

Ephesians 6:12-14

6:12 – For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

3754 [e]	3756 [e]	1510 [e]	1473 [e]	3588 [e]	3823 [e]	4314 [e]	129 [e]	2532 [e]	4561 [e]	235 [e]	4314 [e]
hoti	ouk	estin	hēmin	hē	palē	pros	haima	kai	sarka	alla	pros
12	ὅτι	οὐκ	ἔστιν	ἡμῖν	ἡ	πάλη	πρὸς	αἷμα	καὶ	σάρκα	, ἀλλὰ πρὸς
because	not	is	to us	the	wrestling	against	blood	and	flesh	but	against
Conj	Adv	V-PIA-3S	PPro-D1P	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Prep	N-ANS	Conj	N-AFS	Conj	Prep

3588 [e]	746 [e]	4314 [e]	3588 [e]	1849 [e]	4314 [e]	3588 [e]	2888 [e]	3588 [e]	4655 [e]
tas	archas	pros	tas	exousias	pros	tous	kosmokratoras	tou	skotous
τὰς	ἀρχάς	, πρὸς	τὰς	ἐξουσίας	, πρὸς	τοὺς	κοσμοκράτορας	τοῦ	σκότους
the	rulers	against	the	authorities	against	the	cosmic powers	of the	darkness
Art-AFP	N-AFP	Prep	Art-AFP	N-AFP	Prep	Art-AMP	N-AMP	Art-GNS	N-GNS

3778 [e]	4314 [e]	3588 [e]	4152 [e]	3588 [e]	4189 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	2032 [e]
toutou	pros	ta	pneumatika	tēs	ponērias	en	tois	epouraniois
τούτου	, πρὸς	τὰ	πνευματικὰ	τῆς	πονηρίας	ἐν	τοῖς	ἐπουρανίοις
this	against	the	spiritual [forces]	-	of evil	in	the	heavenly realms
DPro-GNS	Prep	Art-ANP	Adj-ANP	Art-GFS	N-GFS	Prep	Art-DNP	Adj-DNP

1. This is why we need divine armor. We are in a spiritual battle against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm.
2. This battle is not against other people, but against spiritual beings who are influencing people.
3. The listed positions from the “heavenly places”:
 - a. “rulers” – *archas* – from *arche* defined as “beginning, origin” and used to refer to “rule in the kingly or magisterial sense” and quasi-personal (“quasi” meaning “seemingly” “apparently but not really”) sense as “rulers” and “magistrates” and then simply as “beginning”.
 - b. “authorities” – *exousias* – “power to act, “authority” used to refer to “power, authority, weight in morals and influence” and, again used in a quasi-personal sense in later Judaism of spiritual power influencing an earthly power.
 - c. “cosmic powers over this present darkness” – *kosmokratoras* – a word made of two words *kosmos* (“world”) and *krateo* (“to rule”). It is used to refer to “rulers of this world that are asserting their independence from God such as angelic or demonic powers controlling the physical/present world.
 - d. “spiritual forces of evil” – *pneumatika tes ponerias* – The Greek says “spirituals of evil” from the heavenly realms that are making their presence known in our temporal world.
4. Eph. 2:2 these powers are seen “in the air” – “in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience”

- a. Three spheres: Earth where we live; Atmosphere (Air) where angelic activity takes place; Heaven which encircles the earth and atmosphere where God resides on his throne.
- b. Colossians 3:1 – “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”
- c. Philippians 3:20 – “But our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ”
- d. Ep. 2:6 – “and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus
- e. Ep. 1:18-21 – “having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that 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 rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.”

6:13 – 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 firm.

