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Ephesians 6:12 has always been an intriguing passage. Paul wrote: *"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."*

According to this verse, our enemies are not other people. They are not other Christians. They are not other races. They are not other countries or nations. Our enemies are unseen. They are invisible. They are powerful and they are at work around us. They are busy trying to separate us from God. This verse says that our enemies are a part of the "unseen world."

The "unseen world" is real. Angels are real. Satan is real and in this other-dimensional world there is order, authorities and territories. In our prayers we ask an unseen God to change things in the visible world. We ask our unseen Lord to make a difference in the tangible world around us. But do we really understand all that is involved in these unseen, mighty powers in this dark world? In this passage we are informed that our fight is against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Everyone who believes the Bible knows that the Devil is the prince of this world. Satan is an evil spirit and he is source of all that is opposed to goodness. But the devil is an unseen entity and our greatest danger comes from that which is unseen. We are often not aware of the devil's assaults against us. Our unseen enemies strive to prevent us from going to heaven. They seek to deprive us of the heavenly blessings and obstruct our communication with God. They fight against the things that pertain to our soul and labor to deface the hope we have in our hearts.

A number of years ago, the comedian Flip Wilson jokingly said, "The devil made me do it." We understand this statement was an attempt to excuse personal conduct and blame it all on the devil. But, the reality is that the devil is behind all the evil in our lives. Often we fail to see this fact clearly. He is our unseen enemy and motives us to do things that are sinful.

When we pray, perhaps we should concentrate on these unseen enemies and ask God's help to defeat them. In the verses that follow Ephesians 6:12, Paul warns, *"Therefore put on the whole armor of God, so that when the evil day comes, you may be able to stand."* After describing our armor, he then writes these encouraging words. *"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints"* (Eph 6:19).

Prayer in the spirit will accomplish much in our battle against these unseen enemies. Paul tells us that there is nothing, not even ruling spirits, that can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:38-39).

May we enhance our prayer life and may God bless us in our daily battle against our enemies, seen and unseen