

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 11-9-14 PM NOTES  
"THE CHRISTIAN'S WARFARE" (PART 1)  
EPHESIANS 6:10-13  
#26 in Series, "The Christians Wealth, Walk, and Warfare"

"The Bible says that Satan's purpose is to blind sinners and beguile Christians, and to hurt and discourage those who belong to God. He will do anything to disturb the mind, deceive the heart, and defeat life. He is actively involved in the world today, and if you read your Bible, you will find that he has always been active. He led Lot into Sodom, got Peter to deny Christ, made Ananias and Sapphira lie to the church, and even dared attack Jesus Christ. If he isn't afraid to attack the Lord of Glory, you should not be surprised to discover that he is willing to attack the most mature Christian." —David Jeremiah

**2 Corinthians 4:4b (ESV)** "...the god of this world..."

I. The Christian's Ability (v. 10)

A. Be Strong (v. 10a)

**Joshua 1:6a (NKJV)** "Be strong and of good courage..."

**Deuteronomy 31:6 (NKJV)** "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

**2 Chronicles 26:14-16a (NKJV)** "<sup>14</sup> Then Uzziah prepared for them, for the entire army, shields, spears, helmets, body armor, bows, and slings to cast stones. <sup>15</sup> And he made devices in Jerusalem, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows and large stones. So his fame spread far and wide, for he was marvelously helped till he became strong. <sup>16</sup> But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction..."

**Proverbs 16:18 (NKJV)** "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

B. In the Lord (v. 10b)

**Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)** "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

C. In the Power of His Might (v. 10c)

*Soldiers of Christ arise and put your armor on,  
Strong in the strength which God supplies through His eternal Son;  
Strong in the Lord of Hosts, and in His mighty power,  
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts, is more than conqueror.*

—Charles Wesley

II. The Christian's Ambition (v. 11)

**Ephesians 4:27 (NKJV)** "nor give place to the devil."

**James 4:7 (NKJV)** "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

**1 Peter 5:9a (NKJV)** "Resist him, steadfast in the faith..."

**Psalms 16:8 (NKJV)** "I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved."

III. The Christian's Activity (v. 12a)

IV. The Christian's Adversary (v. 12b)

A. Satan

**John 8:44b (NKJV)** "... for he is a liar and the father of it."

**2 Corinthians 11:14b (NIV)** "... for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light."

**2 Corinthians 10:5 (NKJV)** "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."

B. Demonic Spirits

1. Principalities

**Daniel 10:13 (NKJV)** "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia."

2. Powers

3. Rulers of the Darkness of This Age

4. Spiritual Hosts of Wickedness

V. The Christian's Ambition Affirmed (v. 13)

**2 John 1:8 (NKJV)** "Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but *that* we may receive a full reward."

**1 Corinthians 9:27 (NKJV)** "But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."

The Christian who has been given all the **wealth** that is described in Ephesians 1-3 and who **walks** in the way described in Ephesians 4:1-6-9 will experience the **warfare** that is described in Ephesians 6:10-13.

The ship that Christians ride to heaven is not a cruise ship; it is a battle ship! I have a small book in my library that I have read through 6 or 7 times that is entitled *Born for Battle*. I love that title, because if you are a Christian, you have been born again and in that new birth, you were born for battle. Our enemy, Satan, is real and you can tell a lot about him by his names. In **Revelation 12:9b (NKJV)** he is called, “the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world”. He is called a “murderer” and a “liar” in John 8:44. He is called “the tempter” in Matthew 4:3. We see one of his names in Hebrew and Greek in **Revelation 9:11b (NKJV)** “whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.” Both of those words mean “destroyer”. Satan is called “the accuser of the brethren” in Revelation 12:11, and in 1 John 5:19 he is called “the evil one”. In 1 Peter 5:8 he is called “a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour”. When we have a perpetual enemy who is a deceiver, murderer, liar, tempter, destroyer, accuser, the evil one, and a roaring lion seeking to devour Christians, we would be pretty naïve if we didn’t expect a constant battle! Well, most Christians are pretty naïve. We seem to be shocked when we find ourselves under attack! Why should we be surprised? If you need more evidence, listen to some of the verbs associated with Satan: He beguiles, seduces, opposes, deceives, hinders, buffets, tempts, and persecutes believers. Satan is also presented in Scripture as a divider. Sometime after his rebellion against God (Isaiah 14:12-17) he divided the angels in heaven with 1/3 of them following him in his rebellion. Satan divided the first family so bad that Cain murdered his brother Abel. He is still hard at work dividing families, denominations and churches. David Jeremiah gives a good summary of our enemy. “The Bible says that Satan’s purpose is to blind sinners and beguile Christians, and to hurt and discourage those who belong to God. He will do anything to disturb the mind, deceive the heart, and defeat life. He is actively involved in the world today, and if you read your Bible you will find that he has always been active. He led Lot into Sodom, got Peter to deny Christ, made Ananias and Sapphira lie to the church, and even dared attack Jesus Christ. If he isn’t afraid to attack the Lord of Glory, you should not be surprised to discover that he is willing to attack the most mature Christian.” [David Jeremiah, *Spiritual Warfare*, page 11]. Add to that the fact that we live in the Devil’s territory called “the world”. We are told in **2 Corinthians 4:4b (ESV)** that he is “...the god of this world...” The world as it is used in this context is our culture’s value system that leaves God out and values what God says is of no value and considers of no value what God says is of great value. The Christian life is not a playground; it is a battleground.

Ephesians 6:10-24 is not the only passage in the Bible dealing with spiritual warfare, but is probably the passage that tells us more about it than any other. Because it is essential that you understand the enemy and his tactics, we are going to spend several weeks in this passage.

## I. The Christian’s Ability (V10)

Does the Christian have the ability to stand in victory over this powerful enemy? The answer is “yes” and “no”. Let’s examine verse 10 more closely by looking at the key phrases.

### A. Be Strong (V10a)

Often God’s people are told to be strong. For instance, God told Joshua in **Joshua 1:6a (NKJV)** “Be strong and of good courage...” Earlier, Moses told the Israelites in **Deuteronomy 31:6 (NKJV)** “Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He *is* the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.” One of Judah’s better kings was Uzziah. He came to the throne at only 16 years of age and reigned for 52 years. Uzziah was greatly used of God, but there was a problem. We read of this king in **2 Chronicles 26:14-16a (NKJV)** “<sup>14</sup> Then Uzziah prepared for them, for the entire army, shields, spears, helmets, body armor, bows, and slings *to cast* stones. <sup>15</sup> And he made devices in Jerusalem, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows and large stones. So his fame spread far and wide, for he was marvelously helped till he became strong. <sup>16</sup>

But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to *his* destruction...” What is the difference between God telling Joshua to be strong and then showing us that Uzziah was a powerful and effective king until he became strong? Human strength by itself promotes and feeds pride. Uzziah as well as so many others in history discovered this about human pride: **Proverbs 16:18 (NKJV)** “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” When God exhorts His people to be strong, it is not the same kind of strong that the world values.

#### B. In the Lord (V10b)

The “strong” that God commands and honors is strength that in the Lord. That is way different than the strength that Uzziah trusted in that led to his downfall. It is way different from the prideful strong that goes before destruction as we saw in Proverbs 16:18. Let’s learn a Greek lesson from Ephesians 6:10. The Greek word translated “be strong” in Ephesians 6:10 is a present tense. That means that it speaks of continuous action. We must continually be strong in the Lord because Satan never takes a vacation or even a coffee break. Your Christian life will be no stronger than its weakest moment. In one weak moment of depending on your own strength, you can give in to the tempter, the enemy of our souls, and make decisions that will mar your testimony and scar your life. Verse 10 literally says, “At all times continue being strong in the Lord.” The word translated “be strong” is in the passive voice. That means that the subject is being acted upon. It is literally, “be being made strong”. In other words it is not a strength that we work up; it is a strength that is given to us.

Notice the source of this strength that we receive. It is “in the Lord”. At salvation, we are united to Christ. In union with Christ, what He has is ours. His righteousness is ours (2 Corinthians 5:21); His acceptance with the Father is ours (Ephesians 1:6). His victory over sin is ours (Romans 6:7). His victory over death is ours (1 Corinthians 15:55-57). Because we are “in Christ”, His strength is ours! That’s why we read in **Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)** “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” The source of our strength over Satan, demons, and all temptation is “in the Lord”. The Lord’s strength is given to us because we are in union with Him; we are “in the Lord”. That is not just semantics! When you seek to go against the enemy with only your strength and abilities it would be like taking on a tank with a slingshot. You are going to be pulverized.