1223 [e]	3778 [e]	353 [e]	3588 [e]	3833 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	2443 [e]	1410 [e]	436 [e]
Dia	touto	analabete	tēn	panoplian	tou	Theou	hina	dynēthēte	antistēnai
13 Διὰ	τούτο	, ἀναλάβετε	τὴν	πανοπλίαν	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	, ἵνα	δυνηθῆτε	ἀντιστῆναι
Because of	this	take up	the	complete armor	-	of God	so that	you may be able	to withstand
Prep	DPro-ANS	V-AMA-2P	Art-AFS	N-AFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	Conj	V-ASP-2P	V-ANA

1722 [e]	3588 [e]	2250 [e]	3588 [e]	4190 [e]	2532 [e]	537 [e]	2716 [e]	2476 [e]
en	tē	hēmera	tē	ponēra	kai	hapanta	katergasamenoι	stēnai
ἐν	τῇ	ἡμέρᾳ	τῇ	πονηρᾷ	, καὶ	ἅπαντα	κατεργασάμενοι	, στῆναι .
in	the	day	-	evil	and	all things	having done	to stand
Prep	Art-DFS	N-DFS	Art-DFS	Adj-DFS	Conj	Adj-ANP	V-APM-NMP	V-ANA

1. We need the Lord’s armor because even though we are victors in Christ we are constantly facing:
 - a. The devil’s schemes (6:11)
 - b. Evil spiritual powers in the heavenlies (6:12)
2. Because of the above two reasons Paul uses the imperative again commanding the Ephesian’s to “take up” or “put on” the whole armor of God which has been provided for the believer’s use in time.
3. The armor of God will enable the believer to be able to:
 - a. “withstand in the evil day”
 - b. “to stand firm”
4. “the evil day”
 - a. Could be a general reference to this age we live here on earth in time as is used in Galatians and earlier in Ephesians, but not the exact wording:
 - i. Galatians 1:4 – “who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father”

- ii. Ephesians 5:16 – “making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.”
 - b. Could be a future day the church is to be preparing for when we will face the eschatological challenges of the final days just as Jerusalem faced them in the Babylonian destruction and will face again in the final seven years:
 - i. Jeremiah 17:17 – “Be not a terror to me; you are my refuge in the day of disaster.” (Babylon)
 - ii. Jeremiah 17:18 – “Let those be put to shame who persecute me, but let me not be put to shame; let them be dismayed, but let me not be dismayed; bring upon them the day of disaster; destroy them with double destruction!” (Babylon)
 - iii. Obadiah 13 – “Do not enter the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; do not gloat over his disaster in the day of his calamity; do not loot his wealth in the day of his calamity.” (Babylon)
 - iv. Daniel 12:1 – “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.” (Anti-christ)
 - c. Could be days of testing in the individual believer’s life.
5. The key is to be able to “stand” your ground without giving up your position, your territory, your soul. Do not compromise the Truth or the Kingdom of the Lord.

6:14 – Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

2476 [e]	3767 [e]	4024 [e]	3588 [e]	3751 [e]	4771 [e]	1722 [e]	225 [e]	2532 [e]
stēte	oun	perizōsamēnoi	tēn	osphyn	hymōn	en	alētheia	kai
14 ΣΤΗ̃ΤΕ	οὖν ,	περιζωσάμενοι	τὴν	ὀσφὺν	ὑμῶν	ἐν	ἀληθείᾳ ,	καὶ
Stand	therefore	having girded	the	loins	of you	with	truth	and
V-AMA-2P	Conj	V-APM-NMP	Art-AFS	N-AFS	PPro-G2P	Prep	N-DFS	Conj

1746 [e]	3588 [e]	2382 [e]	3588 [e]	1343 [e]
endysamēnoi	ton	thōraka	tēs	dikaiosynēs
ἐνδυσάμενοι	τὸν	θώρακα	τῆς	δικαιοσύνης ,
having put on	the	breastplate	-	of righteousness
V-APM-NMP	Art-AMS	N-AMS	Art-GFS	N-GFS

1. “stand” is mentioned for the fourth time, but this time it is different.
 - a. 6:11 and 6:12 (2x) “stand” was written as a purpose clause three times which was meant to say:
 - i. 6:11 – “in order that you may be able to stand”
 - ii. 6:13 – “in order that you may be able to withstand...and...to stand”
 - b. Now, here in 6:14 “stand” is written as an imperative which means it is now a command to execute since you have been prepared in 6:11-13. We are to “stand, therefore!”
2. Paul then begins to identify the “panoply of God” introduced in 6:11 and 13

