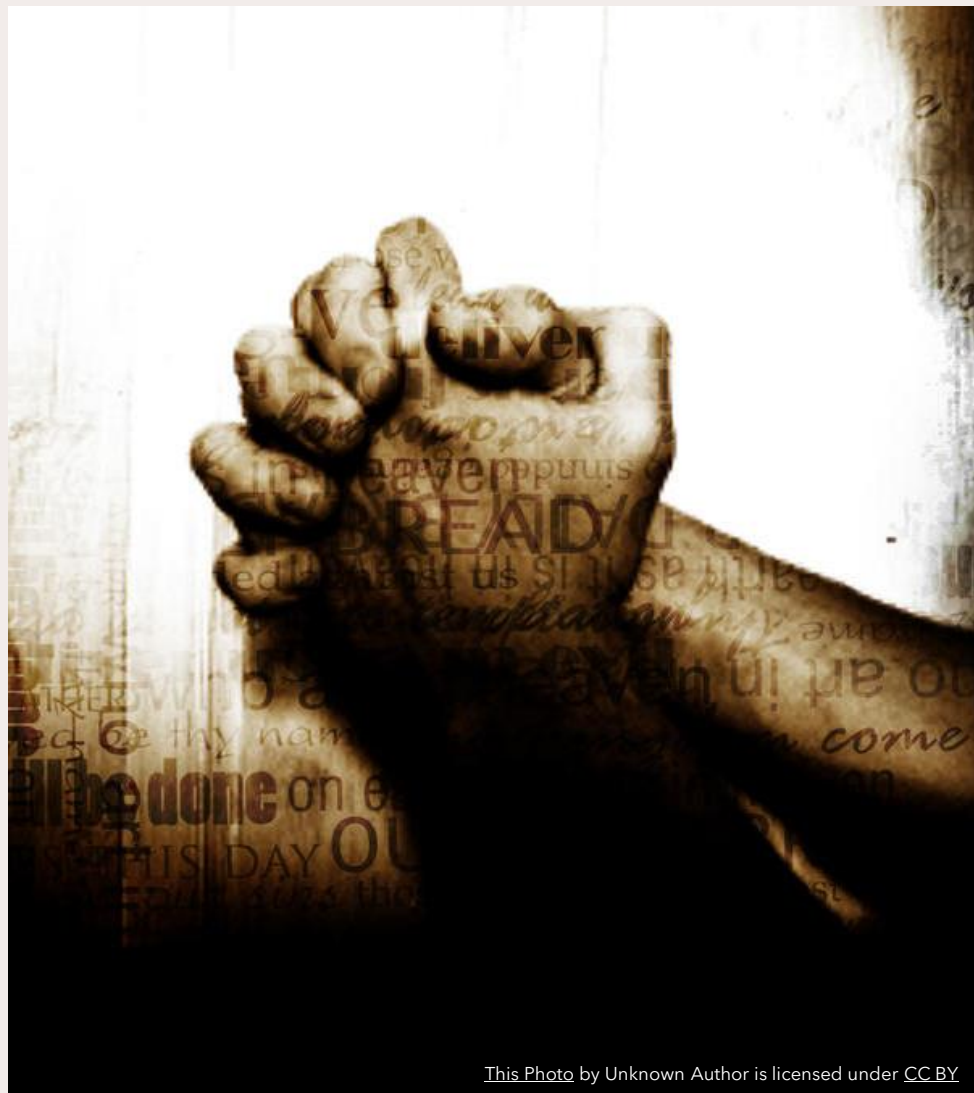
- We are all Spiritual Warriors.



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- We are all Spiritual Warriors.
- To be effective, we need to
 - 1) understand the battle and who we are waring against, and



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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

- We are all Spiritual Warriors.
- To be effective, we need to
 - 1) understand the battle and who we are waring against, and
 - 2) know with certainty the way in which we are to prepare ourselves for daily battle.

V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

Ephesians 6:10 *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.”*

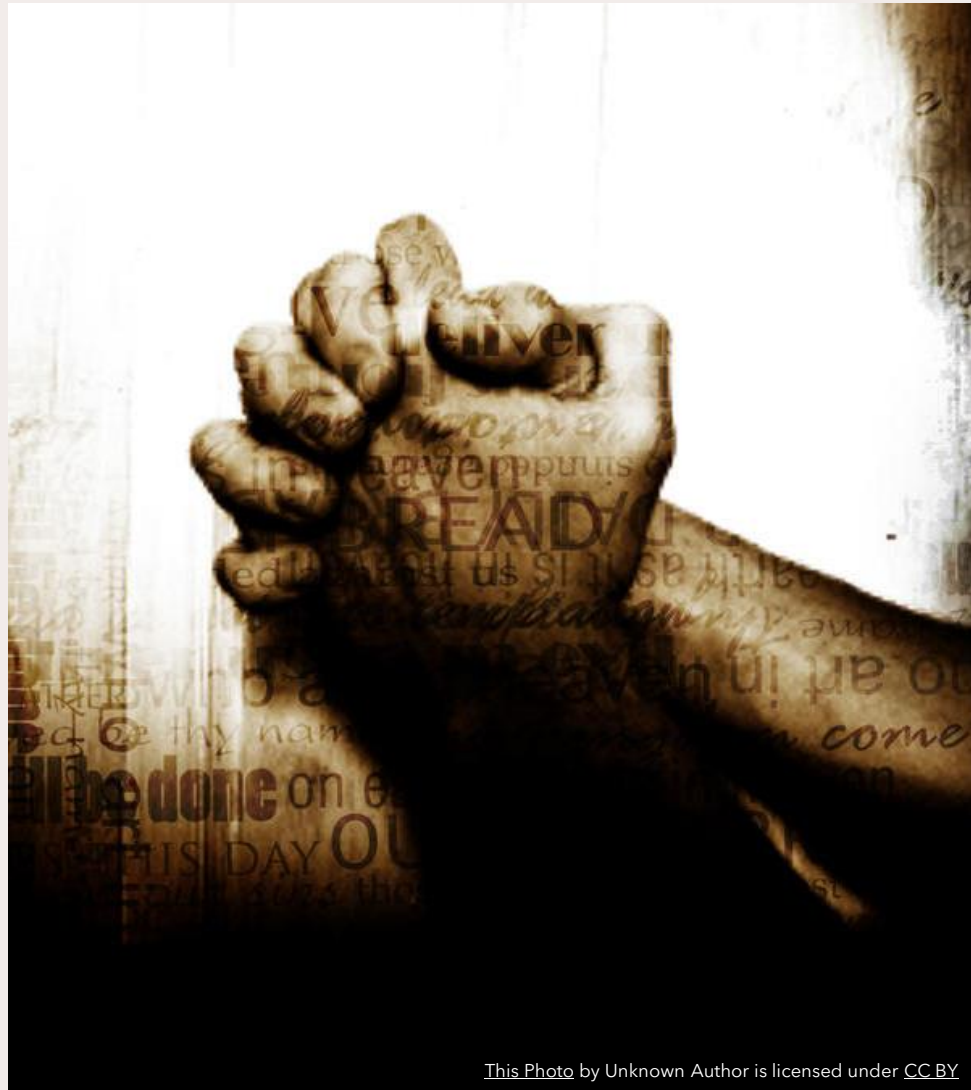


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Ephesians 6:10 “*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.*”

- Believers need to understand that the strength they are tapping into is vast, i.e., far greater than you could ever possibly use in a lifetime on earth.

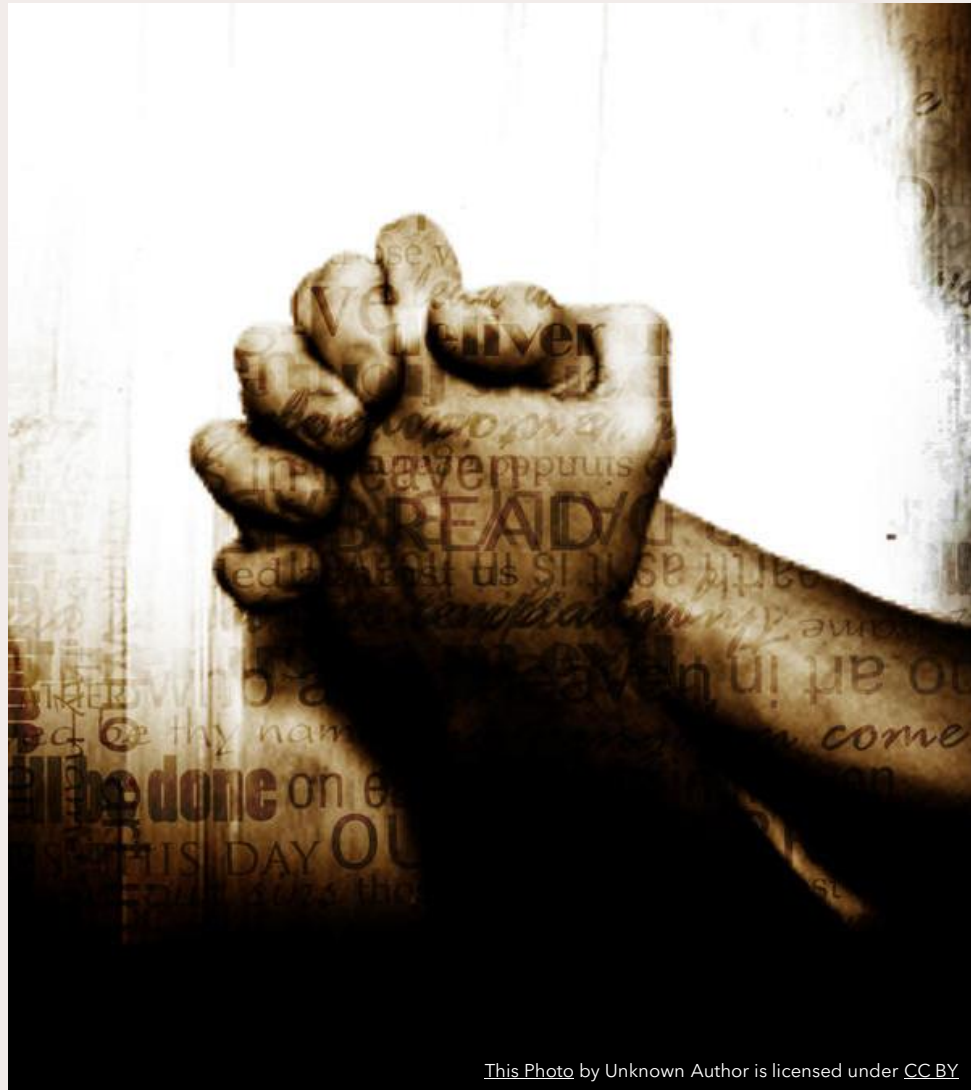


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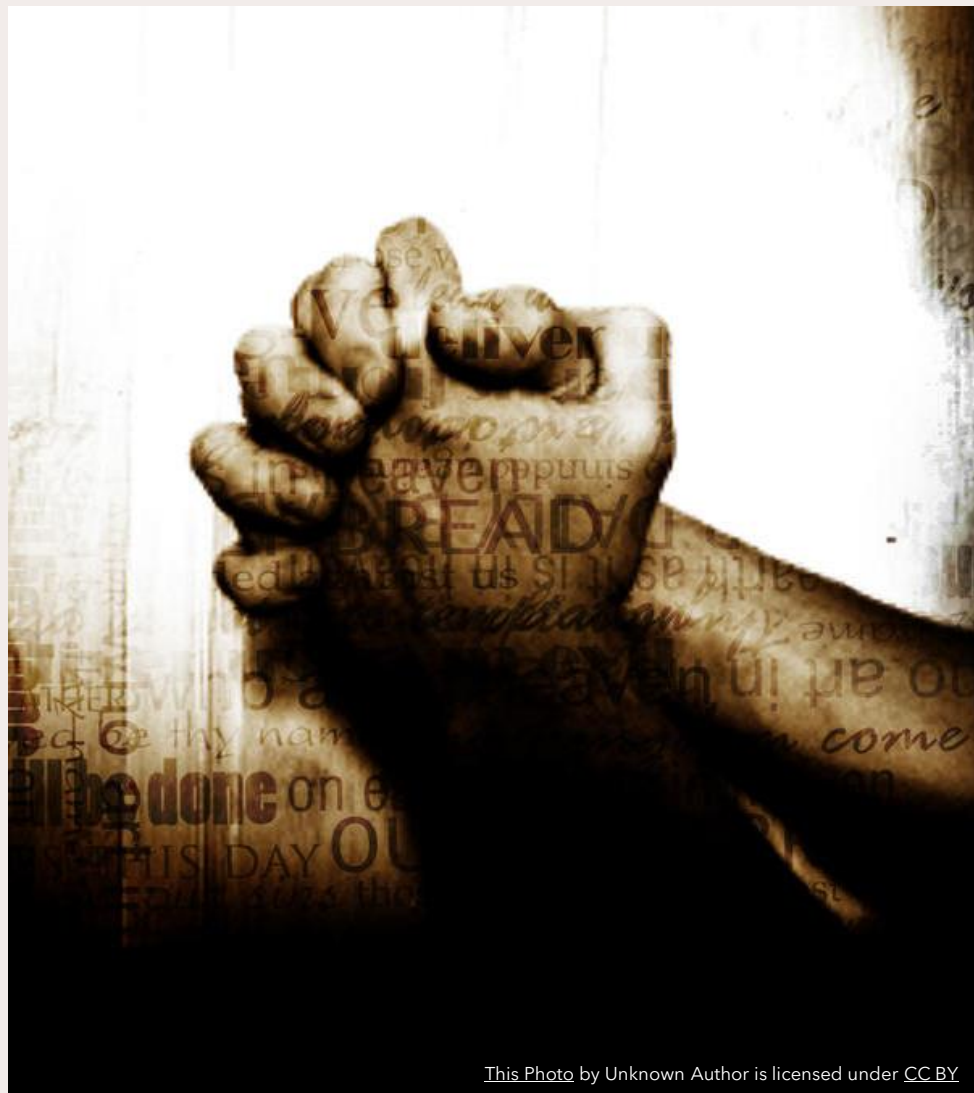
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Ephesians 6:10 “*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.*”

- Believers need to understand that the strength they are tapping into is vast, i.e., far greater than you could ever possibly use in a lifetime on earth.
- Therefore, by tapping into it, you will be fully ready with all the strength you need.



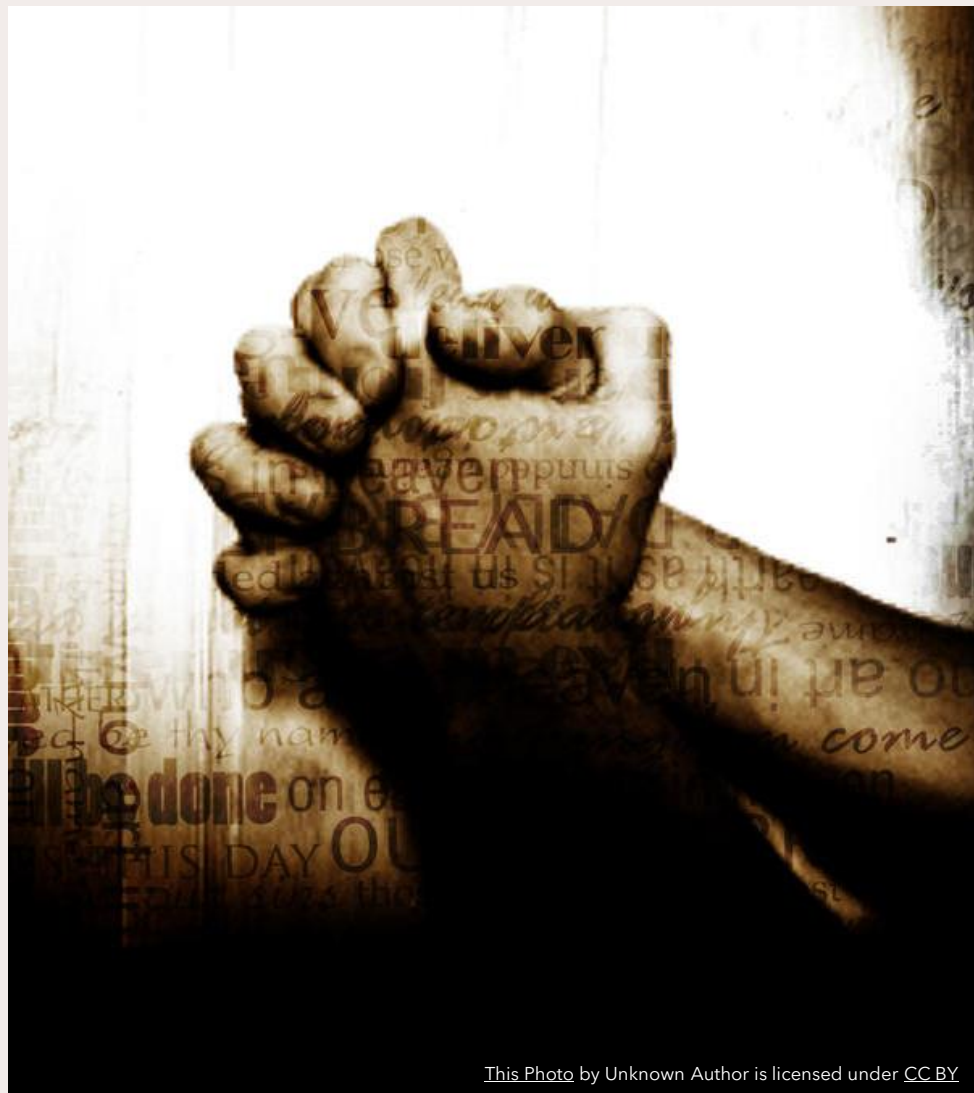
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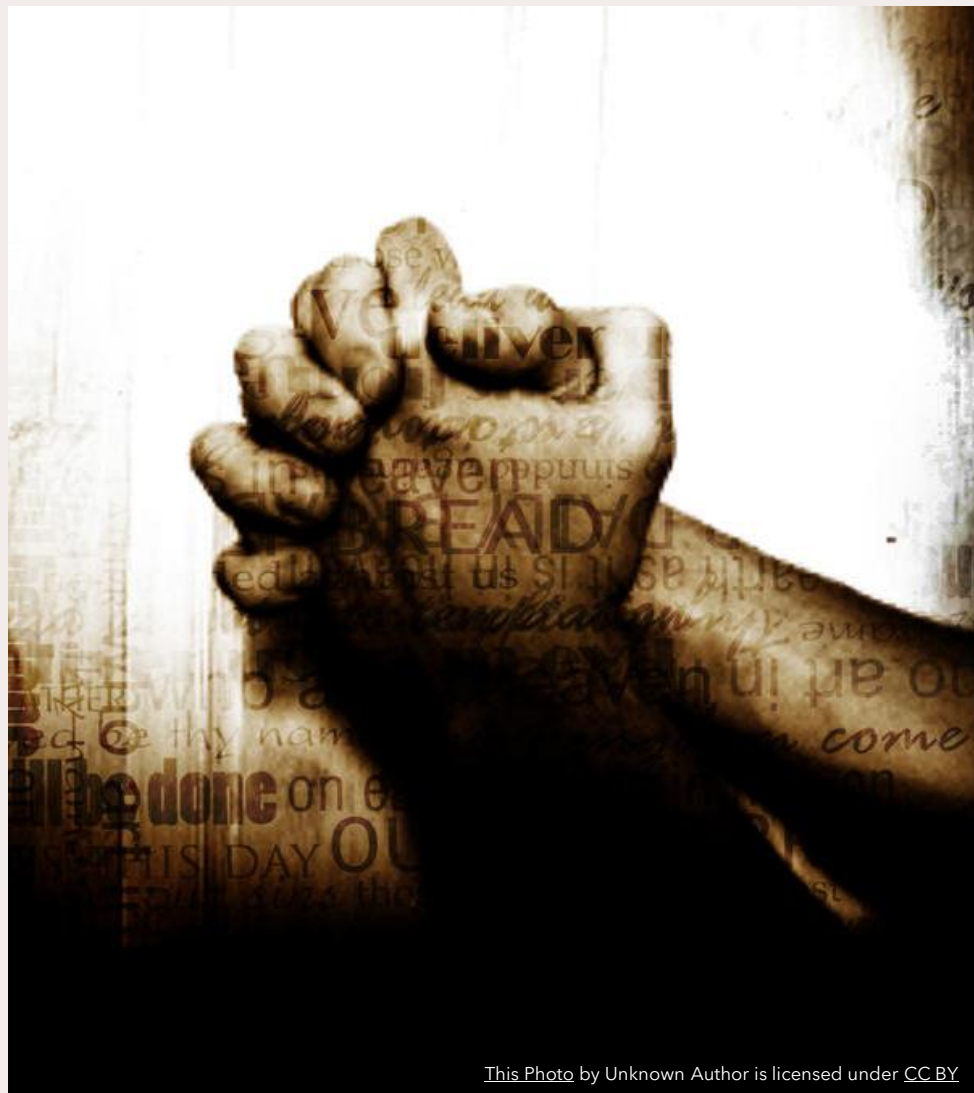
- This theme of strength and courage is found strongly throughout the Scriptures.
 - The first occurrence is in Joshua 1, Father God tells Joshua four times to be strong and courageous.
 - In Joshua 10:25, Joshua tells the people to be strong and courageous.
 - In 2 Samuel 2:7, David is told to be strong and courageous.
 - In Haggai 2:4, Haggai tells Zerubbabel to be very strong



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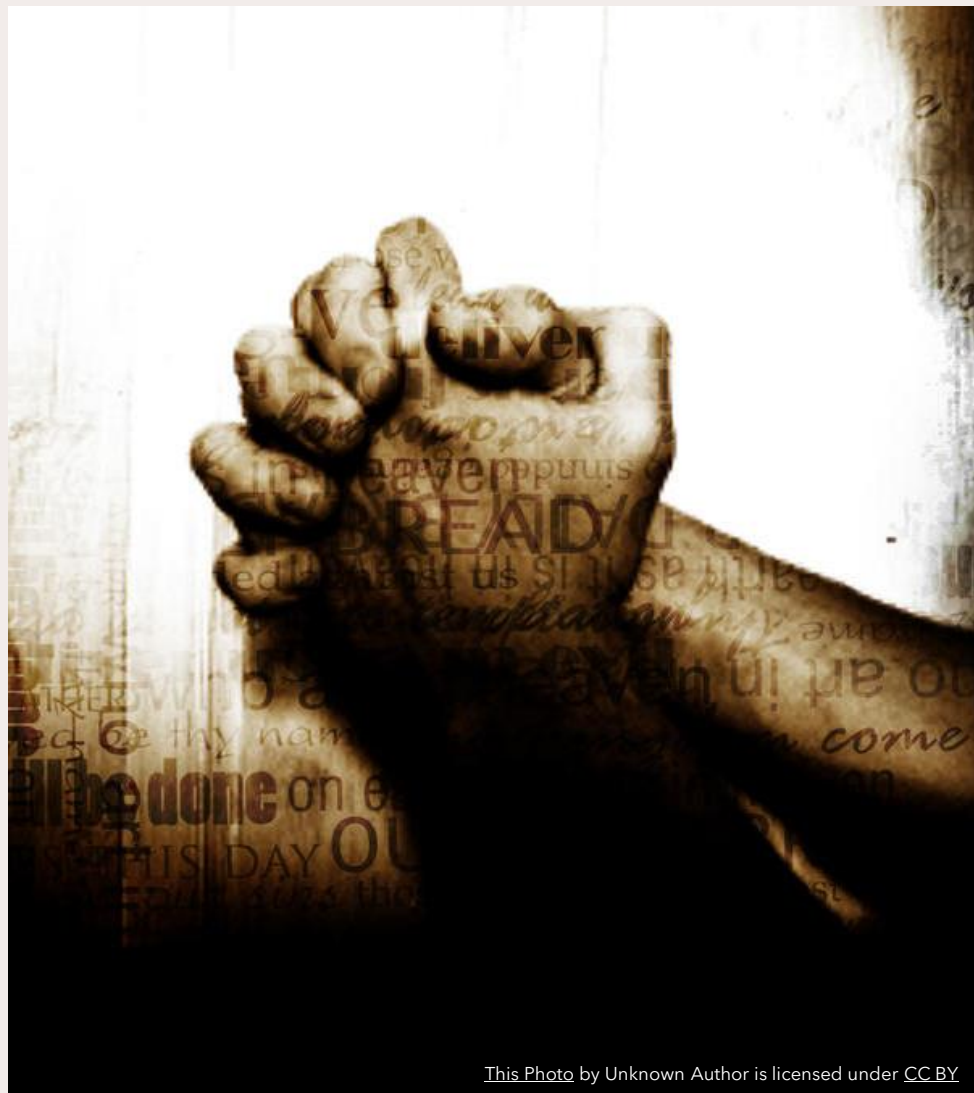
- Does this mean we will not be afraid from time to time?



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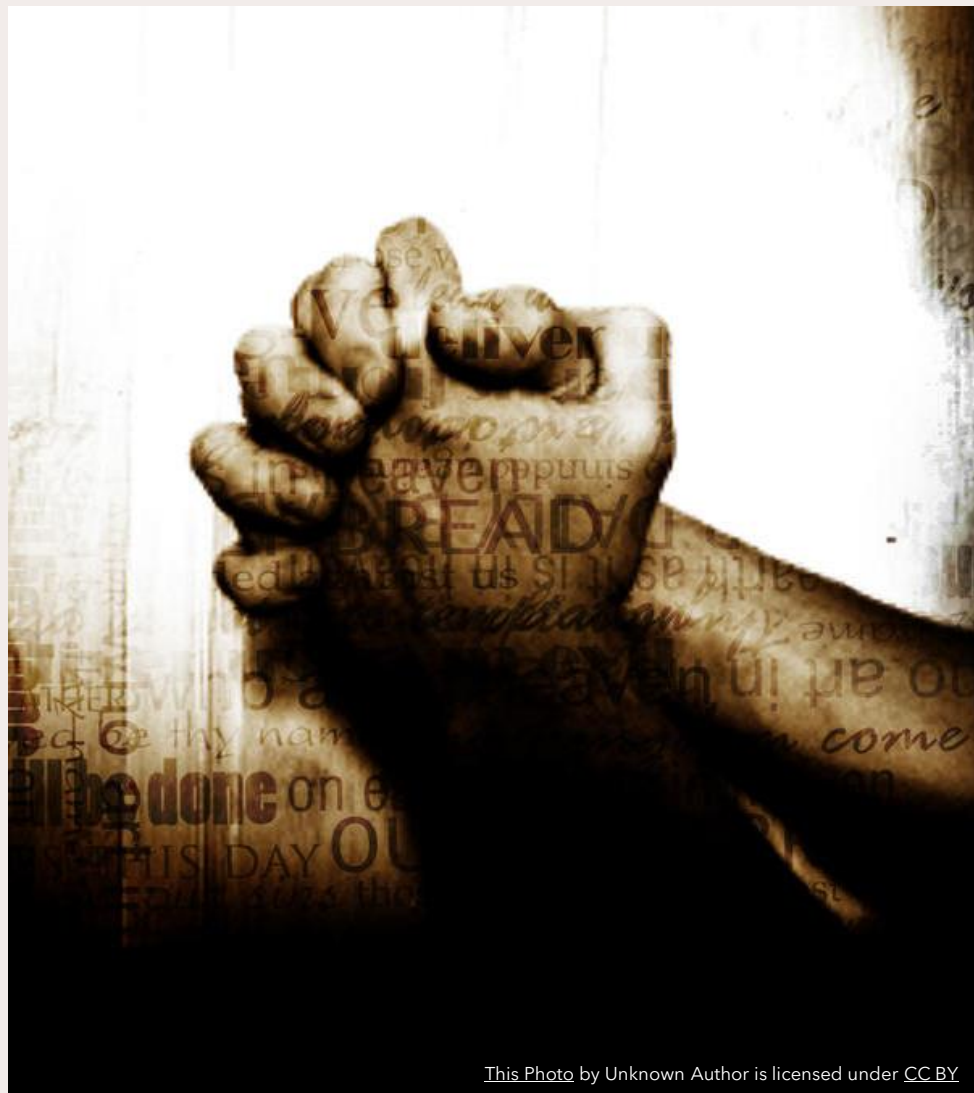
- Does this mean we will not be afraid from time to time? NO.



