



# Sun Stand Still

Date: July 14, 2024

Text: Judges 6; Joshua 10; Ephesians 6

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## BIG IDEA

Whether we like it or not, we are at war spiritually. Many people sense this who are not even Christians because the world we live in can be so dark. In Judges, God calls a very unlikely man to be a reluctant warrior for Him. In Joshua 10, God shows us one example of what it looks like to successfully fight a battle spiritually. Later in Ephesians, God gives Paul the words we will need as a battle plan for our own season and battles in history. We will look at three Biblical snapshots that have something to teach us about spiritual warfare.

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## *Conversation Starter*

- What is the craziest prayer that you have ever dared to utter before God?
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## COMMENTARY #1

**(Judges 6:11-16)** In this exchange with Gideon, God establishes that Gideon is, indeed, written into His strategy for winning a

spiritual battle for Israel. Even when Gideon does not believe it and lacks confidence, God claims him as “mighty hero” in His battle plan.

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### ***Discussion Questions***

1. Look closely in this chapter. What is Gideon doing when “the angel of the Lord appears” to him? How does this affect the conversation between Gideon and the angel, if at all?
  2. In verse 14, God tells Gideon to “go with the strength you have.” What does this tell you about the character of God? (Hint: What does this tell you about the way God views our excuses?)
  3. Does it seem that God enjoys choosing unlikely warriors like Gideon in the Bible? Why or why not?
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### **COMMENTARY #2**

**(Joshua 10:12-14)** Often, spiritual warfare does not look like what we picture when we think about fighting on a battlefield. It’s not at all like the epic movies we watch about the storied wars of human history. God makes it clear that in spiritual battles, the details like thoughts, intentions, posture, and timing matter; He also makes it clear that He is in the middle of the details. In this passage, there is a special intersection between God’s will and human obedience that is worth noticing.

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## ***Discussion Questions***

1. In this passage, what is the importance of the WORDS in the warfare? Whose words matter?
  2. Where does discipline matter in the battle for these “troops?”
  3. What is the posture of the people of God in this passage? How does God respond to their obedience? What does this tell us about the character of God?
  4. How does God make sure that He is the only one who gets credit for this victory?
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## **COMMENTARY #3**

**(Ephesians 6:10-20)** God wants us to stand for something. Think of how truth has become subjective in the culture we live in. Think of how right and wrong have become subjective in the culture. Think of how many people are walking around desperately searching for truth in all kinds of ways. Knowing the truths in this passage will anchor you in all spiritual warfare.

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## ***Discussion Questions***

1. Who are we really at war against? If that is true, should we be easily offended by the people around us who are lost?
2. How many times does God affirm in this passage that we have to fight alongside Him to be effective?

3. What is at stake in spiritual warfare? How can we remind ourselves of this daily?

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## GOING DEEPER

1. Identify the six weapons named in Ephesians 6, then identify which one is the only offensive weapon named. What does it say about the weaponry that five are defensive and one is offensive?

2. Joshua proclaims his prayer in chapter 10 over the people. Our pastors proclaim prayers over us as we worship corporately. Something about those in authority being the mouthpiece for His people pleases God. What can we be doing to love our pastors, who are the “Pauls” of our age, according to Ephesians 6:19-20?

3. What doubts, fears, or lack of self-esteem do you need to bring before the Lord in your own battles? Does it encourage you that God chose Gideon in spite of his insecurities?

4. Why do you think it is so important for us to be in community alongside other warriors in order to do battle in our own lives?

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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [The Bible Project: Book of Joshua](#)
  - [Radical Archives: David Platt](#)
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## Group Activity

**What is your battle plan?** It needs to be practical, doable, and realistic. How do you plan to press into Christian community and the power of the Holy Spirit when you begin to feel the strain of battle in your own life? For a few minutes in a group context, hold each other accountable.

Being an accountability group for each other can change the dynamics of the group for a few minutes, but it also is a worthwhile part of being prepared for battle. Name your personal battle plan for when the heat of the conflict begins to rage in your own life. Allow your group to speak into whether or not it seems doable with your daily responsibilities and schedule. Allow them to question or support your ideas based on the strengths and weaknesses they know in your character. Conversations like this are necessary to live out the commands in Ephesians 6.