

Principles of Spiritual Warfare (Ephesians 6:10-20)

A. Finally . . . (vs. 10)

- When someone concludes a letter, he wants to summarize and leave the reader with something that will cap everything communicated.
 - Be strong in the Lord and in His *mighty power*
 - We've seen these words before . . . (Ephesians 1:19-20)
 - might (Gr. *ischus*) endowed power
 - power (Gr. *kratos*) ruling power.

B. The Whole Armor of God (vv. 11)

- “Put on” - The Greek text describes it as a continual and mandatory process.

C. The Enemy (v. 12)

- Rulers (Gr. *arche*) – one who is in authority
- Authorities (Gr. *exousia*) – evil spiritual powers
- Cosmic powers over this present darkness (Gr. *kosmokratos*) – those which influence world systems.
- Spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places – what they are and where they operate.

D. The Leader of the Opposition

- The devil – “accuser” (Revelation. 12:7-11)
- Satan – “adversary”
- Lucifer – “son of the morning” (Isaiah. 14:12-15)
- Tempter (Matthew 4:3)
- Murderer and liar (John 8:44)
- Angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
- As a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8)
- The serpent (Genesis 3:1; Revelation 12:9)
- God of this age (2 Corinthians 4:4)

E. Our Posture (vv. 13-14a)

Ephesians 6:13–14 (ESV)

“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. Stand therefore.”

F. Our Authority

- To bind and loosen (Matthew 18:18). “Forbid” and “permit” in the New Living Translation
- To fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)
- To be saved from satan's power (Luke 10:19)

G. Our Armor (vv. 14-17)

- The Belt of Truth (John 17:17)
- The Breastplate of Righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- Shoes of the Gospel of Peace (Ephesians 2:14-17)
- The Shield of Faith (Mark 11:22-24)
- The Helmet of Salvation (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)
- The Sword of the Spirit (Hebrews 4:12)

H. The Power of Prayer (vv. 18-20)

- “Praying at all times” in the Spirit (Jude 20)
- With all kinds of prayer and requests. We must discern the right type of prayer for the circumstances (intercession, petition, supplication, public, private, etc.)
- For all the saints (followers of Christ)
- And especially pray for those who have the responsibility to proclaim the “mystery of the Gospel.”

I. A New Wardrobe

- The armor of God (Ephesians 6:14-17)
- The garment of praise (Isaiah 61:3)
- The “best” robe (Luke 15:21-22)
- The new man (Colossians 3:9-10)
- The Lord Jesus Christ! (Romans 13:14)

Conclusion: Spiritual warfare is real, active, necessary and possible because of Jesus. He’s equipped us with armor that is not only effective, but vital to survive and thrive in the Christian life. Never again can we use the excuse “I don’t have a thing to wear!”