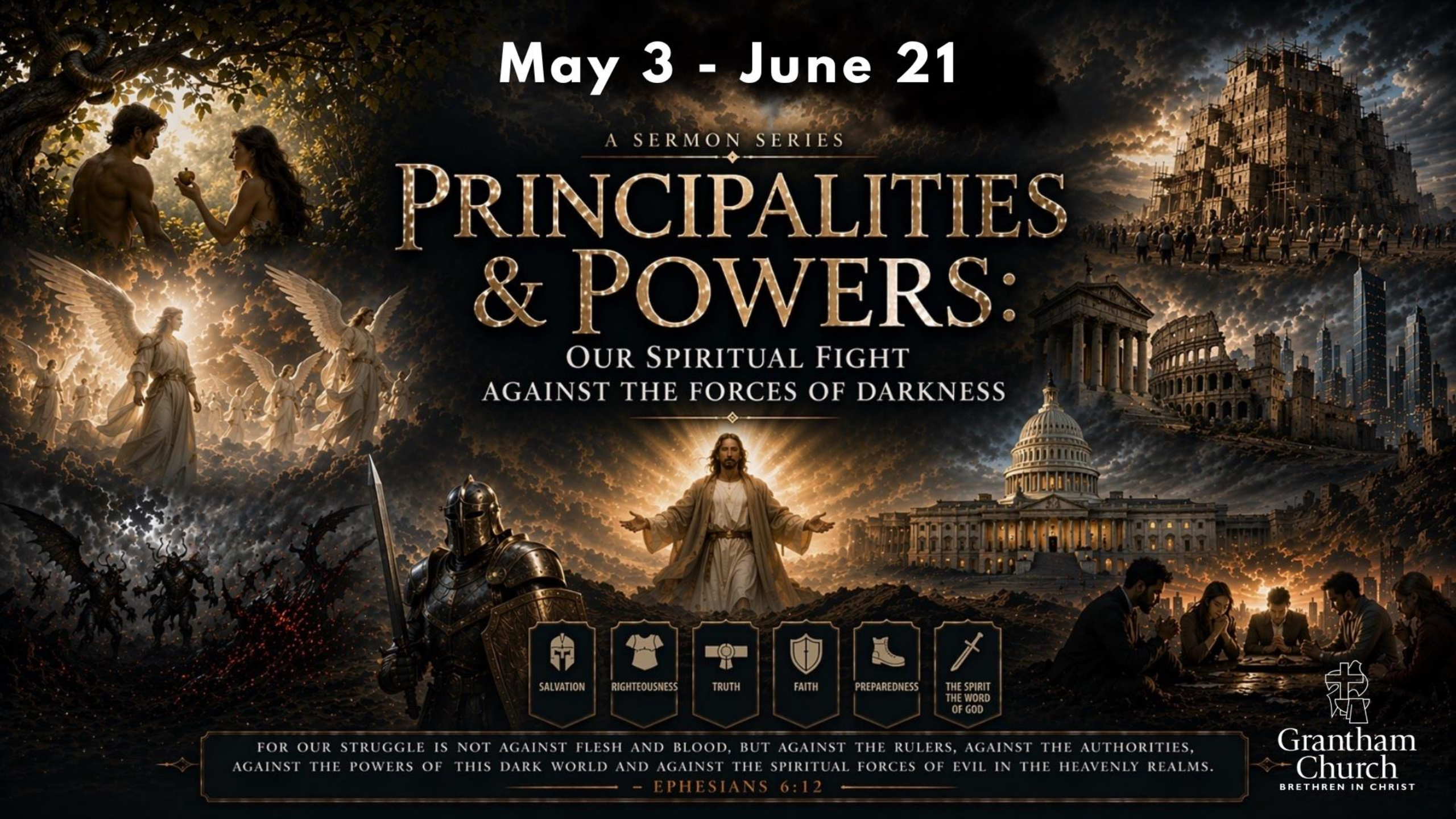


May 3 - June 21

A SERMON SERIES

PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS:

OUR SPIRITUAL FIGHT
AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS



SALVATION



RIGHTEOUSNESS



TRUTH



FAITH



PREPAREDNESS



THE SPIRIT
THE WORD
OF GOD

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.

