

“DOCTRINE THAT DELIGHTS”
STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
Ephesians 6:10-13
“TAKING A STAND AGAINST AN INVISIBLE ENEMY”

INTRODUCTION: Whenever an individual becomes involved in military service, there is an expectation that training will be provided to prepare soldiers for battle. Equipment and weapons are given so the soldier will be confident to take a stand or engage the enemy. What happens when you are fighting an invisible enemy with invisible weapons, while experiencing very real wounds in your body, soul, and spirit? Are you aware that Scripture warns you about the tactics of the enemy, and provides you with God’s weapons of warfare?

BACKGROUND: After being taught about the importance of being Spirit-filled and how to manage relationships, Paul reminds us that we will always be involved in struggles and warfare with our spiritual enemy. While chained to Roman soldiers in prison, the Apostle is very aware of how the Lord has equipped His soldiers, and how we can experience victory.

I. WE CAN STAND BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN AN INCREDIBLE POWER SOURCE, AND DO NOT STAND IN OUR OWN STRENGTH. (Ephesians 6:10)

A. We can only be strong in the Lord because of His indwelling power. When you fly to another city, do you supply the flight power or is it the airplane? Likewise, never forget who is making it possible for you to “be strong in the Lord.”

B. This command to “be strong” is written in the passive imperative, meaning “something is being done to me, and I must allow it to happen.” (Joshua 1:1-9) God’s power is available to those who recognize their own weakness. (2nd Corinthians 12:9-10)

II. EVERY PIECE OF GOD’S ARMOR IS NEEDED FOR YOU TO BE PROTECTED FROM THE ATTACKS OF A POWERFUL INVISIBLE ENEMY. (Ephesians 6:11)

A. We have been equipped and enabled to hold our ground against the attacks of the enemy. There will be times to attack and times to hold our position. We do not back up or retreat from the fight. The Australian army wears symbols of a kangaroo and an emu on their uniforms because they _____!
We have permission to run from _____ and _____. (Genesis 39:1-12)
(1st Corinthians 6:18)

B. The wiles of the devil are schemes and well planned methods not obvious to human beings, but revealed to us by the Lord. His attacks are always in the same three areas: the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, or the pride of life. (Genesis 3) (1st John 2:16)

C. His methods include false teaching and false teachers. All false teaching has a demonic origin because our Lord reveals only truth. The goal is to lead people away from salvation in Jesus Christ, causing them to be lost forever.

D. Satan and his team use well timed attacks that are personalized for each one of us. He is not omniscient and holy angels outnumber the demonic ones, but they observe human beings and know how to tempt us to sin. Beware of attacks when you are depressed, anxious, fearful, or lonely. They also love to attack when we are celebrating victories and not being watchful.

E. Beware of attacks from real friends, like Peter, and fake friends like Judas. If we are not careful, Satan will work through us when we are not aware of his agenda. (Matthew 16).

III. WE SHOULD EXPECT TIMES OF HAND TO HAND COMBAT AS WE STRUGGLE AGAINST AN ARMY OF OPPOSITION. (Ephesians 6: 12)

A. We are frequently reminded we are not fighting against a human enemy. The term for wrestle (pallo) means “to struggle back and forth in hand to hand combat.”

B. Satan has ranks within his dark kingdom as he leads his armies against us:

1. Principalities (Arche) are chief rulers or magistrates. They focus on leaders of nations (Daniel 10)

2. Powers (Exousia) refer to delegated authorities with executive power

3. Rulers of this world (Kosmokrators) are Cosmocrats, world rulers, great authorities, or highly prosperous individuals, false gods

4. Wickedness (Poneria) is a reference to evil that is expressed to harm others. Some evils are self-contained while other evils intentionally spread and hurt other people.

IV. TAKE UP ALL THE ARMOR AND WEAPONS THE LORD HAS PROVIDED, AND MAINTAIN YOUR POSITION! (Ephesians 6:13)

A. Every piece of equipment the Lord has provided is given to protect you. Make sure you are skilled in using what has been provided.

B. We are living in days that are increasingly evil, so we must be prepared to make every day count and to be clothed with the righteousness that Christ alone can provide. (Ephesians 5:16, 1st Timothy 4, Jeremiah 17:17-18, Galatians 1:4, Daniel 12:1). The evil day will fully come when the “evil one” himself, the antichrist, comes to deceive all unbelievers.

C. We can take our stand because....

- We are Saints of God (Ephesians 1:1)
- We have every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3)
- We are chosen (Ephesians 1:4)
- We have been adopted as children (Ephesians 1:5)
- We have redemption through His blood (Ephesians 1:7)
- We have been sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13)
- We are seated with Christ in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6)
- We are His workmanship and prepared for good works (Ephesians 2:10)
- We have been given spiritual eyesight (Ephesians 1:18)
- We have the life and power of God working in us and through us (Ephesians 3:17)

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE YOUR STAND WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST?

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