

**Stand Firm in Warfare:  
The Call to Prepare  
Eph 6:10-13 (Part 2)**

**I. Introduction**

**A. Satan Joke – church on Sunday / Married Your Sister!**

**B. Satan: One of the most difficult topics of Christianity!**

1. Christians:

- a) Some – Don't believe in Satan's existence
- b) All the way to Exorcists – believe we have power to CONTROL SATAN
- c) Inbetween –
  - (1)OVER-EMPHASIS: Satan= ROOT of all problems
    - (a)DENIES Sin responsibility = you a VICTIM
  - (2)UNDER-EMPHASIS: IGNORE COMPLETELY and are VULNERABLE to Supernatural evil – Satan and his minions

**C. Where does the TRUTH LIE? IN SCRIPTURE!**

- 1. Satan is VERY REAL / is a VERY REAL THREAT
- 2. BUT:A DEFEATED FOE– awaiting FINAL judgment

**D. Overview of Eph 6:10-20**

- 1. Review: Where are We in Ephesians? END of the APPLICATION SECTION!
    - a) Walk in Unity (4:1-16) / Holiness (4:17-32) / Love (5:1-6) / Light (5:7-14) / Wisdom (5:15-6:9)
    - b) Stand Firm in Warfare (6:10-20)**
  - 2. Question that should be on ALL of our MINDS: Why switch from WALK to STAND???
- a) Paul – You HAVE ALL the POWER / You HAVE ALL the PRINCIPLES for your WALK – all that I've commanded you!
    - (1)BUT YOU NEED to KNOW – IT WON'T be a "cake walk" ☺ - IT WON'T be EASY!

- b) There is an ENEMY TRYING to STOP you FROM BEING EFFECTIVE for GOD!
- c) Christian LIFE is a “WALK” AND it is WARFARE!
- d) 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!
- e) Why is that? The WARFARE is SPIRITUAL
  - (1) You see the effects – the problems of the world and difficulties keeping commands
  - (2) You DON’T SEE the FORCES of EVIL CAUSING these PROBLEMS
- f) UNTIL I tell you how to PREPARE for BATTLE and HOW TO FIGHT, you’ll struggle AND NOT LIVE VICTORIOUSLY.
- g) All this teaching about our WALK is not POSSIBLE without teaching us about our WARFARE!

### 3. TURN TO Passage to read...

#### 4. Proposition: STAND FIRM in WARFARE

##### a) The CALL to PREPARE (6:10-13)

###### (1) 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,

###### (2) Your Objective: Stand firm

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

###### (3) Your Enemy: Spiritual – Satan & his demons

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.

###### (4) Your Mission Statement: 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.

b) The CALL to FIGHT (6:14-20)

## II. 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 be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

1. = FINAL MAJOR THEME of the BOOK + TWO commands
  - a) Commands -BOTH - PUTTING ON CLOTHING!
2. "be strong in the Lord"
  - a) KEY: COMMAND BUT this is PASSIVE! You don't do the action of strengthening!
    - (1)= LET YOURSELF BE CLOTHED WITH STRENGTH! (Command) BY CHRIST
    - (2)YOU DON'T MAKE YOURSELF STRONG!
  - b) What kind of Strength here? A: ENDURING strength – this is a LIFE-LONG race – not a sprint!
3. and in the strength of His might.
  - a) THREE POWER WORDS in V.11
    - (1)Closely related synonyms
    - (2)Paul: I've got every kind of power covered!
  - b) IOW – MORE POWER THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE is OURS – ALWAYS!
  - c) How do we know that He has this power to give us?
 

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)V.19 BEGINS the SECTION of God's  
POWER working out HIS PURPOSES

(2)V.19 "[strength of His might](#)" = EXACT SAME  
PHRASE!

d) Of course this makes PERFECT SENSE!

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

(2)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,

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

(4)Live in HIS POWER – NOT YOURS!

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

a) Strong IN ONESELF, in the WORLD  
SYSTEM (saw that in Corinthians)

5. 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!

**B. 11 Put on the full armor of God,**

1. = SECOND ORDER in the PREPARATION for BATTLE!

2. Remember – both commands have the idea of **PUTTING ON CLOTHING!**
  - a) Paul **FAMOUS** for put on / put off metaphors!
3. v.11 “[put on](#)” = **CLOTHE** yourself with full armor of God
  - a) 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 –
    - (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!**
4. = God’s Armor: armor of Yahweh and His Messiah!
 

