

Spiritual Warfare – Part 1

Ephesians 6:10-13 - NCBC, December 18, 2022

Main Point: **We can only stand against evil by God's strength.**

- We are not strong enough to resist evil on our own. (10-11a, 13)
 - Christianity is a war not a pleasure-cruise
 - Self-reliance is spiritual suicide
 - Victory comes from living by another's strength
 - Know the immeasurable power of God in believers
 - Only God's armor can defend us from Satanic attack
- We are wrestling against demonic powers (11b-12)
 - Beware of Satan's devious strategies
 - Satan has many servants
 - Prepare for intense personal battles
 - Don't give Satan more credit than he deserves
 - Defeat your defeated enemy by standing firm in Christ

Application: **Pray for greater dependance on God while living out your position in Christ.**

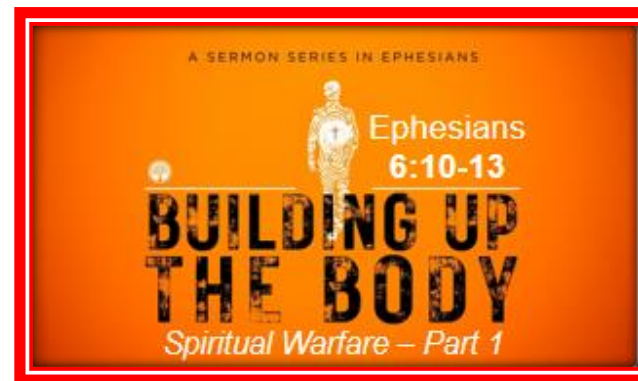
Opening Announcements:

- **This Saturday afternoon, December 24th, is our Christmas Eve program at 4pm!** Plan to join our

entire church in celebrating Christ's birth in this special hour together.

- **Next Sunday, December 25th, we will all gather for ONE COMBINED SERVICE AT 10am.** No Adult Electives or Children's Programming will be offered.

<<O Little Town of Bethlehem>>



Amen. Only the arrival of Jesus as our Savior brings real and lasting peace to people suffering in the slavery of sin.

Let's continue our worship now by opening our Bibles to **Ephesians chapter 6**. Today **verses 10-13** introduce us to Paul's teaching on "Spiritual Warfare" right before he concludes his letter.



If you need a Bible, please raise your hand, and we'd gladly bring you a Bible to use or take home as a gift.

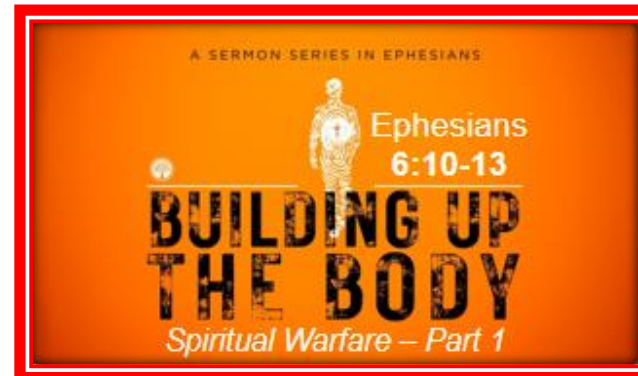
I'm very thankful for all your prayers last week as I was home sick, and very thankful for Pastor Scott filling the pulpit on short notice with such a great message.

The week before, I was blessed to preach at Bethany Community Church in Washington IL. And I bring back many greetings to you all from our brothers and sisters there. It was a joy to worship with another local church and experience their joy in Christ and love for all of you in our shared Gospel partnership together.

I'm so thankful for the joyful fellowship of partner churches that we enjoy here in Central IL, and never want to take that for granted.

Paul's Letter to the EPHESIANS						BUILDING UP THE BODY
Calling			Therefore	Conduct		
Focus	What God has Done			How We Should Live		
CH.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Topics	Spiritual Blessings & Prayer	Our Position in Christ	"Mystery" Revealed & Prayer	Walk in Unity & Holiness	Walk in Love & Wisdom	Stand against Evil
God has united us in grace so that we may live in love together ...all to the praise of His glory!						

Today we return to our study of **Ephesians** where **chapter 6** teaches Christians how to Stand against Evil. Ever since we got into this last half of the letter, we've been focusing on walking! Walking in a manner worthy of Gospel, walking in unity and holiness, walking in love, walking in the light, and walking in wisdom. But now our Gospel-posture towards evil is to "stand firm" against Satan and his demonic attacks.



So if you are able, please stand in honor of the public reading of God's Word, as I read from the ESV translation in **Ephesians chapter 6**, starting in **verse 10**. I'll read through **verse 20** for the sake of context:

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil 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 firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

This is the reading of God's Word. You may be seated.

