

## 'Battle Ready in This Present Darkness' James 4:7,8

### Introduction:

From the beginning to the end, the Bible speaks of the existence of the real but invisible world. But this invisible world, made up of angels and fallen angels, is a tough sell today. We tend to think that only what our 5 senses tell us is what is real. This even affects many Christians. We say we believe the supernatural events of the Bible but then we deny that these things affect us today in this scientific age. Spiritual battles are real. Are you battle ready?

### I. Be on guard.

Eph. 6:18. I think much of the battle here is simply being aware that there is a battle going on.

### II. Suit up. Eph. 6:10-18

The Bible tells us to suit up, to get ready for action, put on that spiritual armor because you are going to need it if you plan on still being standing by the end of the day. Most of us have heard much about our spiritual protection that God has provided but it seems to me that too often we do everything except what the Bible tells us to do. Put it on! This reminds us that it's a \_\_\_\_\_ out there. It's a battle for our minds, for our hearts, for our mouth, for our souls, for our kids.

### III. Battle ready James 4:7,8

**A. Submit to God.** Gladly, joyfully, surrender your life to God. He's the leader, we're His servants.

**B. Resist the devil.** Yes, he's real. Resist him by doing these other three things James is mentioning here and by being alert, being aware of some of his tricky schemes and suiting up.

**C. Come near to God.** Draw near to the One who loves you more than anyone else. We do this in a number of ways. There are public and private means of grace to help us draw near to Christ. A life of seeking to be close to God is a great \_\_\_\_\_ of protection in this present darkness.

**D. Wash our hands and purify our hearts.** This is a call to come clean, to ask for forgiveness, to put off those things that keep tripping us up and desiring to live a holy life.

### IV. Watch and pray. Mt. 26:41

A. Here are some other kinds of prayers we can pray as ways to help us stay vigilant.

1. Pray for discernment. How needed this is in these days, to see what is of God and what isn't.
2. Pray for protection. Don't just assume this. David was constantly praying for protection.
3. Pray for leaders. Leaders today have a big bullseye on their backs. Pray for them.
4. Pray for open spiritual eyes. 2 Cor. 4:4 Only God can soften hard hearts.
5. Pray for revival. As we pray for God's church in America to rise up, to not be silent, to be great in good works and proclaiming the truth with conviction yet with gentleness and respect, we will be doing much damage to this present darkness.
6. Pray for God's blessings to be poured out. A church meeting needs around the world allows the light to shine in dark places. The church can provide a word of \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of so much despair.
7. Pray for marginalized peoples. There are yet so many people groups around the world that have yet to hear the gospel and many groups of people living on the margins of society.

**Conclusion:** Are you battle ready? There is a spiritual battle going on around you. Come help win the battle, for your sake, for your kids' sake, for your grandkids' sake. Don't leave them defenseless; help them to become battle ready!