

HANDOUT PART 11 Ephesians 6:10–24. You're in the Army Now!

Christians Face, 3 Enemies: The World, The Flesh, and The Devil. The World Refers to the Man-Focused “Worldly” System that is Opposed to God, And Caters to the Lust of the Flesh, The Lust of the Eyes And the Pride of Life. 1 John 2 The Flesh Is the Old Nature that We Inherited from Adam...Our Fallen Nature is Opposed to God *and Of Ourselves We Can Do Nothing to Please God.*

- **KEY POINT: As Believers, We Do Not Fight “For” Victory...We Fight “From” Victory!**

Paul Discusses 4 Topics So That We, by Understanding and Applying These Truths, Might Walk in Victory!

VS 10-12: The Enemy: Devil means Accuser, he Accuses God's People Day and Night Before the Throne of God. Rev:7-11. **Satan** means Adversary, he is God's Enemy. He's the **Tempter** Matt 4:3 **Murderer** and The **Liar** John 8:44. A **Serpent**. **Satan Seeks to Oppose God and Defeat His Work.**

- Satan is a Created Being, and Not Eternal as God Is, So He's Limited in his Knowledge and Activity.
- **We Are a Part of the Spiritual Battle Going On in this World & the Heavenly Spheres**

KEY: Our Battle is Not Against Human Beings-But Against Spiritual Powers. *We're Wasting Our Time fighting people when we ought to be fighting the Devil who seeks to control Us and oppose God.*

- Satan is a Strong Enemy and that We Need the Power of God to be Able to Stand Against him!
- Never Underestimate the Power of the Devil! He is Compared to a Lion and a Dragon.
- Satan Masquerades as an Angel of Light, Seeks to Blind Our Minds to the Truth.
- *Satan Uses the World, Our Flesh to Defeat Us. His Weapons and Battle Plans are Formidable.*

VS 13–17 Paul Commanded us to Put On the “Full” Armor, And by Faith, Stand Against Satan!

- **Vs 14 the Belt of Truth:** The Believer whose Life is Controlled by Truth Will Defeat Satan. *Truth is the Integrating Force of the Victorious Christian* that allows face the enemy without fear!
- *Unless We're Controlled by Truth, We cannot use the Word of Truth and are Vulnerable to Satan.*
- **The Breast Plate of Righteousness:** *This Piece of Armor. Symbolizes the Believers Righteousness*
- *When Satan Accuses Us, it is the Righteousness of Christ that assures the believer of His Salvation.*
- **KEY:** Our “Positional” Righteousness in Christ...**Without “Practical” Righteousness in Our Daily Life...Gives Satan Opportunity to Attack Us!**
- **Vs 15 The Shoes of the Gospel:** When Satan Attacks We Need the Shoes of the Gospel.
- NOTE: the Shoes have Another Meaning, to prepare us to Share the Gospel with Others.
- **POINT: "The Most Victorious Christian is a Witnessing Christian."**
- **Vs 16 The Shield of Faith** Protected soldiers from Spears, Arrows & Fiery Darts.

The Faith mentioned here is Not Saving Faith...But Rather “Living Faith”, A Trust in the Promises and the Power of God. Faith is a Defensive Weapon, which Protects Us from Satan's Fiery Darts.

- **If we do Not Quench Satan's darts, They Will Ignite a Fire Within Us, and We'll disobey God!**

VS 17 the Helmet of Salvation: Satan Attacks Our Minds, the Same Way he Defeated Eve in Gen 3. The Helmet Refers to the Mind Controlled by God. When God Controls the Mind,(Truth) Satan Can Not Lead the Believer Astray. The Christian, who Knows God's Word Will Not be Easily Led Astray. **Ps 119 2**

- **VS 17 the Sword of the Spirit is the Offensive Weapon God Provides Us.** The Roman Soldier Wore on his Belt, a Short Sword, which was Used for Close in Fighting. **Heb 4:12 Acts 2:37**

A Material Sword Pierces the Body, But the Word of God Pierces the Heart! The more you use a physical sword, it gets Duller...But Using God's Word Only Makes it Sharper in Our Lives!