3. There are four participles which follow the imperative “stand”. This means these are the actions the believer will have need to have taken if they are going to be able to fulfill the imperative “stand”:
 - a. “Having fastened the belt of truth” (6:14)
 - b. “having put on the breastplate of righteousness” (6:14)
 - c. “Having fitted your feet” (6:15)
 - d. “having taken up the shield of faith” (6:16)
4. “having girded the loins of you with truth”
 - a. The OT image comes from Isaiah 11:4-5 where the Messiah “with righteousness shall he be girded around his waist, and with truth bound around his sides.”
 - b. The Roman soldier image likely refers to the leather apron worn under the armor which was used to protect his thighs. It is not a reference to the belt that held the sheath for the sword or the protective girdle worn over the armor.
 - c. This reference is to create an image of the Christian soldier be ready and prepared for vigorous work since securely fastening clothing around the waist indicated the individual was ready for work as in:
 - i. Luke 12:35, 37 – “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning...Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.”
 - ii. Luke 17:8 – “Will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink’?”
 - iii. 1 Peter 1:13 – “Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

1352 [e]	328 [e]	3588 [e]	3751 [e]	3588 [e]	1271 [e]	4771 [e]	3525 [e]	5049 [e]
Dio	anazōsamēnoi	tas	osphyas	tēs	dianoias	hymōn	nēphontes	teleiōs
13 Διὸ	ἀναζωσάμενοι	τὰς	ὀσφύας	τῆς	διανοίας	ὑμῶν	, νήφοντες ,	τελείως
Therefore	having girded up	the	loins	of the	mind	of you	being sober-minded	fully
Conj	V-APM-NMP	Art-AFP	N-AFP	Art-GFS	N-GFS	PPro-G2P	V-PPA-NMP	Adv

1679 [e]	1909 [e]	3588 [e]	5342 [e]	4771 [e]	5485 [e]	1722 [e]	602 [e]	2424 [e]	5547 [e]
elpisate	epi	tēn	pheromenēn	hymīn	charin	en	apokalypsei	Iēsou	Christou
ἐλπίζατε	ἐπὶ	τὴν	φερομένην	ὑμῖν	χάριν	ἐν	ἀποκαλύψει	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ
set [your] hope	upon	the	being brought	to you	grace	in	[the] revelation	of Jesus	Christ
V-AMA-2P	Prep	Art-AFS	V-PPM/P-AFS	PPro-D2P	N-AFS	Prep	N-DFS	N-GMS	N-GMS

- iv. Hebrews 12:1 – “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”
- v. Job 38:3(1-3) – “Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me.”

- vi. Isaiah 5:27 (the opposite, lazy, relaxed when the Lord calls the nations to battle) – “None is weary, none stumbles, none slumbers or sleeps, not a waistband is loose, not a sandal strap broken...”
 - vii. 1 Kings 18:46 – “And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, and he gathered up his garment and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.”
 - viii. 2 Kings 4:29 – “Elisha said to Gehazi, “Tie up your garment and take my staff in your hand and go. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not reply. And lay my staff on the face of the child.”
 - ix. Proverbs 31:17 – “She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong.”
 - d. Our common expression “roll up your sleeves” could be a similar expression.
 - e. In the ancient world the traveler, the runner, the laborer and the warrior would gather the long, loose garments and gird the loins for activity.
5. “Truth”
- a. 2 Samuel 25:13 – “And David said to his men, “Every man strap (gird) on his sword!” And every man of them strapped on his sword. David also strapped (girded) on his sword. And about four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage.”
 - b. As seen in Isaiah 11:5 the Messiah truth bound around his sides
 - c. Truth in Ephesians:
 - i. 1:13 – “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,
 - ii. 4:15 – “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,”
 - iii. 4:21 – “assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,”
 - iv. 4:24 – “and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”
 - v. 5:9 – “(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true)”
 - d. Truth is reality, the true philosophy. Opposed would be the worldly philosophies and the deceit of the cosmos.
6. “Breastplate of righteousness”
- a. Breastplate covered the chest and protected against blows and arrows.
 - b. Isaiah 59:17 – “He put on righteousness as his body armor and placed the helmet of salvation on his head. He clothed himself with a robe of vengeance and wrapped himself in a cloak of divine passion”
 - c. Isaiah 11:5 – “Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.”
 - d. This righteousness could be the positional righteousness we have in Christ (as in Romans 3:21-26), but since it is something we are to “put on” it would seem to be our commitment to righteous acts and life style. This would match Paul’s ethical righteousness in our lives as seen in:
 - e. Ephesians 4:24 – “to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”
 - f. Ephesians 5:9 – “(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),”
 - g. This is again a reference to putting on the new self created to be like Christ of 4:24

