

**Text: Eph. 6:10** “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.”

**Intro:** We serve the victorious Jesus, but we live in an adversarial world—Jesus said “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

—“be strong in the Lord” (Eph. 6:10)

—Paul has given us the Lord’s provision for obtaining strength; the Holy Spirit—**Eph. 3:16** “that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,”

—Paul then warns us against throwing that provision of strength away—**Eph. 4:30** “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

—Paul has been building his teaching on spiritual warfare throughout Ephesians.

—We trust His strength, we put on His armor

—Christian living is a war-zone—**Eph. 6:12** “For we do not wrestle (πάλη palē intense struggle) 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.”

—Repetition of the word “against” emphasizes the true enemy.

—Armor is given “so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” (**Eph. 6:11**)—The word “schemes” is from the Greek μεθοδεΐα methodeia meaning crafty scheming with the intent to deceive.

—The devil does not engage us in open warfare, but deals in deceit, that we most be armed against.

—Our enemy is not weak humanity but powerful evil spiritual foes “...spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (**Eph. 6:12**)

—“heavenly realms/places” used five times, is not geographical; but the spiritual realm that is far more real than the physical.

—The same Greek word is used in each of these verses ἐπουράνιος epouranios the sphere of spiritual activities.

—This is the place of spiritual blessings—“who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” (*Eph. 1:3*)

—God has seated Jesus here—“when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,” (*Eph. 1:20*)

—We are seated in the heavenly realms—“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,” (*Eph. 2:6*)

—The manifold wisdom of God is demonstrated by God in the heavenly realms—“through the church the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,” (*Eph. 3:10*)

—This is the place where our enemy dwells—“against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (*Eph. 6:12*)

—The heavenly realms, is the spiritual realm, the place of powerful blessing and the place of spiritual conflict.

—God has no challenger; the devil and his minions are created beings who have only the power God allows, and only as long as God allows it.

—For reasons known only to God, Satan and his minions are allowed to wreak havoc upon the earth and the servants of God.

—We are not left defenseless—*2Cor. 10:4* “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.”

—But Paul has already shown Jesus in full authority over these powers—*Eph. 1:19–21* “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.”

—We are warned with the pronouncement of a “Woe” of spiritual battle in *Rev. 12:12* “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”

—The devil’s wrath created by his defeat in heaven has turned toward the earth.

—God is proving to all of the universe that we who are His people can be faithful to Him in the worst of conditions. (*Eph 3:10*)

—*Eph. 6:11* “Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

—The word “schemes” is from the Greek μεθοδεΐα methodeia which are an attempt to cause us to doubt and question the very Word of God—“Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” (*Gen. 3:1*)

—Another of his “schemes” is to bring doubt about what God has declared to be “good”—“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.” (*Gen. 3:6*)

—*Eph. 6:13* “Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”

—Notice it is not “if” but “when the day of evil comes,” be certain at some point in time the enemy will turn his attention to you!

—The battle begins with the attempt to gain a “foothold”, from the Greek word τόπος topos means a spot of ground, or a precise spot—*Eph. 4:27* “and do not give the devil a foothold.”

—Each element of the armor is in fact the Word of God.

—*Eph. 6:14* “Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place.”

—Notice it all begins with “Stand” (ἵστημι histēmi to choose your ground) you have fixed your position and will not yield.

—The “belt of truth” means that you accept the Bible as truth and follow it with integrity; it holds all of the armor together.

—To put on the “breastplate of righteousness” is refusing to embrace any element of doubt or question of God’s Word—A good breastplate text is *Prov. 3:5–6*.

—**Eph. 6:15** “and with your *feet fitted with the readiness* that comes from the gospel of peace.”

—The word “*fitted*” from the Greek ὑποδέω hypodeō meaning to be bound to you; laced and properly fitted to your fit.

—The shoes on your feet are literally “*readiness*” ready for action.

—The source of this “*readiness*” from the Greek ἐτοιμασία hetoimasia meaning ready for action; to go and proclaim the Gospel.

—**Eph. 6:16** “above all, taking the *shield of faith* with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.”

—This is rejecting temptation to doubt, telling yourself the truth and choosing on the basis of that truth to do the right thing.

—The word “*faith*” is from the Greek πίστις pístis a firm persuasion; that which is worthy of belief; it is a truth on which life itself can be based.

—The “*shield*” from the Greek θυρεός thureos literally means a door, more properly the material that forms the door; the door closes off all ability of the enemy to get fiery darts through to your life.

—**Eph. 6:17** “And take the *helmet of salvation*, and the *sword of the Spirit*, which is the word of God.” (Repetated in **1Th. 5:8**)

—This is intended to keep us secure in our salvation, not doubting by intellectual surrender, or caught up in any of the heretical teaching—**2Cor. 10:5** “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.”

—The “*sword of the Spirit which is the word of God*” is both a *defensive weapon and offensive weapon*—**Heb. 4:12** “For *the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword*, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

**5**  
**Spiritual Warfare**  
**Eph 6:10**  
**Pastor C.E. Bowden**

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