- The Physical Sword Wounds to hurt & kill...The Sword of the Spirit Wounds to Heal & give Life.
- So it's important that we know every word that God has given us. "The better you know God's Word The Easier it Will be for You to Detect Satan's Lies and Reject his Offers"
- When You Trusted Christ, You Received the Armor. *In Rom 13 Paul told the Romans what to do with the armor, saying, “Wake Up, Cast Off Sin”!*

Paul's Point>>We Put on the Armor at the Moment of Salvation. But there Must be a Daily Appropriation...Confessing Sin and Standing on God's Word.

Vs 18–20 The Energy of Prayer Enables the Christian Soldier to Wear the Armor and Wield the sword. *We Can Not Fight the Battle in Our Own Power, NO Matter how Strong or Talented We May Think We Are.*

- 1 Thess 5: "Pray Always!" *Always be in Communion with the Lord. Keep the Receiver Off the Hook!*
- **Praying With All Power Includes Praising God in Advance!** The Believer who Prays Only to Ask for things is Missing Out On the Blessings that come with Giving God Thanks.
- Thanksgiving is a Spiritual Weapon that "Defeats" or "Chokes" the Enemy by Breaking his Influence.
- Giving Thanks During Difficult Times, Acts as A Sacrifice of Praise that Pleases God, Disrupts Spiritual Attacks, and Prevents the Devil from Gaining a Foothold.

Pray in the Spirit: Praying in the Spirit is to Rely on the Holy Spirit to Guide, Empower, and Shape Our Prayers...So that They Align with God's Will Rather than Our Own...*It Is a Life Connected to God's Presence through Christ, Which Guides Us when We Don't Know What to Pray.*

- KEY: It is Possible to Pray, Fervently in the Flesh and Never Get Through to God. It is Also Possible to Pray Quietly in the Spirit and see God's Hand Do Great Things.

Paul Commands "Be Alert" and Always Keep On Praying for All the Lord's People.

- Watching and Praying is the Secret of Victory Over the World Mark 13, the Flesh Mark 14, and the Devil Ephesians 6. So We'll Detect Satan as he Begins to Work.

Keep On Praying: *The Word, Perseverance Means to Stick to it and Do Not Quit.*

- Perseverance in Prayer does Not mean We're trying to Twist God's Arm. Rather that We are deeply concerned and burdened and Cannot Rest Until we get God's answer.
- The early church prayed without ceasing when Peter was in prison, and at that last moment, God gave them their answer in Acts 12.
- **My Point: Keep on Praying Until the Spirit Stops You OR the Father Answers You.**

VS 21–24 The Encouragement: We are Not Fighting the Battle Alone. Other believers are Standing with us in the Fight, and We Ought to Continually Encourage One Another.

Key principles from the Book of Ephesians:

- **Salvation by Grace:** Salvation is a gift from God, His Grace, Not Earned through Human Works. Believers are Redeemed, Forgiven, and Adopted into God's Family.
- **Our Position "In Christ": All Spiritual Blessings are Found in Christ.** Believers are Chosen, Sealed with the Holy Spirit, and Positionally Raised/Seated with Christ.
- **Unity of the Church:** The Church is a New, Unified, Multi-ethnic Family Created by Christ's Sacrifice, Tearing Down the Barrier Between Jew and Gentile.
- **The Body of Christ:** Unity is Maintained Through Humility, Patience, and Love, with Each Member Contributing to the Body's Growth in Christ.
- **Walking in Newness: Christians are to "Put Off" the Old Self and "Put On" the New Self, Characterized by Truth, Love, and Sexual Purity.**
- **Imitating God:** Believers are to Imitate God, Walking in Love and Light Rather than Darkness.
- **Relationships:** Paul Instructs Us On **Mutual Submission in Relationships**, Including Marriage (*ie: Christ and the Church*), Parent-Child, and Employer-Employee, All Done as Working For the Lord.
- **Spiritual Warfare:** Believers are to Stand Against Evil Using the "Armor of God," which Includes Truth, Righteousness, Faith, and the Word of God.

LIFE POINT: IN CHRIST WE ARE HIGHLY FAVORED AND GREATLY BLESSED. SO, LET US WALK DAILY, PLEASING GOD, IN HOLY SPIRIT POWER!