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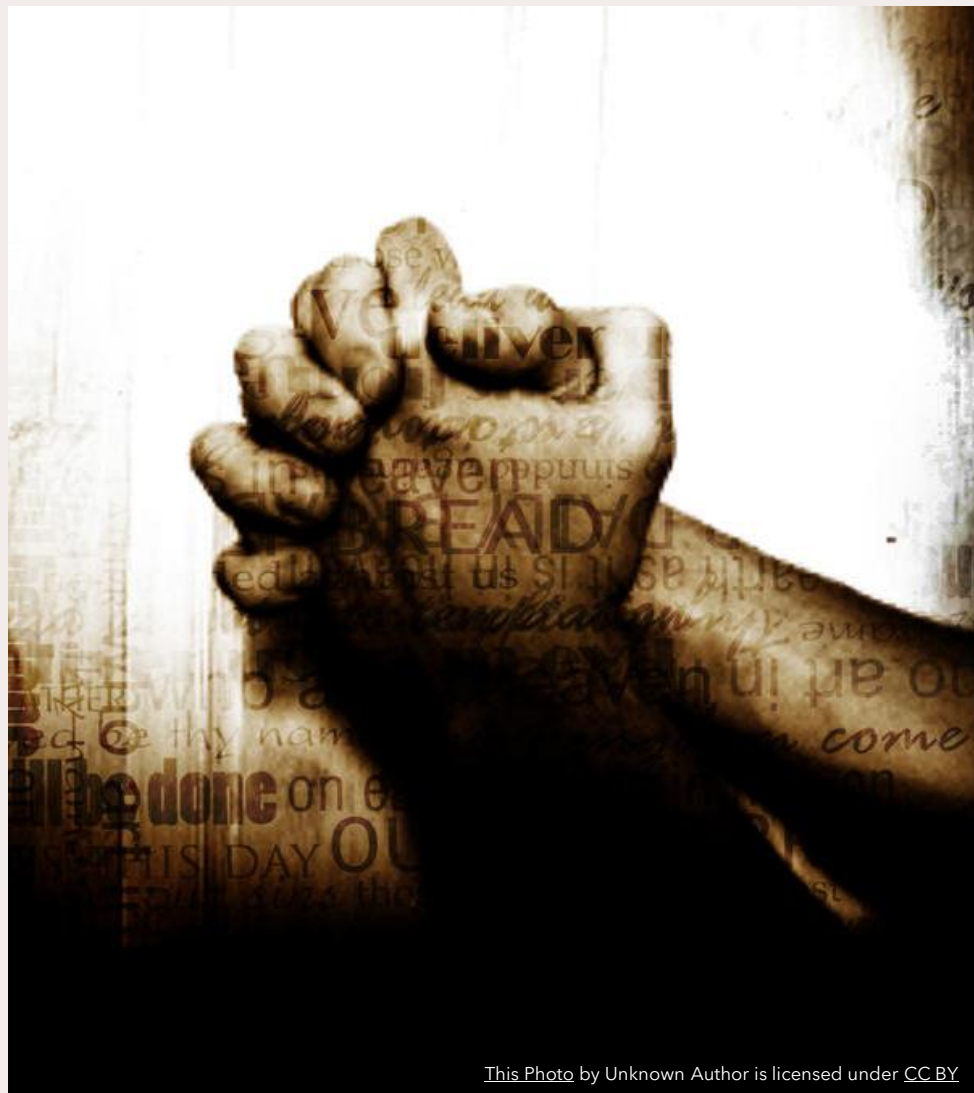
- Does this mean we will not be afraid from time to time? NO.
- But you have to tap into the power Father God has given us in the mind.



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- Does this mean we will not be afraid from time to time? NO.
- But you have to tap into the power Father God has given us in the mind.
- When you are afraid, your mind has the ability to help you overcome your fear and move with strength and courage.

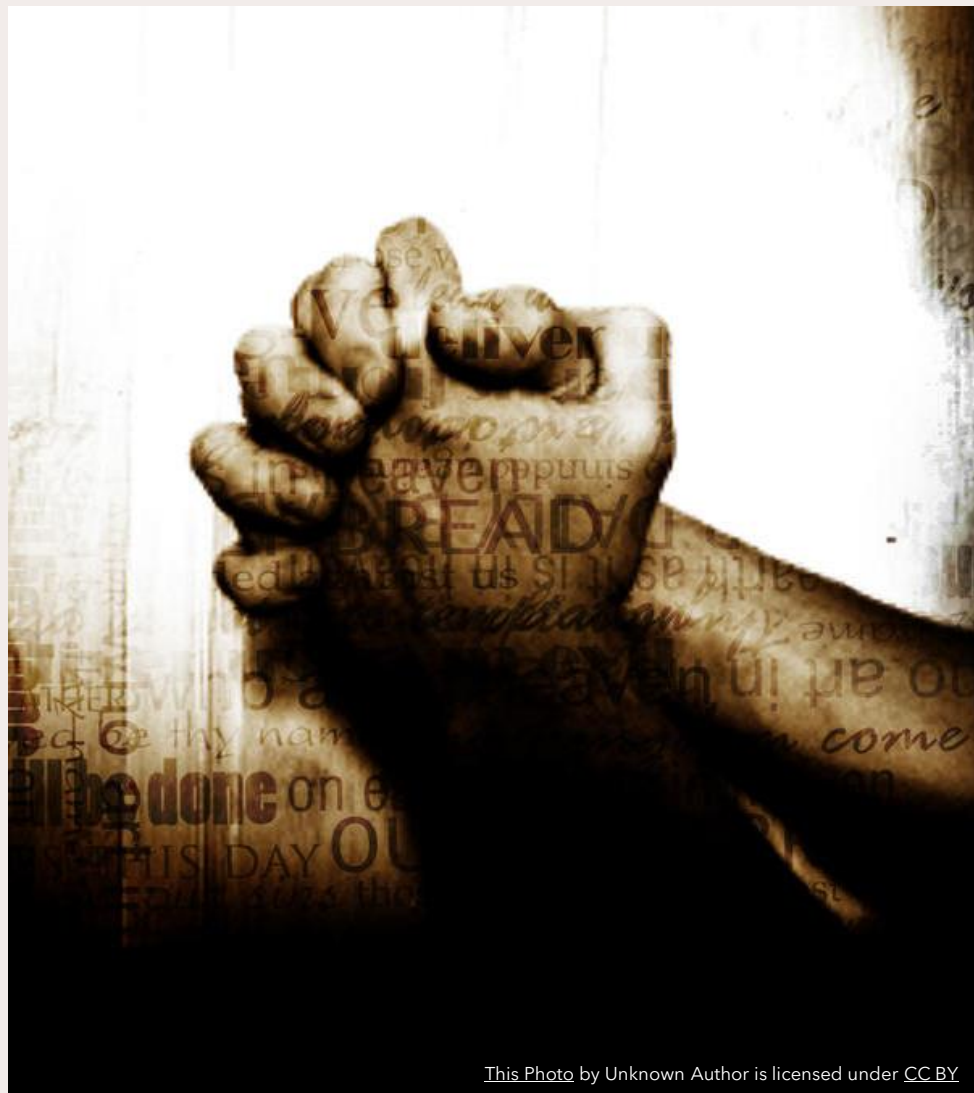


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Ephesians 6:11 *“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”*

- There are two understandings that the Holy Spirit is trying to implant in our minds.

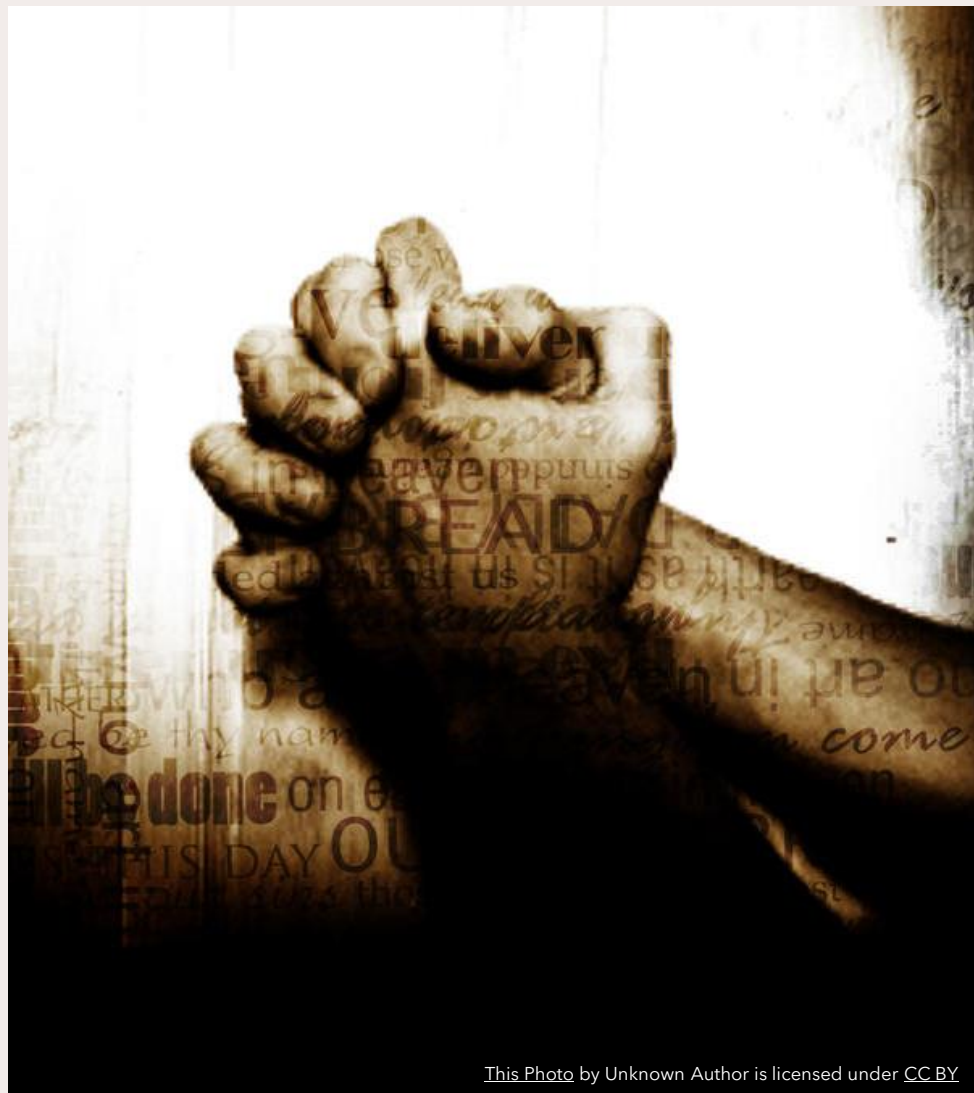


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Ephesians 6:11 *“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”*

- 1. We are called to resist not necessarily to defeat.**
 - The times I got myself into deep water, were the times I forgot, I am not the Messiah.

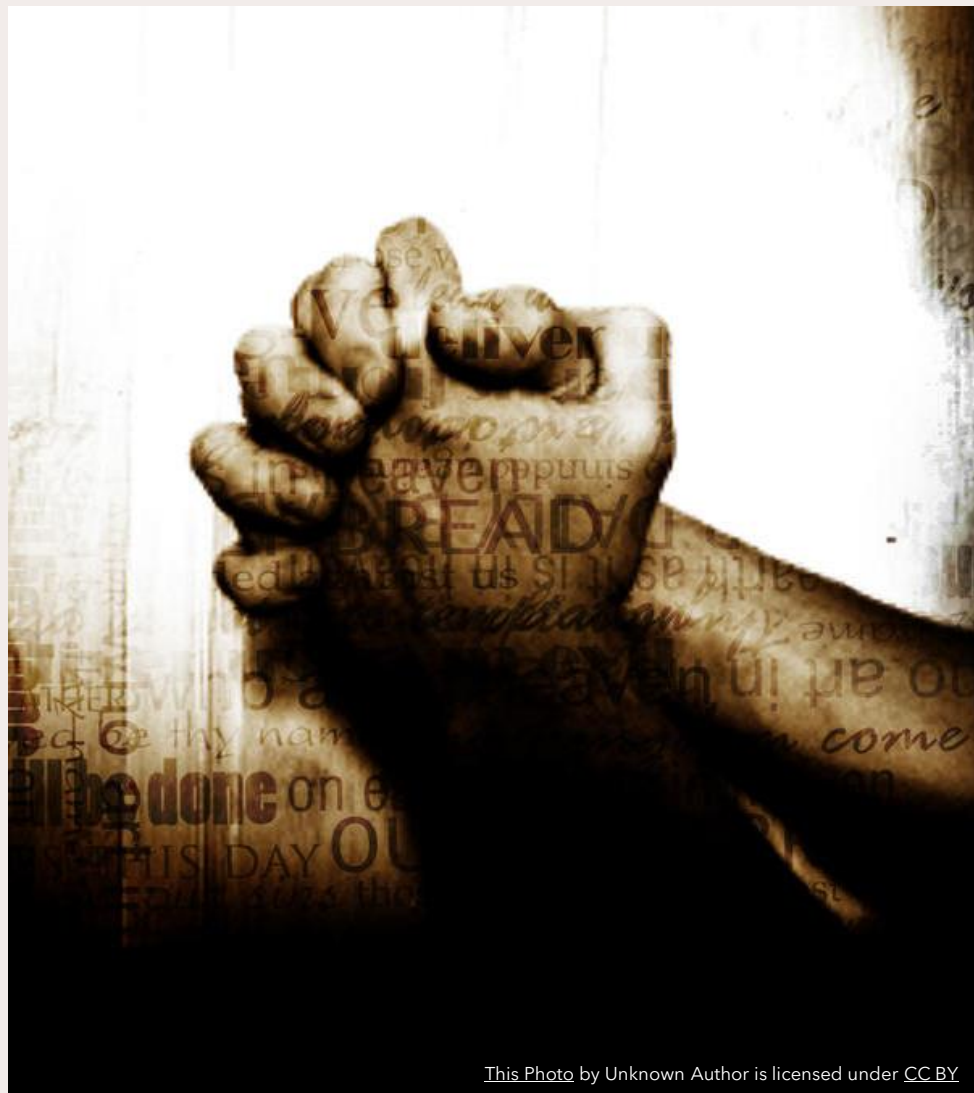


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- 1. We are called to resist not necessarily to defeat.**
 - This is not our calling loved ones. Jesus already died for your issues.
 - What is more, by dying, Jesus has trounced the enemy.

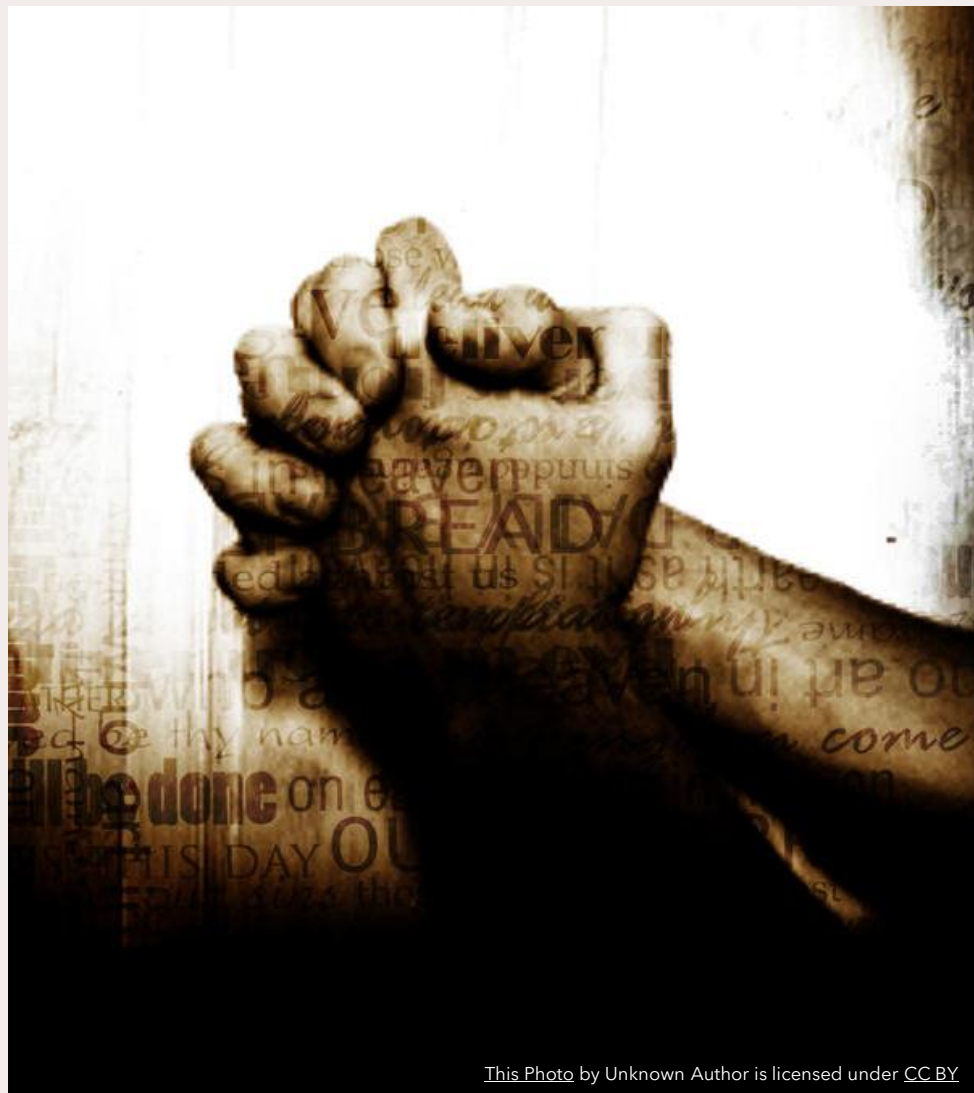


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- 1. We are called to resist not necessarily to defeat.**
 - This is not our calling loved ones. Jesus already died for your issues.
 - What is more, by dying, Jesus has trounced the enemy.
 - The enemy is defeated!

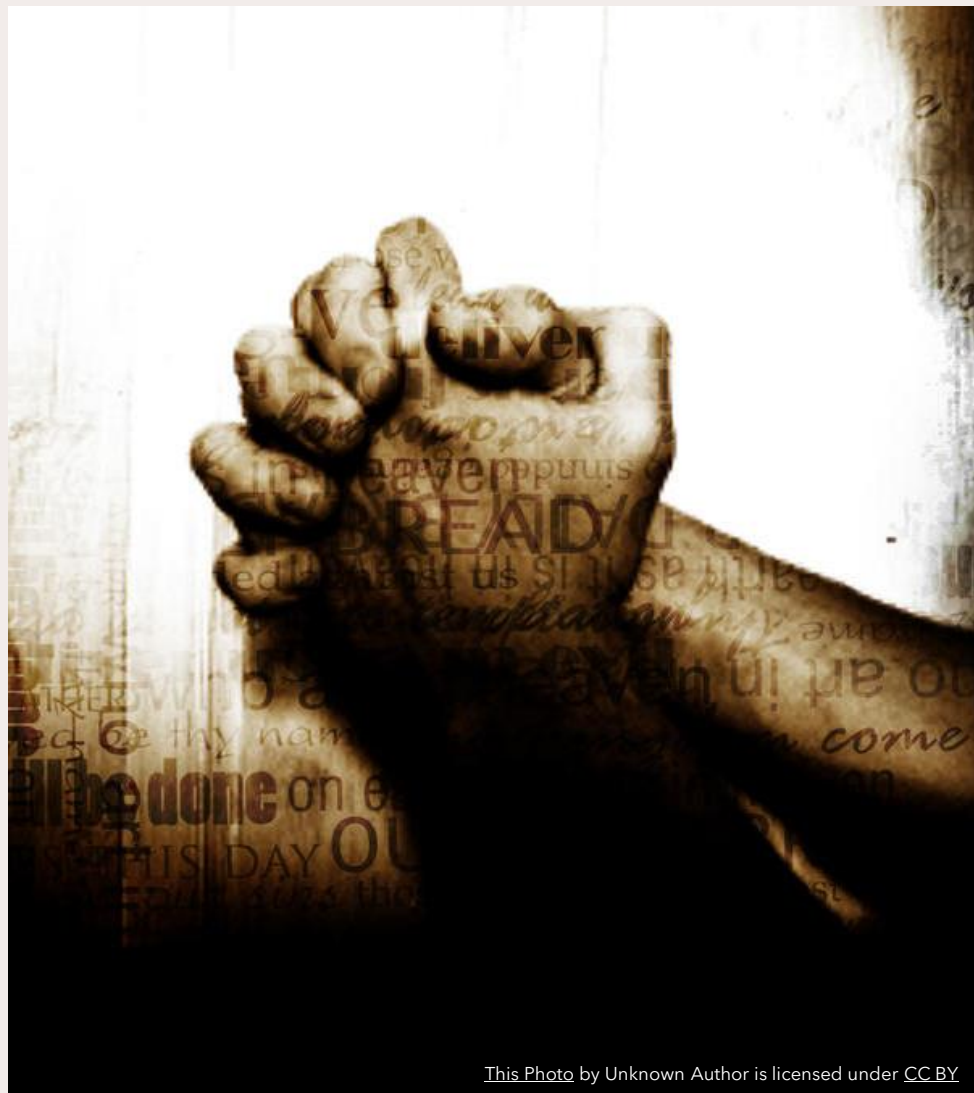


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Ephesians 6:11 *“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”*

1. **We are called to resist not necessarily to defeat.**
 - Because we are facing a defeated enemy, wherever Christians plant their feet, the ground automatically becomes territory for Christ,.

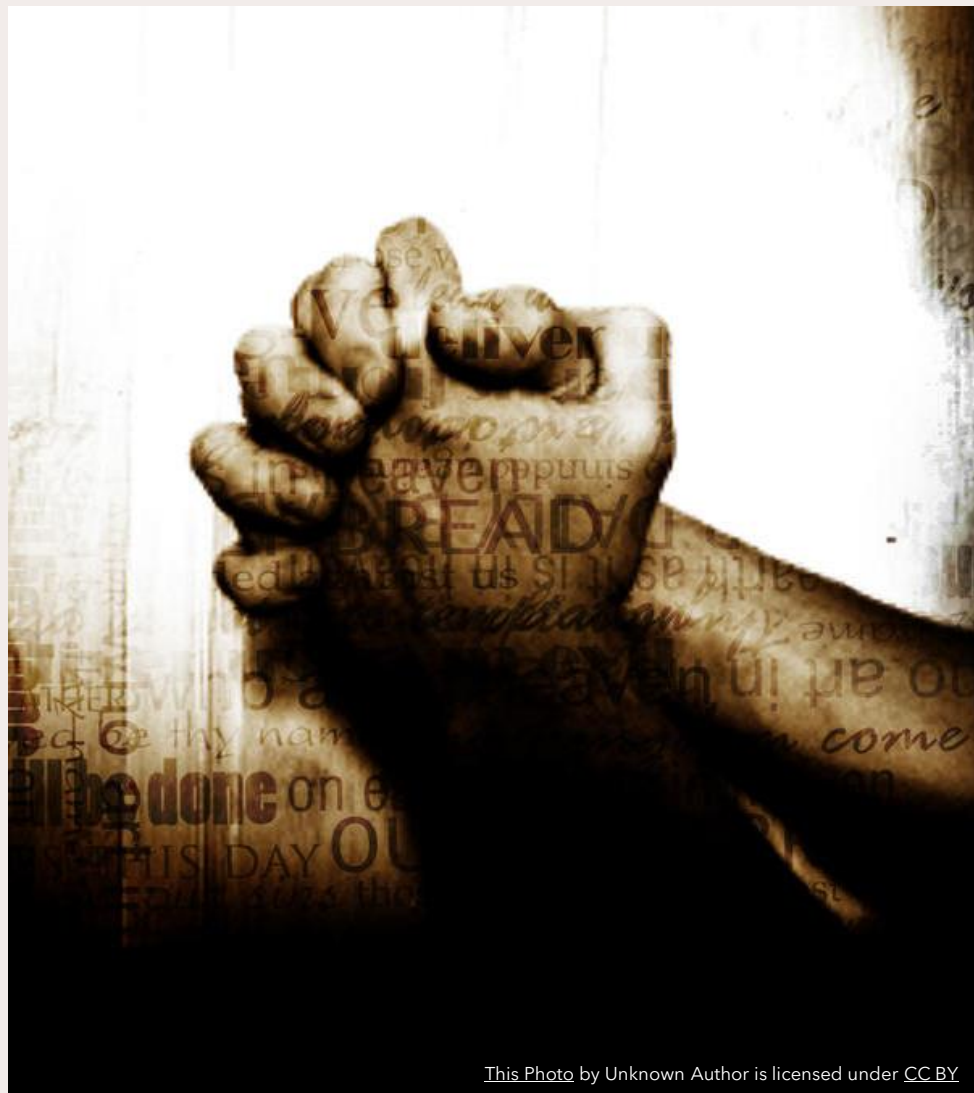


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Ephesians 6:11 *“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”*

- 1. We are called to resist not necessarily to defeat.**
 - Therefore, they have a little conference called the evil day, and literally, all hell breaks loose.

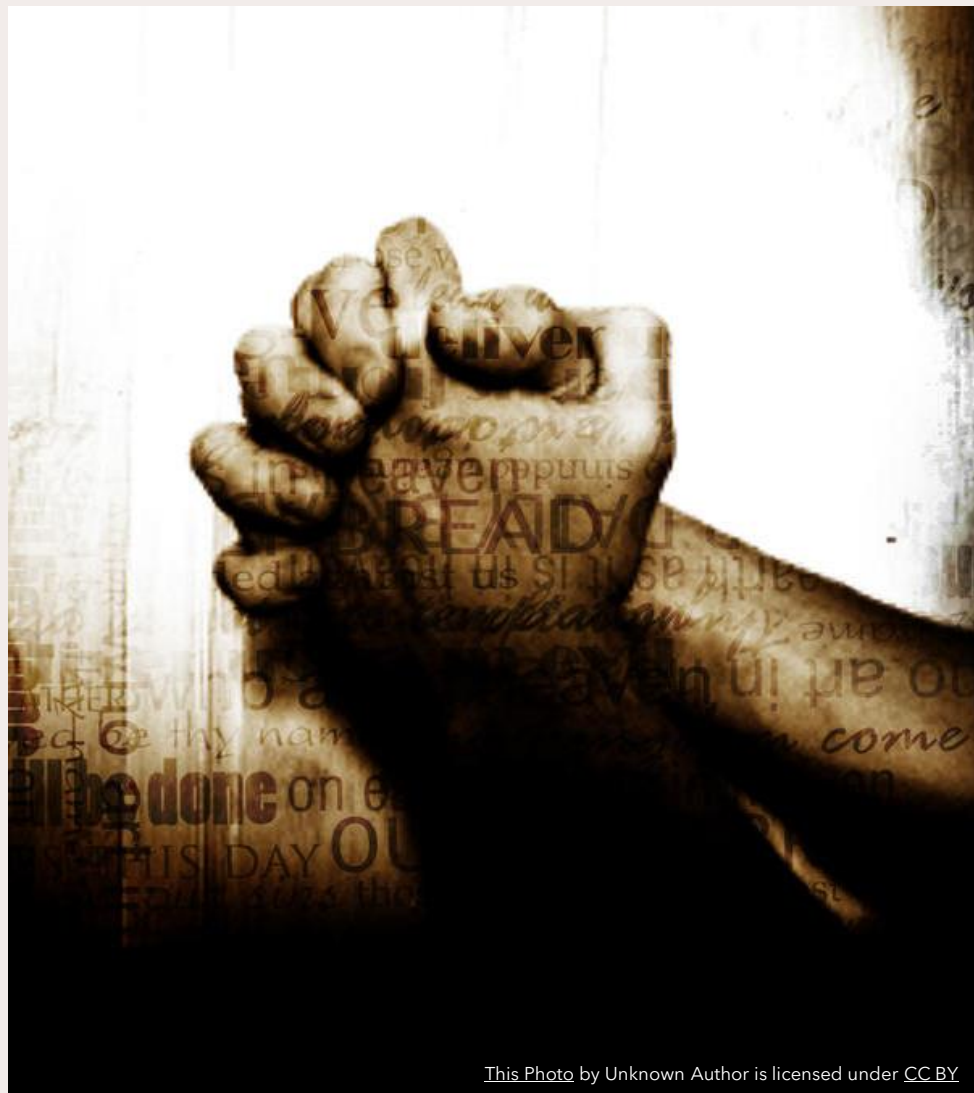


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- 1. We are called to resist not necessarily to defeat.**
 - Therefore, they have a little conference called the evil day, and literally, all hell breaks loose.
 - Evil Day: These are moments when there comes a cascading of bad/evil events and actions in your life.

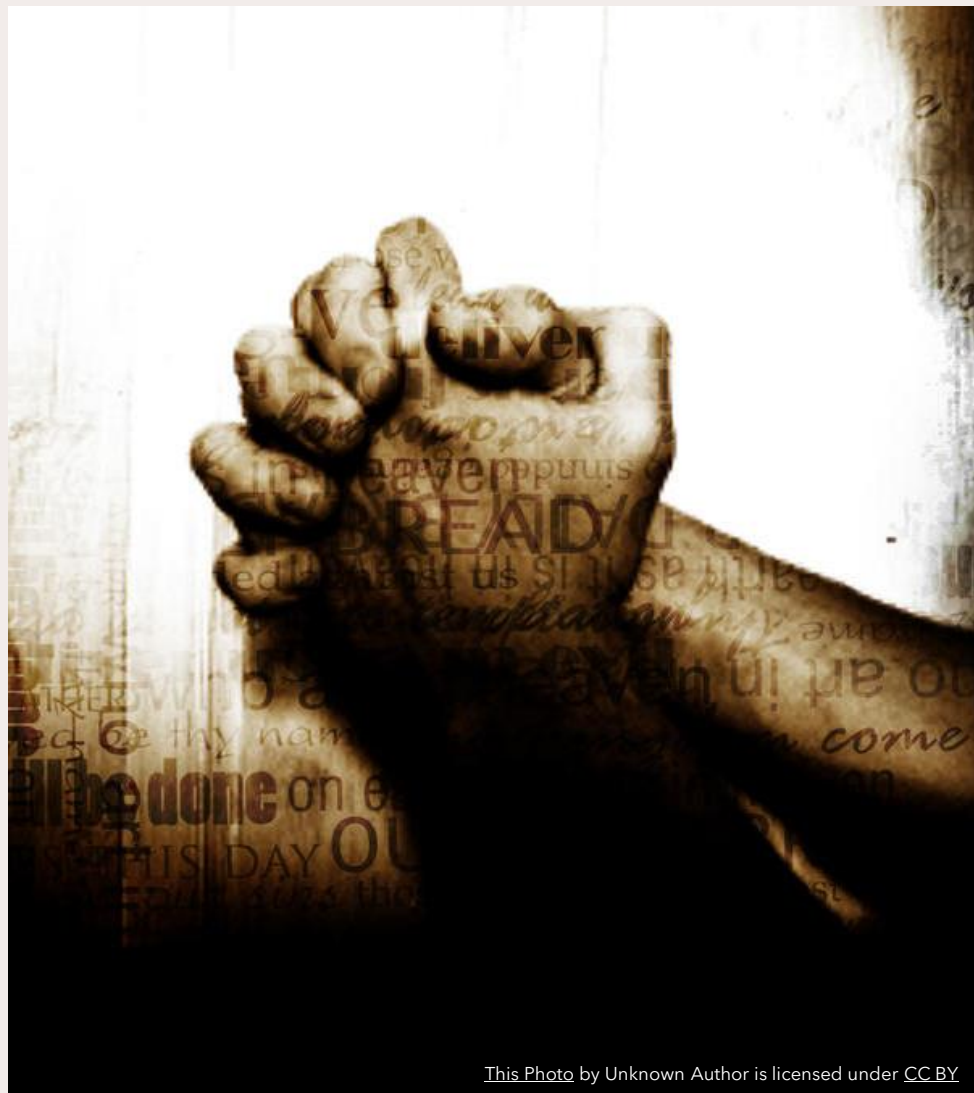


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Ephesians 6:11 *“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”*

1. **We are called to resist not necessarily to defeat.**
 - Therefore, what we need everywhere we go, is NOT an offensive posture to withstand the onslaught, but a defensive posture to stand firm against this demonic ambush.