[Is 11:5 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; ...](#)

  - a) = **GOD** as a **WARRIOR DRESSED FOR BATTLE** as He goes forth to fight for His people!
5. Hence –**HE GIVES US HIS ARMOR!**
6. **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!**

***C. We’re not YET READY to go into battle!***

1. **Your orders: Clothe Yourself!**

### III. **Your Objective: Stand firm (v.11b)**

v.11... so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil

**A. Why put on all this strength and armor?**

**B. “so that” = Purpose! = you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil**

**C. you will be able = “dunami” = root for dynamite!**

1. = TO HAVE THE POWER to be ABLE
2. Middle voice again! = You are not in this alone!
  - a) You must do your part of the action (Doing it His way, in His Power)
  - b) God does His part!
3. What are you doing?

**D. to stand firm**

1. For once, “just standing there is the right thing to do!”
  - a) When the boss says, “what are doing just standing there? Get going!” - usually a problem
    - (1)Not here!
    - (2)God told you to stand there!
2. What does it mean to stand firm?
  - a) Word is the basic word for standing
  - b) A: Paul hasn’t told us HOW yet!
  - c) BUT – he will tell us that using the equipment that God gives us in the armor WILL ENABLE US TO STAND FIRM
3. This is the KEY OUTCOME of the PASSAGE
  - a) All the strengthening / All the armor
  - b) SO THAT you STAND FIRM!
  - c) Every previous application = WALK! Now STAND!
  - d) = DEFENSIVE POSITION NOT OFFENSIVE! – HOLD YOUR GROUND

4. Note – Stand firm is ACTIVE voice = YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE to hold your ground!
5. IOW – Since God has enabled you, YOU CAN DO IT!

### **E. against the schemes of the devil**

1. Two key words here: schemes & devil!
2. “the devil” = SATAN = “the slanderer / the accuser”
3. the schemes = root word for “methods”
  - a) when used MILITARILY = STRATEGIES!
  - b) = Satan’s military ploys!
4. Paul hasn’t told us what these are in this section yet!
5. We’ve already seen a perfect example in Ephesians!
 

Eph 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

  - a) We’ll come back to this verse – use it as CONCRETE ILLUSTRATION of Satan’s Schemes

### ***F. Transition***

1. Your orders: Clothe Yourself!
2. Your Objective: to stand firm (v.11b)

## **IV. Your Enemy: Spiritual - Satan & his demons**

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.

### **A. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,**

1. “struggle” = our fight
2. “is” = PRESENTLY, CONTINUALLY!
  - a) = A FIGHT that is CONTINUALLY GOING on NOW and will CONTINUE the rest of our lives!
3. not against flesh and blood,
  - a) Referring back to Satan and forward to the list to follow

- b) Satan and the demons are not “flesh and blood”
- c) IOW – the ENEMY is NOT the WORLD ITSELF
- d) “against” = face-to-face
  - (1)= terminology from his day of fighting
  - (2)Reason some translations say our WRESTLING is not against flesh and blood
  - (3)= first use of “[against](#)” – there are FOUR more to follow!
  - (4)SO – we are in HAND-to-HAND, FACE-to-FACE combat
    - (a)NOT against the world itself
    - (b)BUT HAND-to-HAND combat AGAINST the spiritual forces of Satan described in the rest of the verse

### ***B. BUT – contrast***

### ***C. Then FOUR phrases starting with AGAINST!***

1. Usually Paul would use “and”
2. Usage here is EMPHATIC and RHETORICAL
3. Against this...Against this...
4. Face-to-face COMBAT!
5. Let’s look at the list
 

[but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places](#)
6. See that last phrase? “[in the heavenly places](#)”
  - a) Covers the whole list!
  - b) ALL = SPIRITUAL – NOT flesh and blood!
  - c) The ENEMY is NOT the world itself BUT is in the SPIRITUAL REALM
7. Also the list has HIERARCHY and CHARACTER
  - a) Hierarchy – levels of authority
  - b) Character – the nature of these forces

c) And – never forget! These are created beings –  
 CREATED by CHRIST & DEFEATED by CHRIST at  
 the CROSS

Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Eph 1:10 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

#### **D. against the rulers, against the powers,**

1. Do these together
2. RULERS = Satan & his “staff” – highest level
3. “powers” = usually translated “authorities”
4. See together with Rulers

Col 2:15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

5. Christ’s exalted position is “FAR ABOVE” even the HIGHEST of other RULERS and authority in the Spiritual realm!

Eph 1:20 [God] ...seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, 21 far above all rule and authority ...

