**Strength for our struggles**

**Eph. 6:12 – for our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places**

**What is the real source of our spiritual struggles?**

**1. Christians have a common spiritual struggle – “for our struggle”**

* Struggle = to wrestle
* One on One – face to face – hand to hand – strength on strength
* Believers can stand firm and win the struggle by the power of God – 6:10
* Believers can resist in the struggle with the armor of God – 6:13

**2. Christians have a spiritual struggle – “our struggle is not against flesh and blood”**

* Spiritual struggles are not with humans
* Spiritual struggles are not with human circumstances
* The believer struggles in a spiritual wrestling match evil spiritual forces not in fight with others

The big challenge for believers is to understand who we are struggling with in this world as we live for the Lord

**3. Christians have a constant struggle against the devil & his followers – “against… rulers,**

 **powers, world forces of this darkness, spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places**

* spiritual evil rulers & authorities of the unseen world
* might powers in this dark world
* evil spirits in the heavenly places
* **They hate the Lord Jesus**
* **They fight against the truth of the gospel**
* **They seek to destroy the witness of the church**
* **They work 24/7 – 7 days a week – they do not sleep, take time off but press the struggle day by day**
* **They are real opponents to the believer’s life – this is the source of our struggle!**

The good news in the struggle – Jesus Christ has defeated the powers that struggle with us!

We can overcome them in our struggles & resist them in the evil days in which we live!

 **The promise: 6:13 – take up the full armor of God so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm**