

Our Spiritual Warfare **Eph 6:10-13**

10 (NKJV) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Paul comes to some final remarks and warnings and exhortations.

These are no after thoughts but he has been building toward these since the beginning of the letter.

As a matter of fact these words are some of the most important in the book. For our spiritual health depends upon it.

I. Be Strong

- A. The problem with this is that it is in the passive voice which means from the subjects perspective it is something that happens to him rather than something that he does.
- B. The idea is that it is in the Lord we are made strong.
 - 1. The focus is on the word in.
 - 2. Paul said that he could do all things through Christ that gave him strength.
 - 3. So often we desire to do things but we try in the power of the flesh our maybe our own spiritual power instead of doing these things in Christ.
 - 4. In the spiritual warfare that Paul is talking about here we must understand that we are over matched.
 - 5. The spiritual forces that we deal with are of such greater power, intelligence and maneuverability that we are that if we venture out on our own we will fail for sure.
 - 6. Some scholars believe that of all the angels created that Satan is the most powerful for it tells us in Jude 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

II. In the Lord in the power of His might.

- A. Even the Psalmist of old understood this.

1. Psalm 121:1 I will lift up my eyes to the hills — From whence comes my help? 2 My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. 3 He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. 4 Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep. 5 The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade at your right hand. 6 The sun shall not strike you by day, Nor the moon by night. 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. 8 The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore.

III. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

A. We will look at the armor in particular next week but for now I want you to see that we are to put on the WHOLE armor of God.

1. We are to leave none of it absent.
2. All that God supplies we need, for He has provided it for our defense.

B. Our defense against who, against the devil.

1. He has a long and terrible history.
 - a. He took Adam and Eve from the garden God had created for them.
 - b. He inspired Cain to kill his own brother.
 - c. He gladly took everything that Job had, just to make him miserable and to turn him against his God.
 - d. He accuses us before God day and night.
 - e. He tempted the holy Son of God in the wilderness.
 - f. He assaulted in the garden and inspired the crowds to ask for Barabbas.
2. He is described in the most horrible ways.
 - a. As a roaring lion, a dragon, a serpent.
 - b. 1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
 - c. Re 20:2 **He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old**, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;
3. He is also described as powerful
 - a. He drew a third part of the angels with him when he fell.
 - b. Peter was no match for him; Lu 22:31 And the Lord said, "Simon,

Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.

- c. That is why we must have the Lord's strength, His armor, to stand in the power of His might.
- IV. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
- V. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day,
- VI. and having done all, to stand.