

Church, here's the reality we'll see in Scripture today. We are at war. We are on a battle field. But so many of us don't act like it. We're going about life, trying to stay entertained, allowing ourselves to be distracted from the true gravity of the situation in which we live. There is a battle raging all around us, Church! We need to be ready. And today, as we look at [Ephesians 6:10-17](#), we will see the reality of the battle that surrounds us, and how we can be ready to fight in it, because we don't have a choice.

#### [Ephesians 6:10-17](#)

You can ignore it. You can act like it's not true. You can bury your head in the sand. You can say, "Ah, preacher's being dramatic today." But according to the word of God, here's the reality we have to face.

#### **We are in a battle...**

It's true of your life, it's true of my life, and it's true for everyone living in this fallen world. We may not always be aware of it, but we are in a battle! Like Paul said in our text, it's not a physical battle against other flesh and blood people, but a battle against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. And deep down, you know it's true. You feel it every day. Don't you?

Make no mistake, church. We are at war. We're in a battle, and the enemy we're fighting is no slouch.

#### **We are in a battle with an enemy we cannot withstand on our own.**

#### [Ephesians 6:12](#)

That is a sobering verse. Paul talks about "this present darkness." As you hear those words, you know exactly what Paul is talking about. We know that we're living in dark times, don't we? It's been that way since Adam and Eve fell in the Garden. Because of the presence of sin in this world it is a DARK place. It was true when Paul wrote Ephesians a couple thousand years ago, and it's true in October of 2026, and it is a THICK darkness.

You see it in the sickness and death that are all around us. In the lack of true community, the isolation that permeates our society. In the mental health struggles faced by MILLIONS. In the blatant disregard for human life we see in the push to allow abortion at any stage. In the blatantly evil crimes we've been seeing in the headlines lately. In corrupt leaders who will sacrifice their people for selfish gain. These and so many other things we see happening in our world are indicative of our modern version of "this present darkness."

And what Paul says in verse 12 is that the enemy we are engaging in battle, wrestling against, is none other than the *rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers who are over this present darkness. The spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.* Church, our battle is with the Spiritual powers who have been backing, and cultivating, and egging on, and stirring up ALL of the darkness that has characterized this world *since the fall*.

*THAT'S* who we're up against, church! And at the helm of it all is the one who scripture refers to as the god (little g) of this world, the ruler of this world, the prince of the power of the air. We're doing battle with none other than the devil and ALL of his demonic forces.

A couple of verses that remind us of what Satan is up to in this world.

[1 Peter 5:8](#) “8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

He is powerful, he is dangerous, he is smart, he has his eye on you, he hates you, and he wants to destroy you, church!

[1 John 5:19](#) “19 We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”

Church, We are in a battle with an enemy we cannot hope to withstand on our own. You and I are not strong enough on our own.

So, here's the question, church. Do we have *any* hope of standing against THAT enemy?

Look at verses 10-11 with me again “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.”

Yes, our enemy is powerful and tricky and dangerous. But, we are not without hope, church. There is a way that we can stand against the schemes and attacks of the enemy, but it isn't in and of ourselves. It's not about our effort. It's not through our strength. It's ONLY in God's strength that we can stand.

**We are in a battle with an enemy we cannot withstand on our own. Our only hope is to stand in the strength of God's might.**

Our only hope to withstand this battle with our enemy is in the strength of our Father. The only way we'll stand is in the strength of his might.

How do we do that? How do we stand in the strength of his might?

Paul answers that question in verses 13–17 where he talks about The armor of God. If we're going to stand in the strength of God's might, we have to put on his armor, church. We need to put on the belt of truth (whose truth? HIS), and the breastplate of righteousness (whose righteousness? It isn't our own sense of goodness, it's HIS righteousness counted to us by faith.), the readiness given by the gospel of peace (It's not readiness we muster to go share the gospel, it's given to us by HIM through his gospel), the shield of faith (Scripture tells us that Faith is a gift from God! And it's not faith in ourselves, it's faith in HIM!), the helmet of salvation (We didn't earn salvation, it's a gift!), and the sword of the Spirit (The word of God).

See, not one of these pieces of “Spiritual Armor” is something we do or accomplish. It's all HIM, church. It's Only in the strength of HIS might that we can stand against our enemy.

See, we're in a battle with an enemy we cannot withstand on our own. And our only hope is to stand in the strength of God's might. But, church, if we will do that, if we'll stand in the strength of God's might and put on the full armor of God, God gives us a weapon to wield that the enemy cannot withstand! That weapon is the Word of God.

[Ephesians 6:17](#) “17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,”

We are in a battle with an enemy we cannot withstand on our own. Our only hope is to stand in the strength of God's might. And our only weapon is God's word.

Jesus showed us the power of the Sword of the Spirit right after his baptism when he was tempted in the wilderness by Satan. The story is recorded for us in Matthew chapter 4. Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit after his baptism and he fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. And in his hunger, Satan tempted him to use his power to turn stones into bread. And Jesus responded not with a rebuke, not with a logical argument, but with Scripture. He quoted [Deuteronomy 8:3](#), "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him up to the pinnacle of the temple, and he tempted Jesus to reveal that he was God by throwing himself off the temple mount. The angels would catch Jesus and everyone would know who he was. But, Jesus again resisted the temptation with Scripture. He quoted [Deuteronomy 6:16](#), "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."

So Satan brought Jesus to a high mountain, showed him the world's kingdoms, and he promised to give them to Jesus if he would fall down and worship Satan. (He was giving Jesus a short cut to ruling the world.) And again, Jesus resisted with Scripture. "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." ([Deut. 6:13](#)) With that, Satan left.

When Satan attacked with his schemes and temptations, the weapon Jesus used to fight him off and make him leave was the word of God, the Sword of the Spirit.

[Hebrews 4:12](#) "12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Church, the word of God is a powerful weapon to be used against the enemy, and one *he* cannot stand against!

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

I love what John Piper says about this. He says, "Memorizing Scripture enables me to hit the devil in the face with a force he cannot resist, to protect myself and my family from his assaults." He makes an important distinction there. "Memorizing Scripture" is so important. Because we won't always have the Bible in front of us open to the right page when Satan attacks. But if we've hidden his word in our hearts so that when he starts tempting us we can *SPEAK* God's word back at him. We will be able to punch Satan in the face with a force he can't resist. Church, THAT's why you need to be in your Bible, that's why you need to know this book. That's why you should be daily conforming your life to God's word. And why you need to hide it in your heart.

We are in a battle with an enemy we cannot withstand on our own. Our only hope is to stand in the strength of God's might. And our only weapon is God's word.

God has given you a weapon to fight off the enemy with, and he cannot withstand your counter attack with the Sword of the Spirit. It's his kryptonite, his silver bullet, his wooden stake, it's his achilles heel. Are you using it?

Church, I want to challenge you right now. Take up your sword and fight.