- EPHESIANS 6:12



Grantham
Church
BRETHREN IN CHRIST



EPHESIANS 6:12

“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.”

“In the beginning God created
the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 1:1



Psalm 82:1 NRSV

“**God** (*elohim*) has taken his place in **the divine council**;
in the midst of **the gods** (*elohim*) he holds judgment”

אֱלֹהִים - “Elohim” is not a name—it’s a category.
It refers to any being in the spiritual realm.

Yahweh is unique because he is:

- uncreated (Ps. 90:2)
- supreme (Ps. 97:9)
- creator of all (Isa. 45:6–7)

So... there are many spiritual beings (*elohim*)
but only one true God; no other *elohim* is like him!



THE THREE COSMIC REBELLIONS

Three Stories that Shaped the Worldview of Israel & God's Redemptive Plan

1 THE SERPENT AND THE FALL

GENESIS 3



Deception led to sin, death, and exile.

2 THE SONS OF GOD, THE GIANTS, AND THE FLOOD

GENESIS 6-9



Corruption filled the earth; God sent the Flood.

3 THE TOWER OF BABEL AND THE NATIONS

GENESIS 11:1-9



Pride sought to reach heaven; God scattered the nations.



GOD'S PURPOSE REMAINS: To defeat evil, restore His image-bearers, and bring all things under Christ.



Deuteronomy 32:8-9 ESV

- 8 When **the Most High** gave to the nations their inheritance,
when he divided mankind,
he fixed the borders of the peoples
according to the number of **the sons of God**.
- 9 But the Lord's portion is his people,
Jacob [Israel] his allotted heritage.

Psalm 82:1-8 ESV

- 1 God has taken his place in **the divine council**;
in the midst of **the gods** he holds judgment:
- 2 **“How long will you judge unjustly
and show partiality to the wicked? Selah**
- 3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;
maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.
- 4 Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

Psalm 82:1-8 ESV

5 They have neither knowledge nor understanding,
they walk about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

6 I said, “**You are gods,**
sons of the Most High, all of you;

7 nevertheless, **like men you shall die,**
and fall like any prince.”

8 Arise, O God, judge the earth;
for you shall inherit all the nations!

A SERMON SERIES

PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS:

OUR SPIRITUAL FIGHT
AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS

5. Confronting the Powers

SCRIPTURE READING

Daniel 10:1-14



- THE CHRONICLES OF -
NARNIA

THE LION, THE WITCH
AND THE WARDROBE

DANIEL 10

THE VISION BY THE RIVER

Daniel fasted and prayed for understanding. An angelic being came to him with a message from the Most High.



A HEAVENLY MESSENGER

A glorious being appeared to Daniel in human form by the river.



RESISTED BY PRINCES

The angel was delayed 21 days by “the prince of the kingdom of Persia.”



SPIRITUAL REALITIES

The vision reveals a cosmic conflict behind earthly kingdoms.



DIVINE PURPOSE

The message will strengthen Daniel and reveal future events.

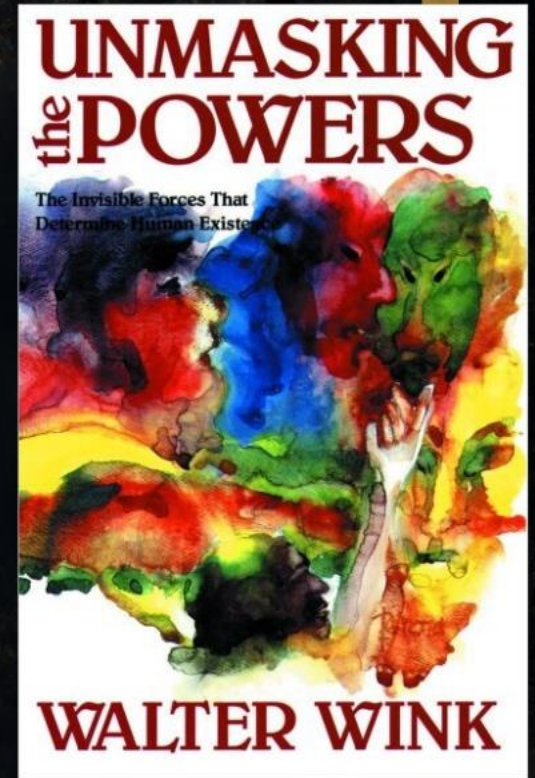
“Then he said to me, ‘Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.’”

