Day 49

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Eph. 6:12

Who hasn't had a disagreement, who hasn't been hurt, who hasn't STRUGGLED – with a flesh and blood person? Everyone receives messages (through word or action) from people, and often those messages are not pleasant. We have to struggle within ourselves to distinguish among the message, the messenger, and the true source of the message. In the passage above Paul tells us that, ultimately, our struggle is with the source of all such destructive messages, and that this source is to be found in the spiritual realm. When we are wounded what we SEE is flesh and blood people, and the natural/carnal mind assigns responsibility to what we have seen. But we are not to think carnally, are we? List people who have hurt you, then remember that they were once just babies and grew up in a world where evil spiritual forces were devoted to destroying them. Try to use the sword of the Spirit – the word of God – to separate the sinner from the sin. Ask God to help you love the sinner while understanding that sin is still sin. What if one of these people is your worst enemy? Didn't Jesus tell us to love even our enemies? Only the Holy Spirit in you can do this, so ask for His help.