

**Stand Firm in Warfare:  
The Call to Prepare  
Eph 6:10-13 (Part 1)**

**I. Introduction**

***A. Welcome back to the Book of Ephesians!***

***B. I haven't preached from Ephesians since the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of June!***

1. 2 weeks of vacation
2. 4 weeks of War & Terrorism series!

***C. Now – very appropriately – we move from WAR & TERRORISM in the WORLD to SPIRITUAL WARFARE!***

**II. Review: Where are We in Ephesians?**

**Ephesians Outline**

**I. The Prologue (1:1-2)**

**II. The Purpose of the Church in Christ Manifested (1:3-3:21)**

***A. Purpose In Christ Praised (1:3-14)***

1. Every Spiritual Blessing in Christ (1:3)
2. Chosen in Christ (1:4-6)
3. Redemption in Christ (1:7-10)
4. Inheritance in Christ (1:11-12)
5. Sealed in the Holy Spirit (v.13-14)

***B. Purpose In Christ Prayed for (1:15-19)***

***C. Power In Christ Manifested (1:19b-3:13)***

1. In Christ (1:19b-23)
2. Individually to Men (2:1-10)
3. Corporately to Gentiles (2:11-22)
4. Personally to Paul (3:1-13)

***D. Power In Christ Prayed for (3:14-21)***

**III. The Performance of the Church in Christ Manifested (4:1-6:20)**

- A. **Walk in Unity (4:1-16)**
- B. **Walk in Holiness (4:17-32)**
- C. **Walk in Love (5:1-6)**
- D. **Walk in Light (5:7-14)**
- E. **Walk in Wisdom (5:15-6:9)**
- F. **Stand Firm in Warfare (6:10-20)**



#### IV. The Epilogue (6:21-24)

### III. Overview of Eph 6:10-20

#### A. **TURN TO Passage to read...**

Eph 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, 19 and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

**B. Question that should be on ALL of our MINDS: Why switch from WALK to STAND???**

1. Paul –
  - a) You HAVE ALL the POWER
  - b) You HAVE ALL the PRINCIPLES for your WALK – all that I've commanded you!
  - c) BUT YOU NEED to KNOW – IT WON'T be a “cake walk” 😊 - IT WON'T be EASY!
2. There is an ENEMY TRYING to STOP you FROM BEING EFFECTIVE for GOD!
3. I've TOLD you that the Christian LIFE is a “WALK”
  - a) BUT – you also need to know that it is WARFARE!
4. AND – without me telling you this – you'd never know WHY you have such difficulty living out all of these WALK COMMANDS I've given you!
5. Why is that? The WARFARE is SPIRITUAL
  - a) You see the effects – the problems of the world and difficulties keeping commands
  - b) You DON'T SEE the FORCES of EVIL CAUSING these PROBLEMS
6. UNTIL I tell you how to PREPARE for BATTLE and HOW TO FIGHT, you'll struggle AND NOT LIVE VICTORIOUSLY.
7. Hasn't Paul told us about this fight?

**C. Paul's life of discipline and warfare passages**

→ He told the Corinthians of this war!

[2 Co 10:3](#) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, [4](#) for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. [5](#) We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

→ **He told Timothy that He had fought well!**

[2 Ti 4:7](#) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

→ **He told Timothy to fight the good fight too!**

[1 Ti 1:18](#) This command I entrust to you, Timothy, *my* son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight,

[1 Ti 6:12](#) Fight the good fight of faith;...

→ **He told Timothy and the Corinthians of the suffering / work / discipline / hardship of this war!**

[2 Ti 2:3](#) Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. [4](#) No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. [5](#) Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. [6](#) The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops

[1 Co 9:24](#) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. [25](#) Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. [26](#) Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; [27](#) but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

***D. Soooo – It's no surprise to end this letter with Spiritual Warfare!***

1. All this teaching about our WALK is not POSSIBLE without teaching us about our WARFARE!

***E. Proposition: STAND FIRM in WARFARE***

1. The CALL to PREPARE (6:10-13)

a) **Your orders: Clothe Yourself!**

Eph 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God,

b) **Your Objective: to stand firm**

so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil

c) **Your Battlefield: Spiritual**

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

d) **Your Mission / Outcome / Victory: Resist and Stand firm**

13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

2. **The CALL to FIGHT (6:14-20)**

a) **Driven by two commands**

(1)V.14 Stand firm

(2)V.17 Take

**III. Your Orders: Clothe Yourself!**

Eph 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God,

**A. Finally**

1. = Paul's way of marking the FINAL MAJOR THEME of the BOOK!

2. Then TWO commands

a) No conjunction between them – just dumped there!

b) Be Strong in the Lord...Put on the full armor of God...

c) AND – the words are related! BOTH have to do with PUTTING ON CLOTHING!

**B. be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.**

1. “be strong”

a) KEY: COMMAND BUT this is PASSIVE! You don't do the action of strengthening!

(1)= “be clothed with strength”

(2) YOU DON'T MAKE YOURSELF STRONG!

b) = LET YOURSELF BE CLOTHED WITH STRENGTH! (Command)

c) What kind of Strength here? A: ENDURING strength.

(1) A weight-lifter has instantaneous strength – strong burst for a couple of seconds

(2) A wrestler has what is called “muscular endurance” – He puts out continuous non-stop strength for the entire wrestling match!

(3) “strong” = strength that has endurance!

d) Reminded me of a TV Show back in the mid-90s called “MANTIS”

(1) Crippled Scientist invents a suit that turns him into a superhero!

(2) Can't walk or do anything until he puts this suit on!

(3) Then he's like Superman!

(4)= picture of what BE STRONG means here!

e) So, who does the strengthening?

2. “in the Lord” = Jesus Christ! (Kurios not Theos)

a) Remember – God worked His POWER to Raise and Exalt Christ

b) Then It is CHRIST who is every spiritual blessing to us! (Eph 1:3).

3. and in the strength of His might.

a) = Hebrew phrase brought to Greek

- b) = “His mighty strength”
- c) That makes THREE POWER WORDS in this sentence (“[be strong](#)” at the beginning)!
  - (1) Actually very closely related synonyms
  - (2) Just like 1:19 – Paul uses different power words FOR EMPHASIS!
  - (3) Paul: I’ve got every kind of power covered!
- d) “[be strong](#)” = endurance / enduring strength
- e) “[strength](#)” = power that overcomes resistance (active power)
- f) “[might](#)” = inherent power
- g) Means – WE get ENDURING POWER (for a long battle) by operating UNDER CHRIST’s ACTIVE POWER that COMES from ALL of HIS INHERENT POWER!
- h) IOW – MORE POWER THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE is OURS – ALWAYS!
- i) How do we know that He has this power to give us?
- j) Turn back to Eph 1:19-20
 

[Eph 1:19](#) and what is the surpassing greatness of His [power](#) toward us who believe. *These are in accordance with the [working](#) of the [strength of His might](#) [20](#) which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,*

  - (1) Remember – as we saw in the Outline –
    - (a) V.19 BEGINS the SECTION of God’s POWER working out HIS PURPOSES
    - (b) First in Jesus Christ THEN in US!
  - (2) V.19 “[strength of His might](#)” = EXACT SAME PHRASE!
- k) Of course this makes PERFECT SENSE!
  - (1) Paul is referring us back to the DOCTRINAL

## SECTION

(2) Paul – Remember How I spent most of Chp1-3 TEACHING ABOUT the POWER of GOD working in Christ and US?

(3) Remember how I finished that section – PRAYING THAT GOD WOULD STRENGTHEN YOU?

[Ephesians 3:16](#) that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

(4) WELL – now as I close this LETTER, I COMMAND you LET GOD STRENGTHEN YOU!

(5) Live in HIS POWER – NOT YOURS!

