# FITTING OUR FAMILY FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE

### Rachel Halldorson

**Objective:** You’re going to learn how to protect what matters most to you - your faith and the faith of the loved ones you share a home with so that you’ll not only stand together in Jesus this side of eternity but on the eternal side in heaven as well.

What are you fighting for? In your households, whether you share a roof with a spouse, children, aging parents, or roommate, what are the top three things you fight about or fight for?

*Make a circle of those around you and take 3 minutes to discuss and share with one another your answer to this question. A volunteer from each circle will share their list with the rest of the group.*

##### Recognize the schemes of Satan/What is spiritual warfare

**10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can stand against the schemes of the Devil. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Spiritual warfare is simply the and are the prize.

“Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” 1 Peter 5:8.

Take a moment and look back on your list you made earlier about what in your life you’ve been fighting for or with. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes and give you wisdom to see how the real enemy, the devil, is leveraging those fights against your soul and those of your family. What lies have you been believing? How have they distracted you?

##### Become Familiar with the Parts of God’s Armor

**13** For this reason, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to take a stand on the evil day and, after you have done everything, to stand. **14** Stand, then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness fastened in place, **15** and with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace tied to your feet like sandals. **16** At all times hold up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the Evil One. **17** Also take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

God gives us our directive - to ! He doesn’t expect us to but to stay standing and to resist the devil. Jesus has already done the work of defeating. He won the war. Now we stand firm in that knowledge and truth.

* + Belt of Truth: If we’re not believing and living in we’re believing and living in .
  + Breastplate of Righteousness: Who or What makes us right with God?
  + Shoes of Peace: If we’re not living in , we are full of .
  + Shield of Faith: We are to use this at , in .
  + Helmet of Salvation: / The helmet protects our and this is the of spir- itual warfare. If Satan can influence our , then he controls all of us. But our minds belong to !
  + Sword of the Spirit: Interesting to note that the previous weapons were . The sword is an weapon. Now we fight back!

In all of the armor needed that we just briefly reviewed, the one tool necessary and required in each piece is the . We need more of on a daily basis.

##### Train Your Household for Battle

Warning: Watch out for . “Being in a hurry causes us not to be ourselves.”

Know your . It has to be worth our while to slow down, make choices, cut back on the things that don’t matter and make room for the things that do. Chapter 6 of Equip helps lay this all out for those of you with children.

How do we get MORE of God’s Word into MORE of our lives? Instead of being on defense (or reacting) how can we construct routines of offense in our everyday lives? *Brainstorm some ideas below!*

##### Faith Affirmations:

Don’t wait for the battle to show up on your doorstep and then in a panic try and figure out how to fight.

your household for battle with daily of God’s Word.

##### Prayer Warfare/Connect with Other Christians for Support and Protection

**18** At every opportunity, pray in the Spirit with every kind of prayer and petition. Stay alert for the same reason, always persevering in your intercession for all the saints. **19** Pray for me also, that when I open my mouth a message will be given to me that boldly reveals the mystery of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may speak about it boldly, as it is necessary for me to speak.

Marriage is “the deep oneness that develops as two people journey together toward the same destination: standing in glory with Jesus, helping each other through the dangers and challenges along the way.” *(quote taken from a Randy Hunter marriage retreat)*

How does thinking about prayer as warfare change your perspective on it? How could you better utilize this tool in your household?