

Spiritual Warfare

Ephesians 6:10-12

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Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

The World, the Flesh, and the Devil

- “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind” (Eph. 2:1-3).

Our Spiritual Battle

- **“For we ... wrestle” – this depicts not merely a struggle but a genuine conflict. We have an enemy who is opposed to us.**
- **Literally the passage is, “The wrestling to us,” emphasizing our defensive posture.**
- **But we do not struggle alone. God is with us, but also the church must together put on the armor of God.**

So, how do we fight?

- Be strong in the Lord
- Be fully prepared
- Know the enemy

1. Be Strong in the Lord

- **“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might” (Eph. 6:10).**
- **Relationship comes first. We must know God and spend time with Him.**
- **We must know His Word and walk with His Spirit.**
- **We must know His Ways. “Teach me your ways” (Exodus 33:13).**
- **“Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are my God my Savior” (Psa. 25:4-5)**

Culture and the Armor of God



Culture A



Culture B

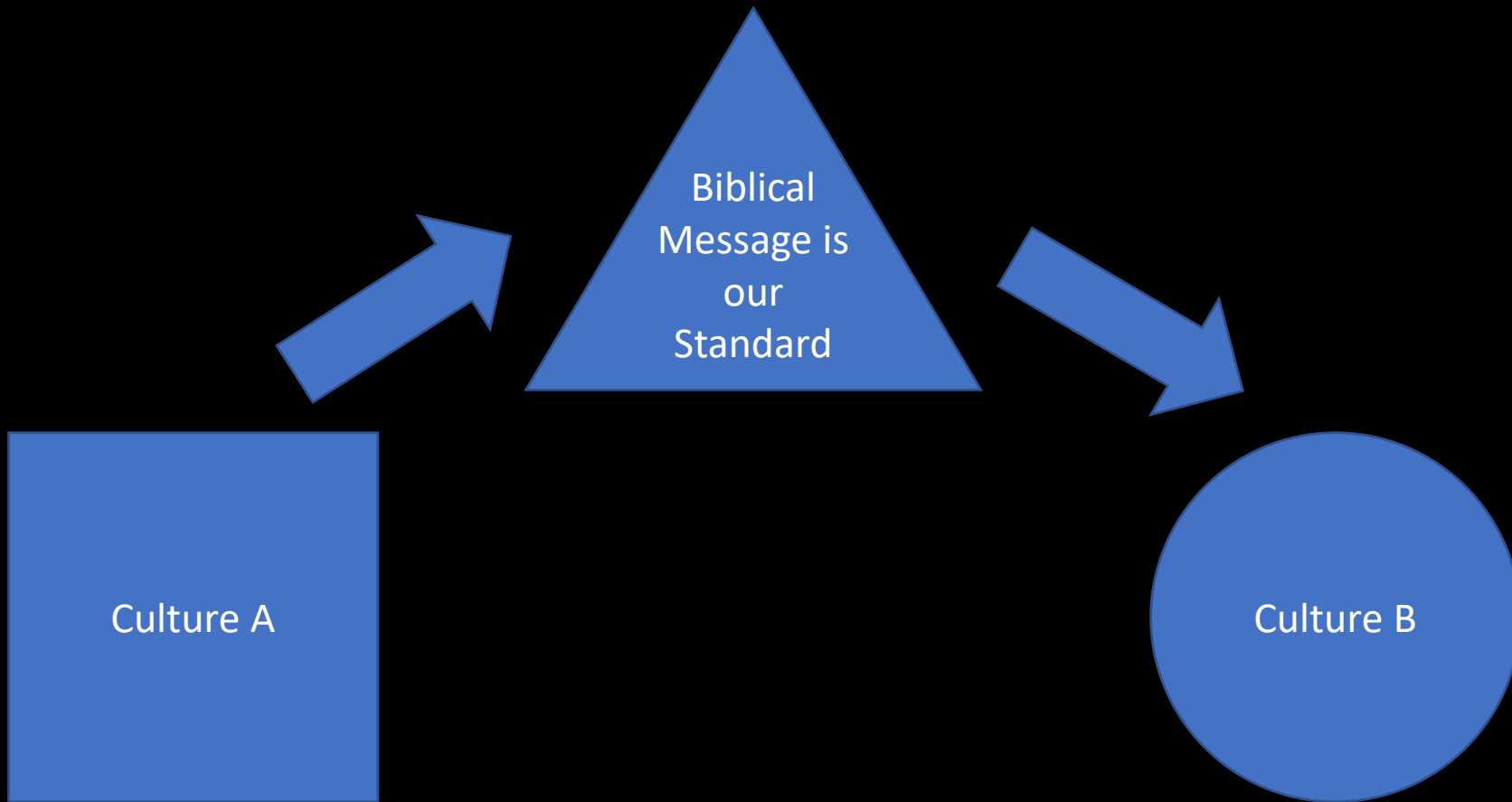
Spiritual Warfare: The Wrong Way to Do It!



