**The Unseen Enemy**

A few weeks ago, I watched the new movie, Dunkirk. It’s a fascinating depiction of a great miracle in World War 2. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers were rescued from the shores of Dunkirk to fight another day. If you watch the movie, you may notice a unique aspect. Even though it is clear that the Germans are the enemy, you almost never see them. Yet this doesn’t diminish the fear of the British and French soldiers. Instead it heightens it. They are never seen, yet they are always around. You see the effects of their presence, such as the trapped beachhead, shots into a boat that soldiers are hiding in, and torpedoes fired at ships. It made me think of how the same can be true in our lives.

Ephesians 6:12 says, “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.” Even though we do not see the spiritual forces of evil with our eyes, they seem to never be too far from us. Our enemy is not the person that we are in conflict with, but the sin problem and spiritual forces working behind the scenes. This truth has two important reminders for us. First, the importance of prayer in battling an unseen enemy. Even though we can’t see them, God can. Secondly, the dignity of people. The recent political fighting is a helpful reminder of this second portion. When we label someone, we can easily right them off. We can blow off their comments because they are simply a Republican or a Democrat, or simply a conservative or a liberal. Yet God tells us that they are one of his creations. A creation that he declares in Genesis to be “very good.” When we view them with the dignity and love that God views them with, we improve our relationships, increase our listening, and stimulate a sense of belonging. Paul says in Romans 12:18, “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” Acknowledging the unseen enemy will help us live this out. In what ways has the unseen enemy hindered your life?