



Ephesians 6:10-20

# STAND IN WARFARE

*There are no fair-weather soldiers in God's army. All must endure difficulty. Our courage must be tried and proven. God's ships never go to sea without being tested, and only when their seaworthiness is proven do they go on longer voyages. Unless you have been through a great trial, you cannot help those who are in great difficulty. If we were placed in a glass case, we would not grow. If we were never injured, there would be no forgiving grace. Without suffering, we would not have patience. We grow in grace only when the stormy winds of trials blow. It is through harsh experiences that believers grow "strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" (Eph. 6:10). Christian, when Satan tests and tries you, hold the world loose but firmly grip the invisible things of God. ...Your present, painful experience is a necessary preparation for something that will give you tenfold joy. If we are not tested, we cannot be victorious. The rule of the kingdom is: no battle, no crown; no conflict, no conquest.*

—Charles H. Spurgeon

"Finally, my brethren." After reminding us of all the blessings we have in Christ, taking us into the heavenlies where we are seated with Christ, and encouraging us to walk in unity, holiness, love, light, and wisdom as followers of Christ, Paul concludes his letter with a clarion call to stand firm in the power of Christ as we engage in a cosmic, spiritual battle.

## WE ARE IN A GREAT SPIRITUAL BATTLE (6:10-12).

- The Imperative: *Be \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord...*
- The Purpose: *That you may be able to stand against the \_\_\_\_\_ of the devil* (cf. 2 Cor. 2:11).
- The Reason: Our real battle is not against \_\_\_\_\_ but against \_\_\_\_\_.

To win a battle you must know your opponent (*Satan*, adversary):

- He is the deceiver, the father of lies (John 8:44; Rev. 12:9).
- He is the slanderer, the accuser of believers (Rev. 12:10).
- He is the tempter, the one who baits us into sin (Gen. 3:1-5).
- He is the blinder of people's minds to the gospel (2 Cor. 4:4).
- He is the god of this world system (Jn. 12:31, 14:30; 1 Jn. 5:19).
- He is the prideful, rebellious one (Is. 14:12-15; 1 Tim. 3:6).
- He is a defeated enemy we do not have to fear (Heb. 2:14-15).

*The Christian life is a battleground and not a playground. In my pastoral ministry, I could always tell when a new Christian was starting to mature, because he found himself fighting battles.*

—Warren Wiersbe

**Wiles.** Greek, *methodeia*, "deliberate planning; the use of clever methods or strategies." Used of a wild animal cunningly stalking its prey (cf. 1 Pet. 5:8).

*The devil is a crafty foe and knows the weak spots in the Christian's armor.*

—A.T. Robertson

**Wrestle.** Greek, *palē*, "wrestling contest; hand-to-hand combat."

*Our true battle is not against our political opponents or the IRS or family or co-workers or neighbors or any other human agency. The battle is not against people, but against unseen spiritual powers. The entire human race is under a vicious assault by certain principalities and powers, world rulers of darkness, wicked spirits in high places.*

—Ray Stedman

## WE MUST PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD (6:13-17)

*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.*

—Ephesians 6:13

Helmet of salvation  
(Isaiah 59:17)

Shield of faith  
(Ps. 18:2; 28:7;  
115:9-11; 144:2)

Shoes with the  
readiness of the  
gospel of peace  
(Isaiah 52:7)



Breastplate of righteousness  
(Isaiah 59:17)

Belt of truth  
(Isaiah 11:5)

Sword of the Spirit  
(Isaiah 11:1-4)

## WE GAIN SPIRITUAL VICTORIES THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD AND THROUGH PRAYER (6:17b-20)

- The Spirit of God works through the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Col. 3:16 w/Eph. 5:18; Jn. 16:13; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21).
- We must train ourselves in the Word of God so that we can \_\_\_\_\_ the right truth at the right time (Matt. 4:1-11).
- We experience power through constant, Spirit-dependent, fervent, alert, persevering, interceding \_\_\_\_\_.
- We pray for one another so that we will each stand firm and have boldness to speak the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

*No man should be alone when he opposes Satan. The church and the ministry of the Word were instituted for this purpose, that hands may be joined together and one may help another.*

—Martin Luther

*The singular evil **day** points to specific times of satanic attack that come with extraordinary force and when the temptation to yield is particularly strong.*

—Peter T. O'Brien

*His belt was no mere adornment of the soldier, but an essential part of his equipment...it was of especial use in keeping other parts in place, and in securing... freedom of movement.*

—D. F. Salmond

**Preparation.** Greek, *hetoimasia*, "readiness, preparedness of mind." Also used of a prepared foundation, i.e., surefootedness.

**Sword.** Greek, *machaira*, "short sword or dagger, double-edged."

**Word.** Greek, *rhema*, "that which is spoken." It emphasizes the speaking of God's Word.

*Our divine Lord in the wilderness was tempted by the devil. He might have fought Satan with a thousand weapons, but he chose to defeat him with this one only. He said, "It is written; it is written; it is written; it is written."*

—Charles H. Spurgeon

*We should use every kind of prayer we can think of. Group prayer, individual prayer, silent prayer, shouting prayer, walking prayer, kneeling prayer, eloquent prayer, groaning prayer, constant prayer, fervent prayer.*

*Just pray!* —David Guzik