

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 6:10-13 – *The Christian's Call to Spiritual Warfare*

Today's Message:

"Stand in the Battle"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we were challenged to work out our faith in real life in the home and workplace. Jesus Christ must be the Lord of your home, your workplace, and all areas of your life. Thus far in Ephesians, we have learned about our WEALTH and our WALK in Christ. Today, we will begin the climax of the book – our WARFARE! Now the Christian life is spiritual warfare. Every believer is engaged in an invisible spiritual battle. We have an unseen spiritual enemy who wants to destroy us. God has not called us to fight in our own strength. He has called us to stand in His strength and power. Satan would love for you to disregard this. The Christian life is not simply about learning truth – it is about standing for truth in a world where Satan actively opposes the work of God. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Ephesians 6:10-13

A. The Source of our Strength – be strong in the Lord and in His power.

1. The strength to stand in the daily spritual battle is **NEVER** found in ourselves.

- **Ephesians 6:10** – Finally, my brethren, **BE STRONG in THE LORD, and in THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT.**

"Be strong in the Lord" – a command; not in your strength; continuous – keep being!

- ✓ Every day requires new dependence on God. Ex. Manna – daily bread

"The power of his miguht" – overwhelming divine power; Resurrection power inside you!

Comparing Scriptures

- **Ephesians 1:19** – And what is **the exceeding greatness of his power to usward...**
- **Romans 8:11** – But if **the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus... dwell in you...**
- **Isaiah 9:6** – For unto us a child is born...his name shall be called... **The mighty God...**
- **Psalms 18:2; 46:1; 59:17; 62:7; 68:35; 73:26; Isaiah 12:2; Hab 3:19; Revelation 12:10**

Biblical Examples

- **David: 1 Samuel 17:47** – Dependence on God – the battle is the Lord's today!
 - ✓ This was a spiritual battle beyond David's personal ability. God delights to **HELP**.
- **Samson: Judges 13-16** – Trusting in personal strength – this is a grave danger!
 - ✓ His true strength was never in his muscles – it was in God's presence. Amen.

Closeness to God

We often pray, "Lord make me stronger."
Paul says to stay close to the God who already possesses infinite strength.

The Lamp

A lamp gives no light apart from the power flowing through it.
Believers possess no spiritual strength apart from God who dwells in them.

"... be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

God never intended His children to become self-sufficient. The moment we believe, "I got this," we have already stepped outside the strength Paul commands us to seek.

B. The Strategy of our Enemy – a highly intelligent unseen spiritual warfare

2. The unseen spiritual enemy is seeking to **DEVOUR** you and your family every day.

- Wiles in the Bible**
- Deception – Eve
 - Bitterness – Cain
 - Impatience – Abraham
 - Envy – Joseph’s brothers
 - Revenge – Simeon/Levi
 - Anger – Moses
 - Unbelief – Wilderness
 - Covetousness – Achan
 - Self-Reliance – Samson
 - Compromise – King Saul
 - Lust – David
 - Flattery – Absalom
 - Discouragement – Elijah
 - Pride – King Uzziah
 - Fear – Peter
 - Busyness – Martha
 - Greed – Judas
 - Doubt – Thomas
 - Worldliness – Demas

- **Ephesians 6:11** – *PUT ON the whole armour OF GOD, that ye MAY BE ABLE TO **STAND** against the wiles of the devil.*
- **Ephesians 6:12** – *For we wrestle **NOT AGAINST** flesh and blood, but **AGAINST** principalities, **AGAINST** powers, **AGAINST** the rulers of the darkness of this world, **AGAINST** spiritual wickedness in high places.*

“Put on the whole armour of God... to **stand**” – DAILY action; must put it on to **STAND!**
 “The wiles” – methods, schemes, strategies; calculated attacks by personal temptations!
 “The devil” – Satan is real, not symbolism! A personal enemy who knows you intimately.
 “Wrestle” – hand-to-hand combat; close, personal, intense – homes, marriages, thoughts...
 “Flesh and blood” – physical; things we see, feel, touch, and experience with our senses.
 “But against...” – 4 ranks of spiritual opposition; highly organized, structured, purposeful.

- ✓ **Principalities** – high ranking demonic rulers over nations, territories, locations.
- ✓ **Powers** – demonic authorities charged with carrying out Satan’s influence, plan.
- ✓ **Rulers of the darkness of this world** – powerful evil spirits carrying out orders.
- ✓ **Spiritual wickedness in high places** – collective host of evil spirits and soldiers.

1 John 2:15-17
 Love not the world,
 neither the things that
 are in the world...
 the lust of the flesh...
 the lust of the eyes...
 the pride of life...

Biblical Examples

- **Daniel: Daniel 10** – the “prince of Persia”; Michael the archangel; spiritual conflict
 ✓ Unseen spiritual warfare and conflict affecting earthly kingdoms!
- **Elisha: 2 Kings 6:8-17** – the unseen battle host was revealed – he could see them!
- **Jesus: Matthew 4:1-11** – the battle is real – same temptations as Eve and **YOU!**
- **Legion: Luke 8:26-39** – man possessed with many devils; pronouns: “they/them”

C. The Goal of Standing – the victory is repeated 4 times in the final chapter.

3. The victory for Christian warfare is to **STAND** and remain faithful in the Lord. Amen.

- Evil Seasons**
- Job
 - Joseph
 - David
 - Elijah
 - Daniel
 - Jesus
 - Peter
 - Stephen
 - Paul
 - Early Church
 - Martyrs for Christ

- **Ephesians 6:13** – *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**.*

“Withstand” – to oppose; to resist by God’s grace and strength; no retreat – no surrender!
 “In the evil day” – seasons of unusually intense testing; every believer will experience this!
 “Having done all” – after you have obeyed, prayed, trusted, resisted... **KEEP** standing!

Biblical Examples

- **Joseph: Genesis 37-39** – brothers’ evil envy; Potiphar’s wife – he chose to stand!
- **Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego: Daniel 3** – the fiery furnace – they chose to stand!
- **Daniel: Daniel 6** – the lions’ den – stop praying to God or die – he chose to stand!
- **Jesus: Matthew 4** – the devil’s temptations – No negotiations! He chose to stand!

“... that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
 How is the battle going in your life? Are you trying to fight in your own strength or God’s?
 Are you standing for Jesus Christ and on the word of God or compromising in this evil world?