Let's Pray.

¹ Read Acts 19:11-20 to remember the sad story of the seven sons of a Jewish High Priest named Sceva who miserably failed when they engaged

I'd like to setup our study of the armor of God and spiritual warfare from **Ephesians chapter 6** today with a visual object lesson. I'm going to invite Pastor Josh up to be my assistant this morning, and I must warn you children, that what you are about to see you should never try at home unless a parent is helping you.

<<Screen show live video closeup of demo>>

You see, this little person here represents someone who is trying to be religious and serve Jesus on their own strength. We'll name this person "Sceva" from **Acts 19**.¹ From the outside, Sceva is a very good person, very religious in fact. Goes to church every Sunday, is generous with his money, prays daily, and is well-liked by all.

And the blow torch here represents Satan's fiery attacks, like described in **verse 16** of **Ephesians 6**.

So here's the problem with Sceva. When Satan attacks, Sceva only depends on his own strength. Sceva has no power beyond his own to stand firm against Satan's attacks. So when evil powers come against Sceva... all of his religion can do nothing to help him against Satan's fiery darts, and it isn't long at all before this person falls into sin or unbelief or apostacy. Sceva – and all of his self-reliant friends – have no power to stand against Satan's attacks.

in spiritual warfare in Ephesus in their own strength.

The only hope that true Christians have against Satan and all of his evil forces is the armor of God. A Divinely-supplied shield – it's described as God's armor in **Isaiah**² and **Ephesians chapter 6**, but it just represents the power of Jesus Himself.

All Christians need the protective power of God if we can ever stand against the schemes of the devil. And that's what you see illustrated now.

The metal shield around this Christian here represents "the strength of God's might" – the power of Christ Himself who surrounds the Christian so that Satan cannot harm him.³ For the sake of visibility, we've cut away this front portion of the shield so you can see that the little one is still standing in the midst of the fire. But truly there's no openings in the armor of God, as God's child is fully hidden in Christ,⁴ and no evil power can ever get to any part of the believer without going through Jesus first!⁵

So that no matter how hot and how long the battle, the Christian who is hidden in Christ is able to keep standing firm. He will not succumb to the devil's enslaving lies and deceitful lusts. He will endure faithfully to the end, even at the cost of his own life, for he is hidden in Christ, and protected by God's own spiritual armor.

Thank you Josh for your help with this illustration. And I pray this makes obvious the main point of our text today:

² Isaiah 59:16-17

³ 1 John 5:18

⁴ Colossians 3:3

<<Transition back to slide projections>>



We can only stand against evil by God's strength.

That's the main point of **Ephesians 6:10-13** and that's the main thing I want us to remember from our fiery object lesson. We can only stand against evil by God's strength.

Church – some of us need a spiritual wake-up call.

Ephesians describes a very real power encounter that happens between every true Christ-follower and demonic forces. And while we don't need to get freaked out about Satan, we also ought not to forget him either.

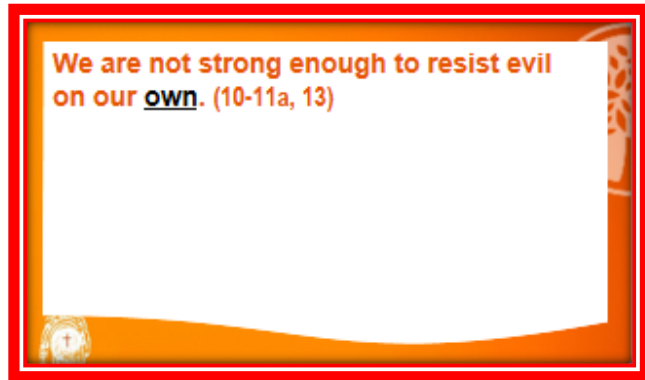
We have a real spiritual enemy who is organized against all who love God. And Satan is stronger than all of us. But Jesus is stronger than Satan.⁶ So Jesus is our only hope, loved ones. And Jesus is enough. By God's strength even the smallest child or weakest person who trusts in Christ can stand firm against Satan's fiery evil.

⁵ John 10:28-30

⁶ 1 John 4:4

So today we begin our study of the whole armor of God by focusing on **verses 10-13** where we will learn two important lessons. First, that we are not strong enough to resist evil on our own. And second, that we are wrestling against demonic powers.

So first, let's dive into the Scripture to learn how,



We are not strong enough to resist evil on our own.

Verse 10 says, *Finally, be strong in the Lord*. "Finally" means "In conclusion," and transitions Paul's teaching from interpersonal relationships to spiritual relationships.

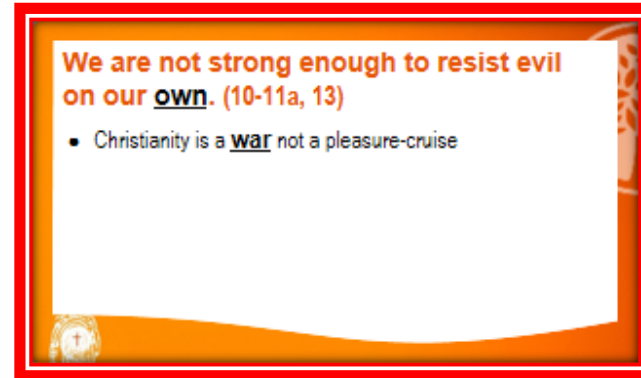
Remember, the last several paragraphs were all about how submission to God's Spirit transforms our horizontal relationships with other people at home and at work. Now *finally*, Paul teaches how our position in Christ changes our vertical relationship with evil powers as well.

⁷ Colossians 2:15; c.f. Colossians 1:13-14

⁸ Ephesians 1:20-23

⁹ Ephesians 2:14-16

In many ways, **verse 10** is Paul's battle cry for all Christians. After all, we must remember that,



Christianity is a war not a pleasure-cruise. Often Scripture describes the salvation of sinners in the language of conquest or war.

For example, **Colossians 2** says that Jesus "*disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame.*"⁷

In **Ephesians chapter 1**, Jesus puts all powers "*under his feet.*"⁸ In **Ephesians chapter 2** Jesus "*kills the hostility*" to bring peace.⁹ In **chapter 3** Jesus parades His redeemed church past demonic forces to show off God's wisdom,¹⁰ and in **chapter 4** Jesus "*leads a host of captives.*"¹¹ So make no mistake church, Christianity is an entrance into warfare, not an exit from it!

So do you have a wrong view of Christianity? Do you actually think that true Christians ought to be healthy,

¹⁰ Ephesians 3:10

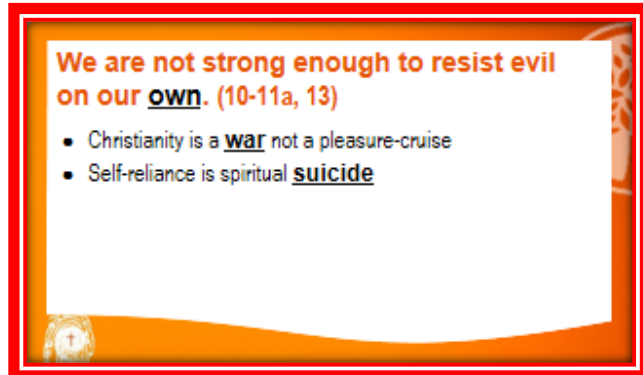
¹¹ Ephesians 4:8

wealthy, and popular? That the most mature Christians should be able to coast through life without any expectation of conflict or casualty?

Yes, Jesus has secured eternal rest for us all by His grace,¹² but as long as we live on this earth we have a Satanic adversary who prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour.¹³ We must not be surprised when we encounter fiery attacks from evil.¹⁴

We must not waltz into the frontlines of spiritual warfare with our beach towels and pool floaties. Christianity is a war, not a pleasure-cruise.

Ephesians 6:10 is a battle cry. Wake up church! We are not strong enough to resist evil on our own.



Self-reliance is spiritual suicide. Anyone who takes a vacation mentality into the daily war of Christian living will

quickly become a casualty, just like Sceva's seven sons in **Acts 19**.

Verse 10 calls clearly – *be strong in the Lord*. The battle for your soul and the glory of God requires more power than you personally could ever possess.

Remember, the first audience of this letter lived in Ephesus, which was a world-renowned epicenter of magic, occult activity, and the worship of false gods. Most of the Christians in the Ephesian church would have had personal experience with demonic powers and their sexual perversion. None of them would have doubted the presence of real invisible spiritual forces of evil – for the entire city of Ephesus was given over to a fearful fascination of supernatural power.

But today in America, our humanism and materialism combine with our wealth and education to try to explain away anything supernatural.

O church – do not be fooled! Biblical Christianity is not a matter of education or religious ritual. Christianity is all about power! Supernatural Divine power. This is why the entire letter of **Ephesians** emphasizes the power of Jesus so much.

So you must never think, we'll I've been a Christian long enough... I'll just coast now. Or, I know enough theology now, or I've figured out how to pray now... I'm good. I'm

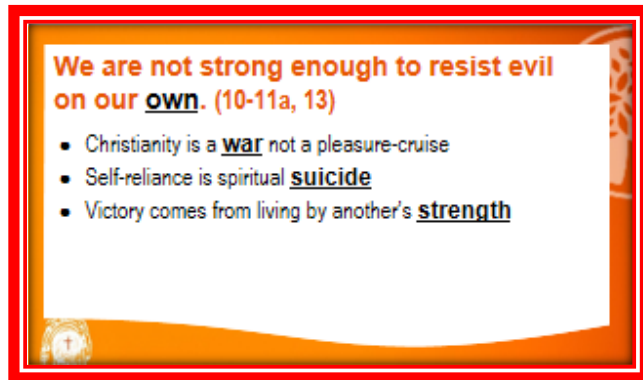
¹² Hebrews 4:1-11

¹³ 1 Peter 5:8

¹⁴ 1 Peter 4:12ff

strong enough. I've figured out this Christianity thing by now.

Self-reliance is always spiritual suicide. No matter how long you've been a Christ-follower, you never outgrow your need for humble dependence upon Jesus.



After all, victory comes from living by another's strength, not your own.

Isn't **verse 10** fascinating, when you really think about it?

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

If I came to you and said, you must live the rest of today in your mom's strength. Be strong in your mom, and in the strength of her might. How would you do that?

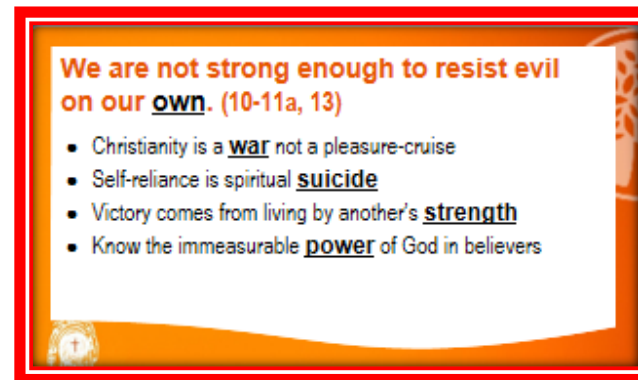
How can you live by another's strength?

¹⁵ Ephesians 1:1, 3; 2:6-7, 10, 13; 3:6, 11, 21; 4:15, 32

This is supernatural, isn't it? This only makes sense when you remember that all throughout **Ephesians** Paul has been trying to convince us of our glorious position "in Christ."¹⁵ Yes, by God's grace, we're now one with Jesus.

It is our faith's union with Jesus that then allows us to live by Jesus' power. For obviously, you can't live by another's strength if you aren't connected to that strength.

But once you truly become one with another, everything that is theirs is now yours. So church... we must,



Know the immeasurable power of God in believers.

This is why Paul prayed in **chapter 1 verse 19**,



Ephesians 1:18-21

¹⁸ ...that you may know ...¹⁹ and what is **the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe**, according to the working of **his great might** ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

that every Christian may know,

What is the immeasurable greatness of His power towards us who believe, according to the working of His great might that God worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, ...

O church – do not be afraid! We can stand against evil by the greatness of Jesus' resurrection power! The same power that seated Jesus far above all demonic rulers and authorities is the same power that helps us stand firm against evil today!

Again Paul prayed in **chapter 3**,



Ephesians 3:16-19

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**, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ **may have strength to comprehend** ...
¹⁹ ... and to know the love of Christ...

That God may grant us to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in our inner being.

We are definitely not strong enough to resist evil on our own, but God's Spirit unites us with the immeasurable power of God, so that we can be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might.

Church – we are all so weak on our own. And there's only one way we may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **Verse 11** says it clearly:

We are not strong enough to resist evil on our own. (10-11a, 13)

- Christianity is a **war** not a pleasure-cruise
- Self-reliance is spiritual **suicide**
- Victory comes from living by another's **strength**
- Know the immeasurable **power** of God in believers
- Only God's **armor** can defend us from Satanic attack

Only God's **armor** can defend us from Satanic attack

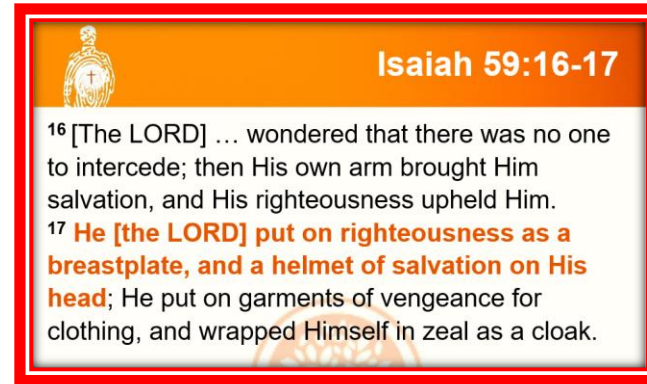
Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

And also **verse 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 firm.*

Now our next sermon in this series will focus more on the various descriptions of God's armor, but for now just focus on the fact that this is *God's own* armor. It's God's strength that protects us from evil.