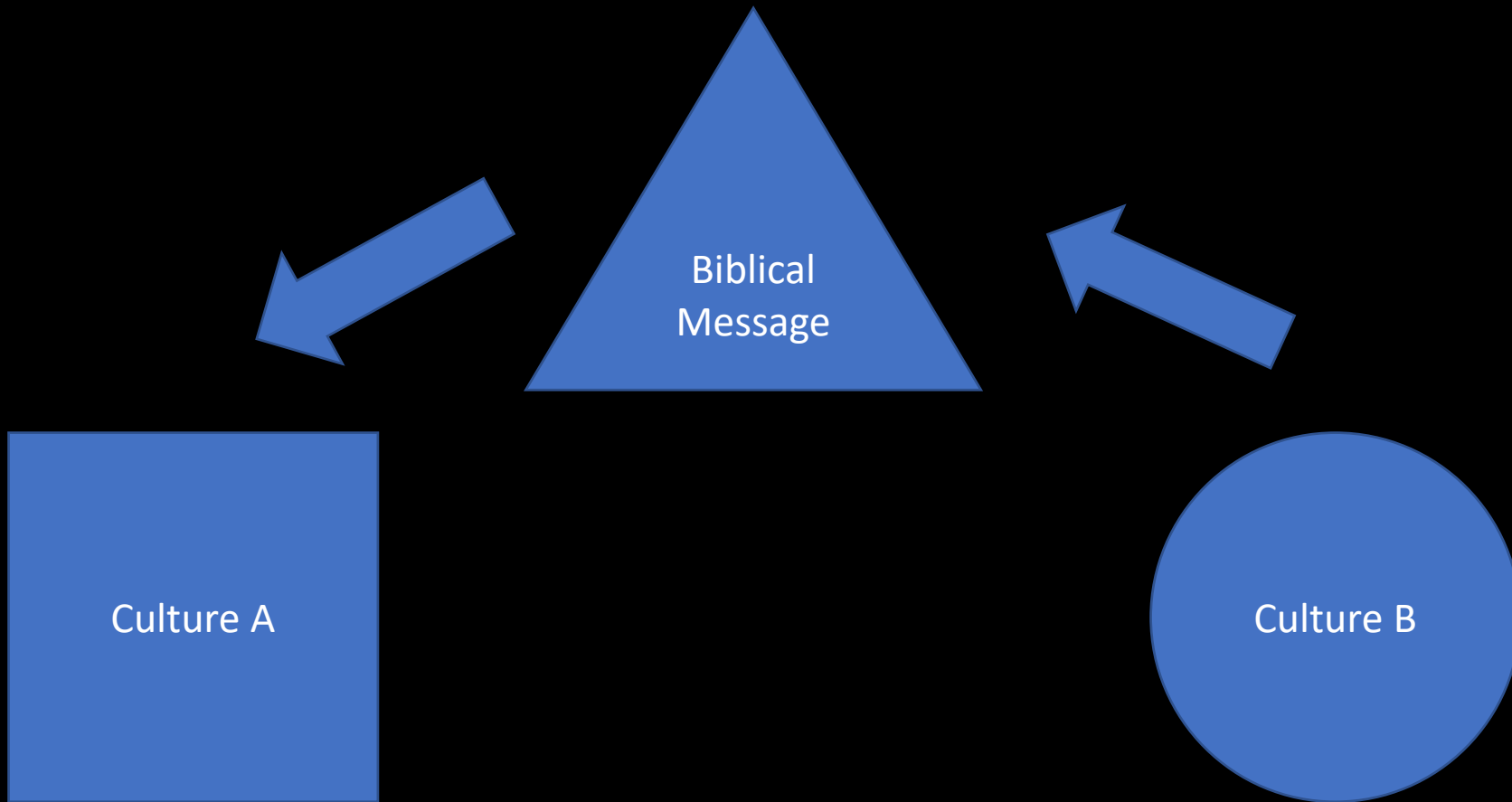
Spiritual Warfare: Also the Wrong Way!



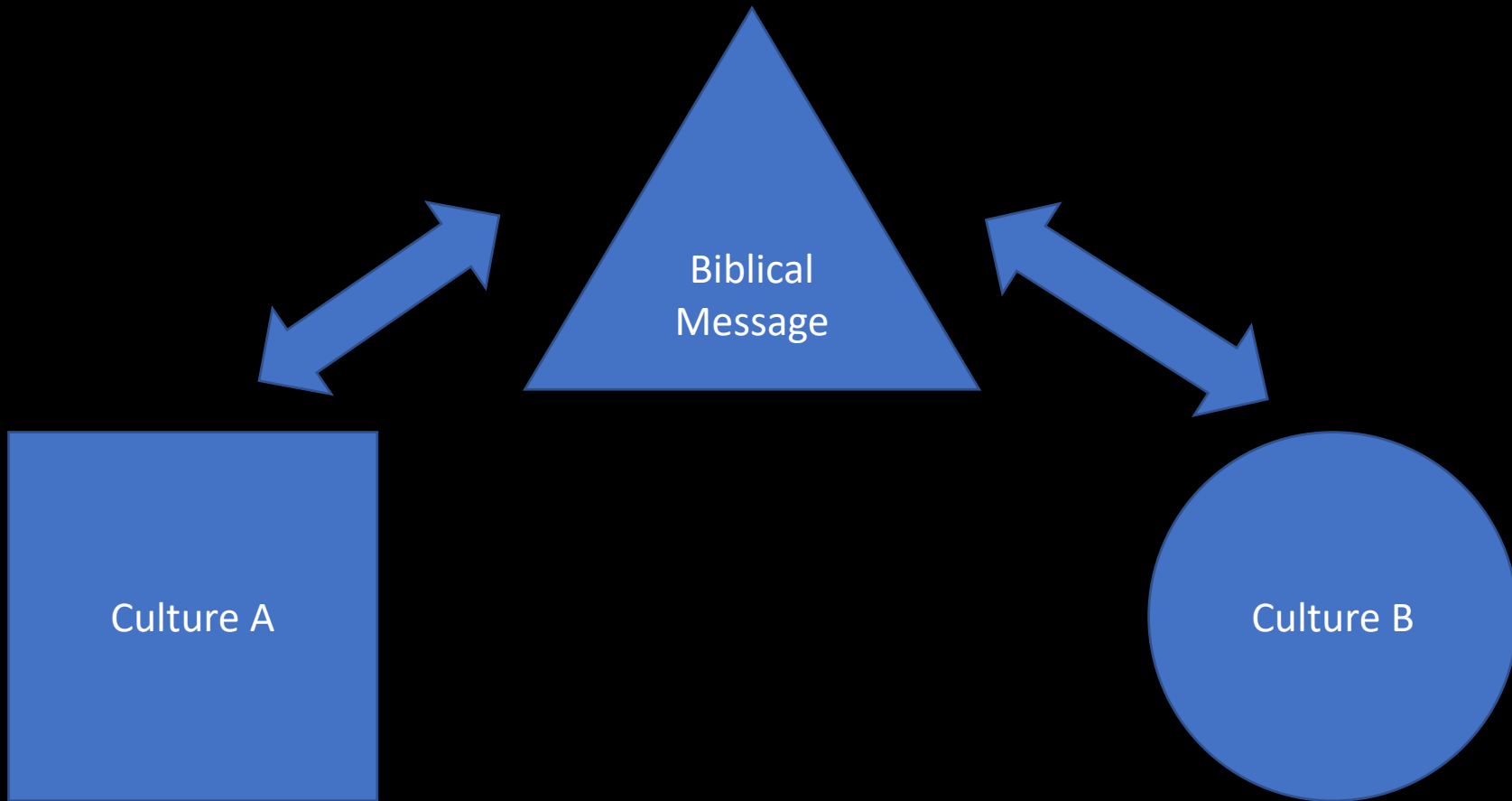
The Armor of God: The Right Way!