– DANIEL 10:12



“Medieval Christianity treated these angels of the nations as disincarnate spirits in the air. Modern materialism located reality in physical objects, and thus dismissed the notion of spirits as superstition. Neither view is adequate. What is required is to hold the spiritual and material together: to see the material as the means by which the spiritual is made manifest..”

Walter Wink, *Unmasking the Powers* (pg. 92)



HEAVENLY BEINGS IN THE BIBLE

A POPULATED HEAVENLY REALM UNDER THE SOVEREIGNTY OF YAHWEH

SONS OF GOD / DIVINE COUNCIL MEMBERS

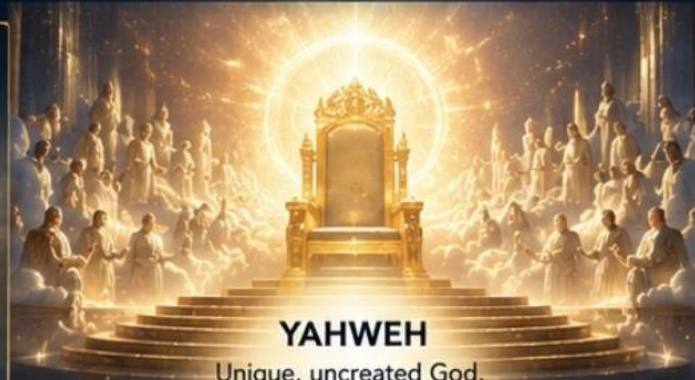


Spiritual beings (elohim).
Subordinate heavenly rulers
in God's council.
Administer nations
under His authority.
Job 1–2; Ps. 82;
Deut. 32:8–9; 1 Kings 22

ANGELS (MESSENGERS)



Usually appear human.
Servants and messengers
of God.
Deliver messages, protect,
guide, and wage war.
Gen. 19; Luke 1; Heb. 1:14



YAHWEH

Unique, uncreated God.
Supreme over all.
Creator, King, Judge.
Deut. 6:4; Ps. 82:1; Isa. 40

CHERUBIM



Composite throne beings.
Throne guardants who
guard sacred space and
carry God's throne.
Gen. 3:24; Ezek. 1; Ezek. 10

SERAPHIM



Fiery six-winged beings.
Heavenly attendants who
worship, purify, and
proclaim God's holiness.
Isa. 6:1–7

LIVING CREATURES



Multi-faced heavenly beings
around God's throne.
Worship and throne service
day and night.
Ezek. 1; Rev. 4

ARCHANGELS



High-ranking angelic rulers.
Leadership, warfare,
protection, and
divine announcements.
Dan. 10; Jude 9; Rev. 12

ANGEL OF THE LORD



Visible manifestation
of Yahweh.
Divine messenger identified
with God Himself.
Exod. 3; Judg. 6; Gen. 12

SATAN / THE SATAN



Divine council adversary figure.
The accuser who opposes,
accuses, and tempts.
Job 1–2; Zech. 3; Rev. 12

DEMONS / UNCLEAN SPIRITS



Disembodied evil spirits.
Hostile supernatural beings
who oppress, deceive,
and seek embodiment.
Mark 5; Luke 8

PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS



Territorial and cosmic rulers.
Rebellious spiritual authorities
that influence nations,
systems, and the world.
Dan. 10; Eph. 6:12; Col. 1:16

GLORIFIED HUMANS



Redeemed and resurrected
humanity. Will reign with
Christ and share in His
kingship forever.
1 Cor. 6:3; Rev. 3:21; Rev. 22:5

YAHWEH REIGNS SUPREME OVER ALL HEAVENLY BEINGS AND ALL CREATION.

“For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—
all things were created through Him and for Him.” Colossians 1:16



Beliefs that Impact Our Prayer Life

Our view of the following will impact the way we pray:

1. The nature of time & the universe

*Is everything already determined or do we have free will?
Is there a real battle of angelic and human wills or not?*

2. God's sovereignty, character & image

Is God a petty, controlling, micro-manager or is he like the Father revealed in Jesus—"the image of the invisible God"?