Let’s look a little more closely at this strength.

#### C. In the Power of His Might (V10c)

The words translated “power” and “might” are similar, but they are two distinct words in the Greek. The word translated “power” (*kratos*) means force, manifested power, or dominion. The word translated “might” (*ischus*) means inherent ability. In other words our Lord possesses as an attribute of deity all of the might we will ever need to walk in victory and dominion over this enemy of our souls.

The truths of Ephesians 6:10 are foundational to practical, everyday victory in spiritual warfare. Look to the Lord Jesus Christ! If you have truly repented and savingly believed in Jesus Christ, you are “in Him”. You have His strength, His power, and His might. That is what you trust in and not in your own strength.

The great hymn writer Charles Wesley wrote these words in the hymn *Soldiers of Christ Arise*:

*Soldiers of Christ arise and put your armor on,  
Strong in the strength which God supplies through His eternal Son;  
Strong in the Lord of Hosts, and in His mighty power,  
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts, is more than conqueror.*

## II. The Christian’s Ambition (V11)

We will focus on the armor later, but here I want us to focus on our goal, our ambition in this daily conflict with these spiritual enemies. Our main task is not to “bind” the devil; it is not to “rebuke” the devil; it is certainly not to “taunt” the devil. Our goal, our task, our ambition is to **stand** against the wiles of the devil. The word translated “stand” means to be firm, to be immovable. Our command is literally to “stand your ground”. What ground? The ground that Christ won for us on Calvary’s cross! That is what Paul was speaking of in **Ephesians 4:27 (NKJV)** “nor give place to the devil.” When we fail to stand, we give place (territory won by Christ) to the Devil. Our task is to stand in the power of His might and give

not an inch to this Jesus defeated foe! We do not fight for victory; we fight from victory. All of the armor that we will look at is for the front side. We are to never turn and run; we are to stand. This is the same thing that James said in **James 4:7 (NKJV)** “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” The Greek words for “stand” and “resist” are from the same root and have basically the same meaning. Peter says the same thing referring to the devil in **1 Peter 5:9a (NKJV)** “Resist him, steadfast in the faith...” For a believer that has that commitment to stand, the tactic of the Devil is to get you to just give a little. The devil knows that you are not going to turn and run away, but you may move a little and next week a little more until you’ve gone far away from the ground Christ won for us on the cross. **Psalms 16:8 (NKJV)** “I have set the Lord always before me; because *He is* at my right hand I shall not be moved.”

Let me re-emphasize that we are to stand against the devil; we are not told to “chase”, “pursue”, or in any way be the aggressor in the spiritual warfare. We focus on making disciples and the devil comes against us. Recently in West Africa we saw a church sign that gave the name of the church and the Pastor’s name. Below his name, it said “Pastor to the whole world and the demon destroyer.” We didn’t really think that was the church we wanted to partner with. We don’t attack; we stand. When we focus on making disciples, we will always be attacked – ALWAYS! We respond by standing against the wiles of the evil. What are the “wiles of the devil”? In some other translations that word is translated “strategies”, “schemes”, and “tactics”. The Greek word is *methodeia*. We get the word “methods” from that. In World War II, General Patton was effective against the German tank expert, Rommel because he studied Rommel’s tactics and knew what this enemy would do in battle.

Our goal, our ambition in spiritual warfare is to know the devil’s methods so that we can stand and give no ground that Jesus won for us on Calvary’s cross.

We’ve seen the Christian’s ability and ambition.

### III. The Christian’s Activity (V12a)

Our activity as we stand against the enemy is called wrestling against him. Some translations translate that “struggle”, and that’s not a wrong translation, but I like “wrestle”. The Greek word was used of “hand to hand combat”. The wrestling that Paul was speaking of was not the entertainment that we think of when we think of wrestling today. It was usually battle to the death. There are some accounts that tell us that in the milder battles the loser’s eyes were gouged out. Typically, it was a battle until the death. The point is that this battle is no tiptoeing through the tulips. We are in a battle that has eternal consequences. It’s easy to be a soldier in a parade. The guns aren’t loaded and the enemy isn’t around. In battle, the guns are loaded and the enemy is there and he is throwing everything he’s got at us! There are too many “parade soldiers” in the Lord’s army who want to march to traditions and aren’t interested in getting down in the dirty trenches and put their lives on the line. Too many who say they are the Lord’s have made a pact with the enemy – “I won’t bother you if you won’t bother me”.

### IV. The Christian’s Adversary (V12b)

First, we are told who the adversary is not. It is not other human beings (flesh and blood). The worst person in your life is not your true problem. They may be the instrument that your real enemy is using, but they are not the enemy! Your brother or sister is not the enemy; the enemy is the enemy! Satan and demonic spirits are the power behind the people. Let’s examine the enemy a little closer.

#### A. Satan

Technically, most of us don’t battle directly with the fallen angel named Lucifer. He is the Commander and Chief of demon armies and the strategist behind the attacks, but don’t be guilty of assigning attributes of deity to the devil. He is not a god. He is a created angel who rebelled and was cast out and though his doom was sealed when Jesus died and then defeated death by coming out of the grave on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, he is still active in the world until that time that he is cast into the lake of fire that Jesus said was prepared just for him. Satan is not omnipresent. He is not slowed by a flesh and blood body, but he cannot be dealing with some terrorist in the middle east and dealing with you at the same time. He has an army of demon

spirits that he commands, organizes, and directs. It is not wrong to say that you are in conflict with the devil because he is the commander and the strategist of the demon hoards.

His strategy is not all that complicated. He operates by using deception. He is described in **John 8:44b (NKJV)** "...for he is a liar and the father of it." **2 Corinthians 11:14b (NIV)** "...for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." Every false religion was instituted by this deceiver. Every godless philosophy has Satan as its architect. He uses flesh and blood, but he is the power behind it. On a more personal level, his established strategy is to implant lies into our thought lives. That is why we are admonished in **2 Corinthians 10:5 (NKJV)** "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". We will deal with this strategy of the enemy when we wear the armor – the shield of faith which extinguishes the fiery darts of the wicked one. As we will see, those fiery darts are the lying thoughts he implants into our minds.

## B. Demonic Spirits

Demons are as real as Satan is real. They are all fallen, rebellious angels who followed the archangel Lucifer in his rebellion. We are told in Revelation that a third of the angels rebelled. We don't know how many demons there are, but I believe that it could be in the 10's or 100's of billions. We know that there are so many angels that they cannot be numbered (Hebrews 12:22 – "an innumerable company of angels") and one third of an innumerable host is a huge number.

What is described in verse 12 is Satan's demon army and its distinct rankings and divisions. We cannot be sure what all of these divisions refer to but we do have some insight.

1. Principalities – This is literally "princes over palatials". We speak of a "municipality" which is an area of land over which there is governmental jurisdiction. Perhaps there are high ranking demons over certain geographic areas. We see an example in the book of Daniel 10:13. An angel is explaining why the answer to Daniel's prayer took so long. **Daniel 10:13 (NKJV)** "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia." This is obviously not talking of flesh and blood leaders but angelic beings.

2. Powers – We are not sure what this ranking of angels do. They are mentioned in 1 Peter 3:22.

3. Rulers of the darkness of this age – This could possibly be referring to demons over false philosophies or religions. Generally, truth is light and lies are darkness.

4. Spiritual hosts of wickedness – perhaps this refers to the lowest rank of demons who simply carry out the orders of their Commander and Chief in the lives of human beings on earth.

Paul's purpose here is not to intricately explain the details of the demonic rankings, but to help us see that they are many and they are organized and this is a real battle. In my opinion, much of the teaching about demons and naming them and mapping their territory are not justified from Scripture. Someone has compared the organization of the demonic spirits to the mafia. They have infiltrated the world system and control much of what happens in the world.

## V. The Christian's Ambition Affirmed (V13)

In the weeks to come, we will be examining the armor. What I want you to see in this verse today is the affirmation of verse 10. Our ambition, our aim, our goal is to stand firm against every attack and attempted deception of the enemy. A true Christian cannot lose his salvation, but our reward can be lost. **John 1:8 (NKJV)** "Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but *that* we may receive a full reward." Paul expressed something that motivated him to stand and withstand every attack of the enemy in **1 Corinthians 9:27 (NKJV)** "But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." He was not referring to losing his salvation but his ministry and being put on the shelf and deemed unusable by God.

We are in a war. There are casualties, there are many wounds, but we have been given all that we need to walk in the victory that is ours in Christ and to stand against the enemy holding the ground that Jesus has won for us.

