

Spiritual Warfare

Ephesians 6:10-18

Introduction:

1. **Illus:** Showing up at a formal ordination in casual attire (I did not read the last part of an email). The point is that final instructions or words can be very important.
 2. In this passage, we see Paul concluding his letter to the Ephesians. He is very direct in that they are at war. They are in a battle that will require a certain level of toughness.
 3. **I Peter 5:8** - "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." The word, "Adversary" means "enemy." That word adversary means simply means the enemy.
 4. How can we show up and fight?
- I. Find your strength in Him** - V. 10
1. We all want to do everything from a place of strength. Your future, financial stability, students want success one day, and we want our kids to be strong when we release them into the world. We all want to do everything from a place of strength.
 2. Scripture completely turns this idea upside down - Paul tells the church to be weak in themselves and strong in the Lord.
 3. **It is only when you recognize your weaknesses, flaws, insecurities, and shortcomings that you can be strong in Him.** If you are trusting in yourself, you are weak! You

are at your strongest when you completely trust and rely on Him and His strength to fight for you.

II. Daily put on the armor of God - V. 11-17

1. **Loins girt about with truth** (belt of truth) - The girdle in the OT was what kept everything else that a person wore in place. It brought stability. Paul is saying that the only way you can escape the deception of the enemy is by looking to the Word of God as your source of truth. Let the Word be the stable part of your life.
2. **Breastplate of righteousness** - The breastplate is often referred to in the scripture as "coat of mail." Goliath had a coat of mail, and it weighed 160 pounds. The breastplate went from the neck all the way down to the thighs. This part of the armor protected all of the major parts of the body. The term, righteousness, means integrity and character (right living). When you put on the breastplate of righteousness, your heart actions and thoughts all bleed things that are pleasing to God.
3. **Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel**- this word preparation means, "readiness." This carries upon the idea of urgency and going out on mission each day.
4. **Shield of faith**- Notice it says, above all. The shield is what protects the body. Listen, fiery darts from the enemy are thrown at you. The enemy is going to speak lies about God, truth,

you, etc, and faith in the Gospel is what blocks you from believing the lies.

5. **Helmet of Salvation**- Let your mind dwell on the Gospel and what saves you. Constantly rehearse the grace mercy, and salvation of God.
6. **Sword of the Spirit**- The sword is our method of attack. Know the Word and speak/live out the Word to those around you.

III. **Pray continually in the spirit** - V. 18

1. Prayer is the method by which God's power is released back into the world.
2. **Hebrews 4:16** - Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."
3. Prayer is the best indicator of if we are trusting in our own strength or in His strength. When you pray, you are showing that you need God, but when we refuse to pray, we show our arrogance in that it is showing that we can do life without God.

Conclusion:

1. Every day, let the Gospel of Jesus saturate your mind and heart.
2. Recap
3. Pray and let the Spirit lead.