

Spiritual Bootcamp!

Ephesians 6:10-18

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- The “invisible” virus causing the pandemic
- Our “Declaration of Independence” was a declaration for freedom! But for Britain, it was a declaration of war!
- Our declaration of freedom from Satan’s domain becomes a declaration of war!
- We need to be prepared for the spiritual battle in which we are engaged.

Spiritual Bootcamp!

A. Evidence of Spiritual Warfare!

1. We are at war with an invisible spiritual enemy
2. Paul encountered spiritual warfare at Ephesus— Acts 19
 - a. Clear evidence of satanic activity
 - 1) Demonic possession— Acts 9:11, 13-16
 - Acts 19:13-16-- *“Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, ‘We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.’ Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, ‘Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?’ Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”*
 - Acts 9:11-- *“God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul...evil spirits went out of them.”*
 - 2) Occultic practices— Acts 19:17-20
 - Acts 19:17-20-- *“This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also many of those who had practiced magic brought their books and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.”*
 - b. Opposition to Paul’s Ministry
 - 1) From the Jewish religious leaders— Acts 19:8-9
 - Acts 19:8-9-- *“And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.”*
 - 2) From Demetrius and the worship of Diana (Artemis)— Acts 19:26; 1 Corinthians 16:8-9
 - 1 Corinthians 16:8-9-- *“But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. For a great and effective door has been opened to me, and there are many adversaries!”*
 - 3) From false teachers— Acts 20:29-30
 - Acts 20:29-30-- *“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.”*

B. Preparation for Spiritual Warfare!—Ephesians 6:10-18. Two Essentials

1. We need SPIRITUAL POWER—Ephesians 6:10

- Ephesians 6:10-- *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”*
- a. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead and exalted Him to God’s right hand.
 - 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 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 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.”*
- b. How do we tap into this power?
 - Ephesians 3:16-21-- *“you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”*

2. We need SUPERNATURAL PROTECTION—Ephesians 6:11

- Ephesians 6:11-- *“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”*
- a. **God the Father LIMIT our exposure to the enemy.**
 - 1) Illustrated by the experience of Job. Job 1:6-12; 2:6
 - Job 1:6-7-- *“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. And the LORD said to Satan, ‘From where do you come?’ So Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.’”*
 - Job 1:8-11-- *“Then the LORD said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?’ So Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘Does Job fear God for nothing? Have you not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face.’”*
 - Job 1:12-- *“And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.’”*
 - Job 1:22-- *“In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.”*
 - Job 2:6-- *“And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life.’”*
 - 2) Illustrated by the experience of Peter. Luke 22:31-32
 - Luke 22:31-- *“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat!”*
 - Luke 22:32-- *“But I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”*
 - 3) God limits our exposure to the enemy.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13-- *—“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”*

b. **God the Son provides the PROTECTIVE SUIT of armor.**

- Ephesians 6:11-18-- *“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. 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. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”*

1) Three General Observations:

- a) We must put on the armor ourselves.
- b) It's extremely important that we put on this armor. Why? Two reasons:
 - (1) The “craftiness of the devil” —v. 11 *“The wiles of the devil”*
 - (2) The “character” of the day—v. 13 It's evil!
 - 2 Timothy 3:1-5-- *“But know this: that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of god, having a form of godliness but denying its power.”*
- c) It's needed for both DEFENSE and OFFENCE.

2) General nature of the armor: Wrapped up in Jesus Christ. Romans 13:11-14

- Romans 13:11-12a-- *“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is spent, the day is at hand.”*
 - Romans 13:12b-- *“Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”*
 - Romans 13:13-- *“Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.”*
 - Romans 13:14-- *“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”*
- a) Jesus Christ is the TRUTH
 - 1 John 5:20--*“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”*
 - b) Jesus Christ is our RIGHTEOUSNESS
 - 1 Corinthians 1:30-- *“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.”*
 - c) Jesus Christ is our PEACE
 - Ephesians 2:14-- *“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation.”*
 - d) All of the pieces of the permanent armor are found in Jesus Christ. He is our personal protection!

c. **God, the Spirit, protects by energizing our defensive weapon (“the sword of the Spirit”) and by sealing us for the day of redemption.**

d. **How do we practically experience the protection of God?**

- James 4:7-10-- *“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”*
1. We need to first SUBMIT ourselves to God, extending the lordship of Jesus Christ over every area of our lives.
 2. We need to COME NEAR TO GOD by...
 - a) dealing with sin in our lives
 - b) seriously pursuing a relationship with God
 - c) humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God
 3. And then you will have the strength to resist the Devil and HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU.