

WE ARE AT WAR

Ephesians 6:10-13

What do you expect when you trust in Jesus Christ? It's not "easy peasy" or a "bed of roses". The Christian life is war. It is joyous knowing Jesus, but the Christian life is a battle and we are at ongoing war in this life.

1.KNOW OUR RESOURCES: GOD'S STRENGTH AND GOD'S ARMOR – Ephesians 6:10, 11

- We are to be strengthened continually by God's infinite strength and mighty power – verse 10. We are not to be strong in ourselves, but in the Lord. We have no strength of our own in this war. It is not a matter of strengthening ourselves or developing our own resources. **WE NEED THE STRENGTH AND POWER OF CHRIST.** We must admit our weakness – *"I am weak, but He is strong."*
- We prepare for battle by going to God's armory – verse 11. The armor of God is God's Armor. Christ has worn it first – Isaiah 11:5; 59:16,17; Matthew 4:3,4. Jesus stood and conquered temptation. His struggle was the decisive one. Victory belongs to Jesus. The armor is all provided by God. We are to put it on by His power and Spirit. *"We fight and stand firm against Satan only in the strength that comes from the victory that Christ has already won."* – *Iain Duguid, The Whole Armor of God.* Jesus died on the cross, rose again, and is seated above all powers and authorities – Ephesians 1:20-22. Jesus is the Victor and we share His victory by putting on His armor. Our victory over sin and the devil is Jesus' victory. Because of Jesus, our ongoing struggle with sin is never hopeless. Even in our weak brokenness, let us look to Jesus and in the midst of the battle, find rest in the finished victory of Christ.
- The only other place the "whole armor" is used is Luke 11. Satan is the strong man, defending his domain – Luke 11:19-22. Only Christ, the Stronger ONE, can overpower him and plunder his evil kingdom, leading out those who were once captive – Ephesians 2:1-3; Colossians 1:13. Rejoice that in Jesus we are now in His Kingdom and His army.

2.KNOW OUR ENEMY: SATAN AND HIS FORCES – Ephesians 6:11,12

- Our war is not ultimately with mere humans – verse 12. It is with Satan and his demonic hordes. Behind the dark powers of this world are the dark powers of the enemy. Devil means slanderer – Ephesians 4:27. Unresolved anger and speaking evil of others is giving a base of operations to the devil. We tend to go to extremes with the devil. Some deny him and some see him everywhere. Don't underestimate your enemy. Don't overestimate your enemy. There is a real devil and there are real demons. He hates Jesus and anyone connected to Jesus. He hates God and wants to defame Him. He hates humanity and wants to destroy us because we are created in God's image – 1 Peter 5:8. There is no compromise, no pacifying him. He is the evil one, the god of this age, the serpent, the dragon – Matthew 13:19; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9. He is the head of the demons – Matthew 25:41. The devil is a deceiving liar and murderer – John 8:44.
- Apart from God's power and God's armor, resistance is futile. We cannot stand in our power or strength against the devil and his demons. We are in a wrestling match with the forces of Satan, it is a hand to hand struggle, a personal fight. He knows our weaknesses and vulnerable spots, whether it is sins of the flesh or sins of the spirit. The devil uses strategy and tested methods

against us, especially pride – Isaiah 14:12-15. We can even be proud of our spiritual growth and knowledge! But Satan is already defeated by Jesus Christ – John 12:31,32; 1 John 3:8. His ultimate doom is sure – Revelation 20:10. But the battles continue now in this life. *“The faithful Christian life is a battle; it is warfare on a grand scale – because when God begins to bless, Satan begins to attack.”* – John MacArthur, *Ephesians*.

3.KNOW OUR GOAL: TO STAND – Ephesians 6:11, 13

- What are we trying to do? Stand – verses 11, 13, 14. Resist. We are to hold our position in the face of severe opposition. Our goal is to stand in the evil day whenever the devil’s forces are assaulting us. We want to be standing when the day is done – 1 Corinthians 15:58. We stand by obeying God’s Word in everyday life. *“Do you realize what a victory it is for you simply to commit yourself to the worship of God and to obeying Jesus Christ? Do you realize what a blow to Satan and his realm is every Bible Study and every children’s Sunday School class? Every time a mother prays for her children or a father opens the Scriptures on the kitchen table, Satan is cast down. When you refuse to believe the lie that says that sin is good, and when you are inspired to love others sacrificially, or to speak the gospel to an unbeliever, thrones and dominions topple in the evil realm. If Christians simply do not give in to the agenda of the world, but hold fast to God’s Word, to biblical godliness, and to gospel mission, then Satan cannot win.”* – Richard Philipps, *Ephesians*.
- We are to stand as an army for Christ. Don’t think of this as individually standing against the devil. When you trusted Jesus, you enlisted in His army. We are not an army of one. We are part of Christ’s army by being part of His people by faith. We are to stand together, shoulder to shoulder, shield to shield. Being part of the Church militant is essential for our ongoing victory. The Lord uses others to help us stand in His grace. Someday in and through Christ we will join the Church triumphant in glory. Someday we will rest and be at true peace forever – Revelation 7:9-11; 15-17.
- The reality of being at war must lead us to a warfare lifestyle. Let us awake from peace time complacency. Let us prioritize for battle and stop wasting our lives. Let us not seek satisfaction in our own riches and stuff. Let us find our joy and treasure in the Lord our strength. *“...we live, work, and play amidst the scenery of war; every night we lie down and go to sleep on the battlefield.”* – Richard Phillips, *Ephesians*. Put on God’s uniform and armor daily. We desperately need His power all the time.

Concluding Applications:

- Are you in the Lord’s Army?
- Do you live as if you are at war?
- In the midst of temptation and struggle, do you cry out for God’s power and strength? You can depend on His power through prayer.
- Don’t forget victory is ours only in Jesus Christ.