

THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE

Our teaching this week is going to be on spiritual warfare from Ephesians 6:10-18.

While Paul was in prison there were Roman guards stationed by him day and night. Paul had plenty of time to observe the armor worn by these soldiers. Obviously, the Holy Spirit gave Paul a revelation on how this armor could be spiritualized. We now see this revelation in Ephesians 6:10 on the full armor of God for the Christian.

It is important to keep in mind that this armor was both offensive as well as defensive, for the Roman soldier as well as the Christian. Let us begin by reading these eight verses.

Ephesians 6:10-18 (KJV) 10) *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*

11) *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

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.*

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.*

14) *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*

15) *And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

16) *Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

17) *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*

18) *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

Really understanding V. 10 is probably the most important information in this teaching. When a believer understands that spiritual warfare is not done in their power and strength but in God's power and might, it relieves the performance and anxiety. There is no reason to fear because the Lord states clearly in this verse that He has us covered.

Paul's use of the word finally is referring to the context of the first 5 chapters. The first chapter talks about our eternal identity and inheritance. There is also a prayer given by the Holy Spirit asking the Lord to give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ.

In chapter two, we are given the plan of salvation and are informed that we are no more strangers or foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God.

Chapter three, Paul discusses the mystery of Christ, that the Gentiles would be fellow heirs and of the same body through the gospel. And he finishes with a prayer asking the Father to give the saints a strengthening with all might by His Spirit. The prayer continues by asking that Jesus may dwell in our hearts by faith, being rooted and grounded in the love of Christ. Finally, the Father promises to do exceeding, abundantly, above all that we could ever ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

We now see in chapters four and five, that Paul exhorts the Believers to walk in the Unity of the Spirit, to walk in newness of life, to walk in love and to walk in humility in our relationship to others.

V. 11 instruct us to put on the whole armor of God. A Roman soldier would never leave part of his armor off. We as Christians need to follow the instructions in v. 11 by appropriating all of our armor as well, so we can stand against the schemes and tricks of the devil.

Wrestle is a key word in v. 12, which indicates that there will be some close combat, when doing spiritual warfare. This verse tells us that our battles are not against mankind but against Principalities, Powers, Rulers of the darkness of the world and against Spiritual Wickedness in high places. We are not saying that people are not responsible for their behaviors, we are saying that their behaviors are coming from Principalities, Powers, Rulers of the darkness of the world, that are controlling our adversaries.

In 2 Cor. 10:3 Paul deals with how we do warfare and makes it clear that the Christian does not use natural, carnal methods but spiritual weapons through the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (KJV) 3) *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:*

4) *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

5) *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

Strongholds are behaviors or infirmities, locked in place by the demonic realm. Imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; requires deliverance.

V. 13 reiterates to us that we must have on the full armor of God to be able to be prepared for war on the evil day.

V. 14 instructs us to have ourselves belted with truth, for truth

John 8:31-32 (KJV) 31) *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

32) *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

John 14:6 (KJV) *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

The breastplate of righteousness protects our hearts against things like accusations, criticisms, fear, etc. We must guard our hearts for out of it are all the issues of life. Both of the following Scriptures assure us of our position in Christ and God's promise to keep us protected.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (KJV) *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Isaiah 54:17 (KJV) *No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.*

In v. 15 and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. In the natural no covering or protection for our feet would make us poor soldiers, vulnerable to sharp rocks, broken glass, thistles and thorns. We certainly would not be in peace. In the spiritual realm understanding our relationship with the Lord would give us peace.

Romans 5:1-2 (KJV) 1) *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2)* *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

V. 16 the shield of faith is of the utmost importance because with it we can stop all the fiery darts of the enemy. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Spiritual warfare will surely test our faith, however it is through tests that our faith is strengthened.

Romans 1:17 (KJV) *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*

1 Peter 1:7-9 (KJV) 7) *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

8) *Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:*

9) *Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.*

In v. 17 we see the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit. Helmets protect our minds, and the enemy tries to focus on our minds to cause us to fear and lose focus. However, 1 Cor. 2:16 says we have the mind of Christ. The helmet protects that.

The sword of the Spirit is described in Hebrews 4:12-13.

Hebrews 4:12-14 (KJV) 12) *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

13) *Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. It is the only offensive weapon and the only weapon that will destroy strongholds, cast down imaginations, which are lies and deceptions of the enemy, satan uses lies and deceptions to steal, kill and destroy as stated in John 10:10. The list of demonic damage is a very long list. He is at war with God's creation and even though it is not popular to talk about demons in most churches today, the evidence of the need to be much more victorious spirit, soul, body, financially, and relationally.

John 10:10 (KJV) *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

In conclusion Paul is showing the importance of prayer as part of our warfare. The manner in which a soldier takes up these last two pieces of armor is suggested by two Greek participles: "praying" and "being alert." When the enemy attacks—and on all occasions—Christians are to pray continually in the Spirit, as in the power and sphere of the Spirit as seen in

Jude 20 (KJV) *But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,*

With all kinds of prayers and requests suggest the thoroughness and intensity of our praying. And like reliable soldiers, we are to be alert, literally, "in all persistence". Our requests are to be for all the saints because of satan's spiritual warfare against Christ and the church. In the Greek "all" occurs four times in the verse; three are translated in the KJV and the fourth is rendered as always, which literally means, "in all times" or "every time".

As believers, we must train ourselves, as the Roman soldier, to daily put on the full armor of God. We can not afford to go about our day half spiritually dress and prepared for the battles that may come our way. This would be foolish and unwise. And when

we have put on the full armor of God, then we will be confident that we can stand against our enemy as Paul has instructed us.