

Spiritual Warfare: The Furnishings for Spiritual Warfare

Introduction: We have discovered there are battles to be fought in the Christian life, and therefore we have an individual responsibility. We would understand that we are not alone, even if it seems we are alone. As Christians, we can say it is Christ in me, the hope of glory. (**Colossians 1:27**)

Text: Ephesians 6:10-20; II Timothy 2:3-4; II Corinthians 6:6-7

When we look at the enemies we face, it seems to be an impossible fight. This is, of course true in the strength of our flesh.

We lose battles by trusting solely in ourselves or others rather than God.

The Bible says in **Psalm 118:8**, *“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.”*

Hezekiah, one of the better kings of the southern kingdom of Israel, looked out one day and saw a superior Assyrian army at his gates. Notice what he said,

“With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.” **II Chronicles 32:8**

Jeremiah 17:5 *“5 Thus saith the Lord; **Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.**”*

The Psalmist said in **Psalm 20:7**, *“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”*

We have already read in **II Corinthians chapter 10** that the weapons of this warfare are **not carnal** and that they are mighty through God.

What are the furnishings needed for these battles?

God provides all that we need.

The Bible tells us in **II Peter chapter 1 verses 2 and 3**: *“Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, **According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.**”*

When we look at this passage, we understand that Peter is speaking about God providing Salvation and God providing for our Sanctification. In other words, we must come to the place where we know that the Lord provides all that we need to accomplish the work He has called us to do.

In **I Timothy chapter 1**, Paul speaks to Timothy about how the Lord had saved him and called him into the ministry.

He states in **verse 12 of chapter 1**,

*“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, **who hath enabled me**, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.”*

Paul recounted to Timothy his entrance into the excellent task God called him to accomplish. He states, the Lord Jesus Christ, He it is who has enabled me. What has God provided then to us?

His _____

His _____

His _____

To see all three of these furnishings, let us turn over to **Ephesians chapter 6**.

Background to Ephesians

In this Epistle to the church of Ephesus, Paul begins in the **first three chapters by dealing with doctrine**.

Chapter 1 functions as an introduction.

Paul speaks of **Salvation** in particular in chapter 2. He with this doctrinal introduction in verse 1, *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”*

He then tells the Jew and the Gentile **that we are one in Christ**.

In **verse 18 of chapter 2**, Paul says, *“For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”*

In **chapter 3**, Paul declares the blessedness of the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 3:4 “4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;”

Following chapters 3 through the rest of the book, Paul deals with **the practical walk of the Christian**. He answers the question; how do we live this?

In this passage, we see identified His Word, His Presence, and His Power for us.

The Bible says, “*Finally, my brethren, be strong **in the Lord**, and **in the power of his might**.*”

These last words are of tremendous importance. We understood that we face the world, the flesh, and the Devil. But leading the way is the enemy of our souls, Satan Himself.

- He desires to destroy your testimony.
- He desires to destroy your effectiveness for Christ.
- He desires to use you to bring reproach to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- He desires to fashion you into a stumbling block for others.
- He desires for you to be the cause of division and strife.
- He desires for you to be bitter so that you defile many.
- He desires to sideline you.

You can see here that Paul introduces this section by stating, “***Finally, my brethren...***”

Before anything else is discussed, we must take in this Biblical truth.

Be strong in the Lord

Be strong in the power of His might

Somewhere along the way, we lose sight of the fact that all that pertains to us sojourning in the world and doing the will of God centers around the person and work of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We cannot be strong except in the Lord. In truth, we cannot succeed in our strength; it is **simply impossible**.

The Word of Gods tells us **Who** are strength is in and **Whose** power brings victory. What the Word of God describes for us here is a matter of great seriousness. It is a matter of eternal consequences.

Imagine for a moment if Paul had been defeated on His first missionary journey to the point that he gave up.

- Timothy never would have been trained.
- Titus never would have been sent to Crete.
- The church at Corinth never would have formed.
- The church at Ephesus wouldn't exist.
- The church of Thessalonica wouldn't exist.

We would never have read about the Bereans or Paul's dealings on Mar's Hill. The majority of the NT would be gone. No epistle to the church at Ephesus, Corinth, the churches of Galatia, Colossians, or Thessalonians.

Rippling on down through the ages are the consequences of Christians not standing with the armor of God having done all to stand. We cannot truly know the untold unimaginable consequences that go along with those defeated Soldiers. This is the second foundational truth we must grasp.

We understand that this passage shows us that our power is in God. Our only strength is in His might.

Then we have this command, "*Put on the **whole** armour of God...*"

Many failures come from not walking **according to the whole counsel of God**. The Bible says, Be strong in the Lord. Be Strong in the power of His might. Then it declares put on the whole armor of God. I just want to emphasize what the Bible is saying here. It is stating that we need to be concerned about everything listed in this passage. None of this is optional. All of this is important.

I am convinced that our great weakness today has to do with our lack of knowing the Lord in personal fellowship because we do not know His Word.

How can we say we know Him well if we know not what He says?

How can we be obedient to Him if we know not what he has commanded?

How can we be able to stand, having done all to stand, if we do not know what is penned in this passage?

And further, if we do know and do not take heed to the Lord's instructions how can we ask the Lord for victory in the battles before us?

Why am I to be concerned with this?

The Word of God tells us. In the latter part of **verse 11**, "***that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.***"

The word 'wiles' in the text there mean "methods that are trickery." methodēia μεθοδεία

One Bible scholar declared, "What is the main aim of war, of any war? **It is to hold your ground** and to capture that of your enemy by defeating him. War is both defensive and offensive. **We, as Christian believers, have ground to hold, both in the realms of what we believe and how we behave.** Who can count the enemies plotting against us in the area of belief?"

We are told that **we can stand** and **withstand in the evil day**.
What does all this mean?

In **chapter 5** of this same epistle Paul admonishes the people to walk circumspectly. He states, not to do so is foolish. He speaks with encouragement, be wise. Then he says in **verse 16** of chapter 5, "*Redeeming the time, because **the days are evil.***"

But this is not what Paul states here in chapter 6. Notice the difference starting in **verse 11**.

"v11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

"13 *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand **in the evil day**, and having done all, to stand.* 14 *Stand therefore...*"

In chapter 5, we are dealing **with the evil days**. In the **6th chapter**, we are concerned **with the evil day**.

Approaching in each of our lives is an evil day. What are we to do? We are to put on the whole armor of God today, tomorrow, and the next day and the next day...

Standing in the **Word of God**.
Standing in the **Presence of God**.
Standing in the **Power of God**.

We will continue to look at this next week and see all of these parts which constitute the whole.