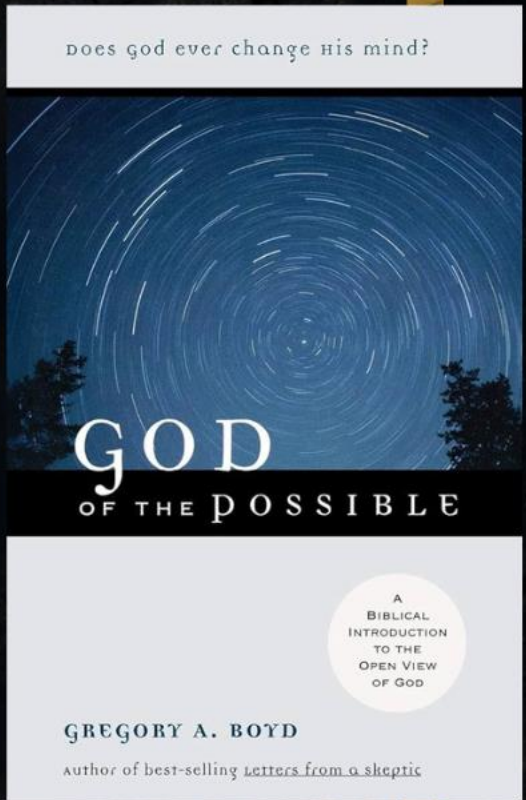
3. God's foreknowledge & view of the future

Are all things settled in God's mind or does he see the future full of possibilities? Can we actualize the future or not?



“My conviction is that many Christians do not pray as passionately as they could because they don’t see how it could make any significant difference. They pray, but they often do so out of sheer obedience and without the sense of urgency that Scripture consistently attaches to prayer.”

Gregory A. Boyd, *God of the Possible* (pg.95)



A SERMON SERIES

PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS:

OUR SPIRITUAL FIGHT
AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS

5. Confronting the Powers

A SERMON SERIES

PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS:

OUR SPIRITUAL FIGHT
AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS

1. There Are Spiritual Realities Behind Earthly Realities

Daniel 10 reveals evil unseen powers behind kings and kingdoms (geopolitical conflicts) influencing the nations.

- The rebellious “sons of God” (Deut. 32:8–9; Ps.82) are territorial and regional; they are warring for power.
- Spiritual and earthly realms are connected—what happens on earth is often a reflection of realities we cannot see!

Question: *How should this knowledge of unseen spiritual realities change the way you think, respond, and pray?*

A SERMON SERIES

PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS:

OUR SPIRITUAL FIGHT
AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS

2. Angels Are God's Servants in the Unseen Realm

There are various kinds of spiritual beings who serve God; Angels are messengers, ministers, guardians, and defenders.

- The Bible tells us that angels have different ranks and functions, but all help God carry out his will on the earth.
- Angels are very real and working on God's behalf, but they point us to worship, serve, and pray to God alone (Heb. 1).

Question: *How does knowing that God is actively working in the unseen realm through angelic beings encourage you?*

A SERMON SERIES

PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS:

OUR SPIRITUAL FIGHT
AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS

3. Intercessory Prayer is Spiritual Warfare

We will pray with passion and conviction when we believe there is a real battle of the wills and that our prayers matter!

- Daniel's prayers mattered even when he could not immediately see what was happening behind the scenes.
- "Spiritual warfare" and confronting the powers begins with intercession for people, problems, nations, events, etc.

Question: *How is the Spirit inviting me to be more intentionally active in intercessory prayer and engage in the spiritual fight?*

A SERMON SERIES

PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS:

OUR SPIRITUAL FIGHT
AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS

Weekly Practice:

Praying Against Injustice – “Confront Darkness with Prayer”

Challenge: Move from fear and anger or passive concern about evil and injustice to active spiritual resistance in prayer.

Invitation: Pray: “God, bring justice where there is injustice. Drive out the darkness and establish your Kingdom on the earth.”

Goal: Partner with God and his angel armies in the spiritual fight—“spiritual warfare” begins with intercessory prayer.



A SERMON SERIES

PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS:

OUR SPIRITUAL FIGHT
AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS

Subscribe & Listen to the
Grantham Church Podcast

