

## Traveling The Kings Highways Pt 4

### Ephesians 5:1

- We are discussing what it means and what it takes to travel upon “**The Kings Highway**” or what is commonly called “**The Way of the Lord**” and so far we’ve seen that in order to not just follow The Lord’s path, but also to stay on it, one must constantly be alert to the dangers that surround us at all times, these hindrances are what we understand as being part of the spiritual battle that all believers are a part of whether we want to be or not.
- In **Eph 6:10-12** it tells us that we don’t fight against flesh and blood, but against an enemy that lingers in the shadows, and doesn’t want to be seen or noticed until it is too late to do anything about it. The fact that the real battle is not against people, or flesh and blood is forgotten by many Christians, who sadly put all their efforts in that direction.
- The Apostle Paul says a similar thing in **2 Cor 10:3-4** “**for though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds**”. We see a variety of terms used to refer to our spiritual enemies, principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places, this shows there are different levels of warfare, and yet they all have one goal, to knock the Christian down from their place of standing, and off the King’s highway.
- So how do we fight against this? We see two essential components needed to withstand the attacks of the enemy > **1<sup>st</sup> V10- “be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might”**, and **2<sup>nd</sup> V11 “you must put on the whole armor of God”** and make no mistake about it the two go hand in hand. If a man is not strong in the Lord no matter how good his armor is he will still be an ineffective soldier and easily beaten, therefore he must first be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, then when he puts on God’s armor he will know how to use it.
- This is very important for us to know and understand, “**Might**” is the force, the strength that is available to you, but “**Power**” is the exercise of might, it’s the force in operation. So its not enough to have the strength to lift something if you don’t possess ability to excess that strength, then it becomes useless. Its like our minds telling our muscles what to do, how to do it, and when to do it, they all have to work in tandem or our bodies become confused.
- God gives us the might and the ability to exercise that strength to stand against the wiles of the Devil. Satan and his schemes will come to nothing when we stand against them in the power and might of God, but when we try and fight them in our own strength, we fail every time. So according to these verses you and I have been given a full set of spiritual equipment so that when we go into battle we will have everything that is needed to win.

- If we have everything that is needed to win then why is it that so many Christians seemingly are losing their battle? That is a great question, as scripture explains the battle to us, and exposes the enemy for us, giving us the tools and strategy to experience victory, and yet when you look at the body of Christ and the churches something is really wrong.
- I want to go back to the children of Israel, we are currently going over their journey through the wilderness before they had established either Israel or Jerusalem as their homeland in our midweek study. As we're reading their story we see that God also explained the battle to them, exposed the enemy for them, and gave to them, the means to get the victory over them, and yet we see, just like the Church, Israel experience both failure and defeat why?
- Its simple, Israel's greatest temptation was in wanting to be like the other nations, and this is what led to their downfall and captivity > **1Sam 8:5-7**- instead of rejoicing in their uniqueness as the people of the True and Living God, they wanted to imitate their neighbors in their false worship and disobedient conduct, so rather than have God rule over them as "**King**" they asked for a worldly king, like the other nations, and in turn it brought all kinds of trouble. For instead of blessing and victory they received tremendous suffering and defeat.
- Fast forward to today, many within the church feel the same way as Israel did back then, they have mistakenly thought that being like the world, is the way they should live in the world, and to also reach the world. But they forget that the Church is the people of God, one in which God says are "**a special people**" saved by His grace, so we are told no to imitate the world but to imitate the Lord > **Eph 5:1**.
- God so far as to tell us that we are to be separate from the world > **2 Cor 6:14-7:1**- there is nothing in these verses that tell us that in order to win the world we must be like the world, as you can see we are to maintain a healthy separation from the world. But the whiles of the Devil has slipped into our thinking and caused us to wrongly believe that separation means incubation, no you have interaction with the unsaved but you don't take on their mannerisms, attitudes, causes, way of thinking, we interact in order to see them saved.
- G. Campbell Morgan said > "**The Church did the most for the world when the church was the least like the world**". Our example is Christ, and our goal is not to save the world but to see souls saved, and that never happens when we try and be like them, as that's not what saved you, so why would any of us think that doing that will save anyone else?