6:15 – and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

2532 [e]	5265 [e]	3588 [e]	4228 [e]	1722 [e]	2091 [e]	3588 [e]	2098 [e]	3588 [e]	1515 [e]
kai	hypodēsamenoi	tous	podas	en	hetoimasia	tou	euangeliou	tēs	eirēnēs
15	καὶ	ὑποδησάμενοι	τοὺς πόδας	ἐν	ἐτοιμασίᾳ	τοῦ	εὐαγγελίου	τῆς	εἰρήνης ;
	and	having shod	the feet	with	[the] readiness	of the	gospel	-	of peace
	Conj	V-APM-NMP	Art-AMP N-AMP	Prep	N-DFS	Art-GNS	N-GNS	Art-GFS	N-GFS

6:16 – In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

1722 [e]	3956 [e]	353 [e]	3588 [e]	2375 [e]	3588 [e]	4102 [e]	1722 [e]	3739 [e]	
en	pasin	analabontes	ton	thyreon	tēs	pisteōs	en	hō	
16	ἐν	πᾶσιν ,	ἀναλαβόντες	τὸν	θυρεὸν	τῆς	πίστεως ,	ἐν ᾧ	
	besides	all	having taken up	the	shield	-	of faith	with which	
	Prep	Adj-DNP	V-APA-NMP	Art-AMS	N-AMS	Art-GFS	N-GFS	Prep	RelPro-DMS

1410 [e]	3956 [e]	3588 [e]	956 [e]	3588 [e]	4190 [e]	3588 [e]	4448 [e]	4570 [e]
dynēsethe	panta	ta	belē	tou	ponērou	ta	pepyrōmena	sbsai
δυνήσεσθε	πάντα	τὰ	βέλη	τοῦ	πονηροῦ	τὰ	πεπυρωμένα	σβέσαι .
you will be able	all	the	arrows	of the	evil one	-	flaming	to quench
V-FIM-2P	Adj-ANP	Art-ANP	N-ANP	Art-GMS	Adj-GMS	Art-ANP	V-RPM/P-ANP	V-ANA

6:17 – and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

2532 [e]	3588 [e]	4030 [e]	3588 [e]	4992 [e]	1209 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	
kai	tēn	perikephalaian	tou	sōtēriou	dexasthe	kai	tēn	
17	καὶ	τὴν	περικεφαλαίαν	τοῦ	σωτηρίου	δέξασθε ,	καὶ	τὴν
	And	the	helmet	-	of salvation	take	and	the
	Conj	Art-AFS	N-AFS	Art-GNS	Adj-GNS	V-AMM-2P	Conj	Art-AFS

3162 [e]	3588 [e]	4151 [e]	3739 [e]	1510 [e]	4487 [e]	2316 [e]
machairan	tou	Pneumatōs	ho	estin	rhēma	Theou
μάχαιραν	τοῦ	Πνεύματος ,	ὃ	ἐστίν	ῥῆμα	Θεοῦ ,
sword	of the	Spirit	which	is	[the] word	of God
N-AFS	Art-GNS	N-GNS	RelPro-NNS	V-PIA-3S	N-NNS	N-GMS

6:18 – praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

6:19 – and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,

6:20 – for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.