

The Whole Armor of God

I. Jesus is the Power of God's might

Ephesians 6:10-20

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

- “power of His might” is faith in Christ
- Jesus was Gods “power and might”
- 243 references in OT for the word “strength”. Most everyone speaking of the Lord’s strength and not ours.

Proverbs 18:10 The name (*reputation, authority & protection*) of the Lord is a strong(*bold, majestic*) tower; (*tower; elevated stage or pulpit set above the clamor*) The righteous (*those who have been justified by God*) run to it and are safe. (“*They are set up high above in the tower therefore made to be “safe”*”)

II. Be strong in God's strength NOT your strength

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

When Paul wrote this Scripture, he was likely considering Isaiah 59:17 “For He put on tzedakah (righteousness) as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation upon His head; and He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.”

Isaiah was speaking of Jesus and his garments as our High Priest, not as a Roman soldier. Because Isaiah never knew nor saw what a Roman soldier looked like, since he lived some 600 years before Rome even existed!

Isaiah 59:15-18

15 So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the Lord saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice.

16 He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him.

17 For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing And was clad with zeal as a cloak.

18 According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, Fury to His adversaries, Recompense to His enemies; The coastlands He will fully repay

III. The devil's tactic is to exploit the weakness of our flesh to gain control of us or others (Who's going to rule?)

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.

“**wrestling**” is a contest in which two individuals try to gain leverage or advantage in order to become victorious, This is accomplished by deceptive moves, posturing, intimidation, and skill in order to throw, and then pin, their opponent to the ground with the hand on the neck.

~The strategy is to cause the opponent to stumble, fall and fail!

~God says in this “wrestling match” He has already defeated our opponent and if we use what He has given us will experience victory

A. The Battle is “Spiritual” BUT it manifests in the “natural”

2 Corinthians 10:1-6

1 Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you.

2 But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down (*destruction*) strongholds, (*opinions which are against a true “knowledge of God” and what Christ has accomplished*)

- Our existence is in the middle of a “spiritual conflict”
- “Paul likens his contest with the difficulties that oppose him in the discharge of his apostolic duties, as warfare” (STRONG)
- STRONGHOLDS: any argument and reasoning by which a person fortifies his opinion

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and defend it against an opponent

5 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,

6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled

1. The purpose of the battle is to extinguish the “knowledge of God” in the heart of people.
2. The gateway for the spiritual is through the mind or thinking in order to establish a “opinion”

B. It is NOT flesh and blood but what is behind the person

- **Satan comes against Israel through David**

1 Chronicles 21:1 Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel

- **Jesus calls Peter (flesh and blood) Satan**

Matthew 16:21-23

21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!”

23 But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men (You are “carnal!”)

- **Jesus calls the “strict religious crowd” the offspring of the devil: Those who accuse and persecute others are “flesh and blood.”**

It is the religious people who persecute others not the world!

The difference between Abraham's Seed (*spiritual: living by faith*) and Satan's seed (*living by natural senses*)

John 8:37-47

37 “I know that you are Abraham's (*natural*) descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.

38 **I speak what I have seen (*spiritual*) with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father.” (*the devil*)**

39 They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.”

Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. (*faith in God*)

40 But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this.

41 You do the deeds of your father.” (*the devil*)

Then they said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father — God.”

42 Jesus said to them, “**If God were your Father, you would love Me**, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.

- Love, mercy, compassion, forgiveness are the fruits of a truly spiritual person

43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.

44 **You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.** He was a murderer (*lie, kill, and destroy*) from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, **he speaks from his own resources**, (*his “own self interests and not God's*) for he is a liar and the father of it.

45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.

46 Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?

47 He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God

- **The Persecuted Church**

Revelation 2:8-11

8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

9 “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and **I know the blasphemy of those**

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who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

11 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.” ’

1. Persecution comes from the religious crowd NOT the world.
 - More concerned with maintaining power and control to keep order. They use doctrine and condemnation!
 - They have the appearance of godliness and spirituality but they lack empathy, compassion, and love for others regardless of the one they are persecuting.
 - They have an over whelming sense to bring “correction to others” who differ from their doctrinal belief.
 - They believe the sin of others will make them unclean – they distance themselves from others by comparing themselves among themselves. (Romans 2)
2. Those who condemn others are self-righteous have not the love of God perfected in them so they accuse, judge, and distance themselves from those who differ from themselves.

Romans 2:1-4

1 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

2 But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things.

3 And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?

4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance

- **The way to resist the devil is to submit to God**

James 4:7-8

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double

- **Offspring of the devil is among the believers**

Matthew 13:37-39

“ He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.

39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels

IV. How to Take Up The Armor

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.

- It is NOT our armor, it is God’s armor!
- Taking up God’s armor is to “put on Christ”

STAND

14 Stand therefore, having (*ALREADY*) girded your waist with truth (*Gospel of truth: Jesus- all that He is and all He has accomplished for you*), having put on the breastplate of righteousness, (*salvation's gift, the new image, etc.*)

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (*God is at peace with you*)

16 above all, taking the shield of faith (*believe that Jesus has done it all for you*) 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;

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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—

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

Message

Ephesians 6

10 And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong.

11 So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way.

12 This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.

13 Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet.

14 Truth, righteousness,

15 peace,

16 faith,

17 and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word (*and what He says to you: the "proceeding word"*) is an indispensable weapon.

18 In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.

(encourage others)