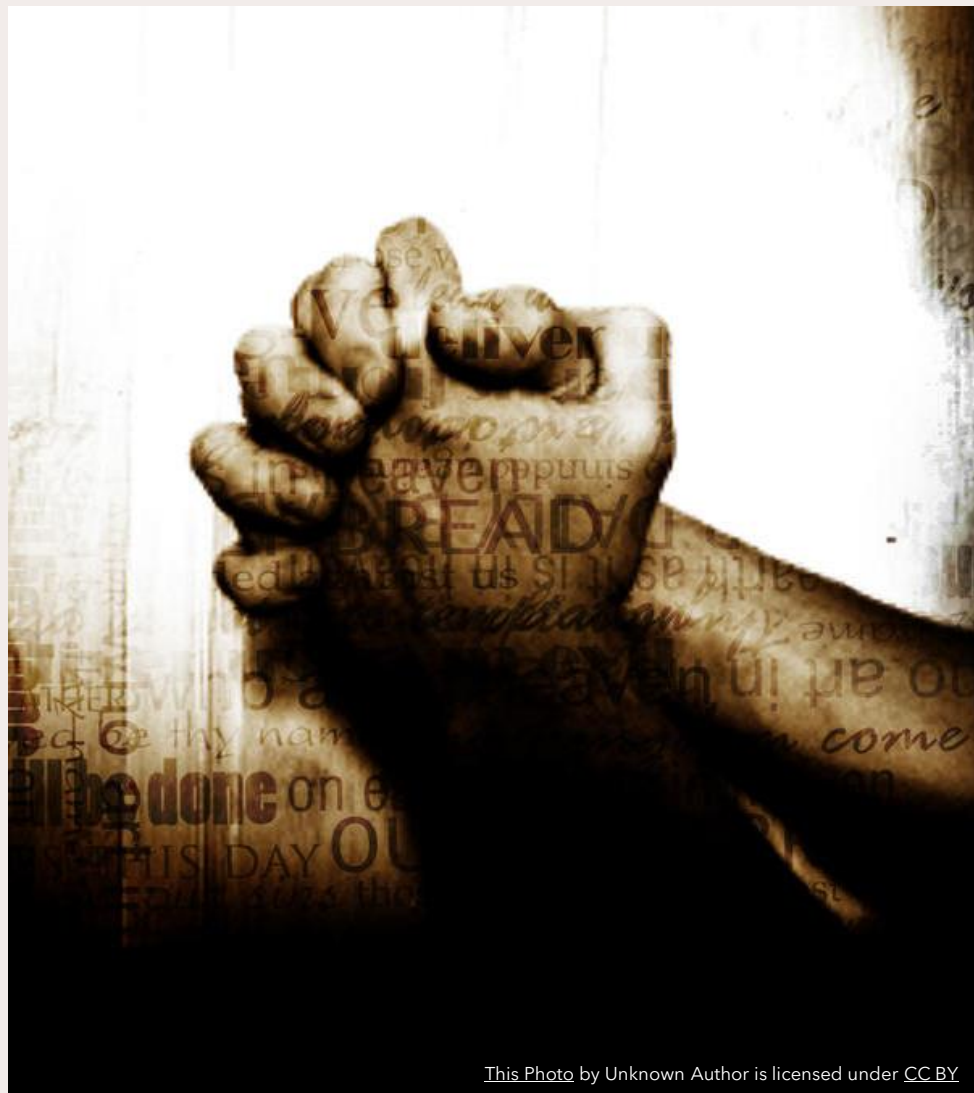


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Ephesians 6:11 “*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.*”

1. We are called to resist not necessarily to defeat.
 - What do you do in these cases?
 - Paul just said, we are to, “...*stand against the schemes of the devil.*”

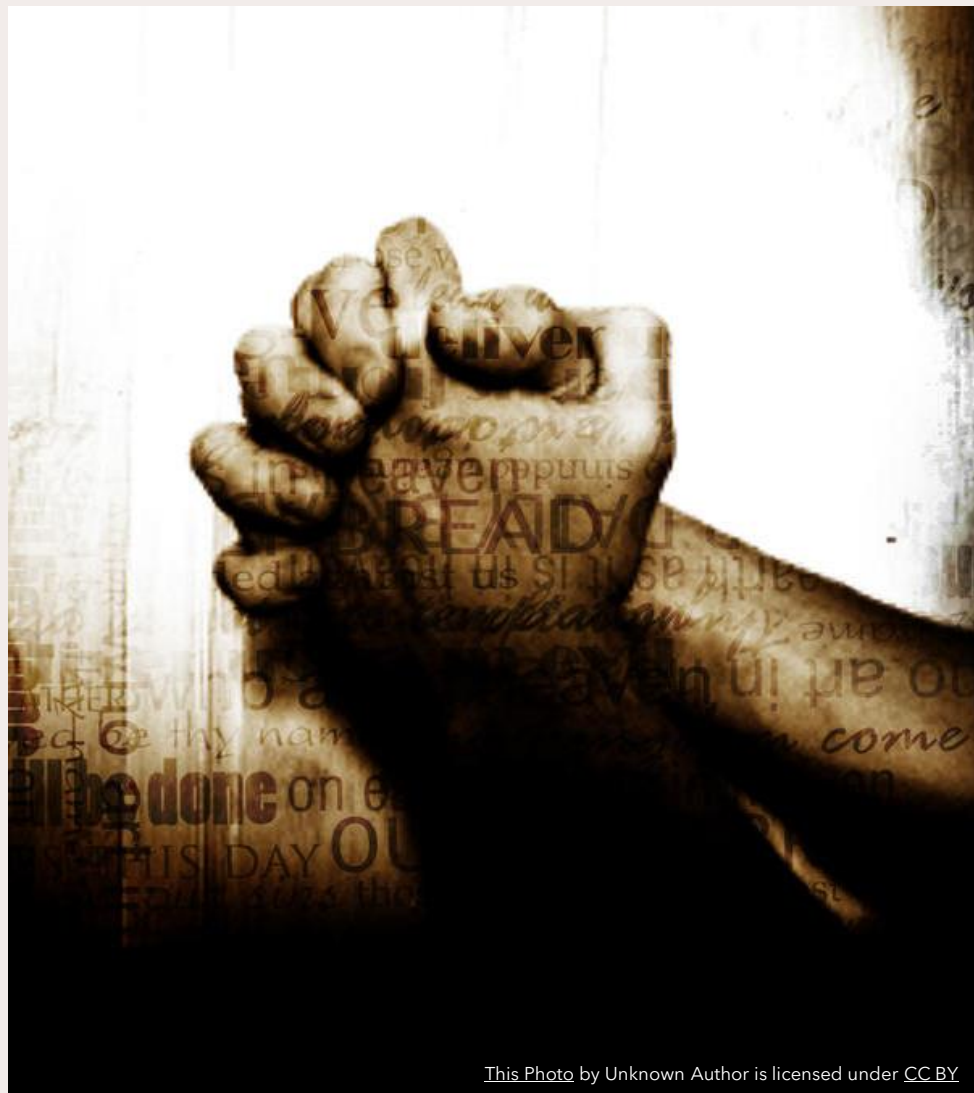


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Ephesians 6:11 *“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”*

1. We are called to resist not necessarily to defeat.
 - What do you do in these cases?
 - Paul just said, we are to, *“...stand against the schemes of the devil.”*
 - So, what is the strategy?

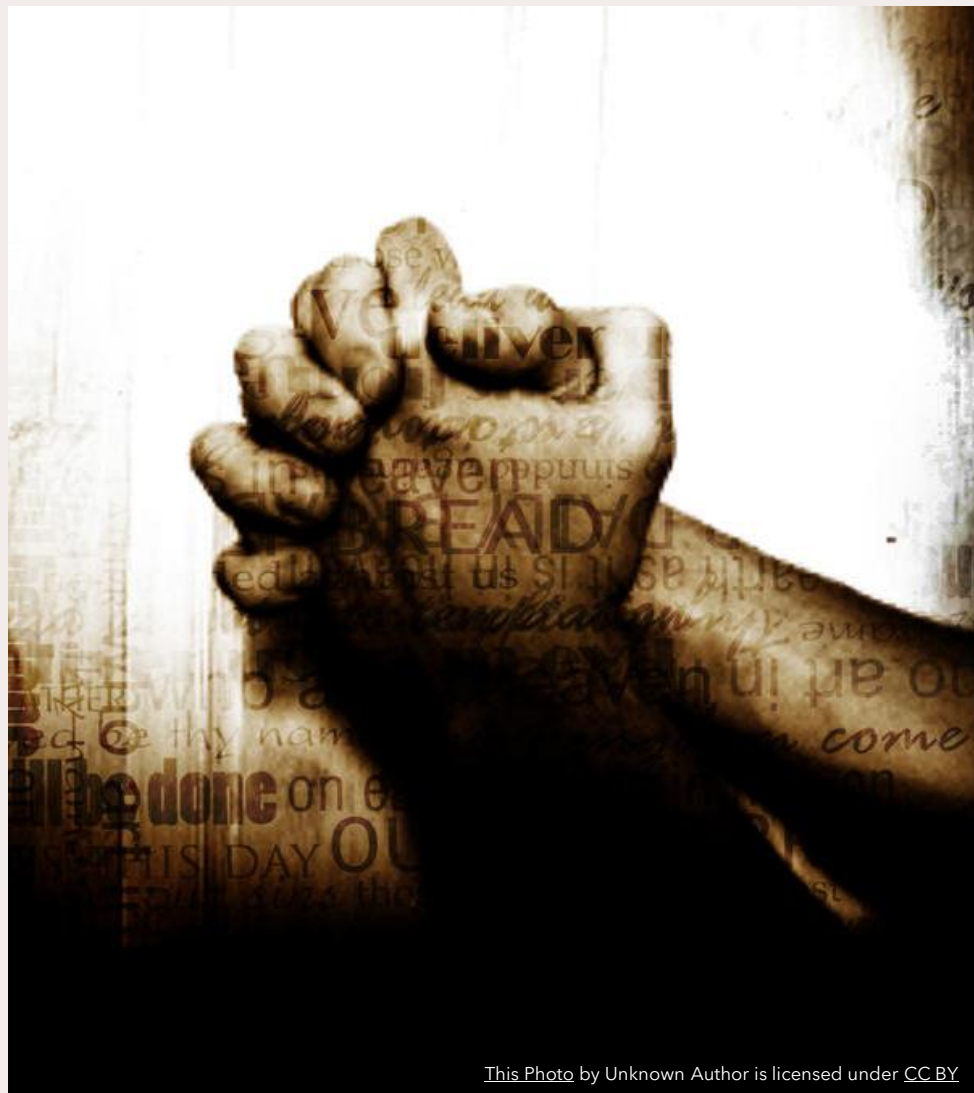


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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

Ephesians 6:11 *“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”*

1. We are called to resist not necessarily to defeat.
 - What do you do in these cases?
 - Paul just said, we are to, “...*stand against the schemes of the devil.*”
 - So, what is the strategy?
 - He doesn’t fight fair, so don’t you fight fair!



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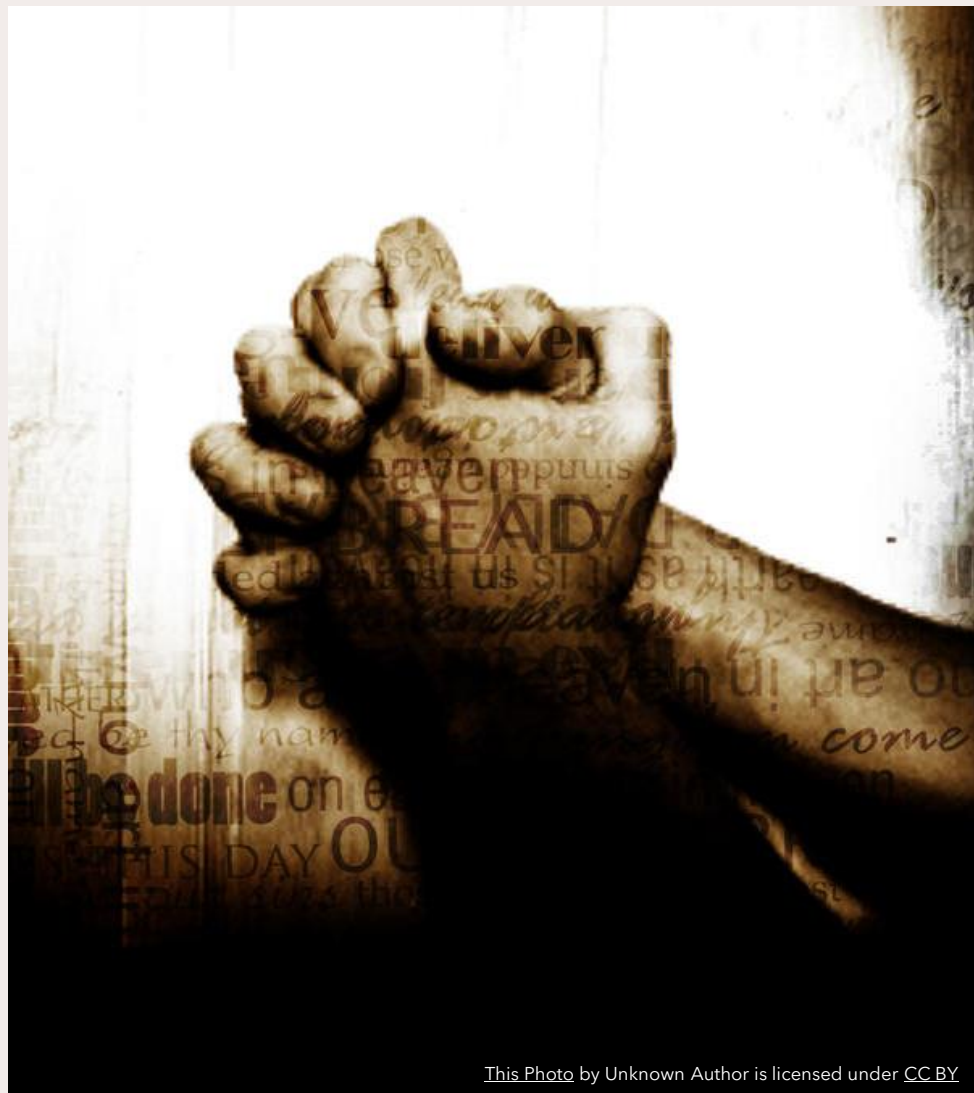
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1. We are called to resist not necessarily to defeat.

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Jesus said in Matthew 10:16 *“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.”*

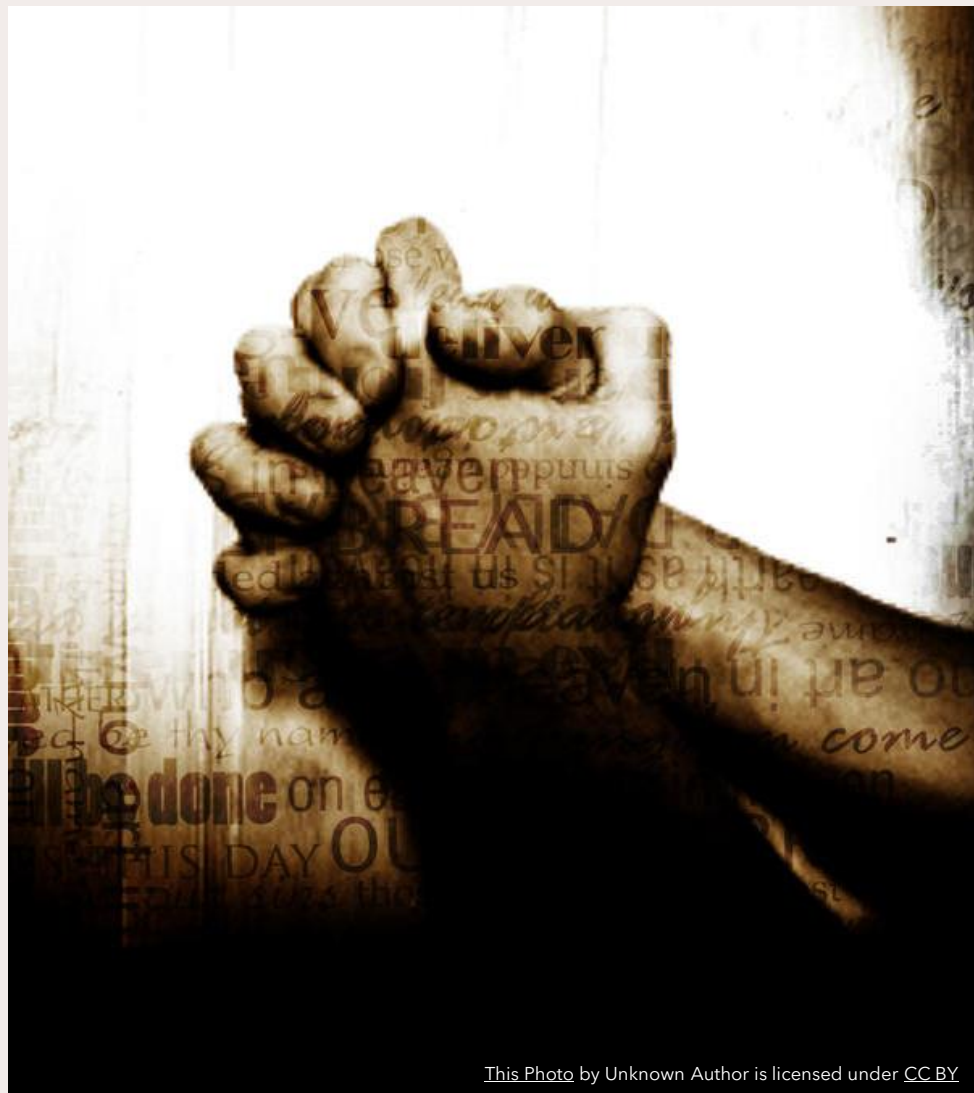


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Jesus said in Matthew 10:16 “***Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.***”

- When Jesus instructed the disciples this way, He wasn't telling them to engage in unethical tactics like the rest of the world.

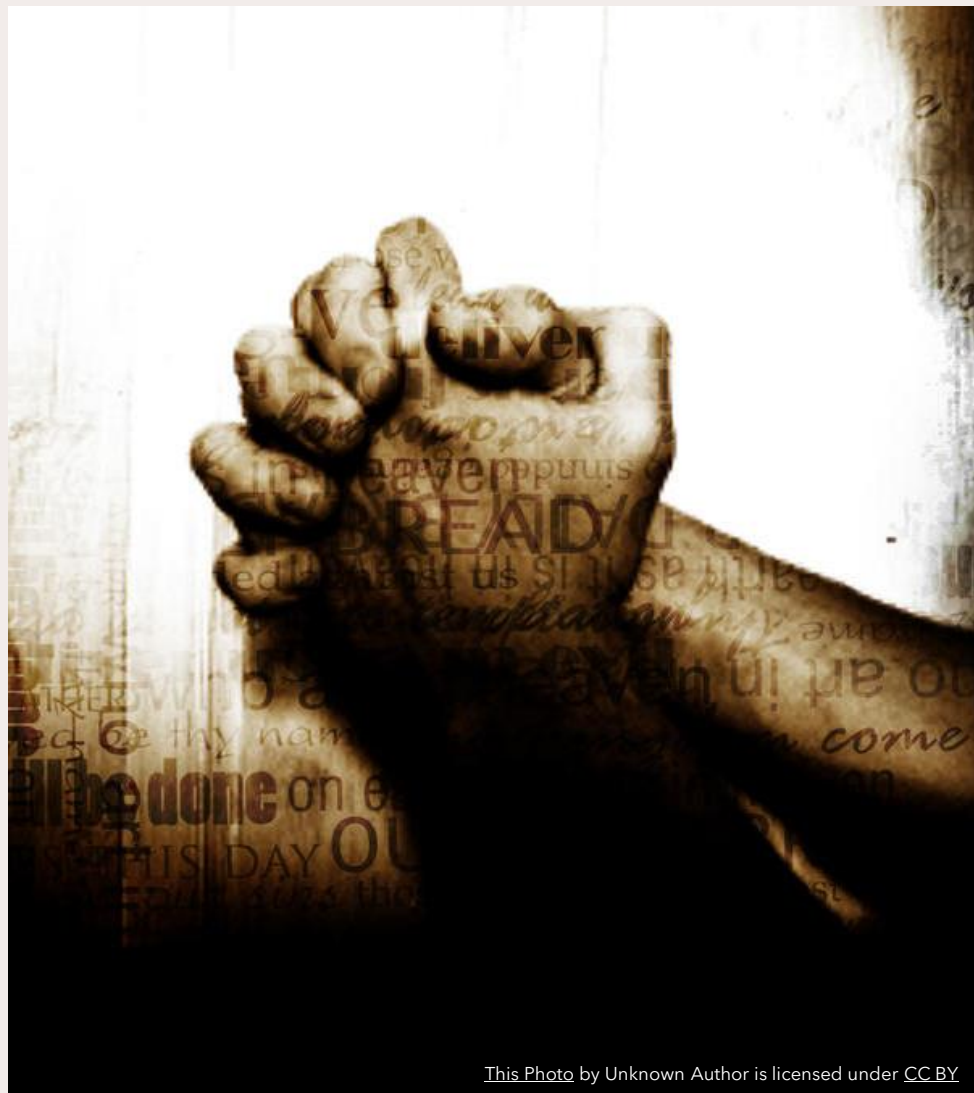


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- When Jesus instructed the disciples this way, He wasn't telling them to engage in unethical tactics like the rest of the world.
- He was saying bring to bear the resources of Heaven

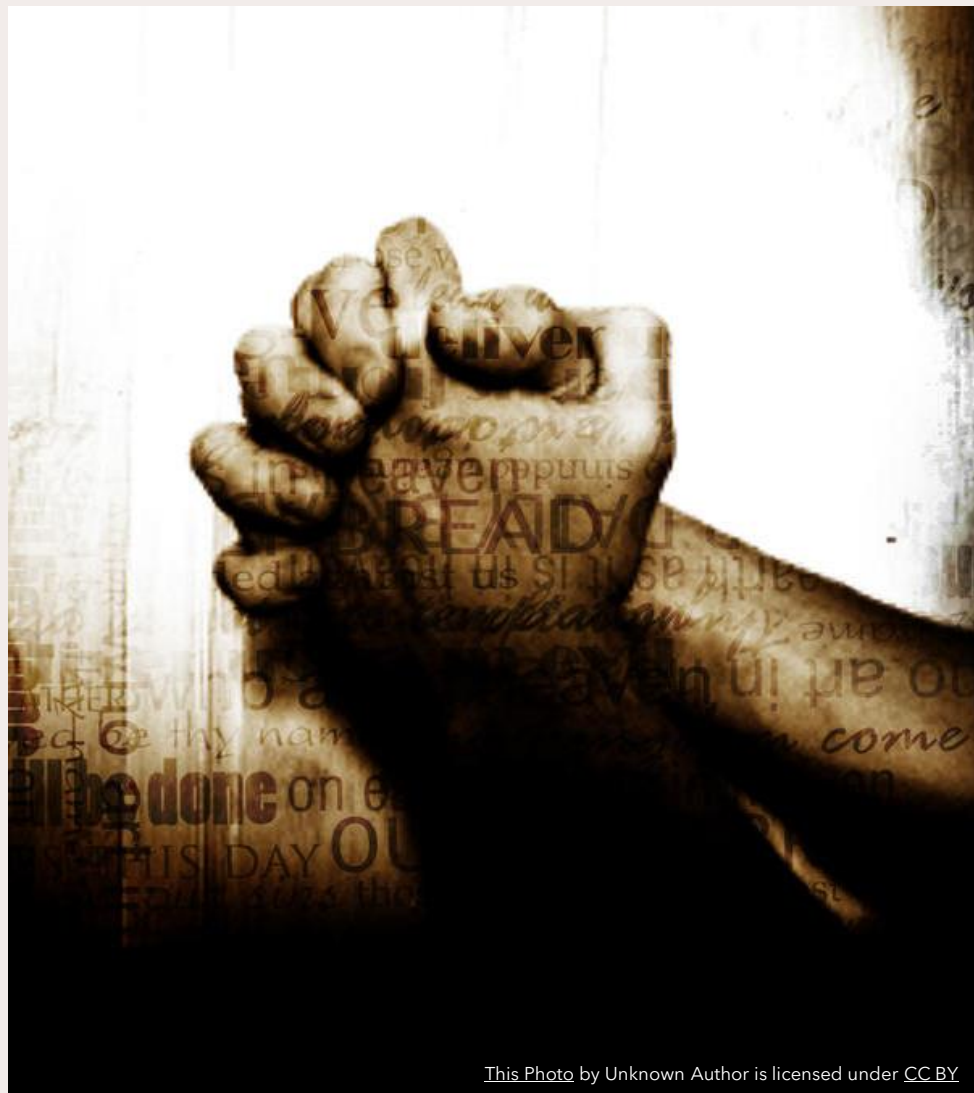


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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

Jesus said in Matthew 10:16 “***Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.***”

- He was saying bring to bear the resources of Heaven
 - 3) You demonstrate to the unbelievers love and kindness, patience and understanding, joy and gentleness, in other words, bring the Fruit of the Spirit to bear.



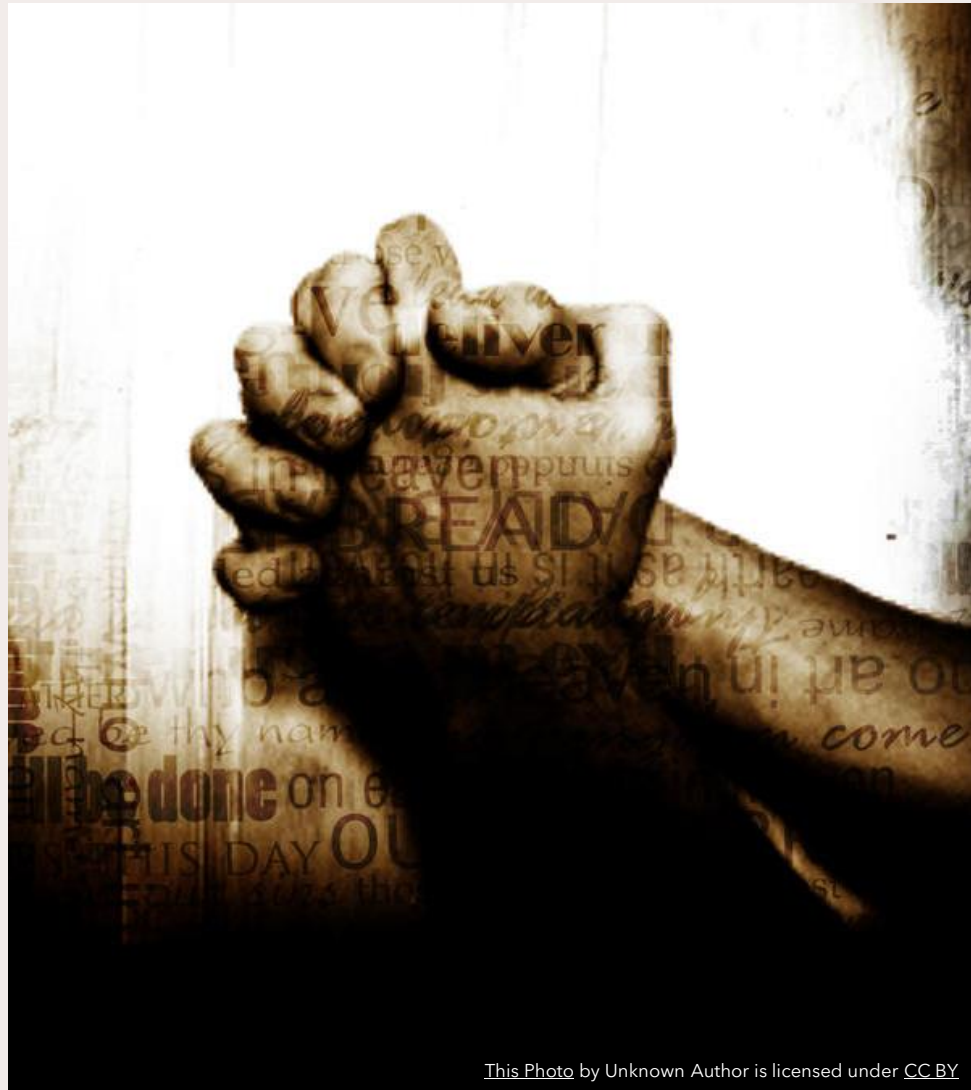
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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

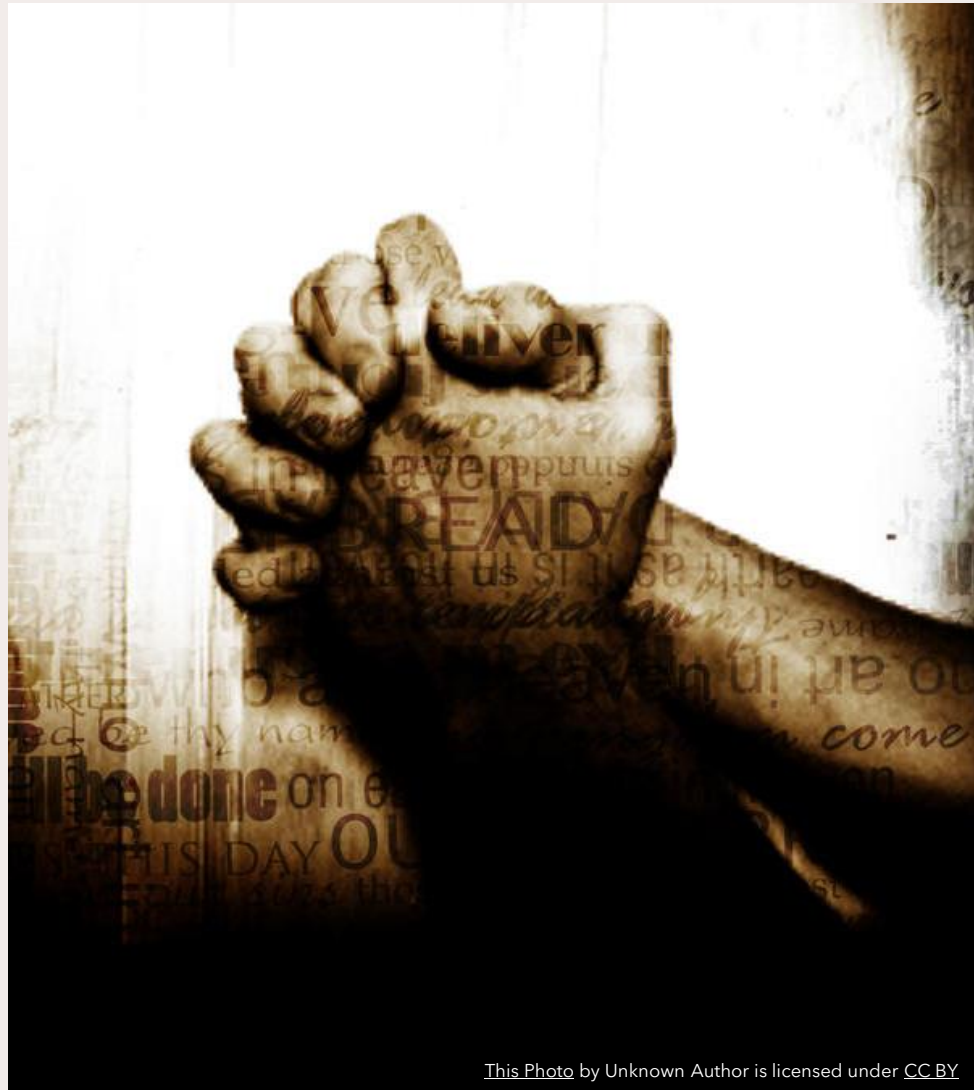
- When things seem dark, you have entered into a territory where the schemes and cleverness and deceit of the devil, and those he has influenced, has taken dominance in the atmosphere.
- But loved ones, you must never forget, wherever light goes, the darkness is weakened.

**V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit
Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!**

**DARKNESS
CANNOT
OVERCOME
LIGHT.**



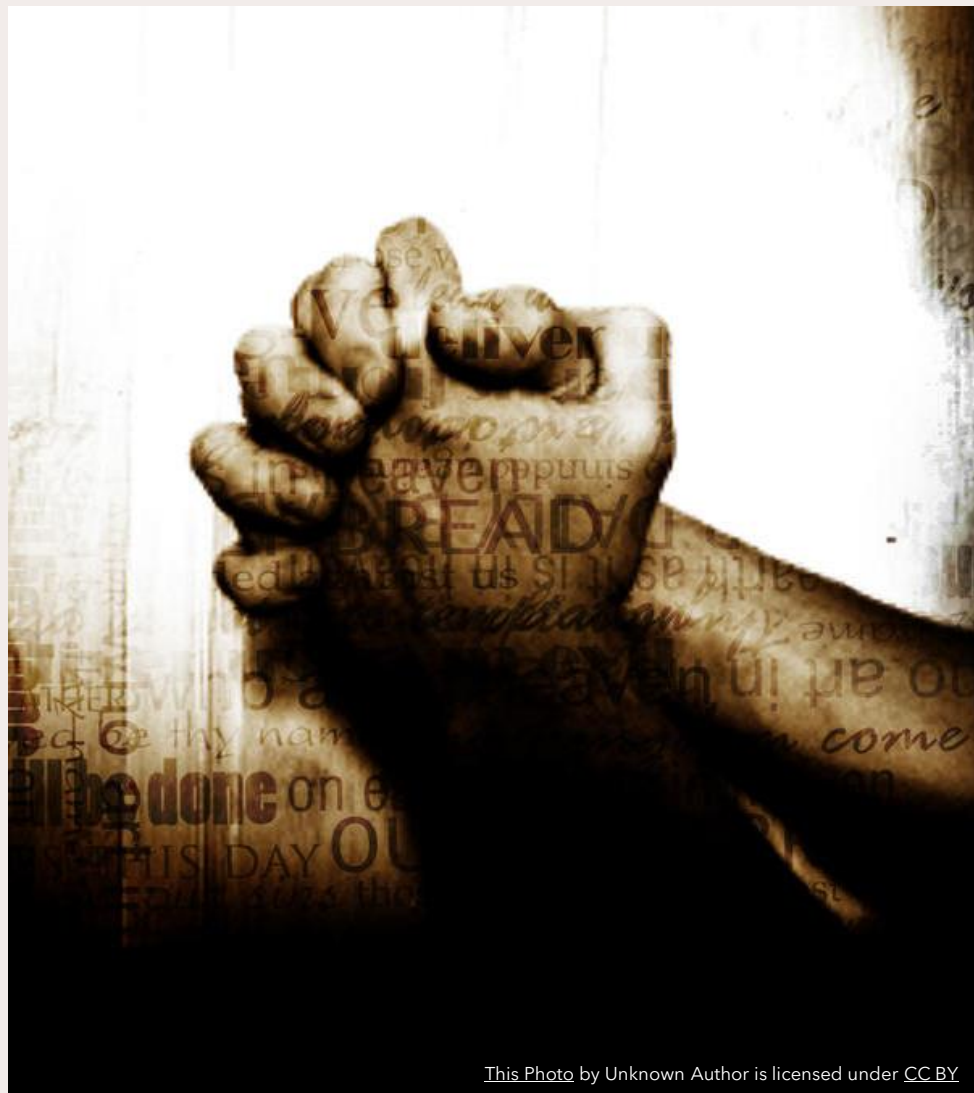
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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

- You are not responsible for the victory.



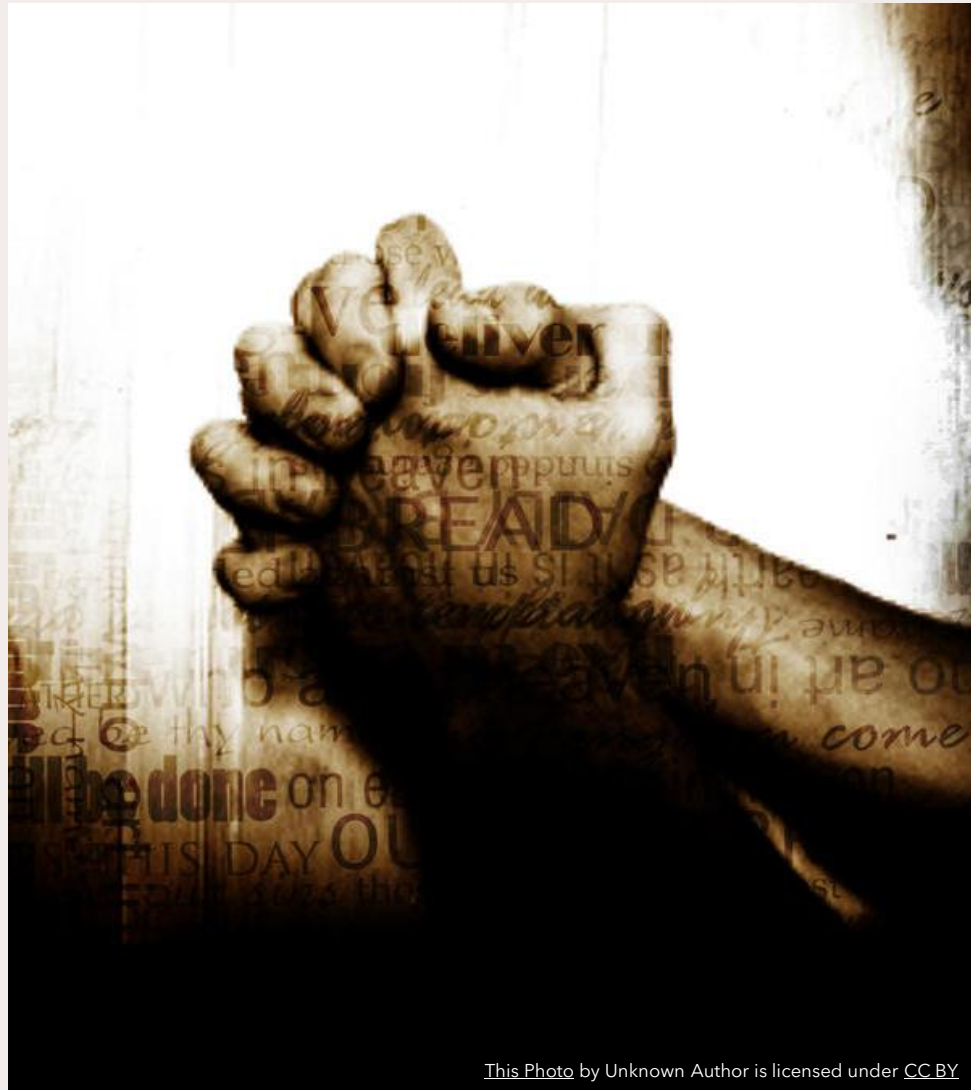
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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

- You are not responsible for the victory.
- You are responsible to engage in the battle by **PROCLAIMING THE VICTORY PLAN**, and by **LIVING THE VICTORY PLAN**.

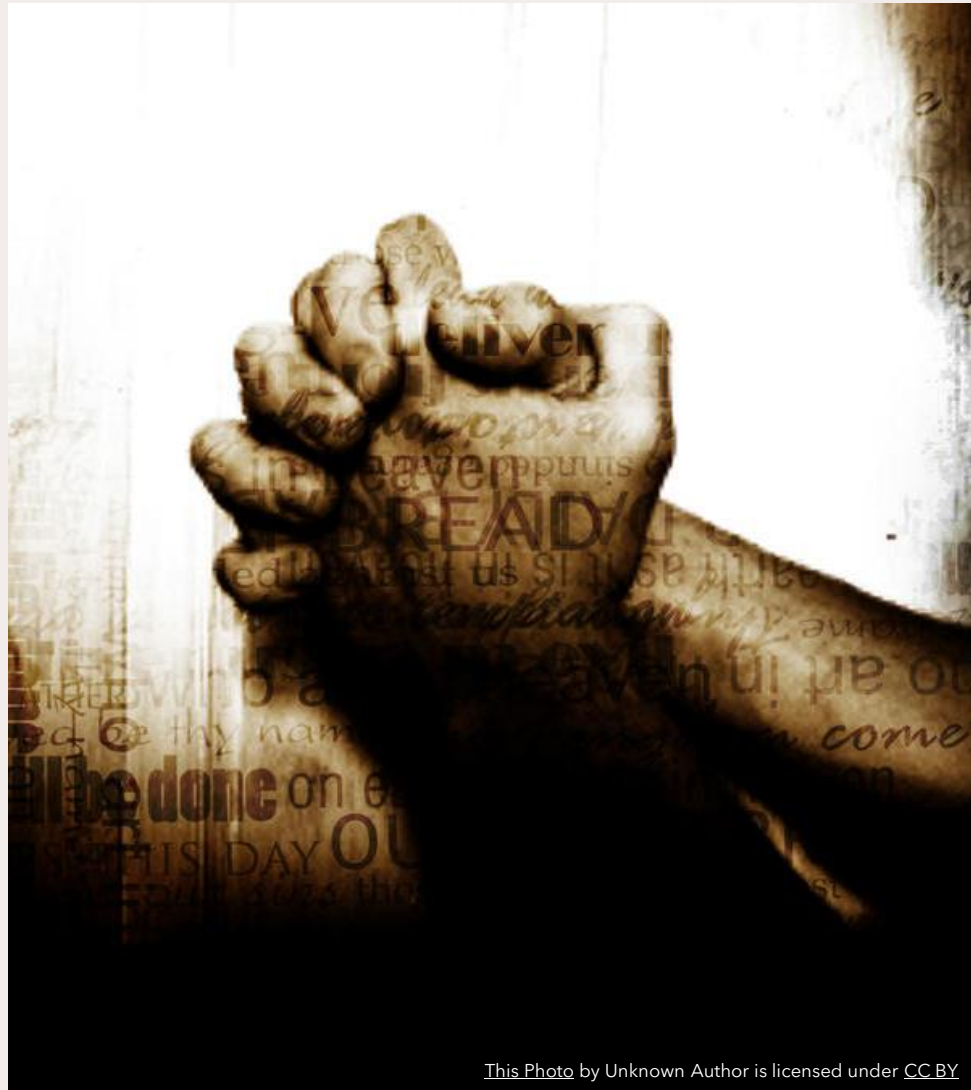
**V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit
Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!**

**The victory is the
Lord's!**

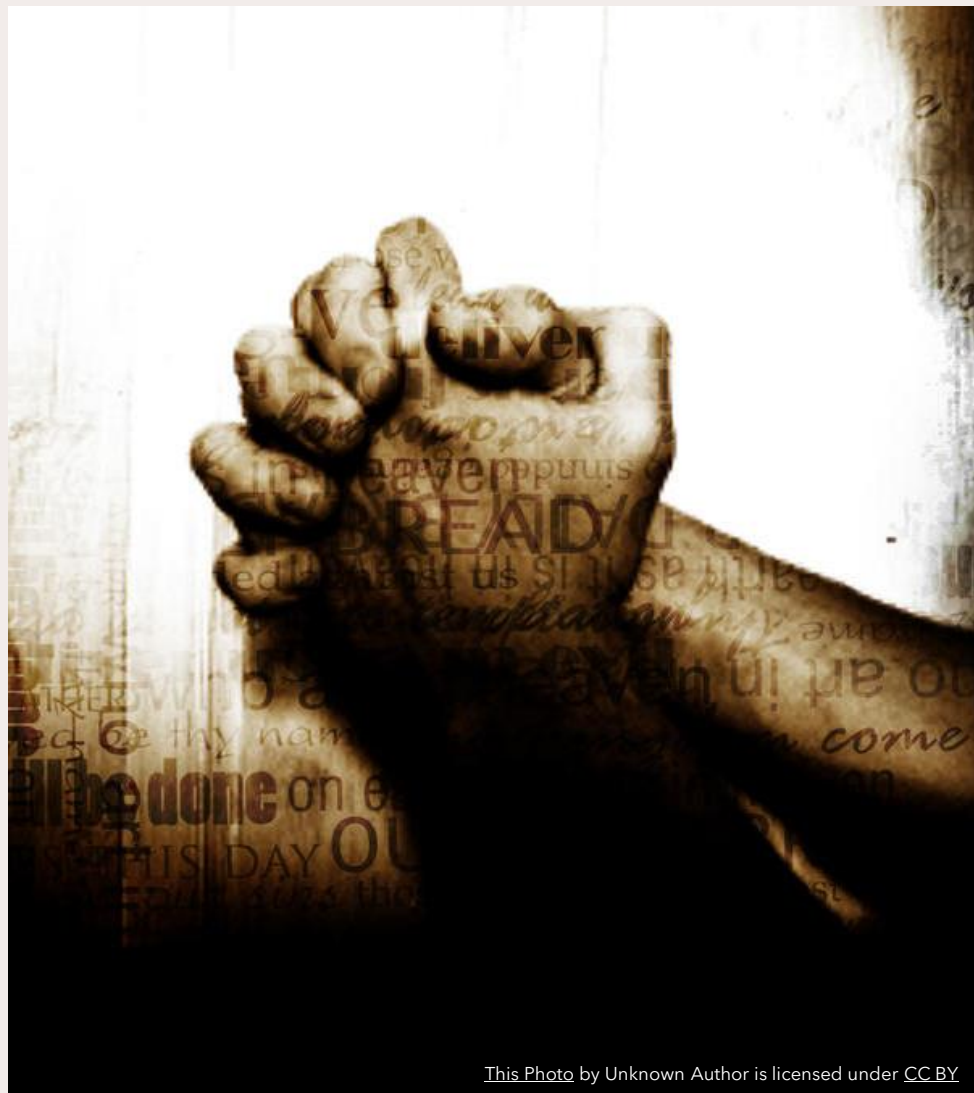


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**V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit
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Who is it that we are to battle?**



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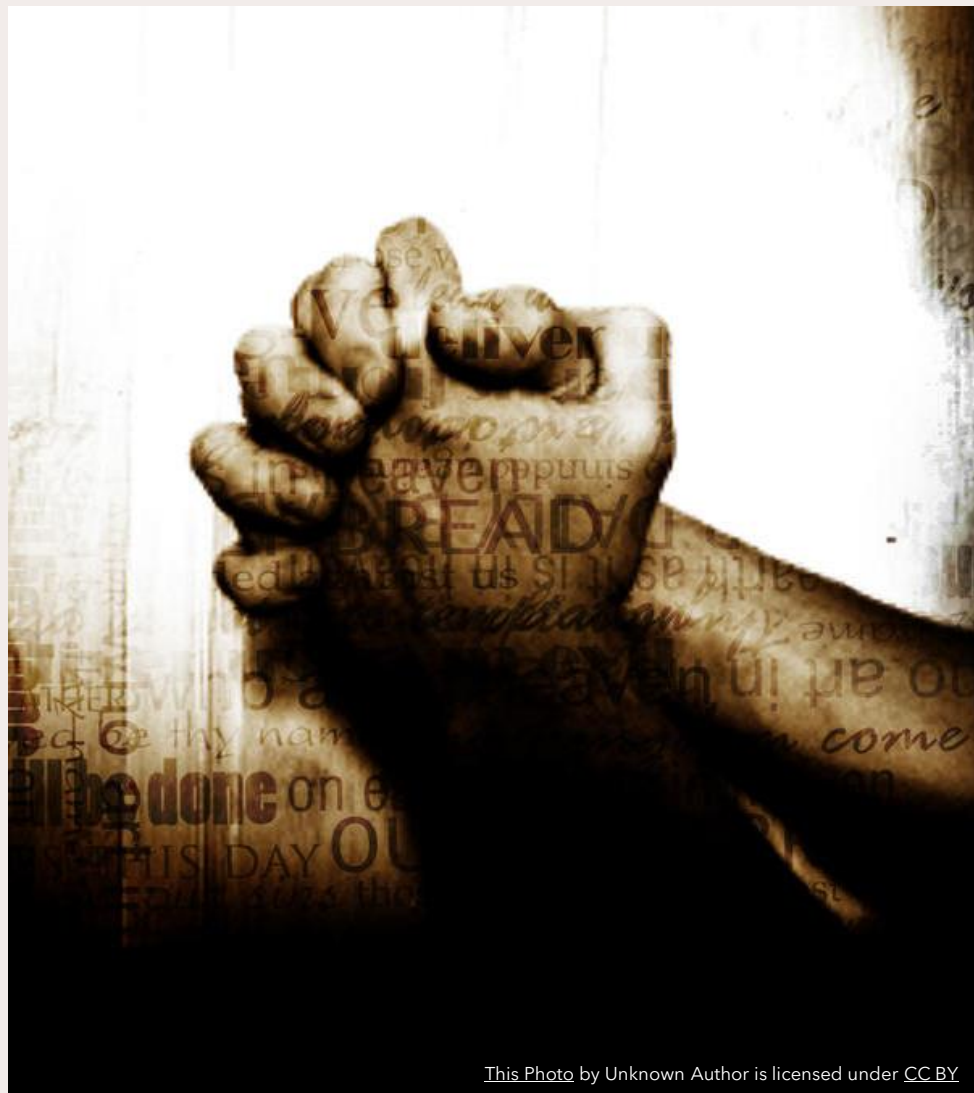


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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

Who is it that we are to battle?

Ephesians 6:12 *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”*

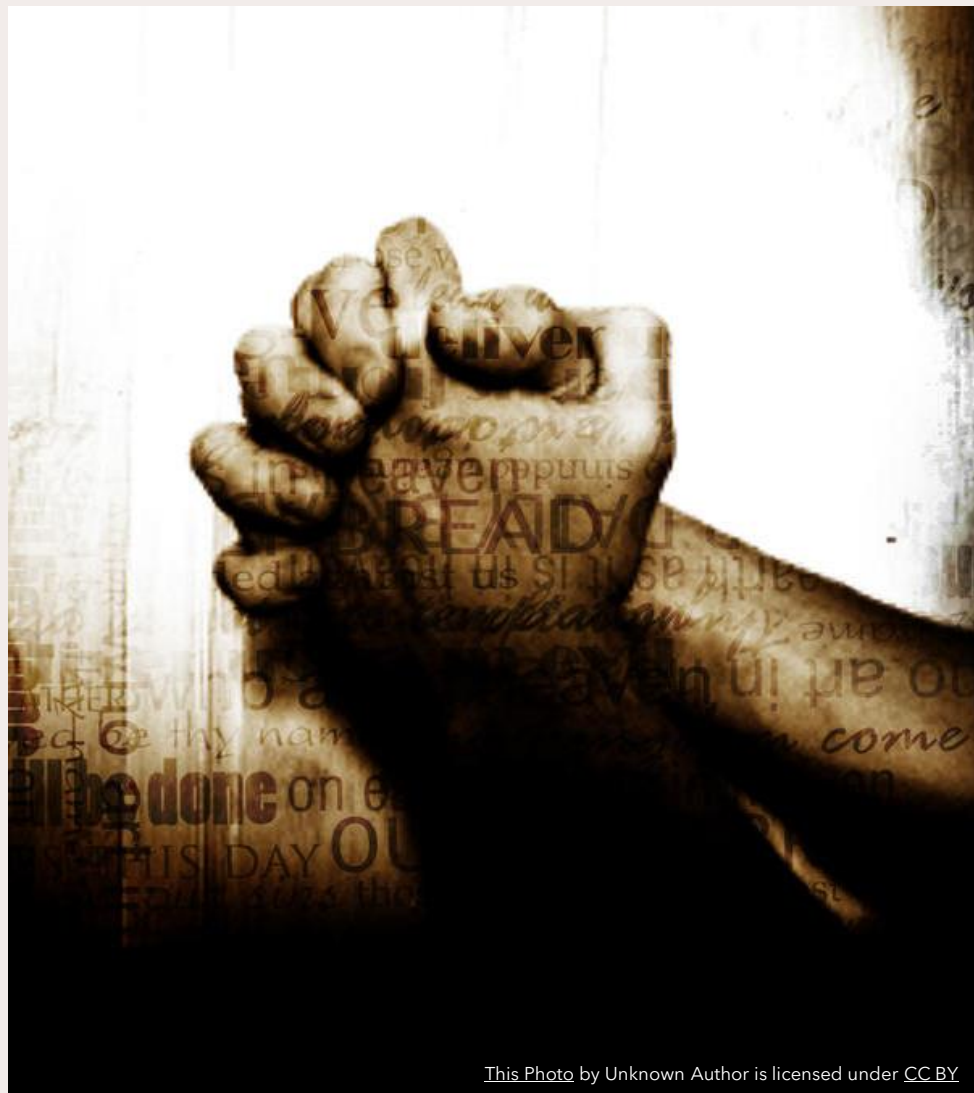


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Who is it that we are to battle?

There are 2 realms revealed by Paul



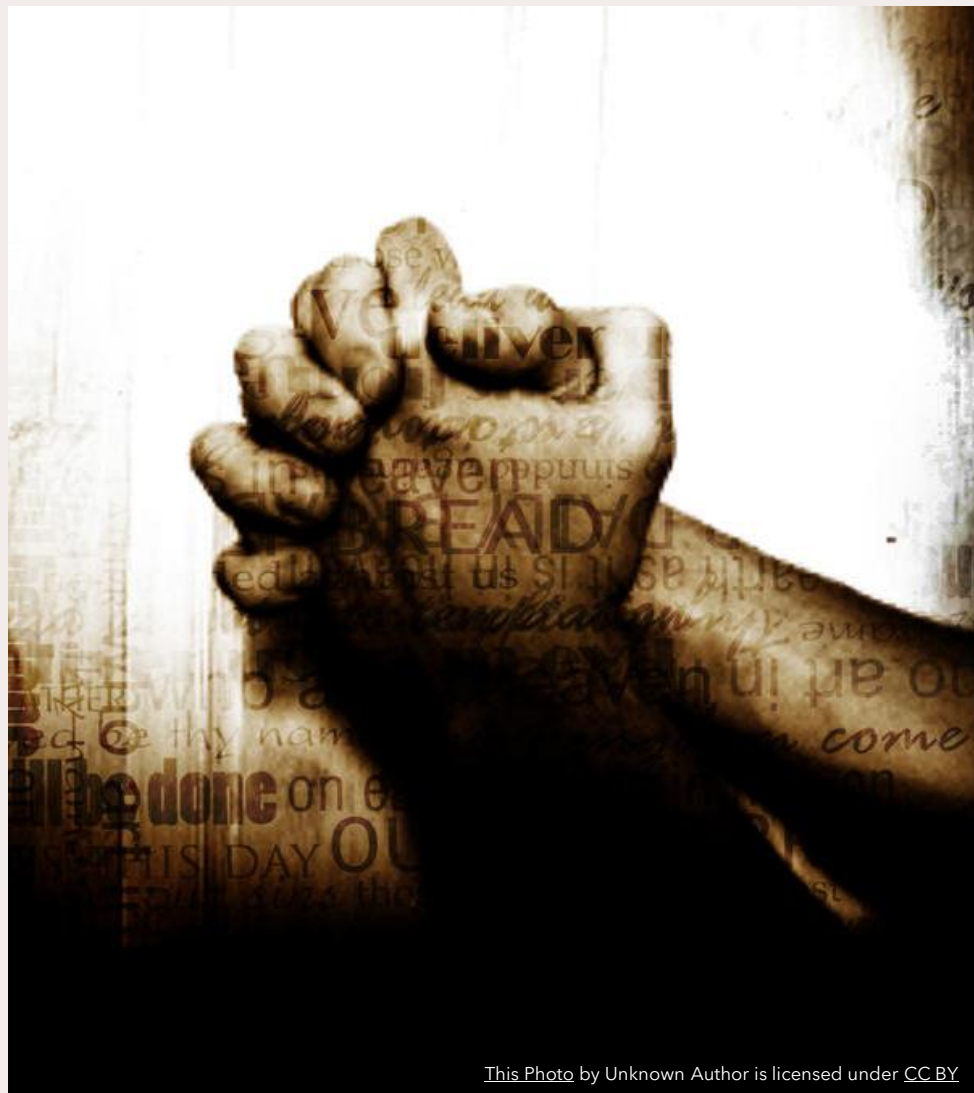
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I. FORCES BELOW



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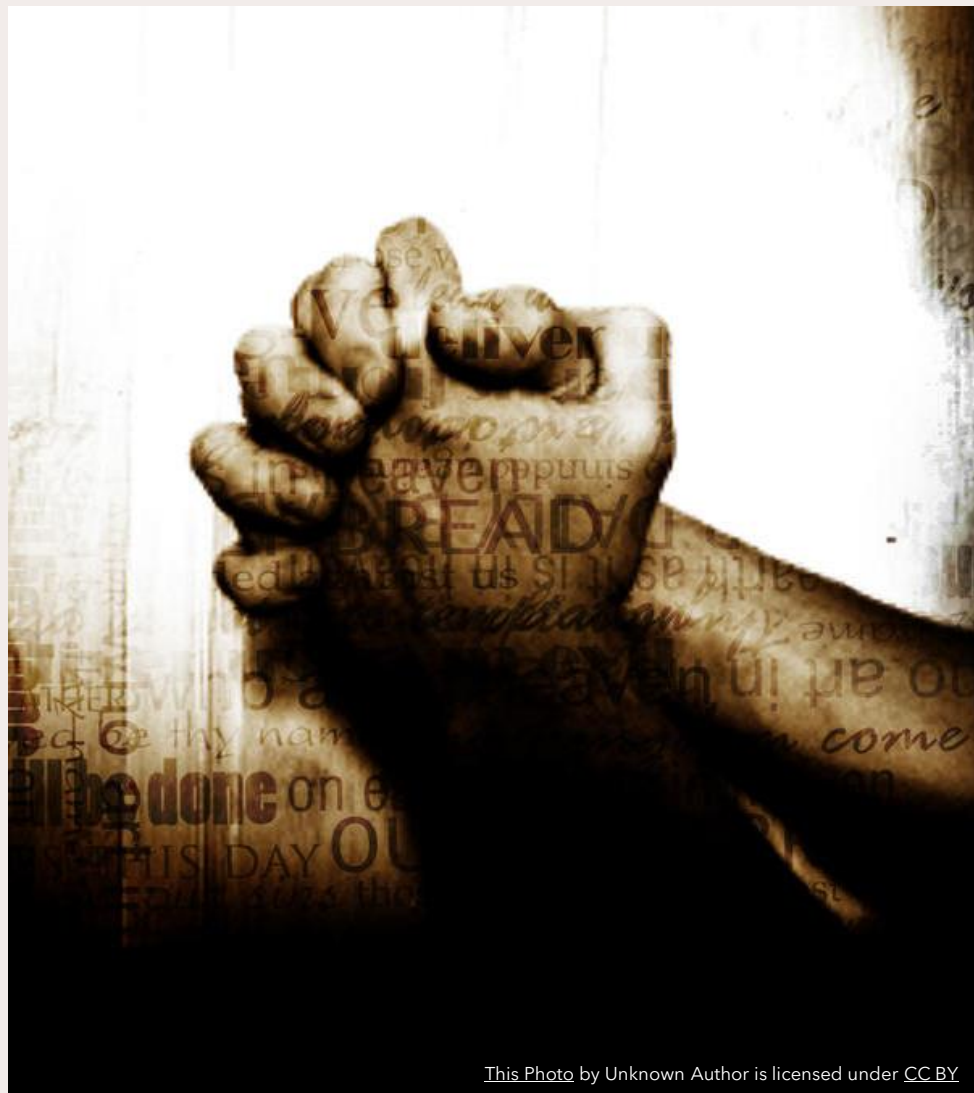
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Who is it that we are to battle?

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I. FORCES BELOW

1) Rulers of Darkness – These are children of the devil who have succumb to absolute control by demonic forces.



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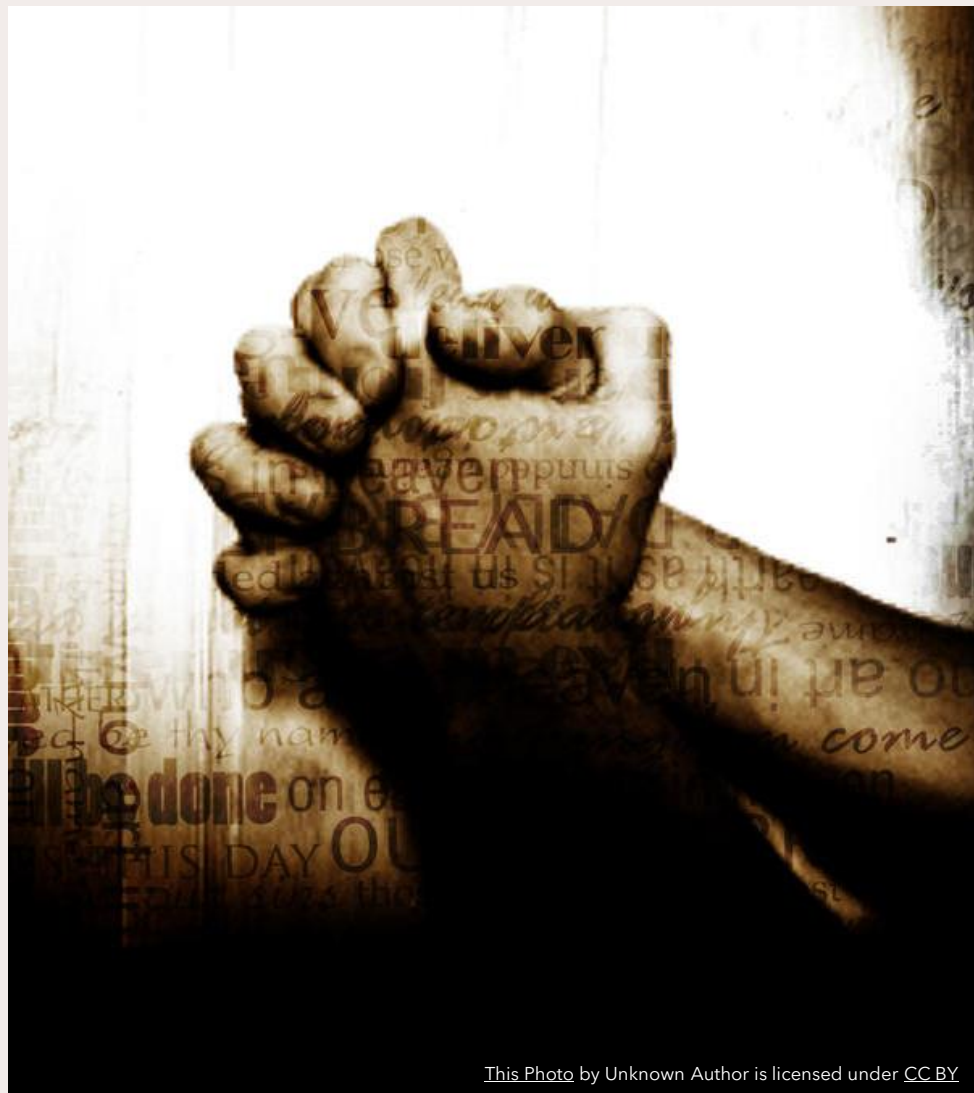
Who is it that we are to battle?

There are 2 realms revealed by Paul

I. FORCES BELOW

1) **Rulers of Darkness** – These are children of the devil who have succumb to absolute control by demonic forces.

- These are people so captivated by deception, they are no longer in control of themselves.
- We are given a detailed description of people who are succumbing to the demonic.



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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

Who is it that we are to battle?

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I. FORCES BELOW

1) **Rulers of Darkness** – These are children of the devil who have succumb to absolute control by demonic forces.

1 Timothy 4:1-2: “***Now the Spirit EXPRESSLY says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared...***”

V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

Who is it that we are to battle?

There are 2 realms revealed by Paul

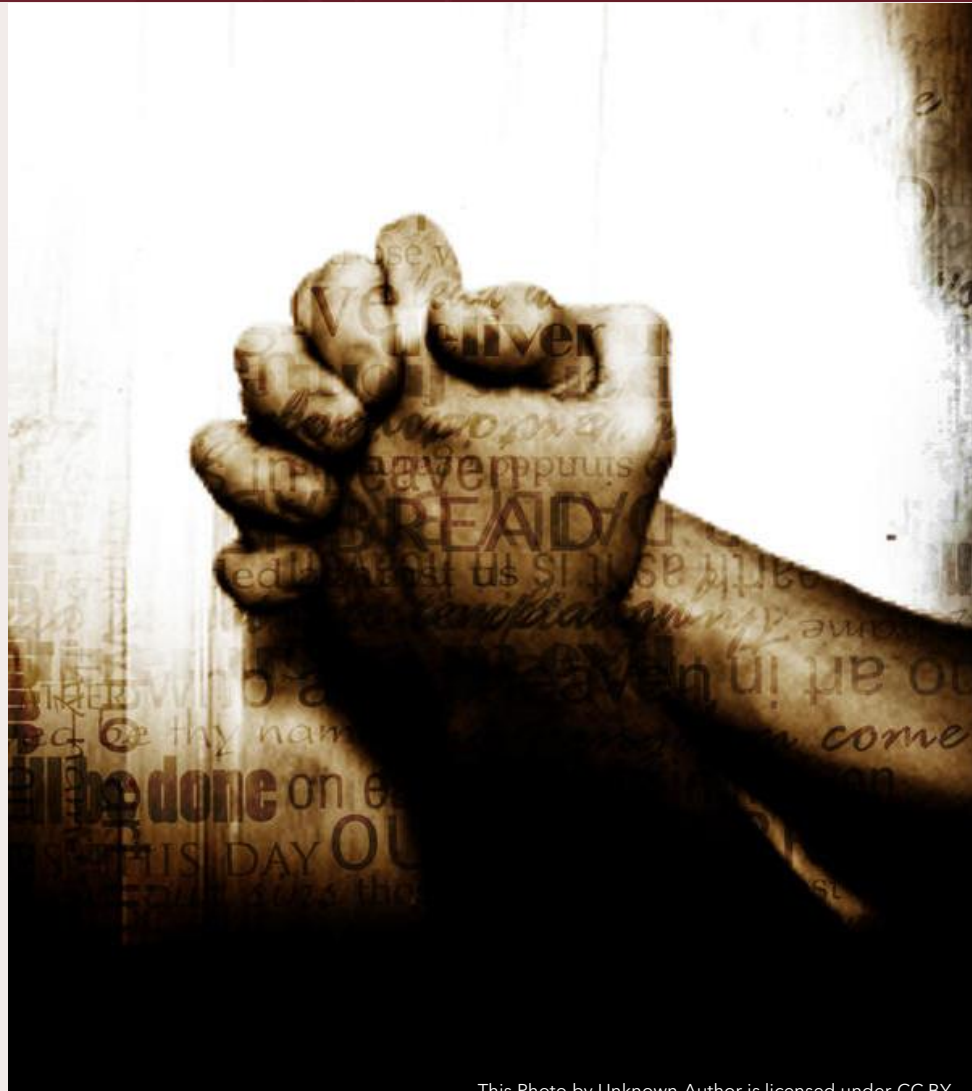
I. FORCES BELOW

1) Rulers of Darkness –

Matthew 7:21-23	2 Thessalonians 2:9
Matthew 24:11-12	1 Timothy 4:1-2
1 Thessalonians 5:2 & 8	2 Timothy 3:1-9 2 Timothy 3:13

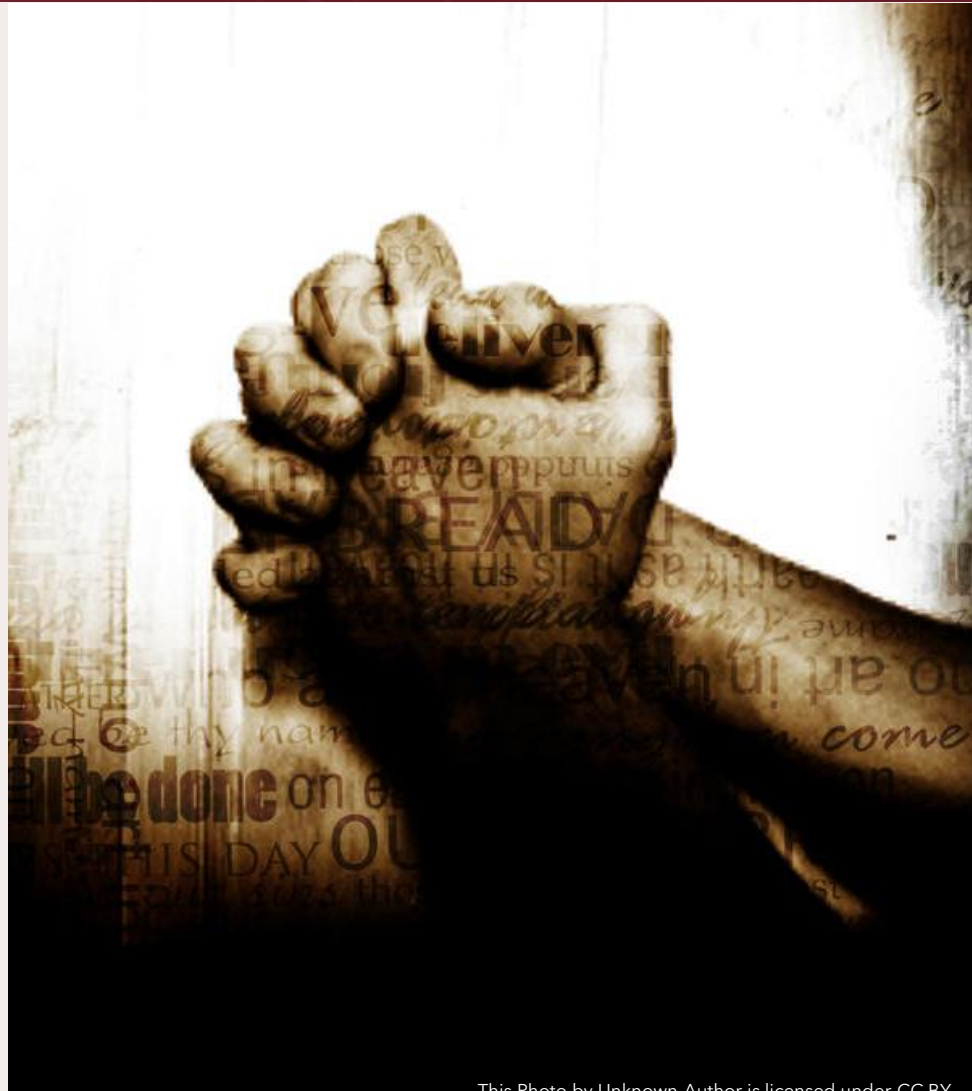


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Lovers of self	Lovers of money	Boastful	Proud	Blasphemous
Disobedient to parents	Without self-control	Lovers of pleasure rather than God	Without love for good	Godly in appearance while denying the power
Slanderous	Ungrateful	brutal	unloving	Traitors
Reckless	Conceited	unholy	Irreconcilable	Always learning but never able to come to the knowledge of truth
Evil people and imposters will become wise	Intolerant to sound doctrine	Accept only teachers who tell them what they want to hear	Turn from truth to myth	



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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

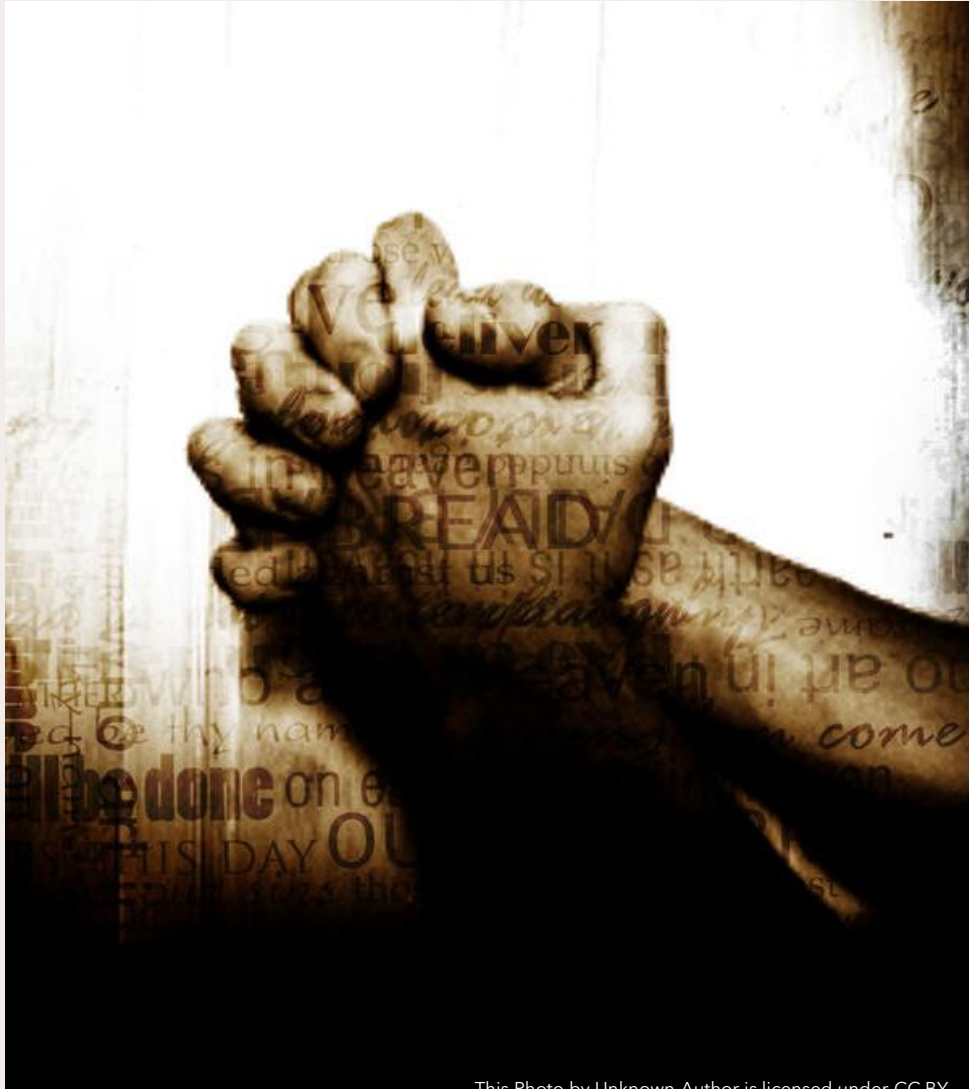
Who is it that we are to battle?

There are 2 realms revealed by Paul

I. FORCES BELOW

2) Authorities of Darkness –

- an “authority” is a power exercised over someone by one given the authority to do so.



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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

Who is it that we are to battle?

There are 2 realms revealed by Paul

I. FORCES BELOW

2) Authorities of Darkness –

- I would interpret this as forces that bind us up and keep control over us.



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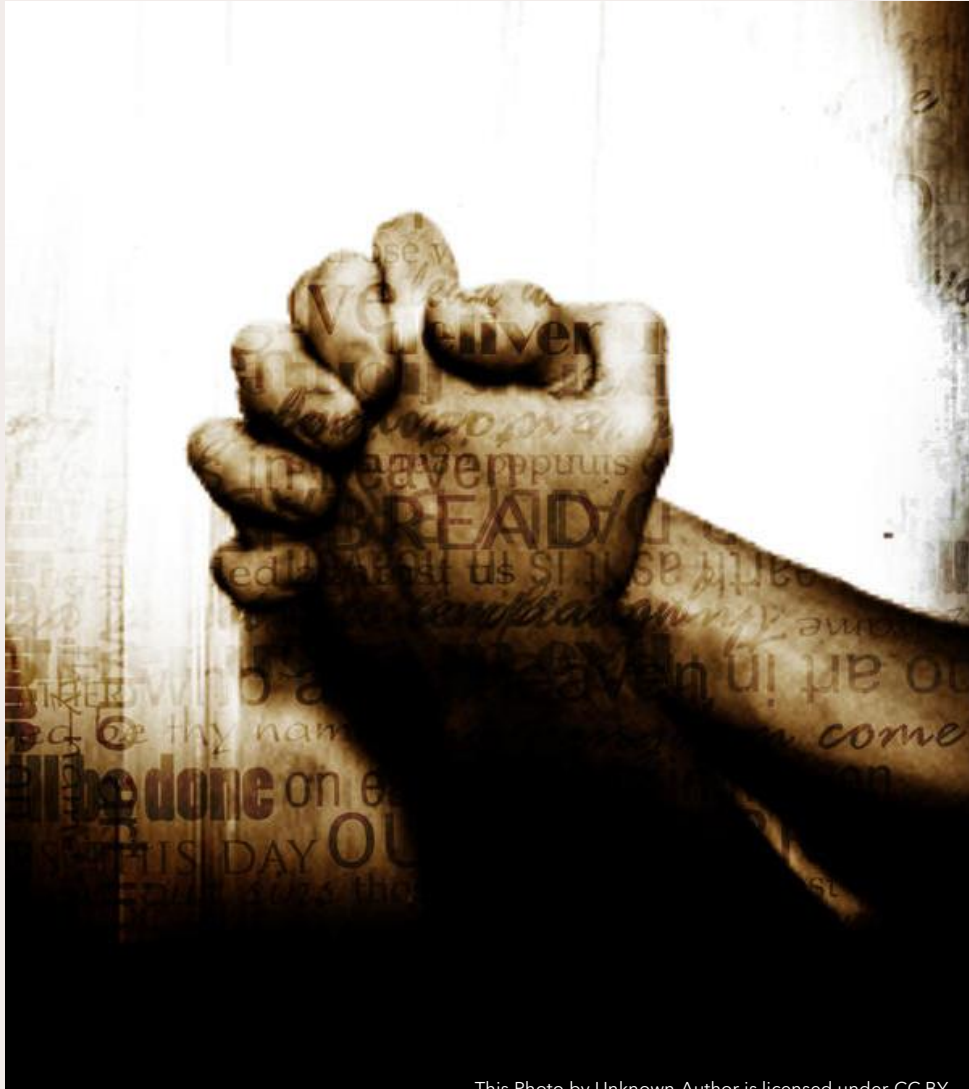
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I. FORCES BELOW

2) Authorities of Darkness –

- I would interpret this as forces that bind us up and keep control over us.
- Matthew 16:19 where Jesus gives to us the Key to the Kingdom, “...*I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*”



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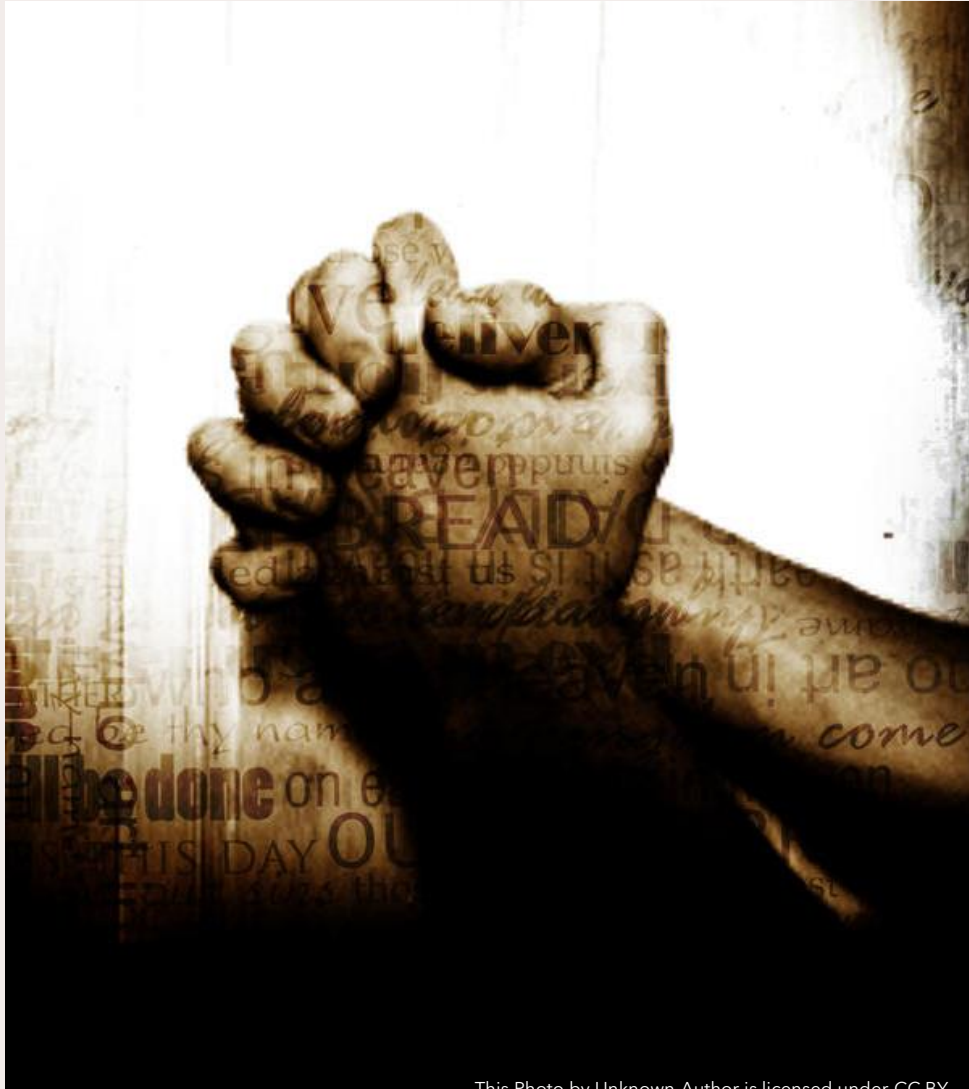
Who is it that we are to battle?

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I. FORCES BELOW

2) Authorities of Darkness –

- Matthew 16:19 where Jesus gives to us the Keys to the Kingdom
- It is the connection of this authority with forgiveness that gives this authority power. Please note, this authority, as with all authority, is given. You cannot assume authority.



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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

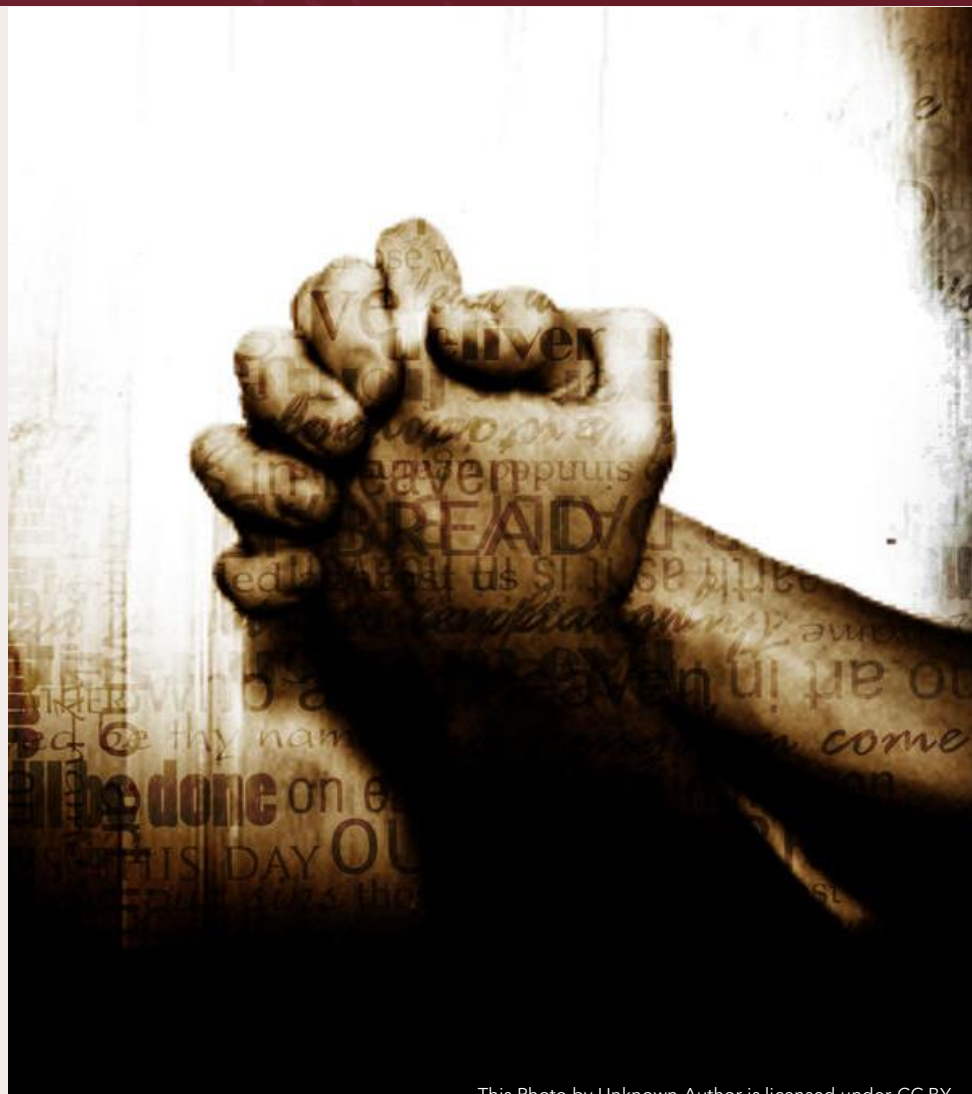
Who is it that we are to battle?

There are 2 realms revealed by Paul

I. FORCES BELOW

2) Authorities of Darkness –

- If Jesus is giving us the authority to unbind people, then other authorities must have the power to bind them.
- This is the most powerful use of our spiritual warfare authority, i.e., to release people from bondage.



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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

Who is it that we are to battle?

There are 2 realms revealed by Paul

I. FORCES BELOW

2) Authorities of Darkness –

- It is important to remember therefore, Jesus gives us our authority.

Luke 9:1, Jesus equipped the disciples to take on the Forces Below: ***“And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal”***



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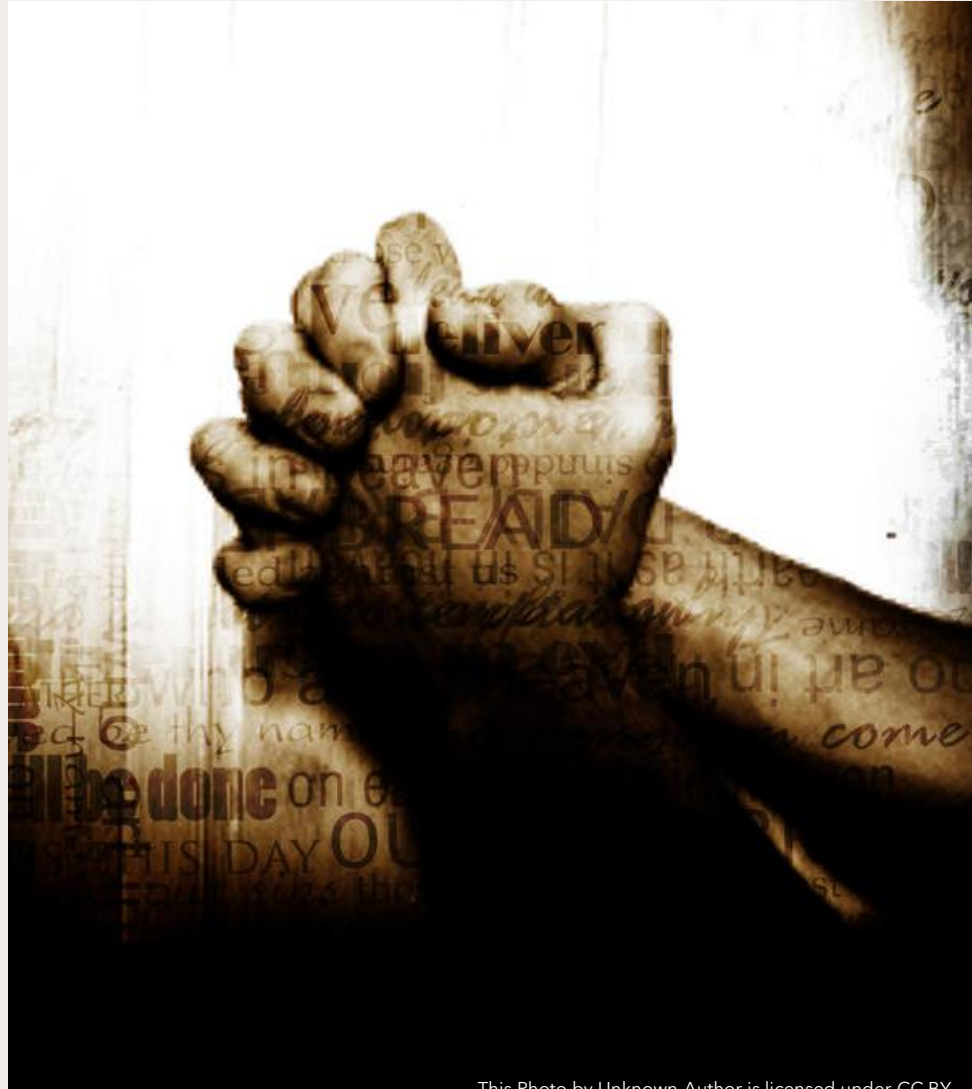
V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

Who is it that we are to battle?

