

Spiritual Warfare Part One

Ephesians 6:10-13

INTRO: The battle lines are drawn and the enemy and his cohorts have been identified. Here in Ephesians 6, Paul uses the military to illustrate our conflict with Satan. If you want to have spiritual freedom and power, there will be a fight. To fight effectively, you must know who the enemy is; and you must have the proper accouterments of war and the proper weapons of war. Let me assure you that God has given us exactly what we need to win the battle against our enemy, the Devil.

Realize that without Christ you are no match for the Devil. It is through the power of the resurrection Christ that we are able to claim the victory (Eph 1:19-23).

As Christians we have power over our enemies:

1. The World- I John 5:4: "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." In 1 John 2:15-16, we are told that we are not to love the world, we are to love the Lord our God.
2. The Flesh- Gal. 5:16: "Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. . ."
3. The Devil- James 4:7-8a "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you..."

Child of God, claim the victory that you have in Christ Jesus the Lord. "But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 15:57). ". . .We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us" (Rom. 8:37).

I. VS. 10, THE SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH AND POWER.

- A. "Be strong in the Lord. . ." Realize that the flesh is no match for the Devil. Our strength must be drawn from the Lord (3:16).
1. I Samuel 30:6 says: "David encouraged [strengthened] himself in the Lord his God."
 2. Speaking of God's people during the tribulation, Zechariah 10:12 says: "I will strengthen them in the

Lord; and they shall walk up and down in His name, saith the Lord.”

3. “Be strong,” means, “be constantly clothed with His power.”
- B. Ephesians 6:10 contains three power words:
1. “Strong” - Greek *endunamoo*, “to be made strong, increase in strength, enable.” Child of God, the strength to overcome is ours. We are to get stronger not weaker in the work of God. We are to stay with it and spiritually exercise.
 2. “Power”- Greek *kretos*, “a work of power, mighty with great power.” In Christ, we have sufficient power to stand against evil and live godly. “I can do all things through Christ that strengtheneth me.”
 3. “Might”- *ischus* is the Greek “mighty ability.” Some claim that they cannot stand. If you are a Christian you have a mighty ability in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the power of His might that will carry us through.
- C. Remember it is the “power of His might” that makes us strong.
1. We are delivered through His power- Col. 1:10-13.
 2. We have mighty weapons for battle- II Cor. 10:4-5. “The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God. . .”
 3. We have power through praise.
 - a. God inhabits praise.
 - 1- Psa 22:3 “But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.”
 - 2- I Chron 29:13 “Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.”
 - 3- Psa 106:47 “Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise.”
 - 4- Heb 13:15 “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”

- b. Jehoshaphat sang out praise to the Lord and God sent ambushments against the enemies of God (II Chron. 20:20b,21-22).
- 4. We have power through the blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. Rev. 12:11: "They overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb."

II. VS. 11, PUTTING ON THE WHOLE ARMOR

- A. When Paul uses the words, "Put on the whole armor of God," he is talking about something we must do ourselves. God gives the armor, but each Christian must get himself clothed with it.
 - 1. When I got to Vietnam, I was given protective clothing, and it was my responsibility to wear it.
 - 2. No smart soldier goes into battle without his armor; yet many Christians do just that.
- B. Our enemy is identified in this verse; the Devil is our enemy. The names given to the Devil in the Bible describe who he is:
 - 1. He is a scheming devil. "Wiles" is the Greek word *methodeia* meaning, "to lie in wait, deceive, trick, crafty." Satan wants to ambush you.
 - 2. Devil means slanderer, and Satan means adversary.
 - a. He is the adversary of both God and man.
 - b. He slanders God to man (Gen. 3:1-5).
 - c. He slanders man to God (Job 1:9-11; 2:4-5).
 - 3. Jesus called him "a murderer" or man killer, "a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44).
 - 4. And as *Apollyon* the destroyer, he is bent upon destroying God, man, and all that is righteous and true.
 - 5. Satan is a deceiver (II Cor 11:14). "How does Satan deceive us? By taking that which is
 - bad and making it look good
 - false and making it look true
 - wrong and making it look right
 - ugly and making it look beautiful
 - hurtful and making it look helpful
 - painful and making it look pleasant" (Anders 233).

6. Peter says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour" (I Pet 5:8). You need to take your enemy serious.

C. We are to stand firm against the Devil, and we cannot do that in our own power. We must have His power, the power of God (vs 10). We also need the armor of God:

1. Our armor is the armor of light (Rom. 13:12).
2. Our armor is the armor of righteousness (II Cor 6:7).

CONCLUSION: Are you defeated? Why? Are you lost and a child of the Devil? Be saved! Are you saved, yet defeated? Claim the victory you have in Christ!

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