

May 15, 2016 – 6:00 pm

## Principles of Christian Growth

### Section One: The Nature of Christian Growth – What is it?

#### Lesson Six: Christian growth is spiritual warfare.

Bible Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20; 2 Corinthians 10:1-6

You have probably not named any of your sons Epaphroditus or Archippus. Yet the Scripture indicates that these are not bad choices at all. The men bearing these names share in common a distinguished title on the pages of Scripture. They are the two who are called *fellow-soldiers* (Phil. 2:25; Philem. 2). As we grow in the Lord, we are encouraged to become fellow-soldiers (2 Tim. 2:3-4). Every Christian desiring to grow in the Lord faces a vicious enemy (Rev. 12:10), and for these reasons, we must accept that Christian growth is spiritual warfare.

Discussion questions:

1. The warfare of Christian growth requires strength. Our battle orders begin with a command that tells us where we get that strength. What is the command (Eph. 6:10), and what does it say about the strength we need to grow in the Lord in the midst of spiritual warfare?
2. How are our spiritual enemies described in these passages? (Eph. 6:11-12; 2 Cor. 10:4-5).
3. Our resource in this battle is God's armor. As the song "Stand Up for Jesus" encourages, we must put on each piece with prayer (Eph. 6:18). List the pieces of the armor of God, and describe how your prayer life is important to making that armor a part of your life.