Paul emphasizes the *whole* armor. So don't get so focused on the individual pieces of the armor that you miss the main point. The armor of God is simply a reference to God's power over evil.

Most likely Paul is writing this while chained to a Roman guard dressed in full military uniform.¹⁶ And most likely Paul is also thinking of some verses from **Isaiah 59**,



which describe the Lord putting on righteousness as a breastplate and a helmet of salvation on his head as He goes out to judge the wicked.¹⁷ But for now, just understand it is the armor that God Himself wears that protects Christians from evil.

Verse 11 commands us, *Put it on*. **Verse 13** commands us to *Take it up*. Once and for all, Christians are commanded to urgently put on God's strong protection against evil, and always keep it on.

It's the same command that we saw back in **chapter 4 verse 24**, to "*put on*" the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.¹⁸

So putting on the armor of God means the same thing as putting on the Lord Jesus. Embrace our identity "in Christ." Abide in Christ! For only when we are hidden in Christ, can we stand firm against evil.

¹⁶ Ephesians 6:20

¹⁷ Isaiah 59:16-17; c.f. Isaiah 11:4-5; 49:2; 52:7

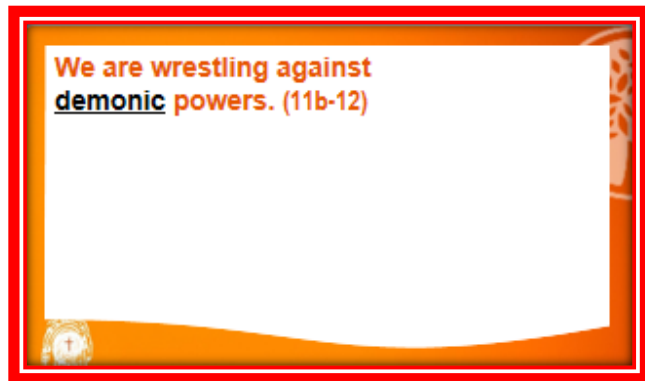
¹⁸ C.f. Romans 13:14; Colossians 3:12

So loved ones, let's ask the important question: Are you truly trusting in Christ?

Has your soul been united to Jesus by God's grace for the praise of His glory and the eternal protection of your soul?

No matter how religious you may become, you will never be strong enough to resist evil on your own. You need a strong Savior. And His name is Jesus. He possesses all power to rule and reign forever over all other powers... so will you turn from your sins and believe in the power of Jesus to save you from hell?

We can only stand against evil by God's strength. First because we are not strong enough to resist evil on our own. And second because,



We are wrestling against demonic powers.

¹⁹ Ephesians 2:2-3; c.f. 1 John

The end of **verse 11** and **all of verse 12** describe our enemy. God wants us to know who our real enemy is. While **chapter 2** described the Christian's three rivals as the flesh, the world, and Satan Himself,¹⁹ here Paul focuses in on the supernatural demonic powers that created so much fear for these new Ephesian Christians.

So listen carefully church, lest we start to think and live as if our greatest enemy is the world we can see, rather than the world we cannot see.

Notice how the end of **verse 11** describes evil as "*the schemes of the devil*." In other words we must,



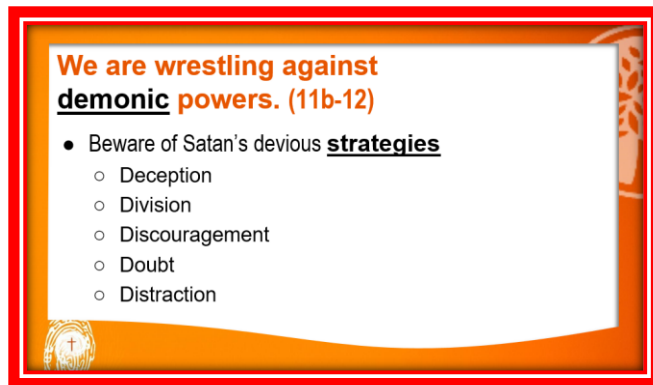
Beware of Satan's devious strategies.

During a war, you must not be outwitted by being ignorant of our enemy's tactics.²⁰ So Christian, are you able to recognize the Devil's attacks when you encounter them?

²⁰ 2 Corinthians 2:11

Satan is the father of lies²¹ and deceit²² who accuses God's people continually before our God.²³ Satan is a tempter²⁴ who often disguises himself as an angel of light²⁵ in order to destroy people. Satan blinds and enslaves people with the lies of unbelief,²⁶ causing people to doubt the goodness of our all-powerful God.²⁷

So let's quickly expose 5 common strategies for demonic attack. And they all start with the letter "D."



Deception, Division, Discouragement, Doubt, and Distraction. These are just a few demonic strategies we ought to watch for.

So have you noticed that you're more isolated than ever, and no longer reading the Bible or listening to good Bible teaching as much as you used to? Are you bending the

truth or distorting reality for the sake of your reputation? Have you convinced yourself that disobedience really isn't that big of a deal? Beware of Satan's **deception**!

Are you being tempted to take sides in disagreements between other Christians? Are you allowing anger or bitterness to give Satan a foothold?²⁸ Satan loves to **divide** God's church with the "friendly fire" of gossip, slander, and unforgiveness.

Are you allowing **discouragement** to paralyze your ministry or weaken your witness? After failure, are you resting in God's forgiveness²⁹ or are you listening to Satan's condemnation? Look up loved ones, and remember that the joy of the Lord is your strength.³⁰

Remember Satan is always trying to get us to **doubt** either the goodness of God or the sovereignty of God.

And of course, another one of Satan's strategies is **distraction**. Gifted godly ambassadors often fail in their God-given mission simply because of the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches.³¹ Satan loves the respectable cloak of enlightenment which often distracts God's servants into living for this world, more than the world to come.³²

²¹ John 8:44

²² Revelation 12:9

²³ Revelation 12:10

²⁴ Matthew 4:3

²⁵ 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

²⁶ 2 Corinthians 4:4; 2 Timothy 2:26

²⁷ Genesis 3:4-5

²⁸ Ephesians 4:26-27

²⁹ Romans 8:1

³⁰ Nehemiah 8:10

³¹ Matthew 13:22; Mark 4:19; 1 Timothy 6:9-10

³² Matthew 16:23

There are many other demonic strategies that we could identify if we had the time.³³ But are you staying alert to Satan's cunning schemes?

Next in **verse 12** we learn that,



Satan has many servants.

Now when Paul says we do not wrestle against blood and flesh, he's not saying that humans will never oppose us, for in fact **chapter 4 verse 14** refers to the "human cunning" that can oppose Christians at times.³⁴ Instead Paul's point is that behind every battle is demonic power. Our real enemy is rarely visible to us.

³³ I.e. Disobedience (Matthew 4:3), Disorientation (1 Corinthians 14:33), Distortion (Matthew 13:24-30, 38-39), Disguise (2 Corinthians 11:13-15), Distress (Luke 13:16; Acts 10:38), Destruction (John 10:10), Denouncement (Job 1:6-11; Revelation 12:10), Darkens (Acts 5:3; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4), Delays (Daniel 10:13; 1 Thessalonians 2:18), Doctrines (1 Timothy 4:1); etc.

³⁴ C.f. Matthew 10:17-18, 36

³⁵ Revelation 12:4 hints that one third of the angels fell with Satan when he

Satan is a supernatural foe who leads an organized mafia of demons³⁵ who are working together to try to destroy us. **Verse 12** describes this demonic army as rulers, authorities, cosmic powers over this present darkness, and spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

I'm not smart enough to understand all the various nuances or hierarchies within each of these 4 descriptions, but this one thing I'm sure of. All four descriptions of Satan's mafia are expressions of organized power. Power over darkness and forces of evil in heavenly places.

(By the way, "heavenly places" just refers to the spirit world, not to the place of righteous joy in heaven.³⁶)

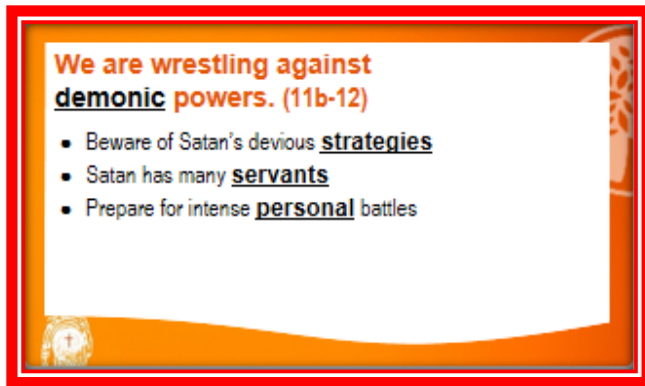
Therefore, since Satan is the ruler of many demons³⁷ and our entire world system lies in the power of the evil one,³⁸ every person who is in Christ must,

rebelled against God, but we do not know exactly how many demonic beings exist today.

³⁶ C.f. Ephesians 3:10 where "the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places" refers to the demonic audience before whom Christ glories in the wisdom of God that would powerfully save a Bride for Himself from sinners.

³⁷ Luke 11:15

³⁸ 1 John 5:19b; c.f. John 12:31, 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2



Prepare for intense personal battles.

The word in **verse 12** is the word, “wrestle” which implies close hand-to-hand combat. No Christian who lives in this world for any length of time will be exempt from demonic temptation and attack.³⁹

Six different times in **verses 11-12** Paul uses the word “*against*” to clearly communicate that every Christian is engaged in a spiritual battle with cosmic powers. This world is not our home. We must expect attack! We are at war!

But in all of our spiritual preparedness,

³⁹ John 16:33; Acts 14:22; 2 Timothy 3:12; Revelation 2:10-11

⁴⁰ Daniel 10:13, 21, 12:1; Jude 9; Revelation 12:7



Don't give Satan more credit than he deserves.

For although Satan is a superior spiritual being to us humans, Satan is far inferior to God Himself.

In fact, although it's understandable that we often pit God against Satan in the battle of souls, we must never think that Satan is God's equal counterpart. No one is equal to God. From a spiritual perspective, perhaps Michael the Archangel⁴⁰ is a spiritual equal to Satan's power? But Jesus is far more powerful than Satan or any demons.

According to **Colossians 1:16**, Jesus created Satan and all spiritual beings.⁴¹ According to **Ephesians 1:21-22**, all the spiritual world now lies subject to Jesus.⁴²

So Satan is not equal to God in any way. Satan is not omnipresent, or omniscient, or all-powerful. As Job's account illustrates in the Old Testament, Satan can only

⁴¹ C.f. Ezekiel 28:12-19

⁴² C.f. 1 Peter 3:22

do what God Himself permits.⁴³ Satan was disarmed at the cross,⁴⁴ and **Revelation** describes the future day when Satan and all of his demons will be eternally banished to hell's judgment away from the redeemed.⁴⁵

So make no mistake Christian. Satan has already been defeated. The war has already been won, but now in these few short years before he receives eternal judgment in hell, Satan is still attacking believers with all the firepower he and his demonic mafia can muster.

So Paul urges us in **verse 13**,



Defeat your defeated enemy by standing firm in Christ

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 firm.

⁴³ Job 1:6-12; 2:1-10

⁴⁴ Colossians 2:15

We need God's power if we ever hope to stand firm against demonic attack and evil temptations.

Ephesians 5:16 describes our present time as evil days. But Scripture also warns us that the last days will be full of Satanic activity before the final day of the Lord appears.⁴⁶

So church, be encouraged this morning. While we are not strong enough to resist evil on our own, and while we are indeed often wrestling against demonic powers, Jesus is stronger. And the immeasurable greatness of Jesus' power is enough to keep us standing.



We can only stand against evil by God's strength.

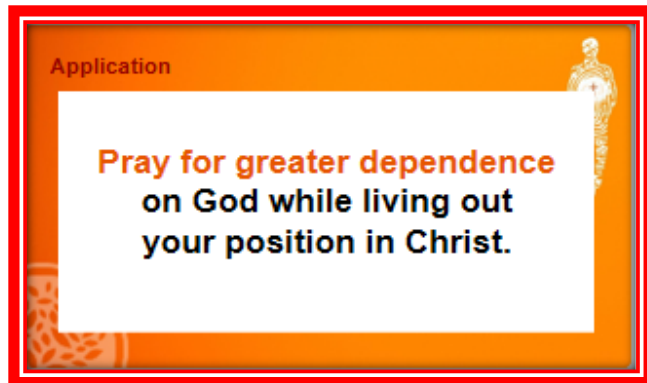
So when it's all said and done, and this life is over, every person who has taken up the whole armor of God... every person who has put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴⁵ Revelation 20:2-3, 7-10

⁴⁶ 2 Timothy 3:1ff; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12

Every person who has trusted in the power of God for the salvation of their soul ...will be found standing firm!!

O Christian, then we must,



Pray for greater dependance on God while living out our position in Christ.

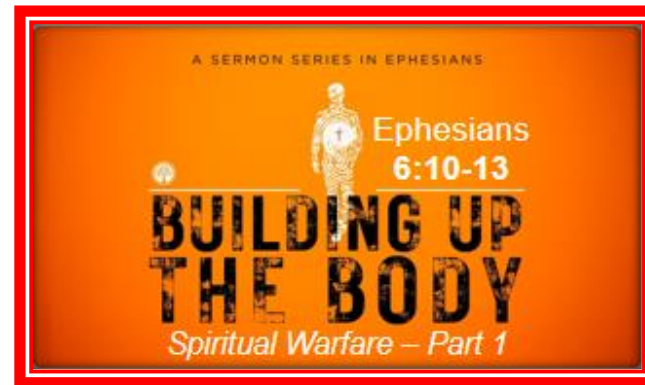
We're going to talk much more about prayer when we get down to **verse 18**, but this is the practical way Christian soldiers put on the whole armor of God.

