

Living Worthy of My Calling, Pt. 30
“The Battle Is the Lord’s – therefore Fight!”

Ephesians 6:10-18

The Christian is called to be very active in his advance in holiness,
and has most wonderful encouragement to do so!

1. Our Encouragement: The Battle is the Lord’s

- (1) A fitting summary statement of the truths declared in Ephesians 1-3

- (2) Portrayed throughout the Scriptures – and powerfully so in the Book of Revelation:
 - **God Himself reigns supreme** in this battle cf. Rev. 4 & 5

 - **Jesus Christ is the True Conqueror** – that One who carries forward the battle plan
cf. Rev. 1:1,5,6; 19:11-16

 - **Christians are “Overcomers”** – called and empowered (by grace alone!) into this great battle.
cf. Rev. 1:6; 5:8-10; 6:10; 8:3-6; 19:14

2. Our Privilege: We are called to fight and empowered to fight in the battle.

- (1) **We are to be very active** – we are to fight:

Eph. 6:11 “Put on the whole armor of God”
:12 “we wrestle”
:13 “take up the whole armor of God”
:13 “that you may be able to withstand...and having done all, to stand.”
:14 “Stand therefore, having girded...having put on”
:15 “having shod”
:16 “taking the shield of faith”
:17 “take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit”
:18 “praying always...being watchful”

- (2) **Errant teaching runs counter** to this biblical emphasis:

-“**Higher Life**” teaching and its “catch phrases”

- “let go and let God” “stop struggling”
- “surrender yourself” “are you willing to surrender absolutely?”

- **Problems:**

- 1- This teaching or the solution is generally presented as that which can be realized or appropriated in one meeting – a one-time crisis experience.
- 2- It centers the hindrance in the will. For the true believer,

the hindrance or obstruction is not in the will, but in the understanding.

- 3- It seems to make all of the exhortations of Scripture unnecessary!

(3) Throughout the Scriptures we are called to action

- General: James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9; Rom. 8:13; Phil. 2:12; Eph. 4 “put off, put on”
- Military metaphor: Here in Eph. 6; 1 Cor. 16:13; 1 Tim. 6:12
- The Apostle’s own example: Col. 1:12; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Phil. 3:12-14

(4) Crucial to understand the N.T. Pattern of Sanctification

- 1- **I must understand and believe the gospel – that God has done everything in Christ!**

-2- **I must understand my own position in Christ – and believe it!**

-3- **I must understand the nature of indwelling sin**

- 4- **I am called to obey, to act, not in my own strength, but in that strength that God has supplied in Christ.** “be strong in the Lord”

Further Application

- 1.

- 2.