

Ephesians 6:10-13 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

1. Introduction:

a. Satan is God's enemy & Christian enemy

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

b. During trying times such as a pandemic, Christian must stand & enter spiritual battle.

c. Satan is created spiritual being (cherubim), but he rebelled against God

d. Isaiah describes heart of Satan

Isaiah 14:12–15 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

e. Satan's kingdom influences human philosophies, "There is not God." (Psalm 14:1, Psalm 53:1)

2. Provision for the Battle (verses 10-11)

a. Source of power (vs. 10)

i. Christian strength & sufficiency comes from God

2 Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

ii. Our inner power comes from God Himself

1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

b. Supply of armor (vs 11)

i. First trust is in God Himself

ii. God gives us spiritual armor because God knows the enemy

- iii. All pieces of spiritual armor work together (not 1 piece at a time)
- iv. Christian armor gives protection against tricks (wiles) of Satan

2 Corinthians 11:2–3 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

- v. Satan’s main method (trick) is to deceive people

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

3. Place of Battle (verse 12)

- a. Enemy Is not flesh and blood (not people)

- i. Spiritual battle compared to wrestling match
- ii. Enemy is invisible spiritual enemy

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

- iii. Enemy is Satan himself & his demons

2 Corinthians 10:3–5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

- iv. Spiritual battle is for Christian minds, emotions, & will

- b. Enemy Is the Power of Satan

- i. Principalities: organized group of spirit beings under Satan’s control & direction
- ii. Satan’s kingdom also has powers & rulers of darkness of this age

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

- iii. These dark powers & rulers cannot possess a Christian but they work to hinder us

- iv. Satan's kingdom has ranks & levels (realms) of authorities but none greater than Jesus

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

- v. God tells us to test (try) the spirits if from God or Satan

1 John 4:1–2 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

- vi. Anti-Christ (leader inspired by Satan) will come in the future

2 Thessalonians 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

- vii. Satan's kingdom works at blinding people's hearts & minds

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

4. Plan of Battle (verse 13)

- a. Take your equipment

- i. Put on God's armor
- ii. Read / hear / listen to God's Word

- b. Take your stand

- i. Defensive stand with God's presence & God's power to stand against Satan
- ii. Enduring stand in the evil day of increasing personal violence
- iii. Do everything to stand for gospel of Christ

Ephesians 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

5. Conclusion

- a. Remember the gospel of Jesus Christ

1 Corinthian 15:3-4 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

- b. And go tell everyone

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.