#### 4. BEING STRONG IN THE LORD IS THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE!

[Jos 1:6](#) “Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 “Only be strong and very courageous... 9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

[Psalm 27:14](#) Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD.

[2 Timothy 2:1](#) You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

[Colossians 1:9-11](#) For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened

with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

5. Remember the opposite of Christian STRENGTH – NOT a WIMP – BUT RATHER is WORLDLY STRENGTH!

a) Strong IN ONESELF, in the WORLD SYSTEM

1 Corinthians 3:3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

1 Corinthians 3:18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise.

1 Corinthians 4:10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor.

1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

6. Be Careful – Many think that there is NO SUCH THING as CHRISTIAN STRENGTH

a) That ANY KIND of PERSONAL SHOWING of Strength / Confidence / Boldness HAS to be WORLDLY!

b) WRONG!

(1)Strength

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

(2)Confidence

2 Corinthians 1:12 For our proud confidence is this: the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom

but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you.

(3) Boldness

Ephesians 3:11-12 *This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.*

(4) Paul gives the KEY – IN Christ Jesus our Lord – WE HAVE THESE THINGS!

(5) CANNOT JUDGE by EXTERNALS! (ever)

(6) HAVE TO KNOW THE HEART – the SOURCE of the STRENGTH!

7. OK – what is Paul saying here?

- a) A warrior is MUCH more than his ARMOR
- b) UNDER all that ARMOR is a STRONG, ABLE SOLDIER!
- c) You have to BE STRONG first!
- d) Then dress for battle
- e) THEN go fight!

8. So – how do you “be strong”?

- a) A: Live EVERYTHING TAUGHT in EPHESIANS – BY HIS POWER!
- b) = Every aspect of WALKING from Eph 4:1-6:9!!!
- c) We’ve talked about this before! E.g.

Eph 4:17 *So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,*

(1) Paul – stop living the way you used to live

(2) Me:

- (a) Lord, I know no other way to be!
- (b) I’m not sure I can do this – I’ll fail miserably
- (c) I’m comfortable in my old ways

- (i) I can deal with the pain of life and it's problems with my OLD COPING MECHANISMS
- (ii) I've never done it Your way

(3) Christ:

[Eph 5:18](#) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

- (a) Live under the control of My Holy Spirit
- (b) As I've told the Galatians

[Ga 5:16](#) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

(4) Me: OK, Lord, I'll give Your way a try – I'll trust you!

(5) Me:

- (a) This isn't easy!
- (b) I'm doing it Christ's way, but I'm not comfortable!
- (c) I'd be more comfortable the old way!
- (d) A: Lord, I'll trust you and not my feelings
- (e) Lord, bring me through this!

(6) After Christ's way worked

- (a) Christ: See you came through that just fine!
- (b) Remember:

[1 Co 10:13](#) No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

- (c) You endured it with My enduring Strength!
- (d) AND – now you get something YOU NEVER HAD BEFORE WITH YOUR WAY!

Ga 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

(7)What was that last one? SELF-CONTROL!

d) BL: IF you WALK the WALK of Eph 4-6 in Christ's POWER – doing it HIS WAY, you WILL BE STRENGTHENED!

e) He BRINGS you through and MAKES you STRONGER!

f) You know what we call that? SPIRITUAL MATURITY

(1)Knowing HOW to LIVE GODLY

(2)AND – LIVING that WAY in CHRIST'S POWER!

### **C. 11 Put on the full armor of God,**

1. Our SECOND ORDER in the PREPARATION for BATTLE!

2. Remember – both commands have the idea of PUTTING ON CLOTHING!

a) We know that Paul is FAMOUS for his “put on / put off” metaphors!

b) This word “put on” is the word Paul commonly uses in that metaphor

Col 3:12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

3. v.11 “put on” = CLOTHE yourself with the full armor of God

a) let's talk about Greek verbs!