6. And – in Eph 3:10 Paul tells us that God used him (Paul) to announce the CHURCH to even the Rulers and authorities of the spiritual realm!

Eph 3:10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.

- a) Show us that there are also “rulers” levels in the good angels!

**E. against the world forces of this darkness,**

1. Multiple translations for this phrase
  - a) NAS: against the world forces of this darkness,
  - b) NKJ: against the world rulers of the darkness of this age
  - c) ESV: against the cosmic powers over this present darkness
2. "world forces" = compound word = "world (cosmos)  
+ "take hold of / seize / grasp"
  - a) = One who ASPIRES TO WORLD CONTROL
3. "of this darkness" = dark side of this world
  - a) Christ rules the Church
  - b) Satan and his forces rule the world system
4. What does this really mean?
  - a) General:
    - (1) Satan is highly organized
    - (2) Exists a hierarchy and division of responsibility power amongst his leaders
    - (3) His ACTIVITIES are CARRIED OUT THROUGH the WORLD!
    - (4) Our world and world system is the BATTLEGROUND!
  - b) Specifics – hard to say – maybe...
    - (1) Infiltration of Political systems
    - (2) Infiltration of large false religions
    - (3) World-wide conspiracies, etc.
5. = WORLD SCALE ACTIVITIES of Satan
6. Brings the whole view of Spiritual warfare down a level!
  - a) Organizationally
  - b) Locality

**F. against the spiritual forces of wickedness**

1. "forces" is added here

2. Literally = “[spirits of wickedness](#)”
3. Paul has come down one more level of detail
  - a) First, BROADER than just the leaders – NOW all THE SPIRITS we fight against (why NAS puts “[forces](#)” here probably)
  - b) Second, = CHARACTER of these demons we fight
4. [spiritual forces of wickedness](#) = “spiritual beings whose essential character/nature is wickedness”
5. [Wickedness](#) = evil / sin

### **G. Let's come back up for air here!**

1. What's Paul's purpose with this list of “againsts”?
  - a) A: Give us an EMPHATIC, INTENSE, teaching on the POWER, EXTENT, and ORGANIZATION of the ENEMY we FACE
2. He is NOT trying to TEACH us the DETAILS of SATAN's military organization
  - a) But in making his point, we DO SEE DETAILS that we would not have otherwise known about!
  - b) Got that?
3. KEY – REMEMBER why this list is here!
 

[Eph 6:11](#) 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*.

  - a) Reason = “FOR” = because
  - b) Paul – I'm TELLING YOU THIS LIST SO THAT you KNOW WHY it is SO IMPORTANT to PREPARE for this BATTLE!
4. Reminds me of the 12 spies Moses sent into the land of Canaan to scout out the resistance!
  - a) God's orders

Nu 13:1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses saying, 2 “Send out for yourself men so that they may spy out the land of Canaan, which I am going to give to the sons of Israel; you shall send a man from each of their fathers’ tribes, every one a leader among them.”

(1) God: Look at WHAT I’M GOING TO GIVE YOU!

b) The Mission proceeds and reports back

21 So they went up and spied out the land...25 When they returned from spying out the land, at the end of forty days,... 27 Thus they told him, and said, “We went in to the land where you sent us; and it certainly does flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. 28 “Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified *and* very large; and moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there. ... 30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, “We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it.” 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us.” 32 So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of *great* size. 33 “There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

(a) WRONG RESPONSE!

(b) Caleb /Joshua – right response – God’s on our side / will give it to us - “for we will surely overcome it” = Trust God

(c) = We do our part / He does His / Victory is assured!

(d) Other 10 – WRONG response – FOCUSED  
on enemy– NOT on WHO GOD is /  
What He expects / What He promises

### **H. KEEP THAT PERSPECTIVE HERE!**

1. PURPOSE of this list is to TELL US WHY we  
NEED to FIGHT THIS BATTLE GOD'S WAY
2. NOT to get us focused on DEMONIC WARFARE  
and TRYING to FIGURE OUT if there are  
DEMONS ruling every city, etc and THEN BE  
SCARED AWAY from the BATTLE!

### **V. Your Mission Statement: 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.

**A. Paul Gives us our CONCLUSION for this PREPARATION!**

**B. Therefore = let me summarize vv.10-13!**

**C. take up the full armor of God = mentioned in v.10 /  
will now detail in v.14-17**

**D. so that you will be able to resist in the evil day,**

1. Summarizes everything taught about
  - a) Schemes of Satan
  - b) Spiritual enemy and battle ground
2. Resist = Action of standing firm (same root as  
stand = stand AGAINST)
3. Uses "in the evil day" =
  - a) every day since the fall! = expect GENERAL,  
everyday evil
  - b) specific attacks YOU will encounter PERSONALLY
  - c) Luke 4 – Satan tempts Jesus in the wilderness  
(1)Satan fails BUT  
Lk 4:13 When the devil had finished every  
temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.

(2) That “opportune time” was the cross – at His arrest in the Garden:

Lk 22:53 “While I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me; but this hour and the power of darkness are yours.”

4. and having done everything = ALL the NECESSARY PREPARATIONS are COMPLETE!
  - a) You have been strengthened by the Lord
  - b) You have put on the armor of God
5. to stand firm = result of resisting! Hold your ground!

**VI. Eph 4:14 SCHEMES of SATAN: The NEGATIVE Purpose for Building the Christ-Like Church**

Eph 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming (=6:11 SCHEMES);

**A. 14 As a result,**

1. SO – “As a result” = Result of Equipping and maturing

**B. we are no longer to be children,**

1. “children” = INFANT up to small children

**C. (no longer children)...tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;**

1. Three phrases that AGAIN BUILD on EACH OTHER
2. tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine

- a) = NAUTICAL TERMS for being DRIVEN & AGITATED by WAVES and WIND
- b) SATAN's SCHEME = to GET YOU agitated MENTALLY, to FLUCTUATE in YOUR views**
- c) Two PICTURES HERE
  - (1) Waves ROCKING the BOAT
  - (2) The BOAT being MOVED DIFFERENT PLACES by the WIND
- d) Q: By what wind? "wind of doctrine"
  - (1) Doctrine = teaching
  - (2) What KIND of TEACHING?

### 3. by the trickery of men,

- a) Q: How is this "wind of doctrine" – i.e. Teaching ACCOMPLISHED?
- b) A: by "trickery" = "Cheating at dice-playing"
- c) We'd call that "throwing LOADED DICE!"
- d) Spiritually = BEING INFLUENCED and PULLED in DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS BY THE CHEATING of PEOPLE in their TEACHING
- e) Next phrase REINFORCES/DEFINES trickery of men"

### 4. by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

- a) This takes the metaphor of "throwing loaded dice" (i.e. "trickery of men") and defines it by
  - (1) Craftiness = SYNONYM to "trickery"
  - (2) Deceitful = "deceitful deception"
  - (3) Scheming = "designed to seduce" (OUR 6:11 WORD)
- b) Put this together Paul says SATAN'S SCHEME is
  - (1) Children TOSSED back and forth –LED ASTRAY
  - (2) BY FALSE TEACHING
    - (a) That is like some playing a game with you using loaded dice to trick you into losing

- c) This “TRICKING YOU” is A DECEPTION
  - (1) DESIGNED to SEDUCE YOU
  - (2) INTO the FALSE TEACHING

**D. OK – so this is what we “ARE NO LONGER”! – A COUPLE of POINTS ABOUT THAT!**

1. How do we resist and stand firm? BOAT in the WATER, WATER in the BOAT picture!
  - a) FACT: WAVES and WIND ARE a REALITY
  - b) We are going to be BUFFETED
    - (1) BUT – we do control how we respond once we are mature.
    - (2) UNTIL then WAVES and WIND buffet us and lead us around!
  - c) We are going to FACE FALSE TEACHING DISGUISED as TRUTH
    - (1) Men’s schemes are DECEITFUL – they appear as REAL CHRISTIANITY!
    - (2) BUT they are DESIGNED to SEDUCE you into FALSE DOCTRINE!
    - (3) Remember – these are CHRISTIANS being LED away from TRUE TEACHING!
    - (4) This is WITHIN the CHURCH!
  - d) Do you know what resisting /standing firm looks like?
    - (1) worst of ALL STORMS – the PERFECT storm
    - (2) Waves are HIGH / Wind is UNBELIEVABLE
    - (3) And the BOAT is SAILING along AS STILL and AS CALM as if the sea and winds were GLASSY STILL
    - (4) The Boat plows along straight and smooth and all this WEATHER slams it BUT IT DOESN’T EVEN ROCK!
    - (5) That is what we are going to Learn how to do next week!