

Spiritual Warfare part 1

Ephesians 6:10–13 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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*. 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.

Finally

- This starts with the word “Finally.” Previous to this Paul lays out proper Christian callings for all walks of life. The word really means henceforth, or therefore it remains. Paul is saying that as we progress in our faith, enemies will oppose you.

We do have an enemy

- **1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
- There is a real enemy. Satan is real.
- He wants to destroy you.
- But we have power over the enemy. We do not have to fall prey to Satan’s plans for us.
- **Luke 10:19** Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

We need discernment

- **Hebrews 5:14** But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
- Not everything is spiritual warfare, but some things are

- Ex – Air conditioner going out vs. washing machine, kitchen sink and washing machine going out.
- It can be a battle against sin. It can be choosing to obey God rather than our flesh. It can be fear or resistance to something we know God is calling us to.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

- We can only be strong when we are in the Lord and operating by His power. Since demons are not corporeal, we cannot fight them in the flesh or by our own strength.
 - Me in my late teens early 20's with guys in Bible study.
 - This is an indwelling strength. Our strength comes from Jesus indwelling us.
 - **1 John 4:4** You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
- **Zechariah 4:6** So he answered and said to me: "This *is* the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.
- You also cannot overcome flesh with flesh.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

- Put on the **whole** armor. It is not enough to only put on some of it.
- Of course, this is not actual armor pieces. These are truths and mindsets. These are Spiritual realities that we are to believe.

- As we go through the pieces you will see that there are no deep or advanced truths here only to be discerned by the spiritually mature. These are all part of our basic salvation. These aren't upgrades.
- When we only choose to believe part of our salvation, we open ourselves to attack from the enemy. When we don't operate from a place of understanding our salvation, we open ourselves to the attack of the enemy.
 - If you have been saved for some time and do not understand your salvation that is a failing of the discipleship you are under. If that is the case, talk with a church leader about that and get it straightened out.
 - There are other reasons we may get attacked, but honestly, they all actually go back to understanding our salvation. Other reasons include harboring unforgiveness, sin, playing with the occult, inviting demonic attack (example of confessing with faith bad things).
- But these principles when applied fully, will stop the enemy.

There are 2 main tactics of the enemy – lies, and more lies.

He delivers those lies through 4 systems:

1. Straight telling them to you (think Jesus in the wilderness)
2. You listening to lies you already believe (think Gideon)
3. Relying on experience to interpret Scripture (Think Pharisees)
4. Using other people to spread those lies through slander or gossip or meanness. (Think Miriam gossiping about Moses in Numbers)

But, concerning 3 of those 4, we have to realize that we are not our enemy, and other people are not the enemy.

It can be very easy to look at the natural world as the enemy, ourselves, others, our businesses, other political parties, anybody. But that is not the case. And Paul knew that people would go there, so he continues:

Ephesians 6:12 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*.

- This verse is an actual declaration that we are in a fight. Paul is just reminding us who we are in a fight with. But if you are not aware of the fight, you are probably losing it.
- This verse gives a breakdown of several positions within the enemy ranks. While it may be fun to go over that, I'll let you pursue that on your own if you want to. But it's not necessary to understand it. We are battling the enemy no matter their rank. And that's ok.
 - Paul prayed in Ephesians that we would understand:
 - **Ephesians 1:19–21** and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked **in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him** at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹ **far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named**, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.
 - It is completely true that Jesus, who indwells us, is above all the enemy that we are in battle against.
- So when I started with Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might, this is what I am talking about.

Ephesians 6:13 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.

- Therefore - Since we are in warfare, here are the things you will need to be victorious.

- The evil day – the day of battle with the enemy. Or when the enemy attacks.
- Able to withstand, and having done all, to stand – This was a common Roman military phrase used to describe victory. Sort of like standing victoriously in the face of our enemies. Or standing over the graves of our foes.

The Armor

Ephesians 6:14–18 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 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—

Belt of Truth

The belt covers our core. This is where all of our motion comes from. Our ability to act comes from here. If you have ever damaged your core, or thrown out your lower back, you know how vital this is.

This is not talking about not lying. While we should not lie, this is about *knowing* real truth to stand up against the lies of the enemy.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

- When we understand the truth of the Gospel, it sets us free. When we believe lies, they bind us up.

- The belt was designed to make a warrior move about freely, gathering everything together and supporting the core.
- Have you ever tried to run and felt your pants slipping down? We need a belt to move confidently through life.
- The enemy will lie to you to try to stop you from growing in your faith. He will bring doubts. Doubts about what is right, and about God's love for you and much more.

What is truth?

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

- Jesus is truth.
- **He is the truth in regards to all religions**
 - **Ephesians 4:13-15** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ
 - When we are sure of the truth of Jesus we will not be swayed by false gospels.
 - We can navigate through life knowing that our purpose is fulfilled – We are sons of God through Christ.
- **He is the truth in regards to all the promises of God.**
 - **2 Corinthians 1:20** For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.
 - We can move unencumbered by the worries of this life.

- It is Jesus that protects us. Provides for us. Justifies us. Knows us. Cares for us. Loves us. Rewards us. Teaches us. Comforts us. Gives us peace. Gives us rest. Gives us eternal life.
- Knowing who you are in Christ is truth.
 - Christ is in you
 - You are righteous
 - Free from shame and guilt
 - Child of God
 - Your eternity is secure
- Having a proper image of the Father is truth
 - He's not angry
 - He loves you as children
 - He takes care of us
- The Holy Spirit in us
 - **John 16:7–15** Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And when He has come, **He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:** ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ **of righteousness, because I go to My Father** and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. ¹³ However, when He, **the Spirit of truth**, has come, **He will guide you into all truth;** for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for **He will take of what is Mine and declare it**

to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.

How do we put this on?

- Fully buy into the Bible being true.
 - The Bible is a historically accurate book full of real stories about real people. God really did create all things in 6 days. Adam and Eve really were deceived, and they really did sin. God really did promise to crush Satan under his foot. The flood really happened. God really did call Abraham, and he really did promise to bless the nations through him. God really made David into a great king, and he really promised to send a greater King one day who would rule for all eternity. God really did promise to send one who would be pierced and crushed for our sins. Jesus really is that promised one. He really came, born of a virgin, just as God promised through real people. He really died and was buried. And He really rose, conquering death.
- Knowing the Truths from the Bible.
 - If we do not know what God promised us, the enemy will steal that victory away.
- Recognizing lies spoken to us or against us.
 - Wake up. Be aware of what is happening.
- Challenging those lies with Truth (spoiler alert — Truth will win!)