

12

Spiritual battle in Christ

Ephesians 6:10-24

Western Modern Worldview

Demons Or Depression

Supernatural
moral/demonic

Domain of Religion

Heaven, gods,
spiritual beings,
immaterial, soul

Saved by:

Religious Duty

Gnosticism
“secret knowledge”

Natural
physical/mental

Domain of Reason

Earth, humans,
plants, animals,
material, body

Saved by:

Scientific Discovery

Agnosticism
“secret god”



Paul's trip to Paradise

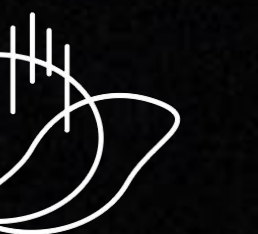
Strength in Weakness

2 Corinthians 12:2-5 ^{NIV}

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows.

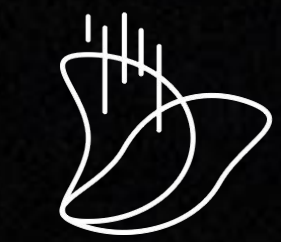
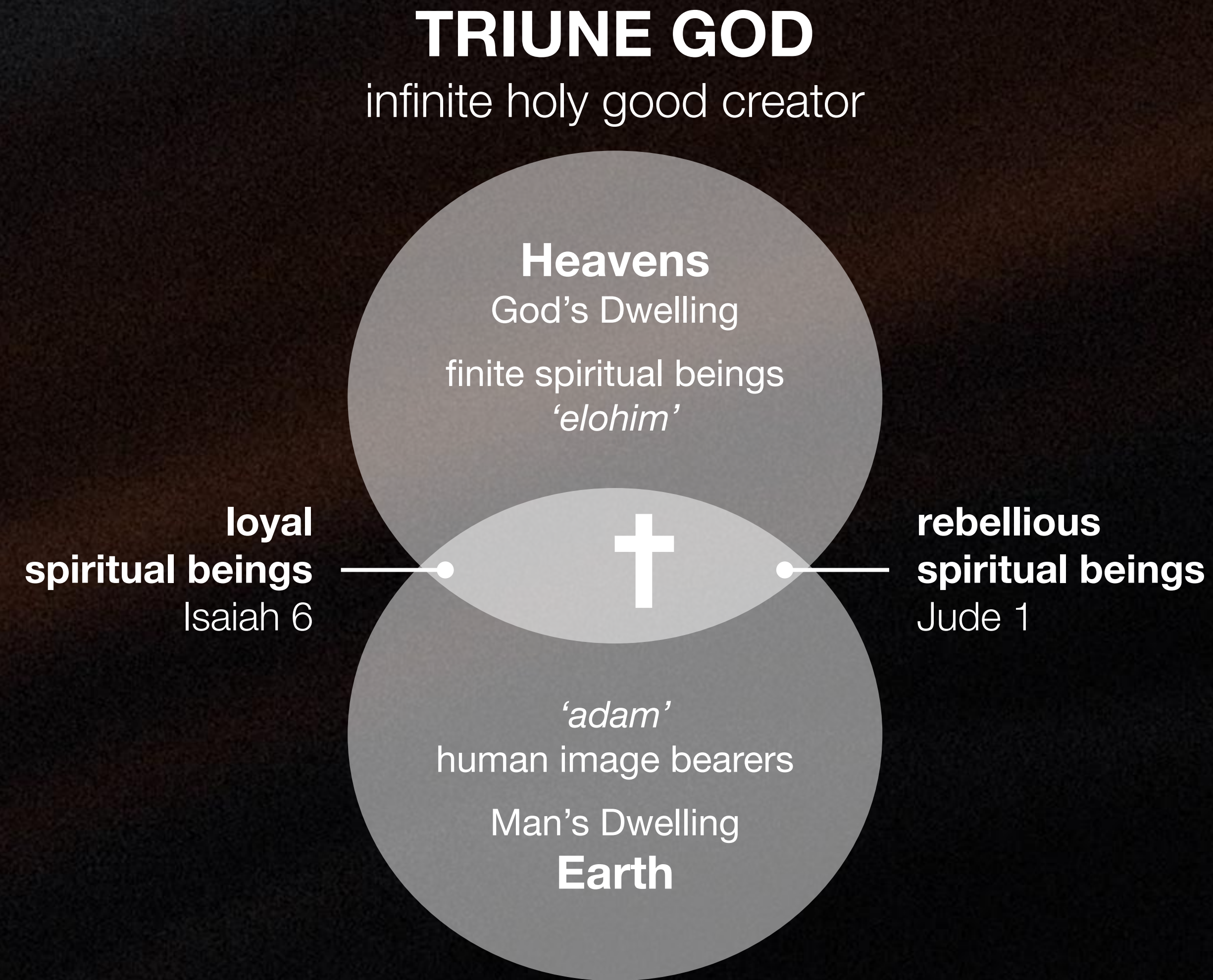
³ And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows—

