The older I get, the more I believe that

…our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12).

The fascinating (and disturbing) thing about this passage is the first phrase. I would have expected Paul to say (and I would have said), “our struggle is not only against flesh and blood.” But that’s not what he said. He said our struggle is not against flesh and blood. But what about the Muslim terrorists, and the homosexuals forcing their way into our society? What about abortion, the guy trying to sue you, and all the liberal socialists? Isn’t our struggle also against them?

Do you believe in conspiracies? Is there a liberal, socialist, homosexual, or Muslim conspiracy?

I want to make a suggestion. I suggest that every battle going on in the world is a battle against the Bible. Here’s an example. Liberals favor homosexuals, feminism, abortion, and Muslims. But Muslims are against homosexuals, feminism, and abortion. What’s with that? Well, the only thing all these have in common is they are against the Bible. What the world loves, the Bible condemns, and what the Bible condemns, the world loves. Let’s see, the world loves (sees as a solution) things like: lying, blasphemy, cohabitation, evolution, universalism, abortion, feminism, mysticism (as portrayed in movies, TV, novels, the media, and the academy—from K through college). It even likes liberal, tolerant, flexible, Christians. But not the Bible! If the Bible enters the discussion, they go berserk!!!

So is there a conspiracy? I suggest there is. But it has nothing to do with flesh and blood. The liberals, feminists, and evolutionists have no idea that it’s all about the Bible (the God of the Bible, the Jesus of the Bible, and the truth, righteousness, gospel, faith, and salvation of the Bible). They think it’s about flesh and blood. But there is a conspiracy. The world is being brainwashed by the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. The conspiracy is being promoted by the satanic and demonic world of evil spirits.

If we believe that “our struggle is not only against flesh and blood,” if we believe that our struggle is also against the radical Muslims, the liberal feminists, evolutionists, atheists, abortionists, homosexuals, and lying politicians, then we will need to get involved in politics, take people to court, march in demonstrations, and get the right people elected. We will not conclude that it is sufficient to gird your loins with truth, put on the breastplate of righteousness, shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel, take up the shield of faith, take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (Ephesians 6:15-17). Remember, Jesus said to love your enemies. That would include your personal, social, and political enemies. But Jesus did not say to love Satan and demons. Them, we go to war against.

Of course, we need to point out the evils in the world because Satan is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). But we should do it with truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, and the Word of God. Of course, there are really bad flesh-and-blood people. But if we start thinking that our struggle is against bad people, bad politics, bad movements, and a bad society, then we will equip ourselves for a different battle than the one assigned to us by Christ and the apostles. The battle assigned to us is against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. That battle requires we put on the armor of truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, and the Word of God.