

Prepared for Battle

August 6th & 7th, 2016

Ephesians 6:10-13

As we have studied the different aspects of the teachings in the book of Ephesians, we have seen how Paul has stated the blessings, the call and the responsibilities of every believer. As Paul prepares for the conclusion of the letter, the Holy Spirit leads him to instruct Christians, that as we live in accordance with the purpose of God, there will be constant and heavy opposition from the enemy and a battle that every believer must fight.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might”

... **We must be empowered by The Lord Himself.**

“*be strong in the Lord*” literally reads: “*be strengthened in The Lord*”

Strengthened: “...properly, to impart *ability* (make able); empowered.”¹

↳ As we look at this empowerment, this is not something passive, but rather an active power to defend and to fight for the faith and values on which we firmly stand.

❖ We understand that Jesus has given us the assurance of victory.

Matthew 28:18 “... *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*”

Colossians 2:15 “*He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.*”

❖ We have all we need in Christ to overcome the spiritual forces that are against our Christian walk.

2 Peter 1:3 “*His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence,*”

Revelation 12:11 “*And they overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; for they loved not their lives unto the death.*” (KJV)

Joshua 1:9 “*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*”

❖ The power of any Christian directly comes from the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Ephesians 3:16 “*that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being,*”

↳ We are to be personally empowered according to the riches of His glory through His Spirit.

2 Timothy 2:1 “*You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,*”

“Put on the whole armor of God”

... **We must protect ourselves from the attack of the enemy.**

❖ In our time and culture, we tend to minimize the seriousness of the spiritual warfare that exists around the Church, Christians, and the Kingdom of God.

❖ It is vital to be actively protecting every part of our Christian lives, knowing that any unguarded area could be wounded and become a point of spiritual defeat.

❖ As we prepare ourselves with God’s armor, it requires faith on our part to quit fighting in the flesh and to trust in the armor that Christ has provided for us.

Romans 13:12-14 “*The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*”

“That you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil”

... We must be firm against the schemes of the devil.

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

- ❖ It is necessary to understand that we fight in order to maintain the position that has been given to us.
1 Peter 5:8-9 “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”
- ❖ Most of the time Satan does not meet with us face to face in open force, but rather most times uses crafty schemes, advancing against us secretly through deception and cunning ideas or skillful devices in order to trap us, to confuse us, and finally destroy the ability of the believer to stand our ground.
- ❖ As Paul addresses the church in Corinth, he is concerned that they are being deceived through cunning and false teaching by the serpent, just as Eve was deceived. He warns them of the schemes of the devil which uses false apostles and deceitful workmen to accomplish his purpose.
2 Corinthians 11:13-15 “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.”
- ❖ Satan questions God’s Word, he questions God’s authority, he often ambushes us where we do not expect him, he uses the element of surprise on us; but Satan loves to appear as an angel of light.
- ❖ Satan presents the world to us in an polite way, inviting us to pleasures that seem to be productive and harmless. In this way, he leads us into such indulgence that when we realize it, it is too late, and we find ourselves deep in defeat.

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood:”

... We must discern and identify our enemy.

- ❖ We must be trained to discern, by the Word of God and the Spirit of our Lord, to see far beyond what the human eye sees in the midst of our difficulties and battles. We wrestle ...
 - ... *Against the rulers*
 - ... *Against the authorities*
 - ... *Against cosmic powers over this present darkness*
 - ... *Against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places*

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 “For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.”

Endnotes:

¹“HELPS Word-studies: 1743 endunamoó” *Helps Ministries, Inc.* © 1987, 2011 by Helps Ministries, Inc.
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