There are 2 realms revealed by Paul

I. FORCES BELOW

3) World powers of darkness – These are simply, the governmental systems of the world that are designed to oppress people.



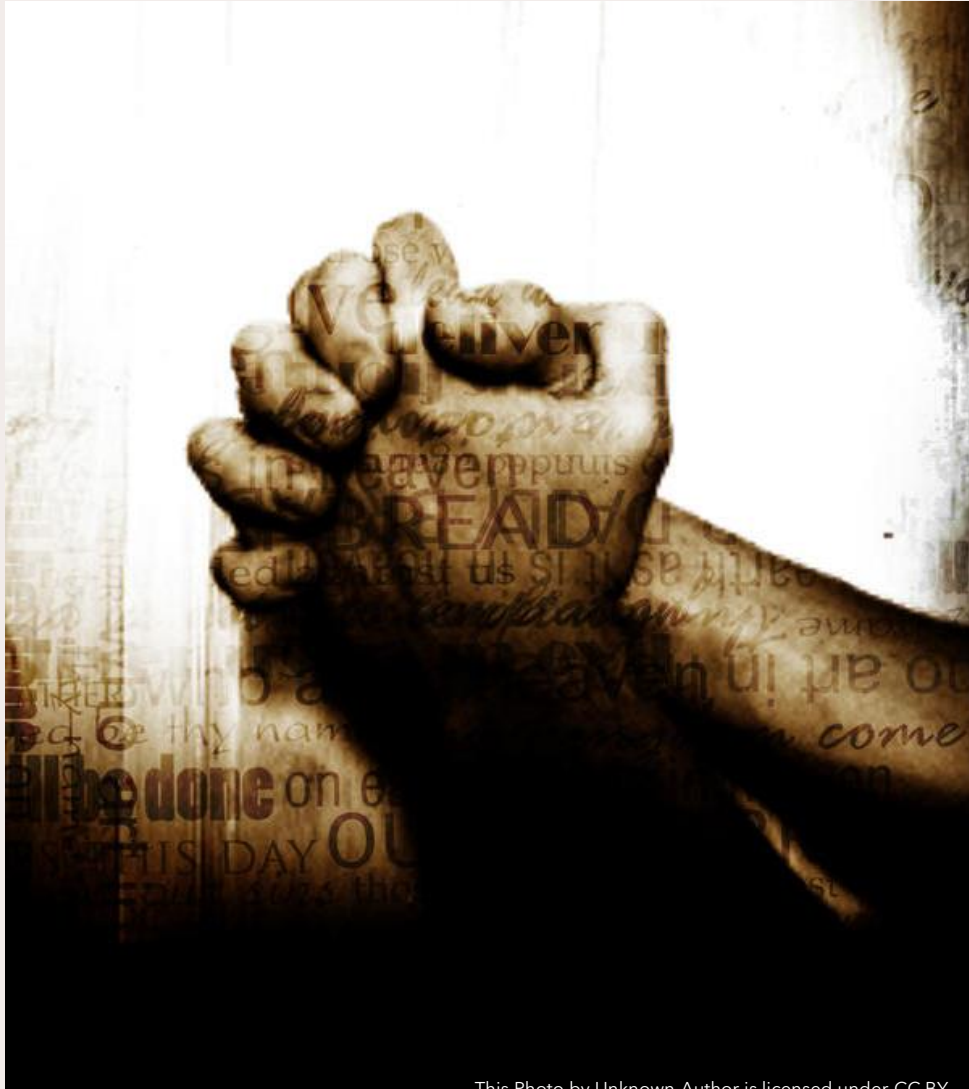
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Who is it that we are to battle?

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II. FORCES ABOVE



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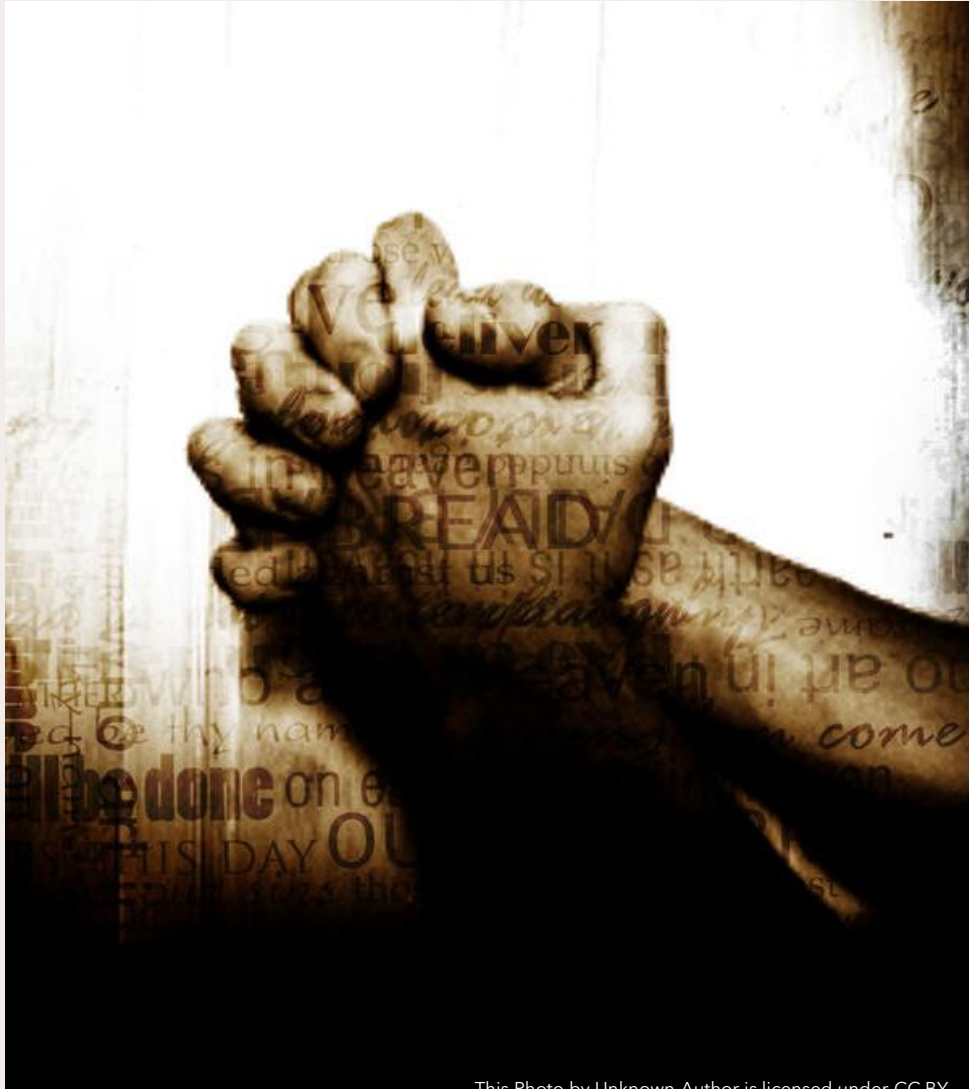
V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

Who is it that we are to battle?

There are 2 realms revealed by Paul

II. FORCES ABOVE

- The cosmic forces of darkness and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens is the realm where satan schemes and plans.



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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

Who is it that we are to battle?

There are 2 realms revealed by Paul

II. FORCES ABOVE

- The world is his realm of authority, 1 John 5:19, but the heavens are where the planning takes place.



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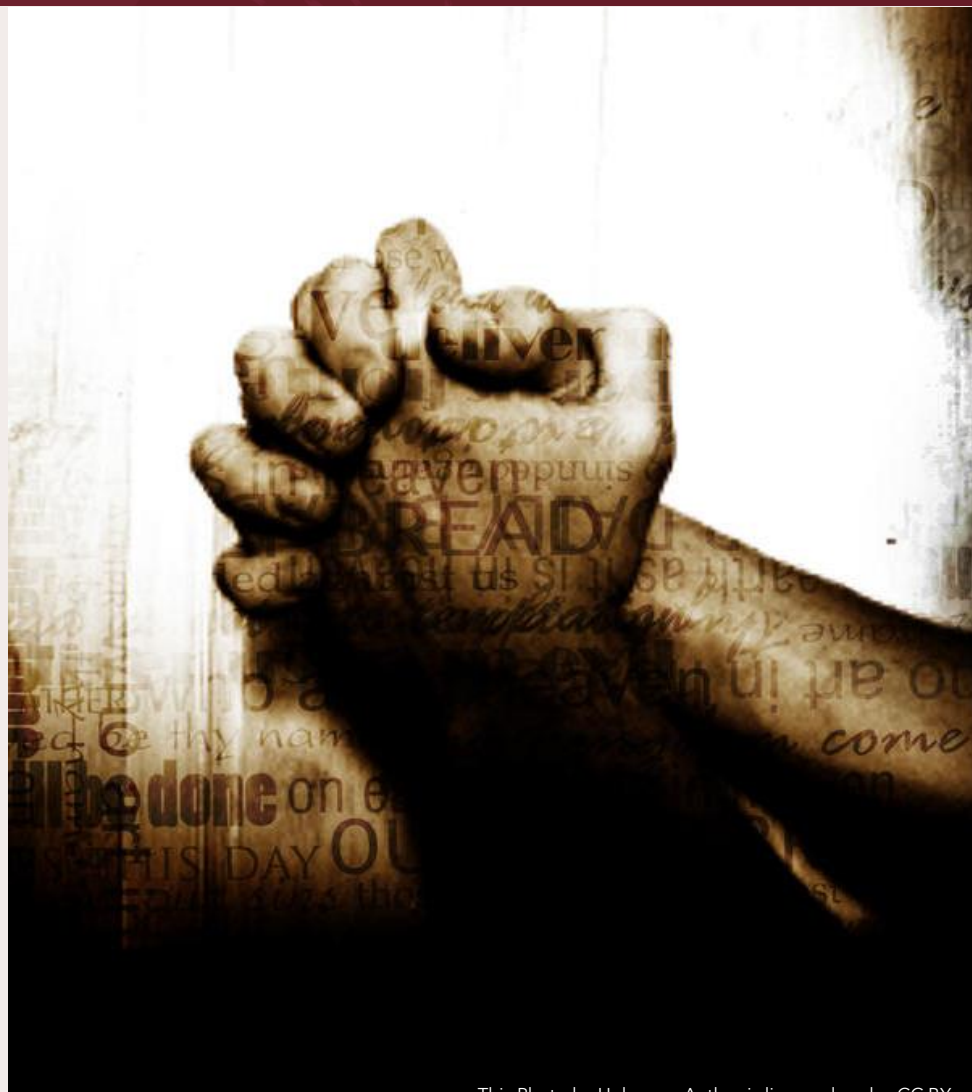
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Who is it that we are to battle?

There are 2 realms revealed by Paul

II. FORCES ABOVE

- The world is his realm of authority, 1 John 5:19, but the heavens are where the planning takes place.
- Disrupt this, and you can change the course of events on earth.



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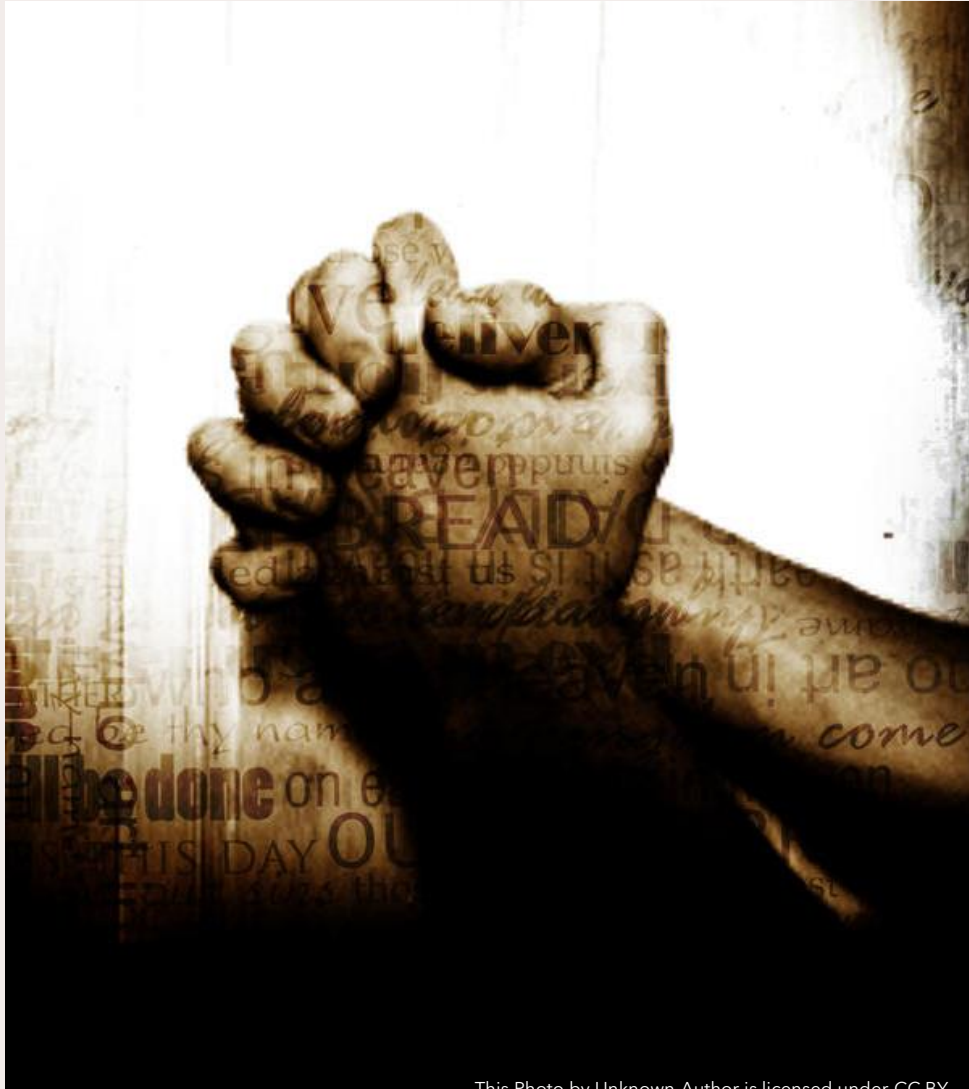
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II. FORCES ABOVE

- When the demonic forces conference to unleash the evil day, releasing “all hell” into your life, it is that demonic conference you want to target, not the people who are carrying it out.



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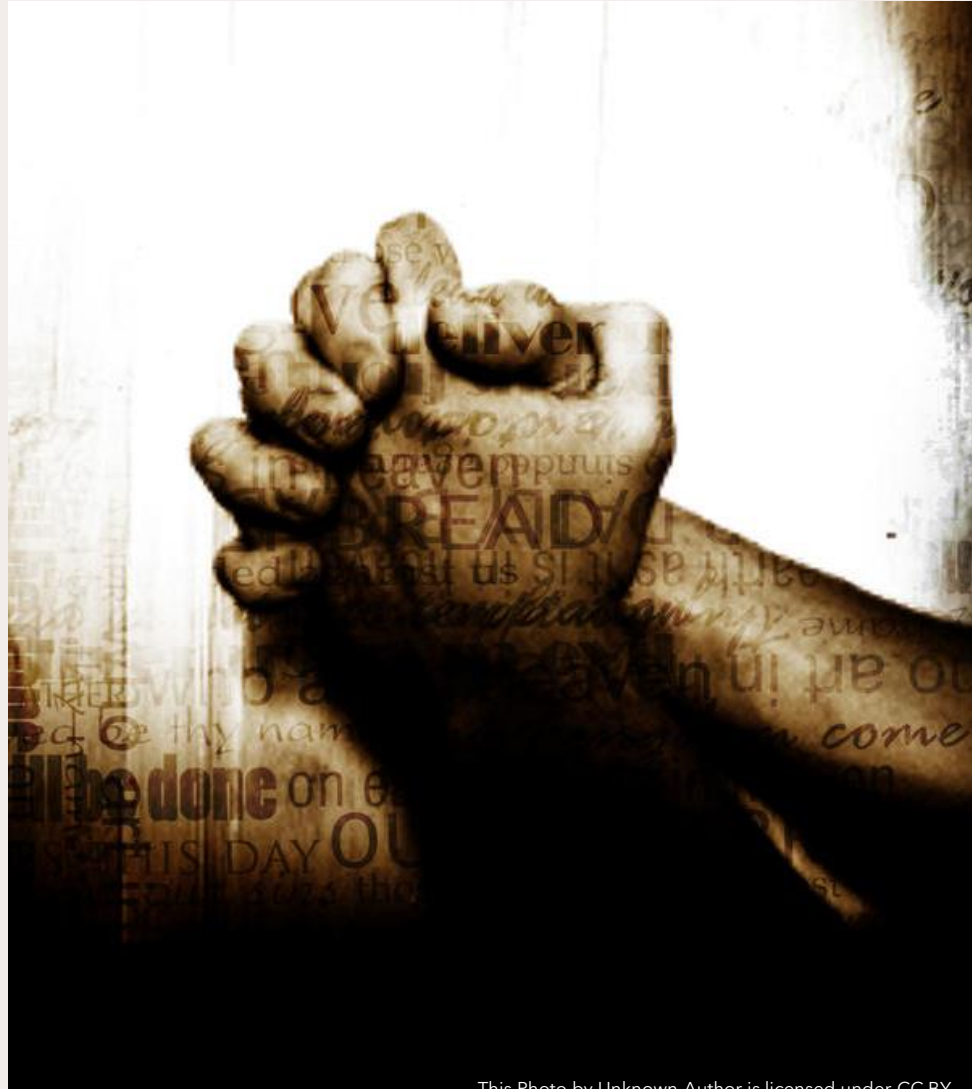
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II. FORCES ABOVE

- When the demonic forces conference to unleash the evil day, releasing “all hell” into your life, it is that demonic conference you want to target, not the people who are carrying it out.
- When I first came to the congregation I served in the area.



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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

Who is it that we are to battle?

The target of our spiritual warfare



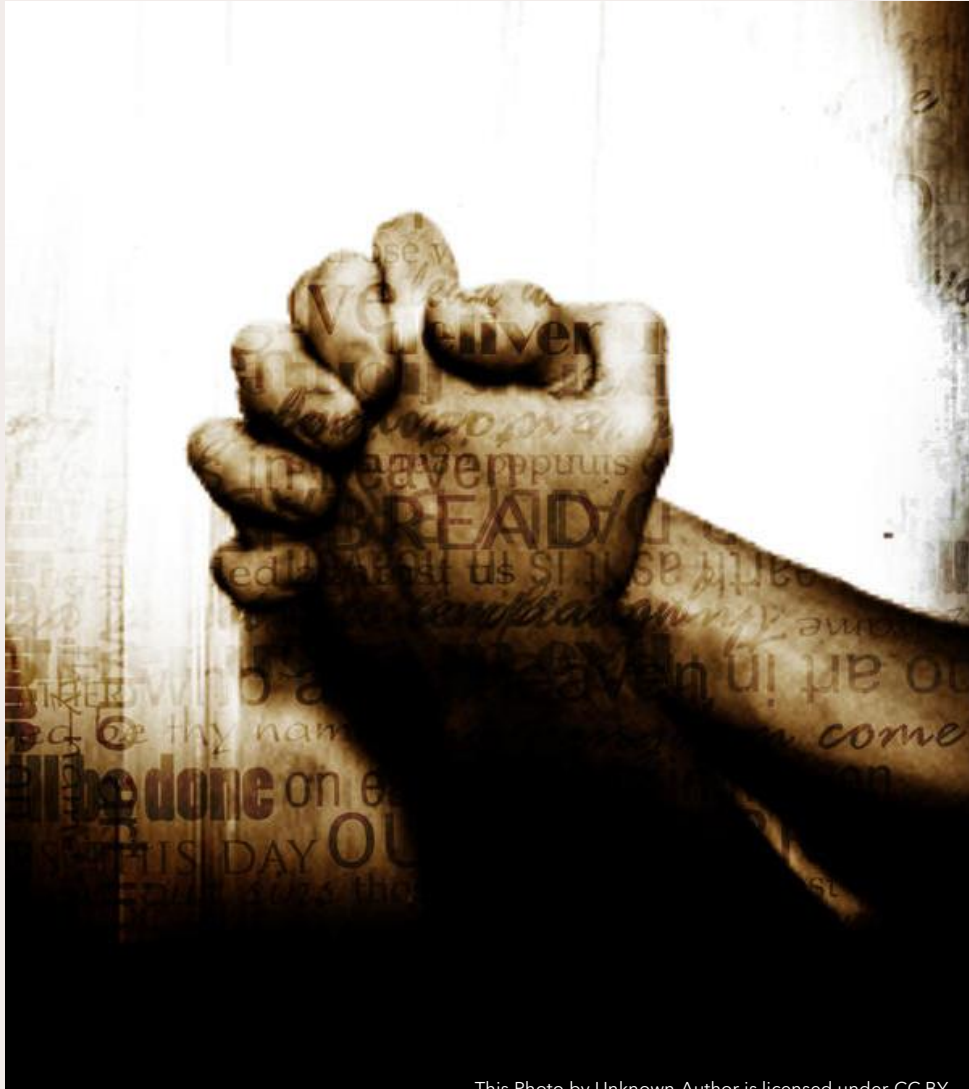
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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

Who is it that we are to battle?

The target of our spiritual warfare

All those governments and their respective rulers to whom I pointed, all those end-times people and their characteristics I gave you, every one of the people who made my life a living hell, **IN EVERY SINGLE CASE**, we are talking about demonic systems that bound them, not individual people.



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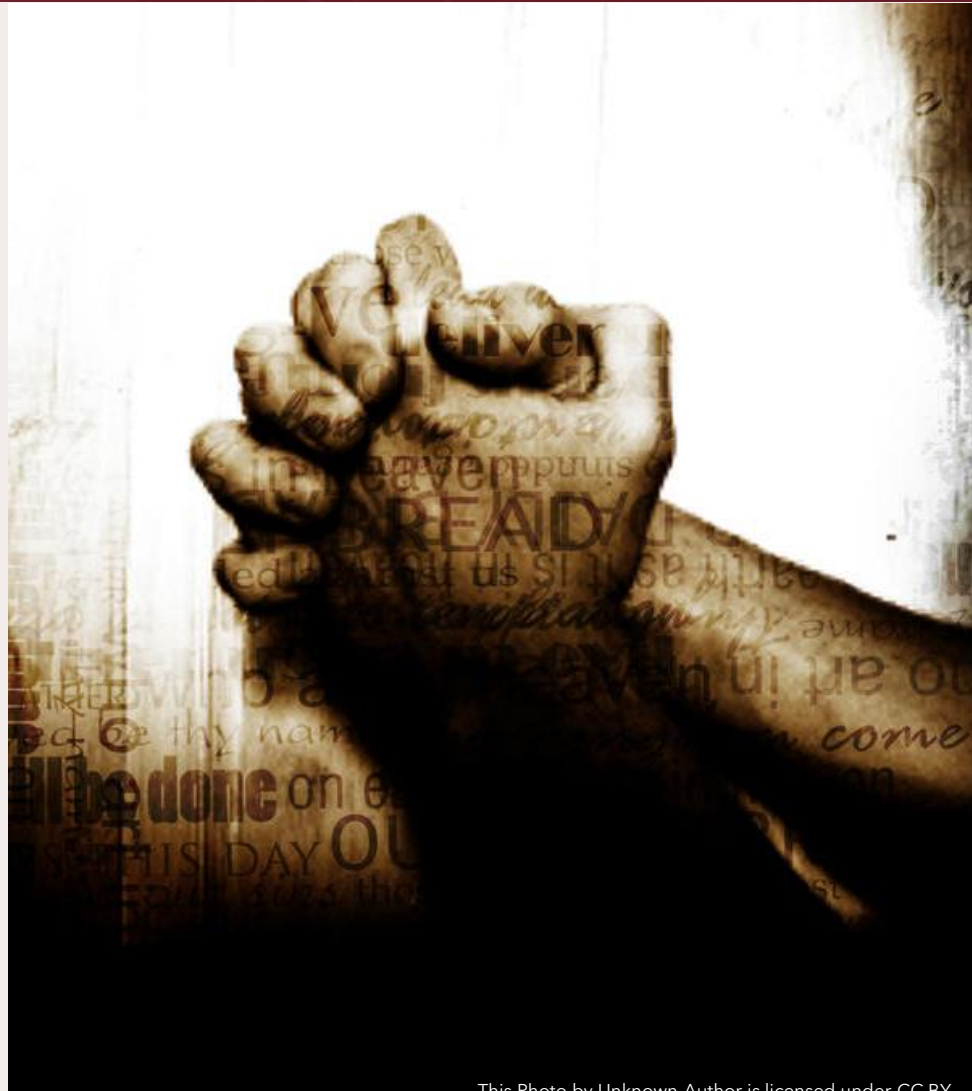
V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

Who is it that we are to battle?

The target of our spiritual warfare

- This is why this section, warning us of Forces Below where we exist for now, and Forces Above where the evil is fomented, begins with this emphatic and uncompromising statement:

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood...”



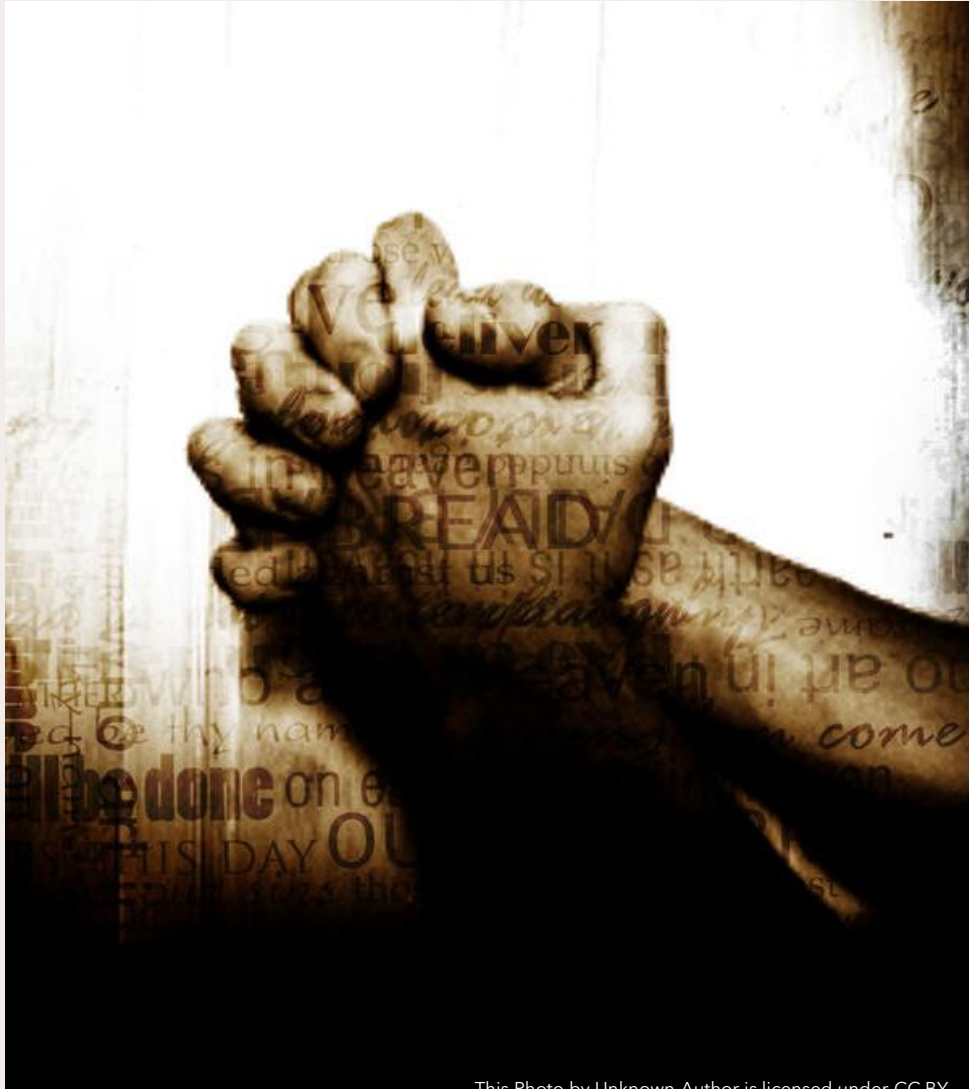
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Who is it that we are to battle?