⁴ was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. ⁵ I will boast about a man like that, but **I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses.**



Jesus & The Biblical Authors

To dwell and partner with the Triune God



(1-3) **New Position in Christ**

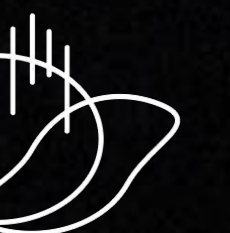
(4-6:9) **New Life in Christ**

(6:10-24) **New Victory in Christ**

Sitting with Christ in the heavenly realm.

Walking with Christ in this world filled by the Spirit.

Standing with Christ against principalities & powers of darkness.



Standing In Christ

Full dependence on God against
demonic strategies

Ephesians 6:10-11 NIV

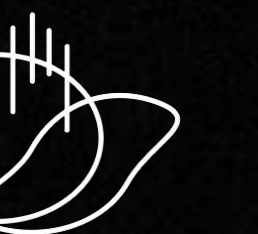
Finally, be **strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.** ¹¹ **Put on the full armor of God,** so that you can take your **stand** against **the devil's schemes.**



**Three Strategies
Concerning The Satan:**
Dismiss, Obsess, Resist

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.”

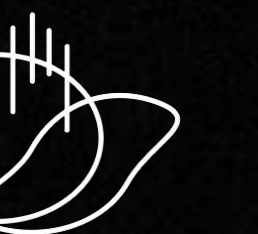
C.S Lewis, *Screwtape Letters*



Who are we at war with?

Ephesians 6:12 ^{NIV}

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**.



Three Enemies of Your Soul

John Mark Comer, *Live No Lies*

The Devil

Deceptive
ideas/lies...

(mind)

The Flesh

...that play to
disordered
desires...

(heart)

The World

...normalized
in a sinful
society.

(body)



Who are we at war with?
What should we wear?

Ephesians 6:13a ^{NIV}

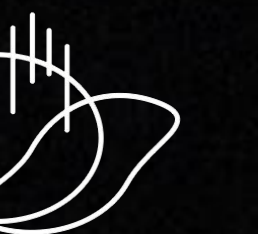
Therefore **put on the full armor of God...**

Ephesians 4:24 ^{NIV}

and to **put on** the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Isaiah 59:17a ^{NIV}

“He **put on** righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head...”



Jesus is our Armor

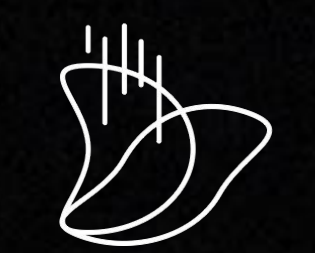
To “put on Christ” is to
identify with Christ

Metaphor

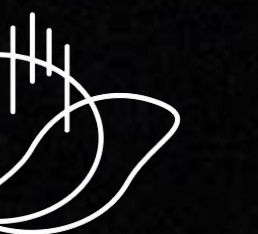
- Belt of Truth
- Breastplate of Righteousness
- Feet fitted from Peace
- Shield of Faith
- Helmet of Salvation
- Sword of the Spirit

Significance

- The Way, Truth, and Life
- The Righteous One
- The Prince of Peace
- The Perfector of Faith
- The Provider of Salvation
- The Good News



In our spiritual conflict,
you won't find victory in your own heroic actions.
**Victory is found in moment-by-moment dependence on,
and obedience to, our victorious Risen King.**



Who are we at war with?
What should we wear?
How do we fight?

Ephesians 6:10-12 NIV

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 Lord's people.

¹⁹ **Pray** also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. **Pray** that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.



**In Prayer, We:
Recognize God's Power**

Renew our minds of God's Purpose

Rest in God's Presence

Mark 9:18; 28-29 NIV

“Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.”

²⁸ After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” ²⁹ He replied, “**This kind can come out only by prayer.**”



In Prayer, We:

Recognize God's Power

Renew our minds of God's Purpose

Rest in God's Presence

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV

For though we live in the world, **we do not wage war as the world does.** ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have **divine power to demolish strongholds.** ⁵ **We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.**



In Prayer, We:

Recognize God's Power
Renew our minds of God's Purpose
Rest in God's Presence

Matthew 11:28-29 ^{NIV}

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”



In Prayer, We:
Recognize God's Power
Renew our minds of God's Purpose
Rest in God's Presence

Resist the enemy by enjoying time with God

P - Pause / breathe deep and be still in God's presence.

R - Rejoice / thank God for the good in and around you.

A - Ask / invite God to help you and others.

Y - Yield / submit to God's love and purposes.

