

# Ephesians: Part XI

The Bride's Standing in Christ & Conclusion

Chapter 6:10-24

Tuesday, March 15, 2016



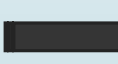


# Standing against the Wiles of the Devil (6:10-13)

- “(10) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (11) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (13) Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”



## Verse 10: A Call to Arms

- Paul gave a call to arms because Satan is on the prowl, ready to pounce upon the untrained and unsuspecting soldier of the Cross. His purpose is to steal away the wealth and disrupt the unity of both church and home with the intention of ultimately destroying God's purpose. It is clearly a time for war.
- In order to war effectively, we must strengthen the "Inner Man"
- The word "strength" (Greek: *endunamoo* [en-doo-nam-o-o]) means "enabling" or "to empower" (*en*, "in," *dunamis*, "power"). The same word is also used in Acts 9:22; Philippians 4:13; 1 Timothy 1:12; 2 Timothy 4:17. 

# Strength

## 10 Things God wants you to remember

I will give you rest.  
I will strengthen you.  
I will answer you.  
I believe in you.  
I will bless you.  
I am for you.  
I will not fail you.  
I will provide for you.  
I will be with you  
I love you.

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- “But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ” (Acts 9:22).
- “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13).
- “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry” (1 Timothy 1:12).
- “Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion” (2 Timothy 4:17).



# The Power of His Might

- The same power that rose Jesus from the grave and ascended Him to heaven lives inside every believer!
- What makes Him Lord also makes the church triumphant (Holy Spirit)
- “Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness” (Colossians 1:11)

# Verse 11: The Whole Armor of God

- In Romans 13:12 he said, “Let us put on the **armour of light**,” and in 1 Thessalonians 5:8 he wrote, “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the **breastplate of faith and love**; and for an **helmet**, the **hope of salvation**.”
- In the Greek the word for “whole armour” is panoplia, which refers to the sum total of all the pieces described in greater detail in verses 14-17.
  - Judges 6:34: “But the Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon with Himself and took possession of him.”





# The Enemy

- “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).
- If we are going to endure the onslaught of the enemy we must be properly trained and equipped.
- Who is this enemy?
  - **“devil”** (Greek: diabolos), which means “accuser.”
  - **“prince of the power of the air”** (Eph. 2:2)
  - **“the god of this world”** (2 Cor. 4:4)
    - Satan's sphere of influence is twofold:
      - 1. The Air (spiritual realm)
      - 2. This World (earthly realm)
- **Only through the new birth can a person be delivered from the power of Satan and translated into the kingdom of Jesus Christ** (Acts 26:18; Col. 1:13)





# The Wiles of the Devil

- “Wiles” means “cunning craftiness” or “strategies.” The devil has a plan of action to defeat God’s plan. His purpose is to snare men by tempting them with lies and deceitful lusts.
  - “And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will” (2 Timothy 2:26).
  - “And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread” (Matthew 4:3).
  - “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44).
- He is a deceitful angel who transforms himself into an angel of light:
  - “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14).





# A Subtle Enemy

- He is known as a serpent for his **subtlety**:
  - “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made...” (Genesis 3:1)
  - “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world...” (Revelation 12:9)
- The devil has his own **religious followers** with his own **ministers** that proclaim a **false gospel** and **false doctrines**:
  - “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. (14) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. (15) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works” (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
  - “As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:9)
  - “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” (1 Timothy 4:1)
  - “I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan” (Revelation 2:9).



# A Deceitful Enemy

- Through their deception he seduces people into sacrificing to him in worship and fellowship at his table, drinking from his cup:
  - “But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. (21) Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord’s table, and of the table of devils” (1 Corinthians 10:20-21).
- This drags people to his depths:
  - “But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden” (Revelation 2:24).



# A Weak Enemy

- Even though the devil possesses great power, he is not God.
  - He does not have the attributes of God.
  - He is not omnipotent (all-powerful), omnipresent (all-present, everywhere present), or omniscient (all-knowing).
- “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).
- Our victory is assured when we understand the devil’s tactics.
  - “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Corinthians 2:11).



## Verse 12

- ▶ Today, many deny the existence of a literal devil with an organized horde of evil spirits. However, Jesus and the New Testament writers used plain language to confirm the existence of the devil and demons:
  - ▶ Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 5:9, 15; Luke 8:30; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 5:18
- ▶ Every division of the New Testament depicts the devil as a spirit being who is in control of other spirits that challenge Christ and His kingdom. This conflict is not imaginary or abstract. It is very real.
- ▶ “Flesh and blood” refers to other humans, not to moral weaknesses. We don’t battle against other humans, we battle against spiritual combatants.



