

EPHESIANS

God's Provisions for His Church

Section III

The Believer's Warfare

Chapter 6:10 – 24

EPHESIANS

“Spiritual Warfare”

Part 1

Ephesians 6:10-11

“Spiritual Warfare”

Intro:

We live in a world that is **hostile**. We live as Christians, not on a playground but a **battleground**. While our Christian journey is described as a walk, it's not a **walk** in the **park**!

You can't go through the New Testament without running into several **scriptures** that depict our New life in Christ as a **battle**.

2 Cor. 10:3-4; Rom. 13:12; 1 Peter 2:11; 2 Tim. 4:7; 1 Tim. 1:18.

It's important to realize that when we became a Christian we were **drafted** into God's **army**.

“Spiritual Warfare”

Intro:

There was no choice involved. When we became a **friend** of God we **inherited** His enemy.

Satan is a thief who is described as one who comes only to rob, kill and **destroy**. His whole desire is to cause as much **damage**, the most misery and to **negate** the believer's witness to Christ.

If we are not **engaged** in this battle we will fall victim to his **schemes**.

“Spiritual Warfare”

I. Stand Strong in the Lord

Paul uses several words for **strength** in this verse. In **Eph. 1:19-20** he uses Power, Strength, and **Might**. And in **3:16**, “...Strengthened with **Power**”.

While we are not strong in ourselves, we must take the **initiative** to be strong in the Lord. To do so we must:

A. First of all, be **in** the Lord

Being in the Lord is a function/**result** of our salvation. We have to be in the Lord to **understand** being **strengthened** in the Lord.

“Spiritual Warfare”

I. Stand Strong in the Lord

B. We must know our weaknesses.

This is a process begun at salvation, knowing we can't save our selves. As we mature we become more aware of our need of God's grace and mercy.

C. We must know the Lord's Strength.

Gen. 18, 21; Jer. 32:7; Zech. 8:6; Matt. 19:26; Lk. 1:37; Rom. 4:21

“Spiritual Warfare”

II. Standing Firm Against the Enemy

A. We must put on the full **armor** of God.

“Stand” is a military term and means **holding** one’s position regardless of the opposition. We rely on God’s **strength** and are provided with His armor, but must take the **initiative** to put it on.

He is:

1. The belt of **truth**, Jn. 14:6
2. Our breastplate of righteousness, 2 Cor. 5:21
3. The gospel of **peace** that we stand on, Eph. 2:13-14
4. The shield of our faith, Heb. 12:2

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5. Our helmet of **salvation**, Titus 3:6

6. Our Sword of the Lord, **Jn. 1:1**

B. We must grow in **Biblical** understanding

1. We need to understand God’s provision as **revealed** in His word;

The first three chapters tell us **what** God has given us for battle. If you don’t know what it is, it’s the same as **not** having it.

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II. Standing Firm Against the Enemy

2. We need to understand the **Schemes** of the devil;

The Greek word for Scheme is, “**methodeia**”. It has the meaning of being deceitful or deceptive. If we remain **ignorant** of his schemes the Bible tells us he will take advantage of us. **2 Cor. 2:11**

3. We need to know **where** to stand firm and where to be tolerant.

“Spiritual Warfare”

II. Standing Firm Against the Enemy

Negotiables and non negotiables. Standing firm **against** the devil means standing firm on the **core** values of the faith, not being tricked into taking exception to **side** issues that have nothing to do with our **fellowship** in Christ.

C. We must stand firm with Biblical **Practice**.

Put into practice what you believe. **Psalms 34:8** says; “Taste and see that the Lord is good...”. **Experience** God.

“Spiritual Warfare”

II. Standing Firm Against the Enemy

Standing firm is not a “Let go and Let God” proposition. We must recognize our weakness in spiritual warfare, trust our Lord to provide the spiritual strength we need to be victorious, and then hold our ground. 2 Chron. 20:12-17.