The target of our spiritual warfare

- **The target of our Spiritual Warfare is
NOT AGAINST HUMANITY.**



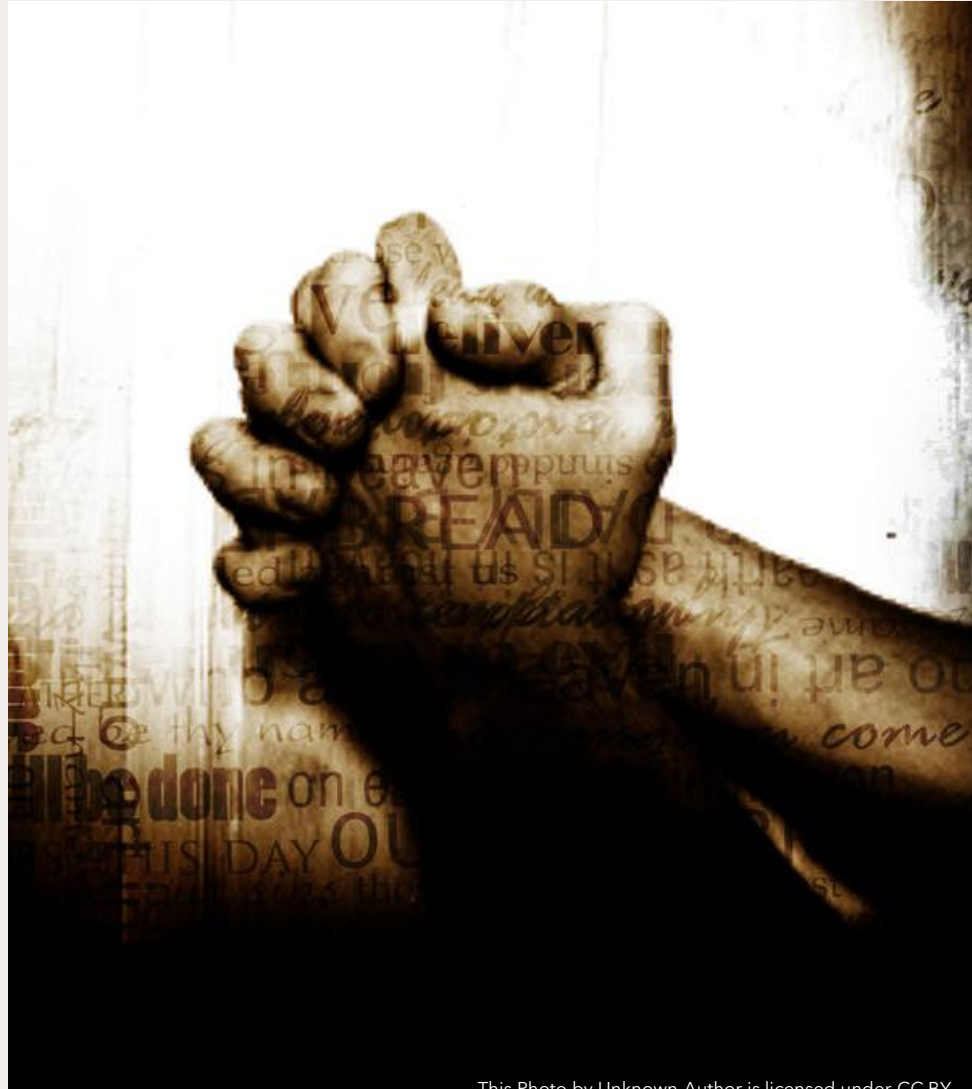
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Who is it that we are to battle?

The target of our spiritual warfare

- The target of our Spiritual Warfare is **NOT AGAINST HUMANITY.**
- It is humanity that Jesus came to save.



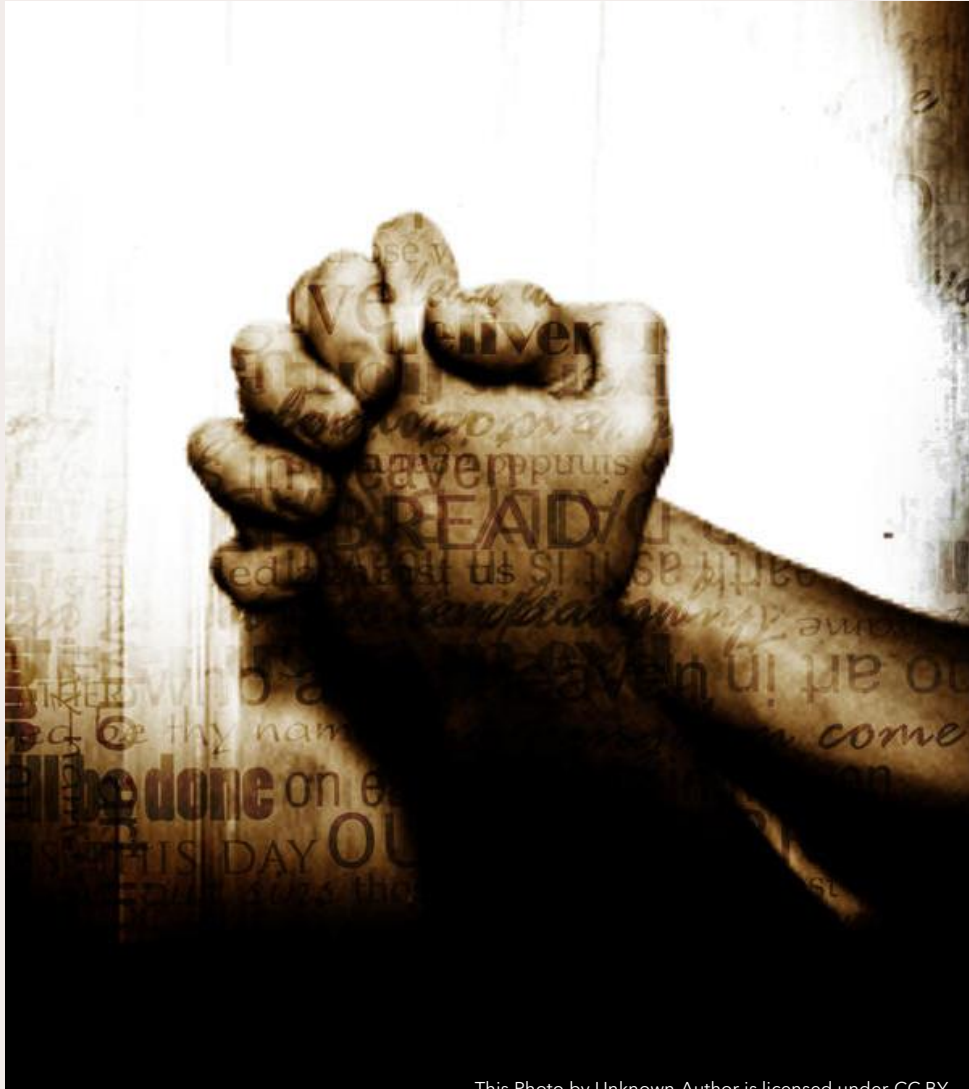
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Who is it that we are to battle?

The target of our spiritual warfare

- The target of our Spiritual Warfare is **NOT AGAINST HUMANITY.**
- It is humanity that Jesus came to save.
- Again, the war is over between Father God and humanity. Our war is against powers of influence!



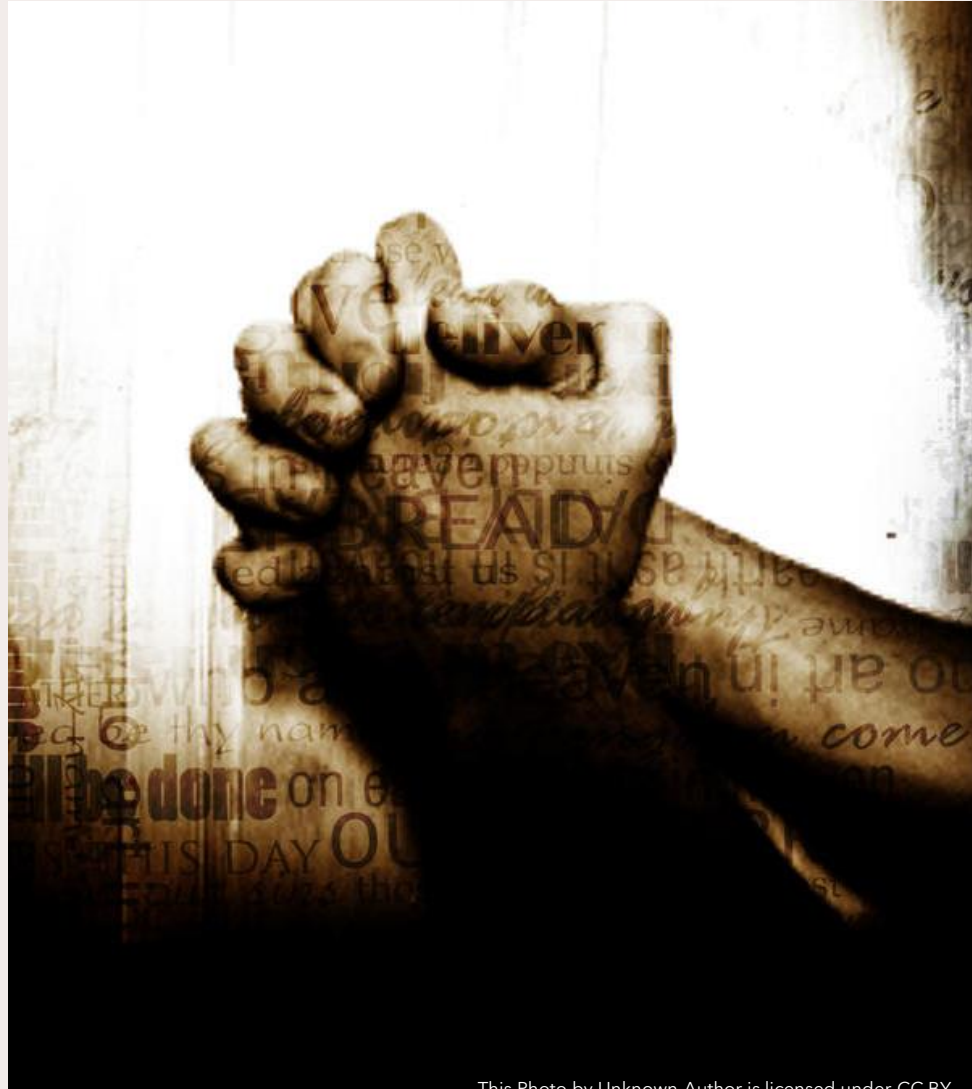
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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

Who is it that we are to battle?

The target of our spiritual warfare

“For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,” 2 Corinthians 10:3-6



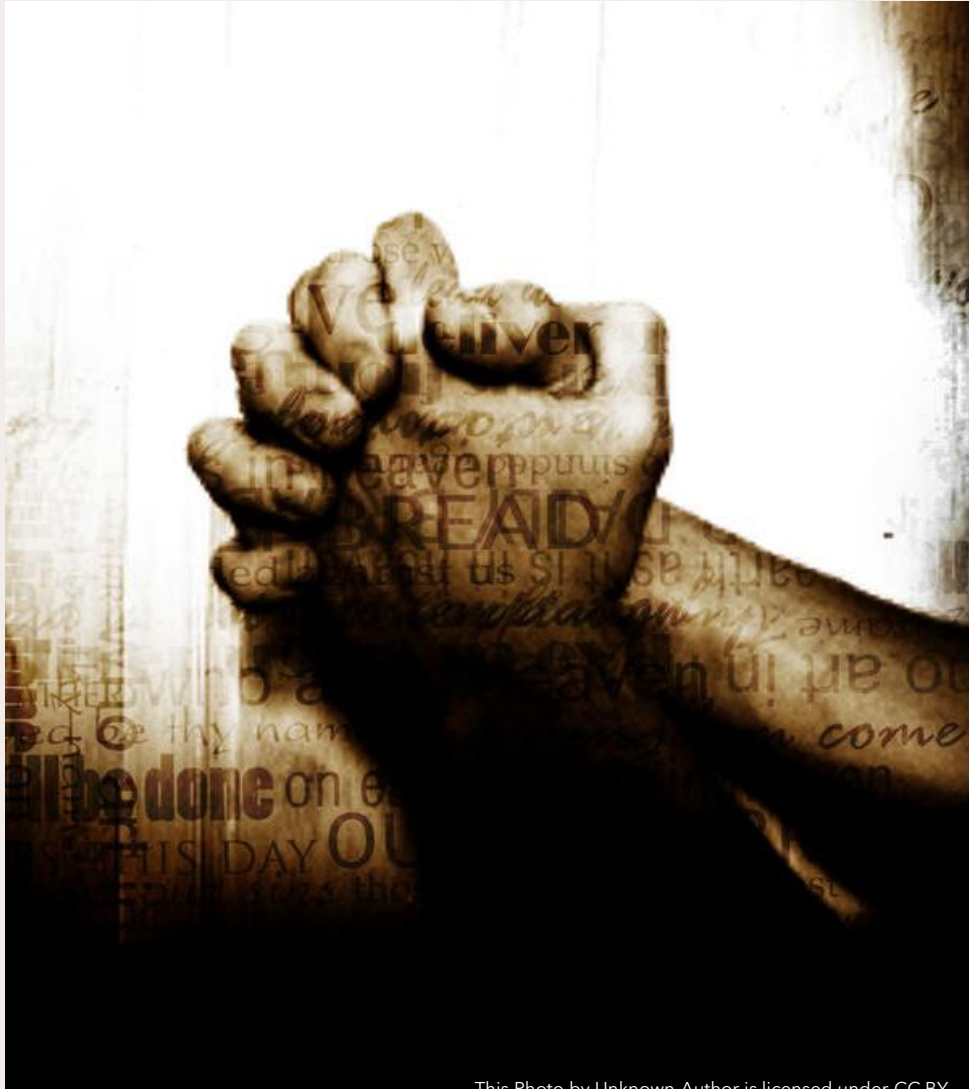
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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

Who is it that we are to battle?

The target of our spiritual warfare

**GO TO WAR ON THE
DEMONIC FORCES!**



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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

Eph 6:13 *“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.”*

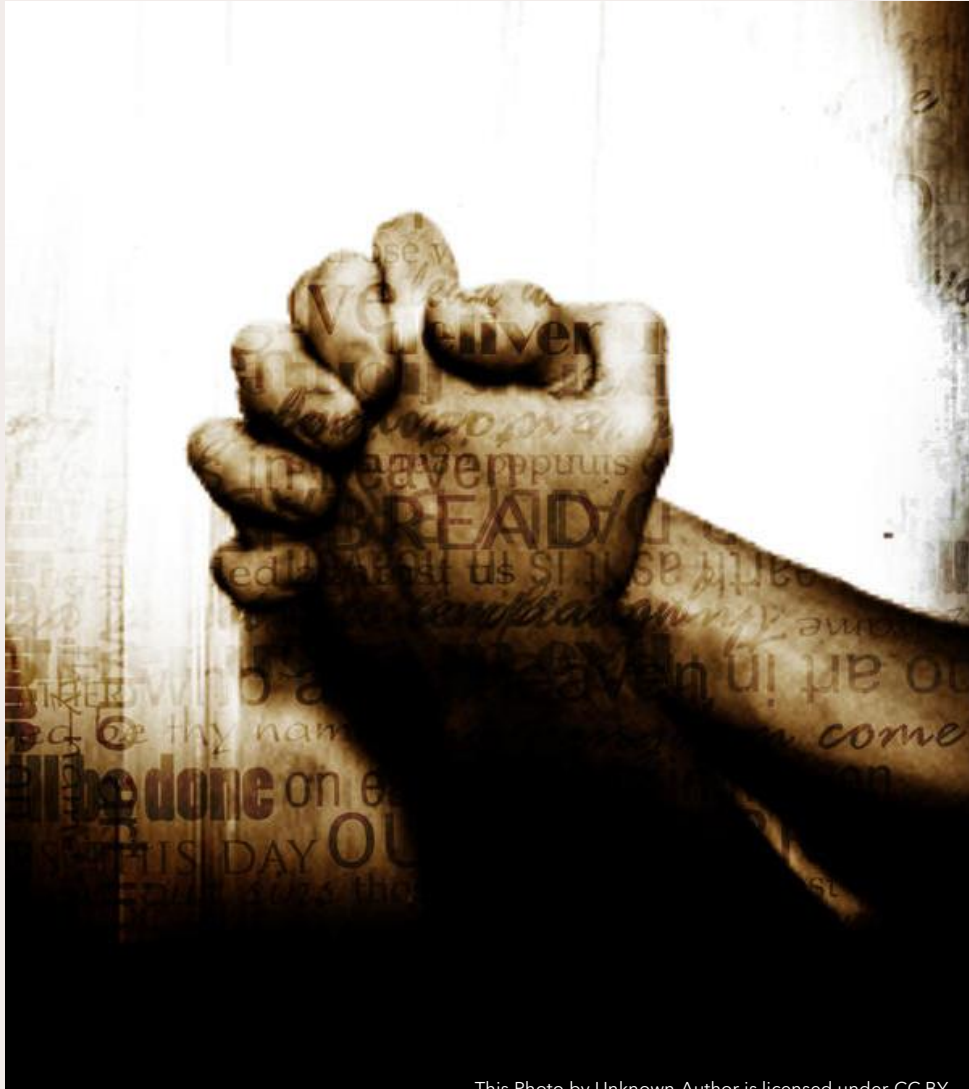


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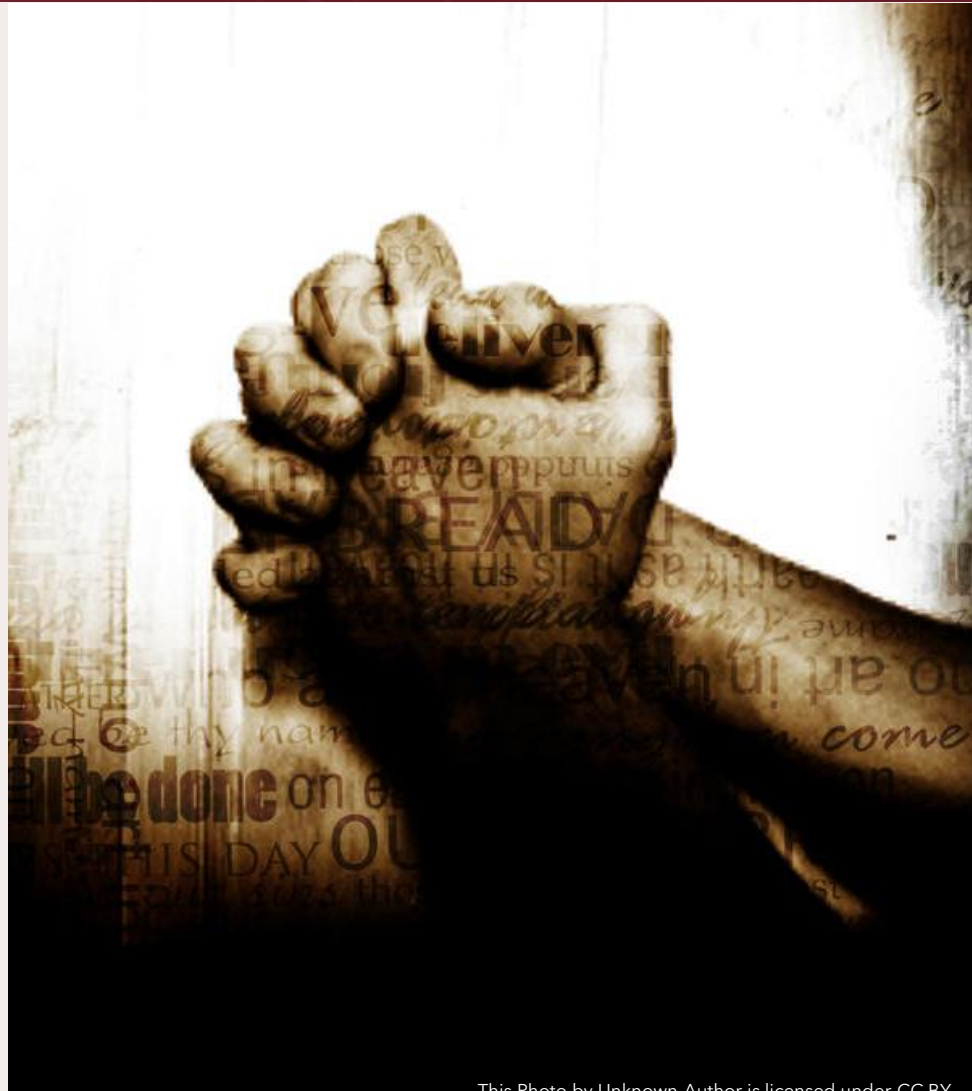
- “Therefore, knowing what we now know about our target and our objective, and knowing that we still reside in enemy territory, we need to be fully prepared to take our stand.”



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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

- Paul says, “*that you may be able to withstand the evil day...*” What does that mean?
- Their objective is to take you down. But if that does not happen, they at least want to slow you down.



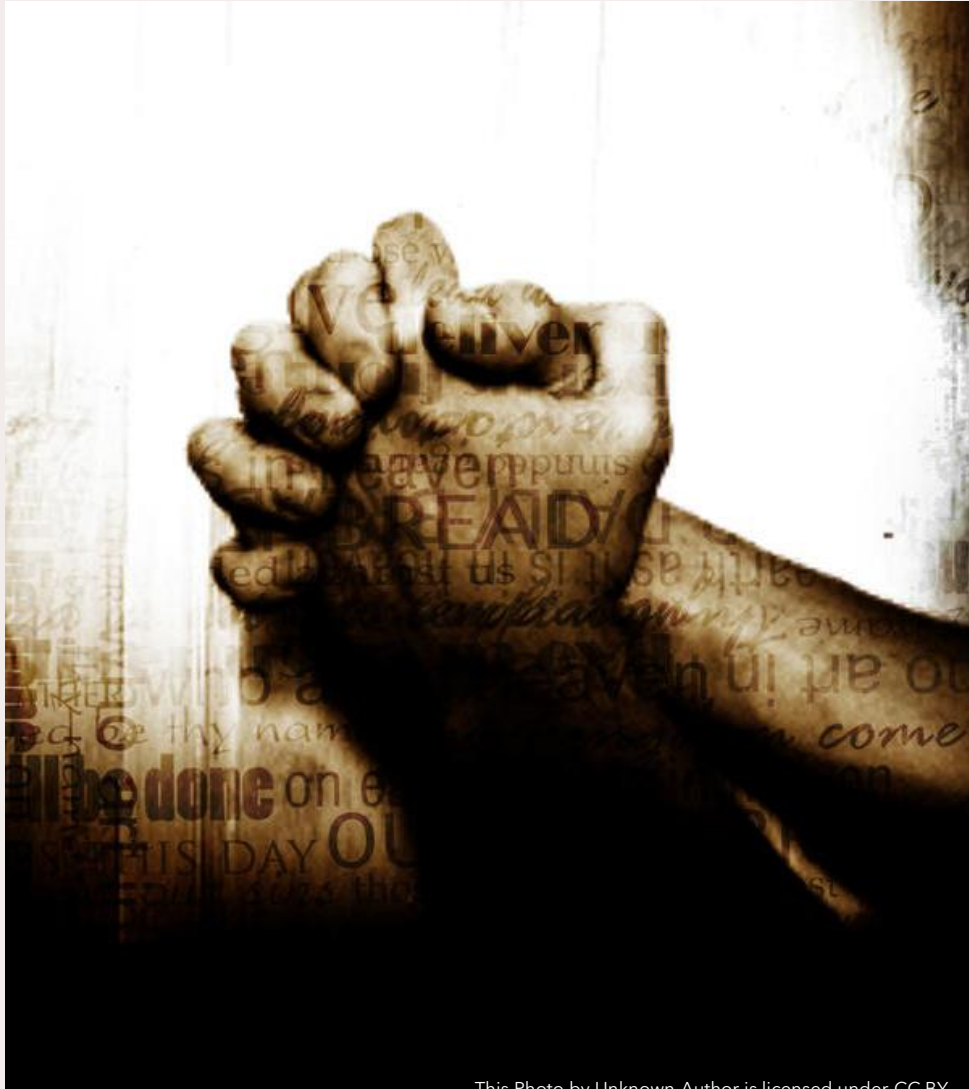
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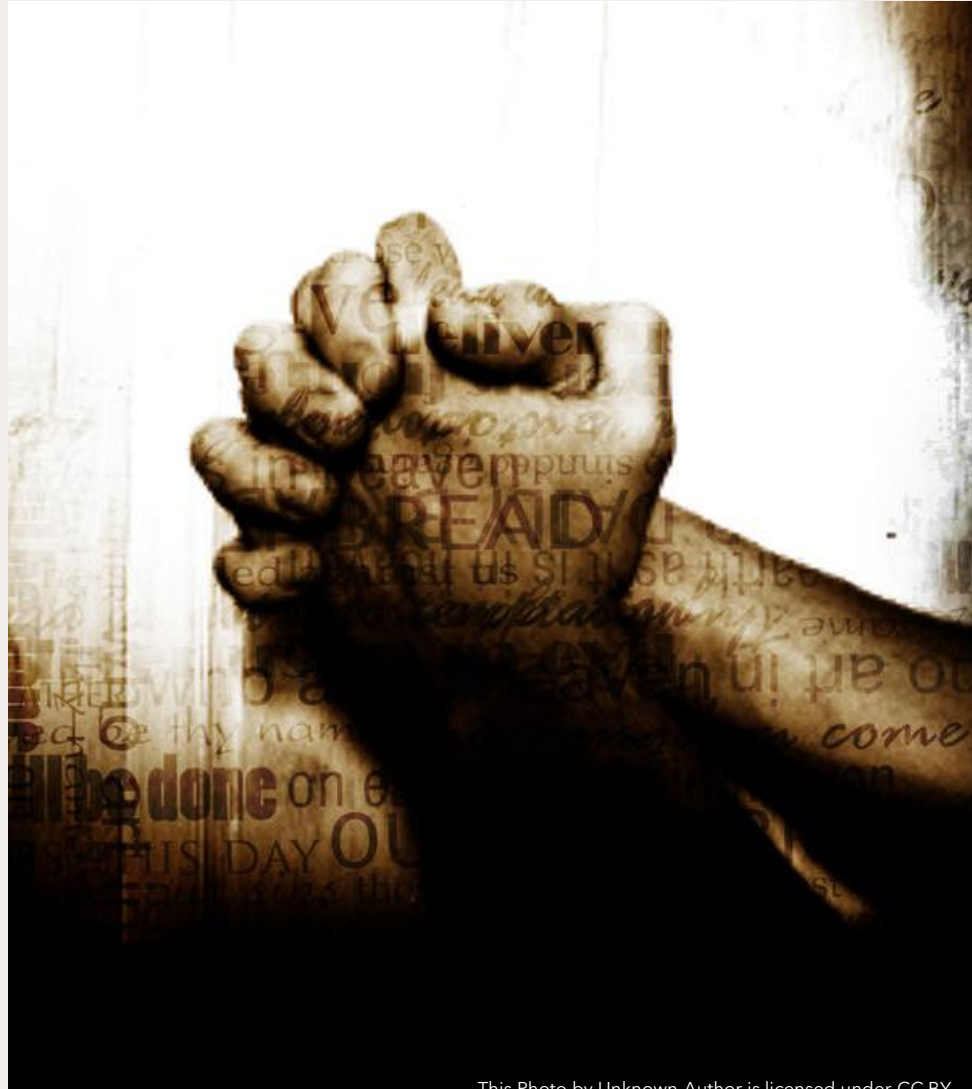
- Paul says, “*that you may be able to withstand the evil day...*” What does that mean?
- Taking you down involves what Paul said earlier, i.e., introducing impurities, Eph 5.
- Examples of Fallen pastors

V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

- Examples of Fallen pastors
- Our anger should not be with these men.



