

OUTLINE
Equipped for Battle
 Ephesian 6:10-20 (NKJV)
 Life Church 11-01-15

This is not a full manuscript but gives highlights of the sermon. The message is an expository verse-by-verse discussion.

Vs 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Begins with word “Finally”

Culmination of Epistle

Previous prepares for Exhortation

(1) Ch 1-3 Acceptance in Christ

(Sit) (2:4-10) Seated in Heavens

Fight from position of grace

(2) Ch 4-6 Lifestyle lived in grace

(Walk) (4:1; 5:8)

Know who are in Christ- position in grace

Live in power of grace

Foundational to contending with adversary

“brethren” – don’t do it alone/ united with Body

(Lion roars to separate herd)

“be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.”

Pres. Imp. Passive (reliance) (continuous) endurance

Abide in Vine IICor. 12:9 perfect in weakness

Vs 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

the whole armor (pan-op-lia) not part

“that you may be able to stand”

critical to our success—requires active faith

Something we have to do (not automatically)

What are we standing against?

“the wiles of the devil” schemes, strategies

not just power—but cunning, craftiness

(works on our areas of vulnerability)

IICor. 2:11 not ignorant of devices

The Devil & warfare are assumed (1Pet. 5:8)

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Must always remember (Lk 9:56 not to destroy lives but to save)
 “but against principalities, against powers, against the
 rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual
 hosts of wickedness in the *heavenly places*.
 (1:3; 20-21; 2:6; 6:12) the spiritual realm—not distant place in outer space

13 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.

What is evil day? Job 2:13-19; 1Cor. 16:9 effectual door-but many adversaries
 season/crisis –one thing after another
 Ever had time when doing good to just stand?
 Picture – soldier fighting off. Then when dust settles-still (poised for more!)
 Example in 2Sam.23:11-12: Shammah

Process about to describe is not magical, imaginary; is Practical action in daily lives!!!!

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Eph. 4:15 “Speak the truth in love...” 4:25 “Lie not...”
 Not doctrinal statement on wall – is simply being truthful
 Devil operates on basis of lies & deception (Jn 8:44)
 Any deception, hypocrisy, manipulation = vulnerable
 Be truthful & uncompromising and will stand

“having put on the breastplate of righteousness”
 not imputed – already have that – imputed is foundational to but must be expressed in actions
 1 John 3:7 “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous,
 even as he is righteous” (KJV).
 Two Builders (Matt. 7:24-27)
 At any place operating in unrighteousness—you are vulnerable!

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

We carry & live message of peace (reconciliation)—not strife
 Rom. 12:18 “If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”
 Ps 34:12-13 “Who is the man that desires life & loves many days that he may see good? Keep
 your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil & do good. Seek
 peace and pursue it!”
 Heb. 12:14-15 “Pursue peace w/ all people & holiness
 Gal. 5:15 “But if you bite & devour one another, beware lest you be consumed one of
 another.”

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

To defeat us the Devil must bring down our faith.

Lk 22:31-32 “And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail...”

What is shield of faith? Confidence in God. Devil defeated Eve by first undermining trust in God.

Shield = Trust in character, faithfulness, word of God

Roman shield was Large, body-side. Was held in front & set feet to resist (stabilized the soldier in battle formation)

Heb. 10:35 “Do not cast away your confidence which has great recompense of reward.”

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

I Thes. 5:9 says “*Hope* of salvation”—final victory

Hope fortifies against depression, despair, despondency

How win battle of mind

Phil. 4:8 “whatsoever things are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, good report, think on these things.”

II Cor. 10:3-5 “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for the pulling down of strongholds. Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

Carnal mind is vulnerable to Satan’s wiles

Rom. 8:5 contrast a mind set on things of flesh v Spirit.

(17) “and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.”

Not Bible as a book but word engrafted in heart

“rhema” short saying from Scripture Quickened by Spirit

Lk 4 - Jesus example of how sword of Spirit is used against the Devil. “It is written...”

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints --

Metaphor stops at verse 17

Prayer most important—pulls all together –build faith praying

“always” – continual way of life, not just in crisis

“all prayer and supplication” –develop practice of praying in tongues, petition, thanksgiving, praise, intercessions, private, corporate.

“being watchful” implies diligence & vigilance –persevere

“for all the saints” not just my four and no more

19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

So, taking armor of God is a practical exercise in godliness as we live our daily lives. This type of thinking and living is the protection Paul is talking about.

Questions

1. Why is knowing who we are in Christ foundational to spiritual warfare?

2. What is the “*heavenly places*” referred to in Eph. 1:3, 20-21; 2:6; 6:12?

3. What have you learned about the “*wiles*” of the Devil and how to counter his attacks?

4. Why is it important to understand the practicality of these pieces of armor?
 How does practical lifestyle of righteousness protect a person from destruction?
 How does being truthful protect us?

5. Why is the shield of faith so important?
 Why was that Satan’s focus of attack against Peter (Luke 22:31-32)?

6. As a practical matter, how does the Christian put on the helmet of the hope of salvation?

7. What is God speaking to you from this message?