

## Our Allies (part 2)

Message 5 of 5 in the series: "Spiritual Warfare"

### A. We are involved in a spiritual battle.

**"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil.** He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. **Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.** Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are." 1 Peter 5:8-9 (NLT)

"...Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For **we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world**, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:10-12 (NLT)

**IMPORTANT!** This is a battle for our minds. "We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. **We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.** We destroy every proud obstacle (imagination and every high thing) that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ."

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NLT)

### B. God has given us allies, so we don't have to fight spiritual battles alone.

1. God sends angels to watch over/protect/guide us. "If you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home. For **he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go.**" Psalm 91:9-11 (NLT)

2. When we become Christians, we become part of The Church.

- The Church is God's people all over the world. "...**you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation**, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. Once you had no identity as a people; **now you are God's people.**" 1 Peter 2:9b-10a (NLT) (*Hosea 2:23*)
- The Church is God's family. We have LOTS of brothers and sisters in Christ. "Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. **God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.** This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son." Ephesians 1:4-6 (NLT)
- The Church is Christ's body. "**All of you together are Christ's body**, and each of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NLT)

### C. Seven ways we can be good allies with other believers in our battles against the devil's schemes:

"...in order that Satan might not outwit us. For **we are not unaware of his schemes.**"

2 Corinthians 2:11 (NIV)

1. We can protect each other. "Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? **A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer.** Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken." Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT) "**You must warn each other every day**, while it is still 'today,' so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God." Hebrews 3:13 (NLT)

2. We can encourage each other. "Finally, when we could stand it no longer, we decided to stay alone in Athens, and we sent Timothy to visit you. He is our brother and God's co-worker in proclaiming the Good News of Christ. We sent him **to strengthen you, to encourage you in your faith, and to keep you from being shaken by the troubles you were going through.**" 1 Thessalonians 3:1-3a (NLT)

**IMPORTANT!** A very effective strategy of the devil is tempting us to give up. "So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing **if we don't give up.**"

Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

3. We can hold each other accountable. **“Let the godly strike me! It will be a kindness!** If they correct me, it is soothing medicine. Don’t let me refuse it.” Psalm 141:5 (NLT) “To learn, you must love discipline; **it is stupid to hate correction.**” Proverbs 12:1 (NLT)

**IMPORTANT!** Complacency is dangerous because it lulls us into a false sense of security. The devil never stops hunting us! “Fools are **destroyed** by their own complacency.” Proverbs 1:32b (NLT)

4. We can teach and counsel each other using God’s Word. “Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. **Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives.**”  
Colossians 3:16a (NLT)

**IMPORTANT!** Gaining understanding of the Bible takes time and effort. The devil knows he can disarm us of the “sword of the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:17) if he can just make us lazy about Bible study. “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, **a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.**” 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)

5. We can pray for each other. “Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your **prayers for all believers everywhere.**” Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

**IMPORTANT!** The devil will throw all kinds of distractions/temptations/hardships at us to keep us from praying for each other. He knows that if we draw close to God, the Lord will give us the desire and the power to resist satanic schemes. “So humble yourselves before God. **Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God,** and God will come close to you.” James 4:7-8a (NLT)

6. We can restore each other. “Dear brothers and sisters, **if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path.** And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. **If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.**” Galatians 6:1-3 (NLT)

7. We can work together to carry out our mission. “Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. **Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.** This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. **We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.** Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NLT)

**IMPORTANT!** A key strategy of the devil to keep us disorganized and ineffective in reaching the world for Christ is to trick us into believing that we don’t need relationships with other Christians. “And **let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do,** but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)

John Schmidt • 05-24-26 • [john@centeringlives.com](mailto:john@centeringlives.com)

### Connect Group Questions:

1. Have you ever thought of other Christians as allies in our spiritual battle against Satan’s schemes? How reliable are you as an ally to other Christians? (Hebrews 3:13, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
2. How does it make you feel to know that some of Satan’s most effective strategies don’t involve witchcraft or sorcery but simply tempting Christians to give up, become complacent, and stop going to church? (Proverbs 1:32, Galatians 6:1-3, Hebrews 10:25)
3. Discuss Centerpoint’s belief statement regarding The Church: “The Church is the body of Christ, created by His Word and Spirit, uniting the whole human race into fellowship with Christ. The Church is not a religious institution or denomination but is made up of all people everywhere and in every time who are born of the Spirit. The Church exists to worship and glorify God and to serve Him by faithfully doing His will on earth. All members of the church are called to ministry and service.” (1 Peter 2:9-10, Ephesians 1:4-6, 1 Corinthians 12:27)

4. In military conflicts, wounded soldiers are given medical care and treatment so they can regain their health and return to active duty. How should we treat other Christians when they fall victim to spiritual temptations and attacks? (Galatians 6:1-3)
5. Spend some time as a group praying for our church and churches all over the world. Ask God to:
  - Help believers love each other. (John 13:34-35, 1 John 4:20)
  - Protect us from division. (1 Corinthians 11:10)
  - Give us a desire to worship, serve, and share our lives together. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Acts 2:42-47)
  - Keep us from apathy, complacency, and giving up. (Revelation 2:4 & 3:15-16)
  - Convict us to pray for each other. (Ephesians 6:18-20)
6. Quotations to consider:

“Satan doesn't need for us to fall into gross sin in order to defeat us; A large dose of laziness will do the trick just as well.” Billy Graham

“A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”  
Proverbs 18:24 (NIV)

“Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.” Harriett Beecher Stowe