God's Armor: Also the right way!



God's Armor: The Best Way



Be Strong in the Lord

- A growing relationship, steady dependency, growing faith in Christ.
- Dependence on His Word. Understanding His Word. *Rhema* – “a spoken word by a living voice”

2. Put on the whole armor of God

- “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil” (Eph. 6:11).
- “Schemes” is *Methodeia* combining the word *met* meaning “with” and *hodeuo* meaning “traveling.” Combined they meant “to lay in wait” or to be prepared to ambush.
- Satan specializes in deception, making the wrong path look safe.
- “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death” (Prov. 14:12).

How to Ruin Your Life, by the Prodigal Son

- Demand whatever you want right now! Instant gratification!
- Do not care who you hurt with your choices.
- Get as far away from good advice as you can.
- Spend money and opportunities as though there is no reckoning.
- Surround yourself with friends as shallow as yourself.
- Lower your moral standards whenever they are challenged.
- Prepare yourself to live with pigs.

The Armor of God

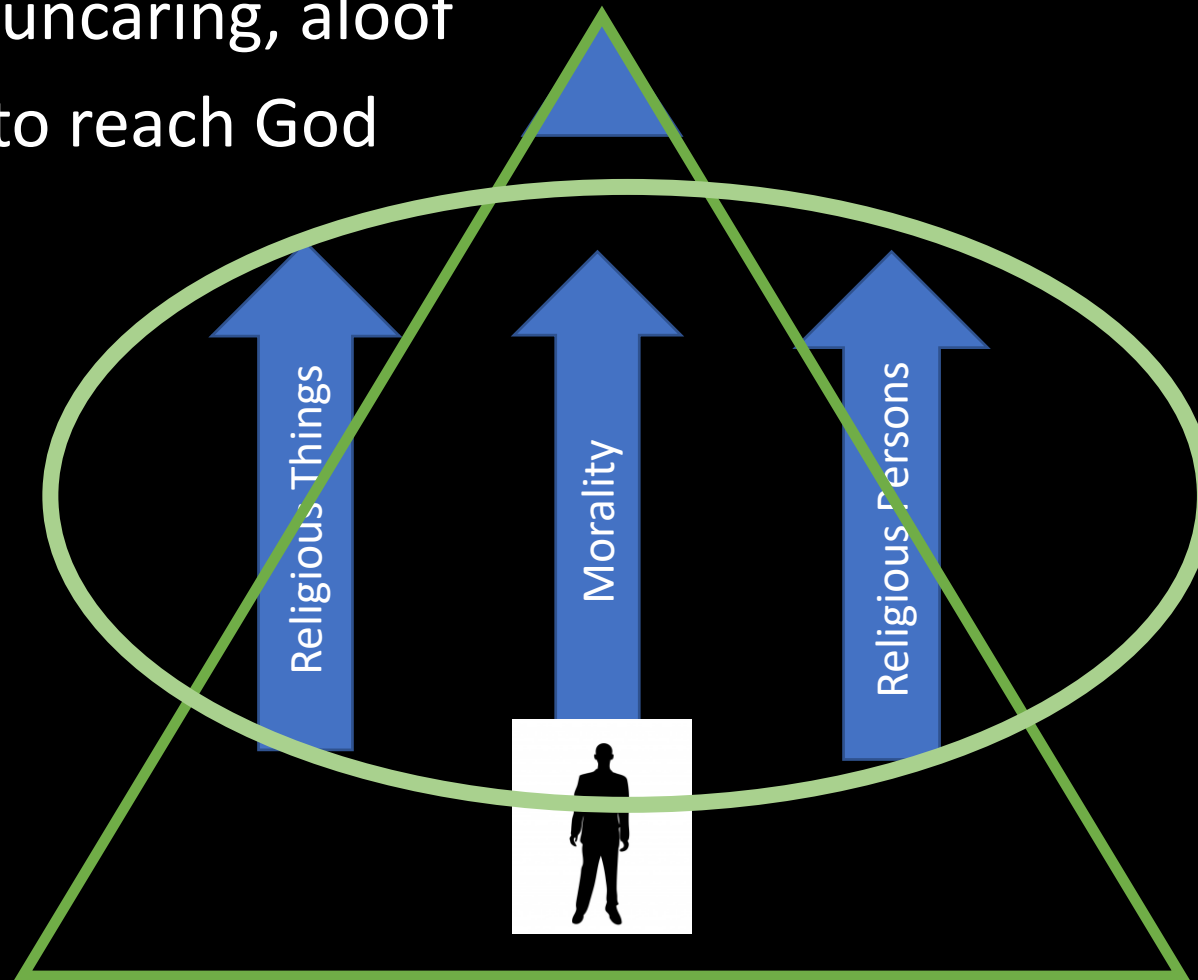
- Belt of Truth
- Breastplate of Righteousness
- Shoes ... Gospel of Peace
- Shield of Faith
- Helmet of Salvation
- Sword of the Spirit
- Prayer

3. Know the Enemy

- “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:12).
- Do not make people your enemy. Do not make them your solutions either. Religious personalities and religious rituals or places are not the solution.
- The structure of Satan’s kingdom:
 - Rulers
 - Authorities
 - Powers of this dark world – Cosmic powers over this present darkness
 - Spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places

Fundamental Differences in Religion

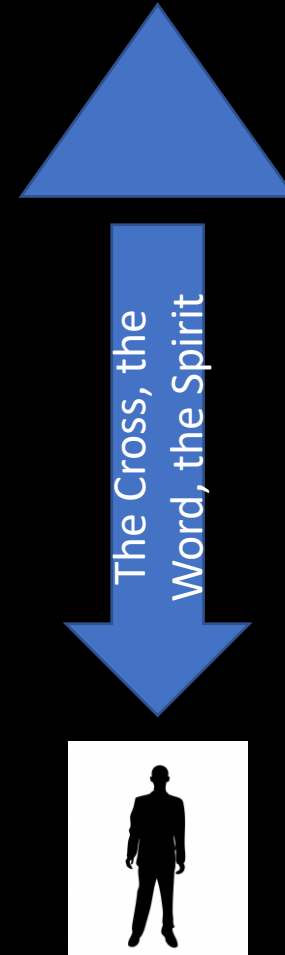
- God is distant, uncaring, aloof
- Mankind tries to reach God
- Man's agenda
- Man's religion



Satan tries to keep the spiritual battle on this level.

The Uniqueness of Christianity

- God is all wise and loving
- Mankind is sinful and needy
- Mankind is helpless
- God comes in Christ
- God comes in His Word
- God comes in His Spirit
- We repent and believe
- We receive



We receive
Forgiveness, Life,
Peace, Christ

Matthew Henry quotation:

“The devils assault us in the things that belong to our souls, and labour to deface the heavenly image in our hearts. We must resolve by God's grace, not to yield to Satan. Resist him, and he will flee. If we give way, he will get ground. If we distrust either our cause, or our Leader, or our armour, we give him advantage. **The different parts of the armour of heavy-armed soldiers, who had to sustain the fiercest assaults of the enemy, are here described. There is none for the back; nothing to defend those who turn back in the Christian warfare.**”

There is no spiritual armor for the back