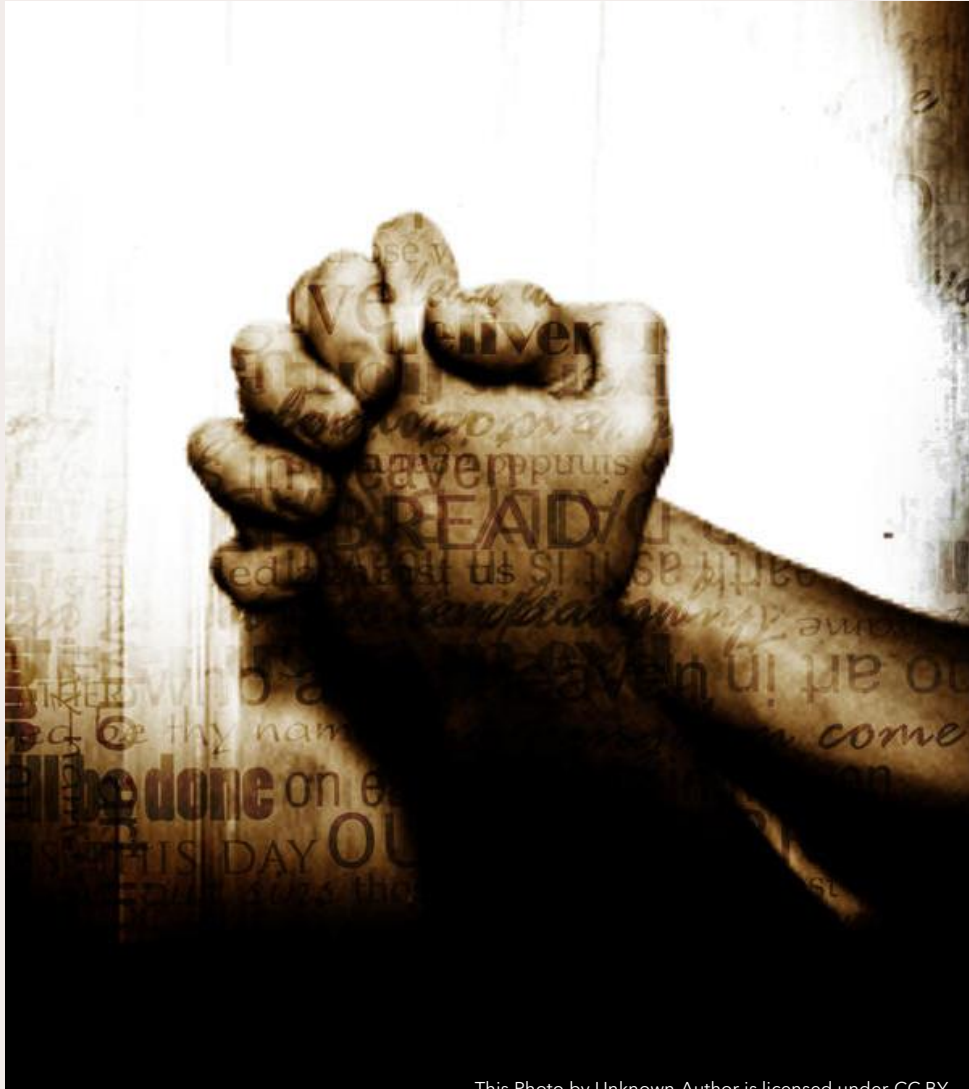
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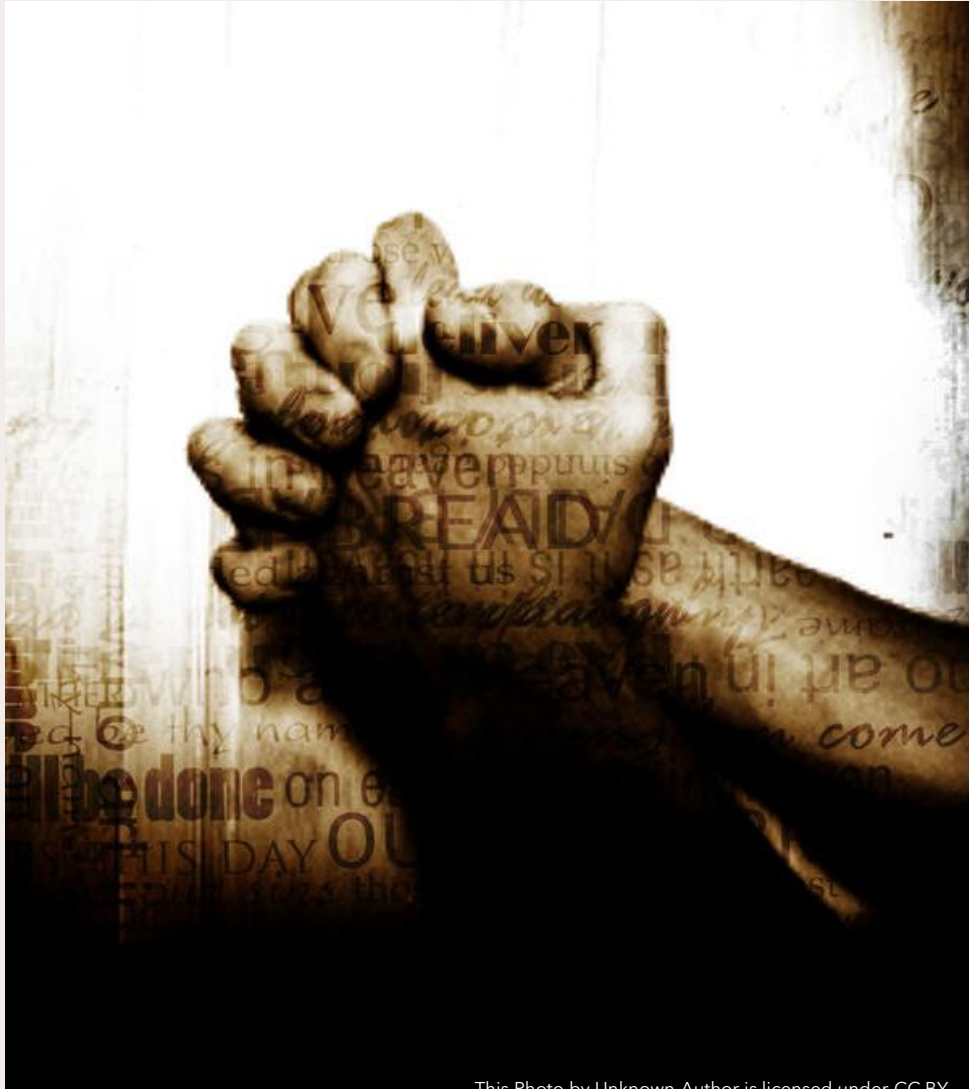
- Get your focus, and keep your focus, where it belongs, not on flesh and blood but on the powers, and authorities, the principalities and the forces of darkness.



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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

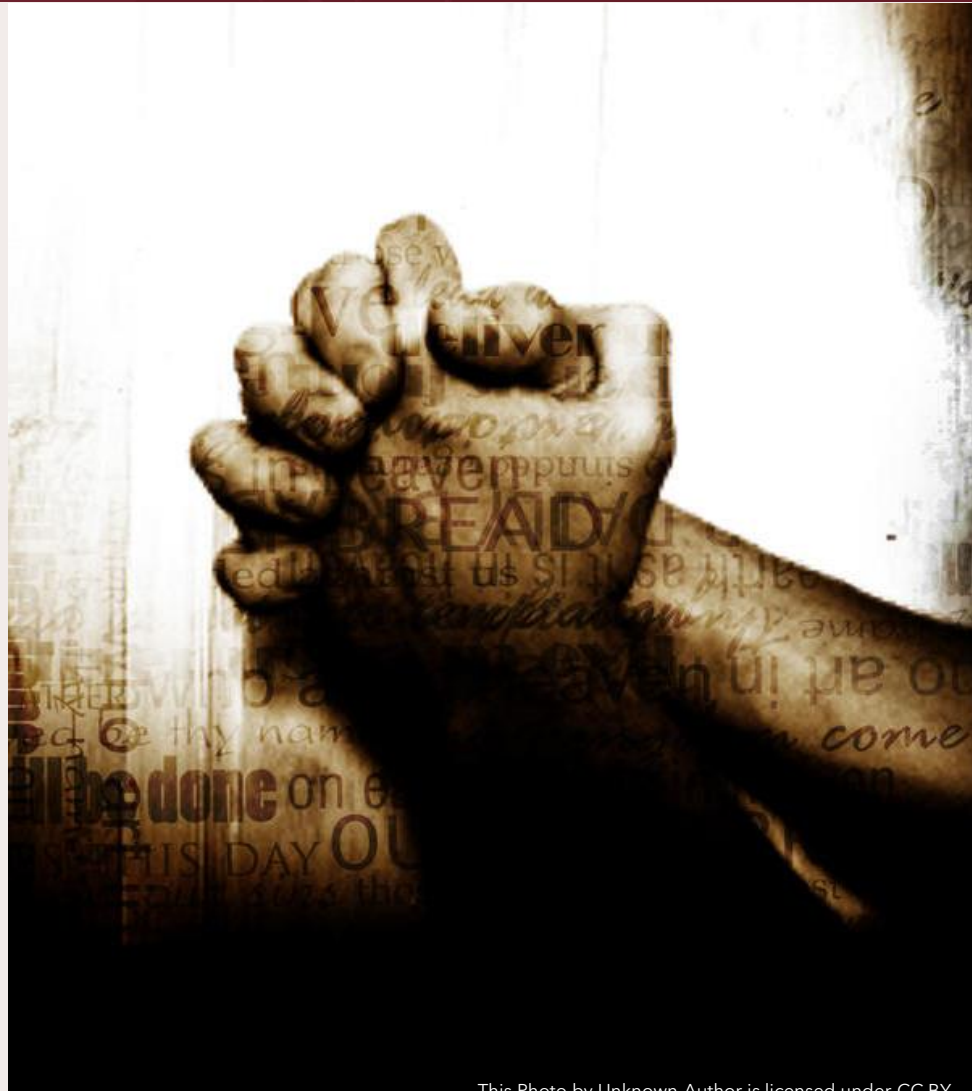
- Get your focus, and keep your focus, where it belongs, not on flesh and blood but on the powers, and authorities, the principalities and the forces of darkness.
- These dark forces are what was behind the fall of these leaders.



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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

- Standing firm is a prominent theme in the Scriptures.
 - In Exodus 14:13, Moses tells the people to stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord.
 - Isaiah 7:9 & 46:8 say if we are not firm in our faith, we will not be firm at all.
 - Paul tells the Philippians in Phil 1:27 to stand firm in the Spirit, and in Phil 4:1 to stand firm in their faith.



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V. Engaging the enemy as Spirit Dressed, Spirit Possessed Warriors!

- Standing firm is a prominent theme in the Scriptures.
 - He also tells the Corinthians in 1Cor 16:1 to stand firm in faith.
 - Peter also tells the suffering church in 1 Peter 5:9 to stand firm in their faith.
 - Added to these are Psalm 89:28; Daniel 11:32, Galatians 5:1, Col 1:11, 1 Thes 3:8, 2 Thess 2:15.



THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

Ephesians 6:14-19 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish 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, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."



THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

1. The Belt of Truth – Demons cannot stand against the truth. Truth shines a penetrating light that dispels darkness. We have a group of politicians trying to take power by promoting lies. Loved ones, we must stand firm against that, and shine the light truth. Jesus, in John 8:32, ***“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”***



THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

2. **The Breastplate of Righteousness** – is the empowerment to have the clear ability to see between right and wrong, and act accordingly. To dawn ourselves with this breastplate, we must shed the garments of our Gentile life, and put on Christ. Isaiah 59:17 “***He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.***” Putting on righteousness DOES NOT MEAN living a perfect life. David, with all his sins, was a man after God’s own heart, because sought after God, and when he sinned he returned to God for forgiveness.

(See also 2 Cor 6:7 & 1 Thes 5:8)



THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

3. Sandaled with readiness with the Gospel of PEACE

– Again, acquiring new territory is not an offensive move, it is stepping out and telling others about the Gospel. The new territory is a guarantee, because we are facing a defeated enemy. Standing firm in the territory is the objective. We turn to the commissioning of John the Baptizer: ***“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”***



THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

4. THE SHIELD OF FAITH –In spiritual warfare, we too must link our shields and defend each other. This weapon of spiritual warfare enables us to stand firm as the darts of the devil are thrown at us.

Psalm 144:1-2 *“Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; he is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.”*

(See also Ps 76:3)



THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

5. THE HELMET OF SALVATION –

- This piece of armor involves the mind. Salvation is the turning point in our life on this side of Heaven. Salvation comes to us a gift, i.e., we are saved by the work of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians could not make that any clearer, “You are saved by Grace!” (Eph 2)
- When this occurs, the Holy Spirit takes up residence. At this moment, the demonic forces also go to work to establish strongholds in the mind causing us to question our salvation. The strongholds must be constantly torn down.
- If we do not pay attention to the battleground of the mind, we become weak and confused. The Theological Guide of Romans says, “***Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.***” (Romans 12:1-2) (See also 2 Cor 10:4 & Is 59:17)

THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

6. The Sword of the Spirit –

- This is THE ONLY offensive weapon of spiritual warfare. Paul tells us this sword is the Word of God!
- This is a weapon that impacts the others.
 - It is the source of truth for the belt;
 - it is the compass of righteousness for the Breastplate;
 - it is the Good News of peace with God for the sandals;
 - it is the light of faith for the Shield;
 - it is the confirmation of salvation for the Helmet;
 - it is the enlightenment and power for our pray





THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

6. The Sword of the Spirit –

2 Tim 3:16-17 ***“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”***

Hebrews 4:12 ***“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”***

(See also, Psalm 76:3 & 119:105, 2 Tim 3:17, Matt 10:34 [the sword Jesus brings is the truth of the word])



THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

7. The Power of Prayer – Paul, tells us we must pray in the Spirit at all times. This includes all types of prayer: adoration, confession, and petitions.

This is so important that we are given 3 points of instruction:

- 1) Stay Alert:** The disciples failed to do this in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus, in fact, ask them, “Could you not stay awake with me for one hour?” (Matt 26:40-46; Mk 14:37-42; Lk 22:45-46.)
- 2) Persevere:** Jesus told a parable about this. We must never give up on praying whether we see immediate results or not, never give up! (Lk 11:5-13; Lk 18:1-8; 1 Thes 5:17)

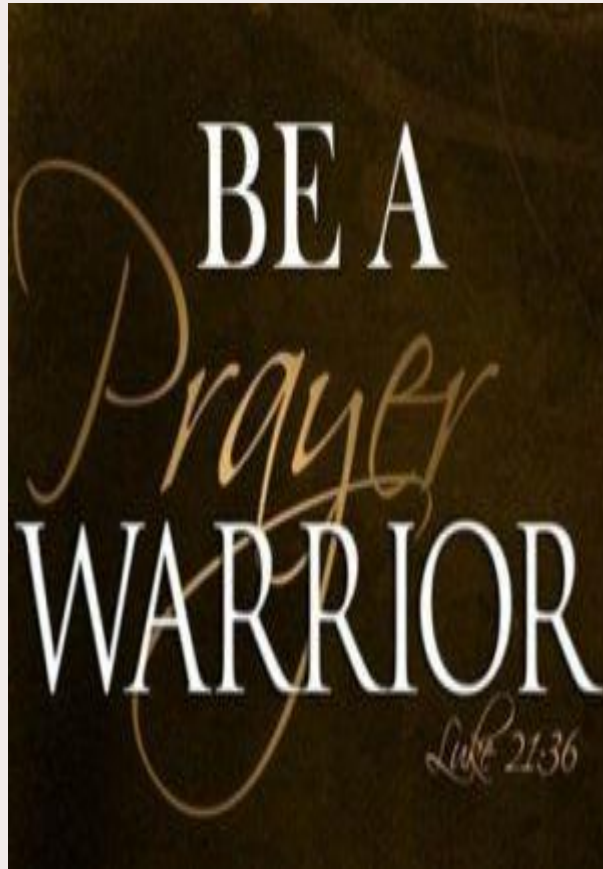


THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

7. The Power of Prayer –

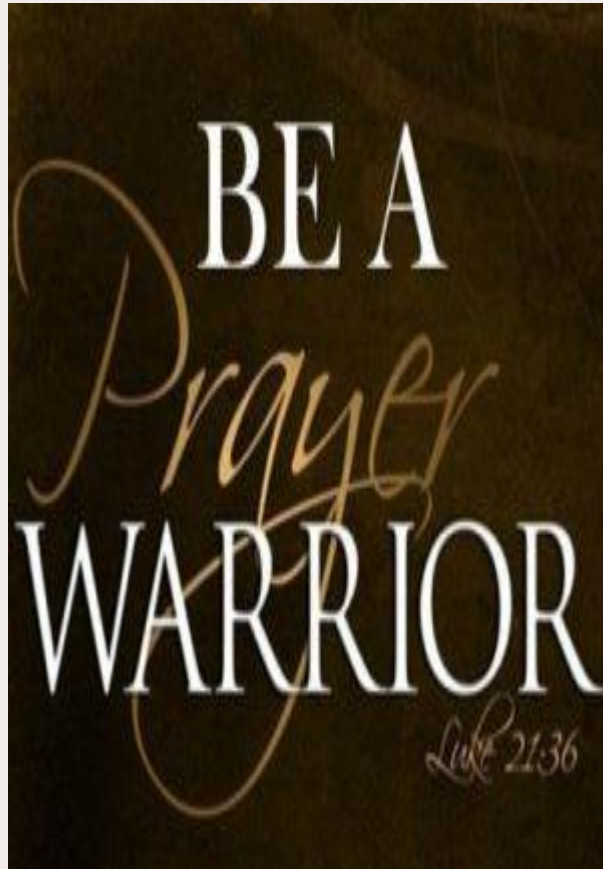
3) **Intercede:** Over and over we are told to pray for others. This is the core of spiritual warfare. Paul said, in 1 Cor 14:15, “*I will pray with my spirit, and I will pray with my mind.*” Paul has a prayer language, where he prays in tongues, and he has a prayer language in his dominate language. The predominant prayer called for in Scripture, is to pray in your dominate language. Paul even says in 1 Cor 13, that without interpretation, praying in tongues should not be done in public.

(See also 1 Sam 12:19; Ps 122:6; Is 53:12; Jer 42:2; Matt 5:44; Lk 6:28; Rom 8:26; Phil 1:4; Col 1:3 & 9; 2 Thes 1:11; 1 Tim 2:1; Heb 7:25; James 5:14 & 16)



PAUL'S FINAL WORDS

Eph 6:19-20 “(Pray)...*also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.*”

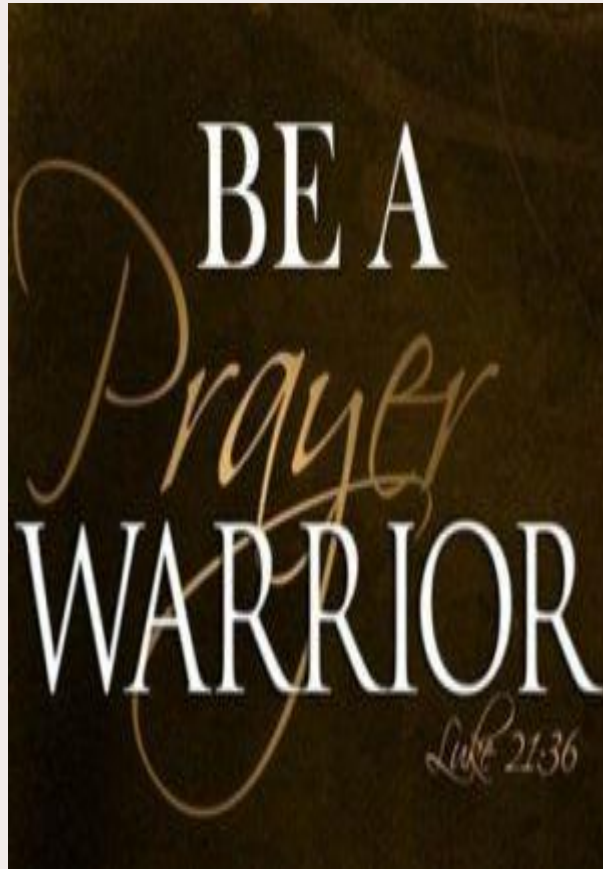


PAUL'S FINAL WORDS

By requesting this prayer for himself, Paul is conveying two points.

1) **Paul is asking for boldness to speak up for the Gospel.**

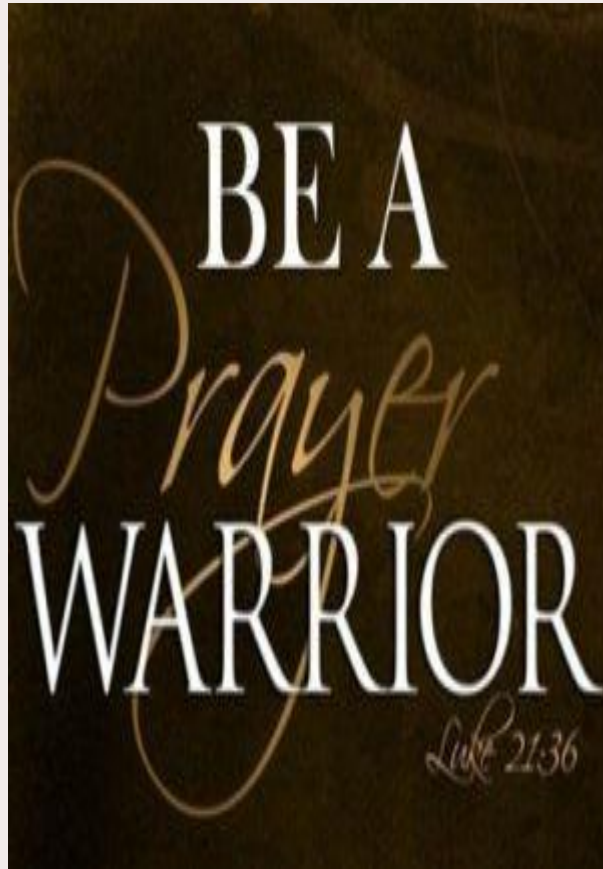
- This is a prayer petition that should be regularly on our lips. Paul also makes this request for boldness in Eph 3:13; 1 Thes 2:2; and 2 Cor 3:12.
- We also hear the disciples pray for boldness to speak the Gospel in Acts 4:29-31. When they finished praying the room where they were praying began shaking.
- In this culture in which we live, it takes boldness to speak the Gospel. Ridicule is not far from us when we speak, **BUT WE MUST NOT** be timid. Ridicule is a tool of the demonic to keep us timid. If remain timid, this generation, already on a tough road, will be lost. **BE BOLD!!**



PAUL'S FINAL WORDS

By requesting this prayer for himself, Paul is conveying two points.

2) Paul is reminding us we are Ambassadors for Christ. Paul uses this title twice in his letters. Here in Ephesians and in 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:1. The Corinthians' text is important. It clearly tells who we represent as ambassadors, and what we are to speak as ambassadors. An ambassador **DOES NOT** speak their own words. An ambassador is representing someone other than him/herself.



PAUL'S FINAL WORDS

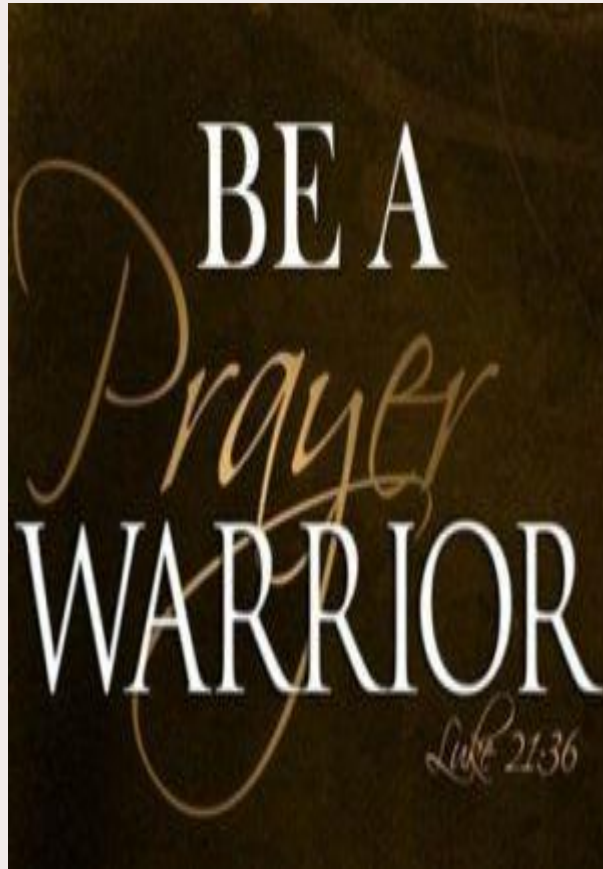
By requesting this prayer for himself, Paul is conveying two points.

2) Paul is reminding us we are Ambassadors for Christ.

- There are two important implications here:

- a) when we are criticized for speaking boldly, we should not take it personally.*

Jesus told us that too in **Luke 10:16** ***“The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”***



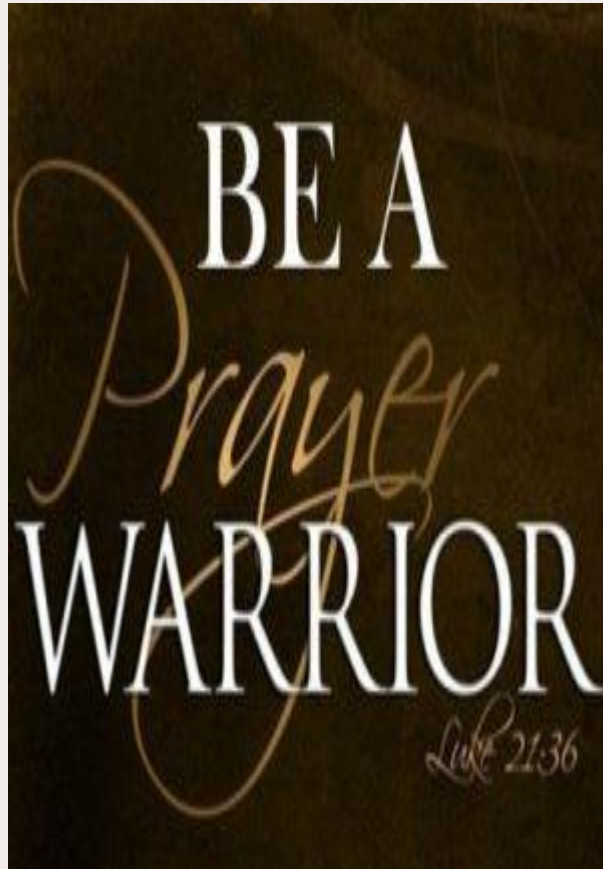
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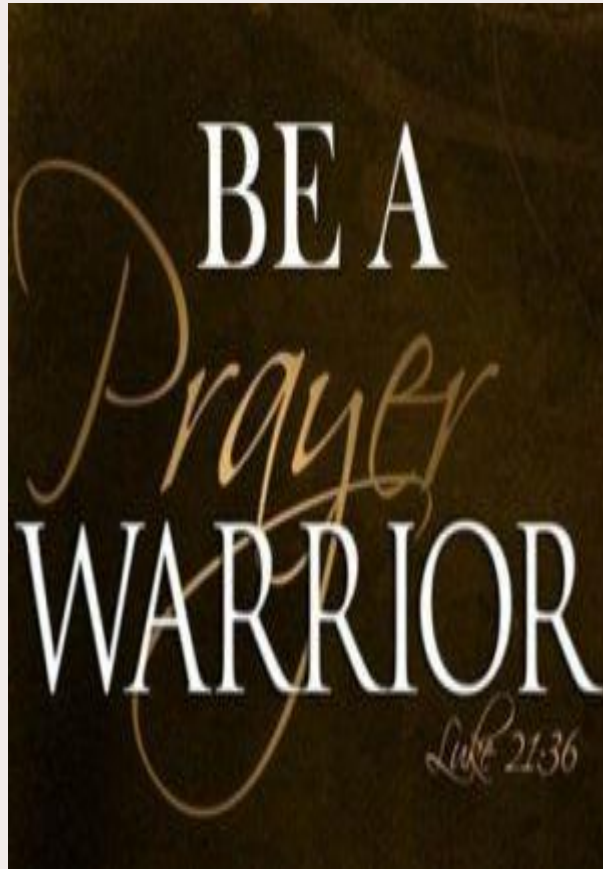
b) The title ambassador reminds us this is not our land. Both Paul and Peter wanted the followers of Christ to understand this clearly. This has always been very hard for Americans because our government is one that sets people free. Still, Paul in Phil 3:20 tells us our citizenship is in heaven, NOT HERE. Peter uses the word “exiles” in 1 Peter 1:1, 17, & 2:11 to remind us this is not our land. Therefore, we should not get too caught up in worldly systems of government. Instead. We must be able to work within whatever system of government we find ourselves.



PAUL'S FINAL WORDS

We've reached the end!

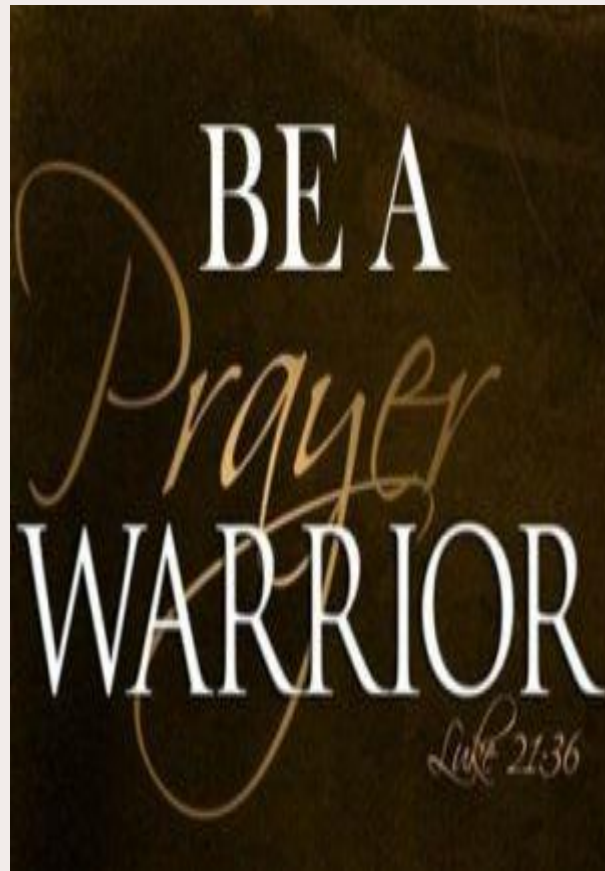
Eph 6:21-23 ***“So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts. Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.”***



PAUL'S FINAL WORDS

- Paul closes out his letter with acknowledgements of love and support, with requests, and finally with blessings.
- But he reserves his blessing of “Grace,” i.e., the blessing of empowerment for living, for those with undying love for Christ

Or...



PAUL'S FINAL WORDS

*“(Those) who love Christ
with a love incorruptible.”*