We pray for God's help. We express our humble dependence of faith in Christ through prayer to Christ. And we pray that God Himself will fight our battles. We believe the battle belongs to the Lord. We refuse to trust ourselves, but we rely wholly on the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus on our behalf, which secures for us a blessed position of eternal favor by the power of God Himself.

O church – we can only stand against evil by God's strength.

So now that we have been clothed with the power of God Himself, let's not cower on this earth in fear. God didn't suit us up with His own power for us to just live safely away from the battle with our shiny armor. No. God has given us His protective power so that we might stand firm against the devil. So that we might continue to proclaim the glories of His good news to the lost all around us, just as **verse 19** makes clear.

God's enemy is defeated. So pray for greater faith in the promises of God while you live out your blessed position in the power of Christ, and stand firm against evil.



Amen. Let's pray.

<<O Church Arise>>

<<**All invited to today's Children's Christmas Program at 9:30a**>>

Benediction from Ephesians 3:20-21

Recommended Resources on Ephesians 6:10-13:

- Job
- Isaiah 11:4-5; 49:2; 52:7; 59:17
- Luke 22:31-32
- John 8:44
- Romans 13:12
- 2 Corinthians 2:10-11; 10:3-5; 11:13-15
- Philippians 4:13
- Colossians 1:11-13
- 1 Thessalonians 5:8
- 1 Timothy 3:6-7; 4:1
- 2 Timothy 2:1
- James 4:7
- 1 Peter 5:8-9
- 1 John 4:4; 5:18

- <https://thecripplegate.com/spiritual-swashbuckling-dealing-with-demons/>

- *Spiritual Warfare*, Borgman & Ventura
- *Safe and Sound*, David Powlison
- *Demons*, Alex Konya
- *Unmasking Satan*, Richard Mayhue
- *40 Questions about Angels, Demons, & Spiritual Warfare*, Gilhooly
- *Spiritual Warfare in the Storyline of Scripture*, Cook & Lawless
- *Powers of Darkness*, Clinton Arnold

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Paul starts the section with "finally." Why do you think this passage is saved for the end of his letter?
2. How is spiritual warfare different from earthly warfare?
3. What do other passages in the Bible teach us about God's strength for us? (see 1 Sam. 30:6; 2 Chron. 20:15; Ps. 18:1, 31-32; Ps. 28:7-8; Ps. 59:16-17; Ps. 68:35; Ps. 144:1-2)
4. How have you seen the strength of the Lord in the book of Ephesians?
5. What are some ways to access the Lord's strength? In what ways do you struggle to be strong in the Lord?
6. What happens if we don't put the whole armor of God on? What areas might you be weak in putting on your armor in?
7. Why does Paul say to "stand firm?" Why doesn't he tell them to run ahead or storm the gates of hell?
8. Why does Paul speak of this spiritual battle as "wrestling" in verse 12? How are you doing when it comes to seeing yourself in a spiritual battle?
9. In what ways do we get the enemy wrong? In other words, who do we often see as the problem in our life, and treat like the enemy?
10. How does the victory of Christ influence the way we should view these spiritual powers?
11. What are some of the schemes of the devil? Which ones do you struggle the most with?

“Spiritual Warfare”

Ephesians 6:10-13 - *Pastor Kevin Sauder*

Main Point: **We can only stand against evil by God's strength.**

- We are not strong enough to resist evil on our _____. (10-11a, 13)
 - Christianity is a _____ not a pleasure-cruise
 - Self-reliance is spiritual _____
 - Victory comes from living by another's _____
 - Know the immeasurable _____ of God in believers
 - Only God's _____ can defend us from Satanic attack

- We are wrestling against _____ powers (11b-12)
 - Beware of Satan's devious _____
 - Satan has many _____
 - Prepare for intense _____ battles
 - Don't give Satan more _____ than he deserves
 - Defeat your _____ enemy by standing firm in Christ

Application: **Pray for greater dependance on God while living out your position in Christ.**

Your responsibility by God's enabling is to consistently apply the divine principles and truth you've heard (Phil. 2:12-20, 1 Tim. 4:7-9, James 1:22-27).

As you meditate on this message, ask yourself:

- How does God want my beliefs/actions to change?
- How can I accomplish this change?
- What is the first step toward bringing about this change?

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- 2 Corinthians 2:10-11;
10:3-5; 11:13-15
- Philippians 4:13
- 1 Thessalonians 5:8
- 1 Timothy 3:6-7; 4:1
- 2 Timothy 2:1
- James 4:7
- 1 Peter 5:8-9
- 1 John 4:4

- *40 Questions about Angels, Demons, and Spiritual Warfare* by John R. Gilhooly.
- *Spiritual Warfare in the Storyline of Scripture* by William Cook and Chuck Lawless.

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Discussion Questions:

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