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Spiritual Weapons to Defeat the Enemy: Overcoming the Wiles, Devices, and Deception of the Devil

6. Understanding Your Enemy

Paul explains WHY we need God's armor: to stand against the devil's schemes. This chapter unpacks the Greek behind three key words — wiles, devices, and deception — to show that spiritual warfare is fought almost entirely in the mind.

Key takeaways

- The armor of God gives dunamis — explosive, dynamic power — so we can confront the enemy instead of being chased by him.
- 'To stand' (stenai) pictures a soldier standing tall and holding a strategic position; we are to stand guard over God's call on our lives and never give the devil an inch.
- The mind is the most important battlefield. Guard it, and you guard every other area of your life.
- 'Wiles' (methodos, 'with a road') means the devil basically has ONE trick and one avenue of attack.
- 'Devices' (noemata) shows where that road leads — the mind — which he floods with confusion and mind games.

- Deception is complete when you accept the devil's lies as truth; your belief empowers the lie to become reality (in a marriage, your health, your future).
- Take charge of your mind: stop listening to yourself and start speaking God's truth to yourself, bringing every thought captive to Christ.

Passages worth keeping

"We must stop listening to ourselves and start speaking to ourselves!"

The chapter's practical core: actively dictate truth to your mind rather than absorbing the devil's lies.

"When you embrace the devil's mind games and perceive them as truth, you give power to them!"

Explains how deception is completed — belief turns a lie into reality.

How it connects

The three words trace one strategy: the devil travels a single road (wiles) toward the mind (devices), and wins only when we believe his lies (deception). The defense is renewing the mind with God's Word.

Scripture referenced

- **Ephesians 6:11** -- Put on the whole armor to stand against the wiles of the devil — the chapter's base text.

- **2 Corinthians 2:11** -- 'We are not ignorant of his devices' — the devil's mind games aimed at the intellect.
- **2 Corinthians 10:5** -- Casting down imaginations, bringing every thought captive to Christ — how to take charge of the mind.