(1)Active: Johnny hit the ball (action described from subject)

(2)Passive: The ball was hit by Johnny (action from receiver point-of-view)

(a) = first command “be strong” = Let yourself be strengthened by Christ

(3) Middle Voice: Somehow you participate in the action! = the verb here!

b) What does the middle voice say?

(1) FIRST – YOU HAVE a RESPONSIBILITY to DO YOUR PART (action)

(2) BUT – You are not DOING ALL of THE ACTION!

(3) BOTH are NECESSARY

(4) First time you rode a bike –

(a) You rode – pedaled, steered, tried to balance

(b) Your dad held you up / steadied you / pushed you

(c) Both necessary!

(d) You participated in the action!

(5) Or DIVERS with wet suits – Someone always has to help them get all that suit and equipment on!

(6) That's the command here – You do your part, God does His – you PARTICIPATE in the ACTION of PUTTING ON the ARMOR of GOD!

(7) God's your ARMOR BEARER who helps you dress yourself!

4. Interesting to Note: Paul doesn't describe the armor of God UNTIL he assumes you've put it on! (nice literary technique!)

5. What is the ARMOR of GOD? (v.13-17)

a) Belt: Girded your loins with truth

b) Breastplate of Righteousness

c) Shoes/Sandals: Shod your feet with preparation of the Gospel of Peace

d) Shield of faith

e) Helmet of salvation

f) Sword of the Spirit

6. Where in the World did Paul come up with the Armor of God?
  - a) Many Commentators - Paul borrowed it from the Soldiers guarding him in Rome!
  - b) BUT – that’s not where it comes from!
  - c) Paul is using a COMMON reference to the ARMOR of GOD in the OT!

***D. God’s Armor: The armor of Yahweh and His Messiah!***

Is 11:4 But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. 5 Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist.

Is 59:17 He put on righteousness like a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; And He put on garments of vengeance for clothing And wrapped Himself with zeal as a mantle.

Is 49:2 He has made My mouth like a sharp sword, In the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me; And He has also made Me a select arrow, He has hidden Me in His quiver.

Is 52:7 How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

1. ALL of these passages PICTURE GOD as a WARRIOR DRESSED FOR BATTLE as He goes forth to fight for His people!
2. Hence – The “full armor of God” is God’s armor! – HE GIVES US HIS ARMOR!
3. What is this saying? THE ARMOR of GOD IS NOT a NEW CONCEPT introduced in EPHESIANS!
  - a) God as a WARRIOR with ARMOR = major OT theme

- b) God's armor protecting us – THROUGHOUT OT!
4. What does Paul do? PULLS it ALL TOGETHER FOR US HERE in Ephesians 6:10-20!

#### **IV. Conclusion**

##### **A. v.10-11a are the CALL to PREPARE BY CLOTHING ourselves**

1. WITH the STRENGTH of CHRIST
2. WITH the ARMOR of GOD

##### **B. TWO COMMANDS**

##### **C. BUT – our preparation isn't done!**

##### **D. We're not YET READY to go into battle!**

1. Your Objective: Stand Firm (Hold your ground!)
2. Your Battlefield: Spiritual
3. Your Mission / Outcome / Victory: Resist and Stand firm

##### **E. As you go through this week – THINK about this reality!**

1. You see the PHYSICAL results of this STRUGGLE
2. Christians who fail in sin
3. Difficulties you face doing ministry / living the Christ life, etc.

##### **F. REALIZE: Satan and his demons are orchestrating their battle with GOD through the world!**

##### **G. You CANNOT be NAÏVE about SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

1. Cannot RELEGATE to the stuff of movies and comic books
2. Satan is real - prowling around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8)
3. IF you have your armor on, are strong in the Lord and STAND FIRM, He'll flee from you!

***H. BUT – if you're on the battlefield in shorts and T-shirt with a cell-phone in hand thinking you'll call the ghost-busters, you'll be devoured before you know it!***



***I. On the other hand***

1. Don't fear Satan (that's not in the passage).
2. Don't blame Satan for everything (Your sin explains most)
3. We'll talk more about all of this in coming weeks!