# Hand-to-Hand Combat

- “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. (4) No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. (5) And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully” (2 Timothy 2:3-5).
- “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (4) (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) (5) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).



# A Well-Organized Enemy

- Eph. 6:12 implies, as does Daniel 10:13-20, that certain demons are **assigned to certain geographical locations**.
  - “prince of Grecia”
  - “prince of the kingdom of Persia”
  - “Legion” (Mark 5:9, 15; Luke 8:30)
- A full strength Roman legion was officially made up of 6,000 men, but typically all legions were organized at under strength and generally consisted of approximately 5,300 fighting men including officers. It is difficult to determine whether non-combatants like field surgeons and clerks were included in the 5,300 or helped bring the total number of men up to the official 6,000.



# Legion

- The use of this word reveals a large number of demons involved and also implies a military regimen maintained by Satan and his helpers:
  - “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41).
  - “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (2 Corinthians 4:4)
  - “And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure” (2 Corinthians 12:7)
  - “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, (8) and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven, (9) and the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12:7-9).





# “principalities and powers” and “rulers of the darkness of this world.”

- The Greek word for “rulers” is kosmokratoras (2888) or “world rulers.” In context, this word “shows that not earthly potentates are indicated, but spirit powers, who, under the permissive will of God, and in consequence of human sin, exercise satanic and therefore antagonistic authority over the world in its present condition of spiritual darkness and alienation from God” (Strong’s Expanded Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible). Consequently, the world lies in darkness, or wickedness:
- “And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness” (1 John 5:19)
- “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son” (Colossians 1:13).



# “spiritual wickedness in high places”

- Their habitation is not physical, but spiritual
- In the spirit realm they conduct all their malevolent activities against the people and purposes of God.
- This spiritual plane is the place where we wage the battle in prayer and where these powers are defeated.
- “Spiritual wickedness” can mean “spirits of wickedness.” This phrase describes evil spirits under the control of Satan and his demonic hierarchy. These evil spirits are directed to their attack on every believer.



## Verse 13

- No piece of this armor can be left out. Every piece is necessary if victory is to be assured. Each piece works together to provide the maximum protection in defense against the attacks of Satan.
- Verses 14-17 list six items. Five items are for protection (defensive) and one is for attack (offensive). The equipment is available, but its availability does not guarantee the results. The believer must personally appropriate Christ's victory by:
  - 1. Believing that Christ desires him to put on this spiritual armor
  - 2. Understanding the tremendous powers that war against him
  - 3. Realizing that only through faith, in union with Christ, can he find victory.



# Standing Clothed in the Armor

Ephesians 6:14-17

“(14) Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; (15) and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (16) above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. (17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”



## “loins girt about with truth”

- In reality, the girdle is not a part of the armor itself but provides the means to attach the other pieces and hold them together.
- The following garments typical of the Middle East hampered the freedom of movement required for a race or battle. The only way for people to prepare themselves for such activity was to hitch their garments up with a girdle or belt.
- “Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning” (Luke 12:35).
- The Bible speaks of the “loins of your mind” (1 Peter 1:13), suggesting that “truth” in this verse is not primarily the truth of the gospel, but more generally a sense of knowing what is right in the eyes of the Lord. The ability to ascertain the truth about sin and how it hinders forward progress will give the believer the power over that sin. To have truth as the girdle that binds all other armor provides freedom of movement – freedom to do the will of God. The importance of truth here shows why Paul earlier prayed for the church to receive enlightenment (Ephesians 1:18).



# We Must Wear Truth

- To know the truth is not enough. We need to know it, understand it, and apply it. We must **put it on – wear it as clothing**.
- “Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom” (Psalm 51:6).
- Someone who does not have an understanding of what God wants will not be able to overcome the devil. The girdle of truth provides freedom of motion to fight the enemy, unhindered by personal doubt and guilt.
- **Truth includes sincerity of heart**
- **Truth also refers to one’s ability to remain loyal to the cause and purpose of Christ’s mission**
  - “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).



# “breastplate of righteousness”

- “For he put on righteousness as a breastplate...” (Is. 59:17)
- “Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference” (Romans 3:22).
- “By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left” (2 Corinthians 6:7).
- The breastplate covers the vital organs of the body from wounds that could be immediately fatal.
- To protect himself from a fatal blow, he must have within him the ability to make right decisions every day and to take the right action in the face of temptations and disappointment.
- “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost” (Romans 14:17).
- “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Ephesians 4:24).
- Possessing this righteousness, or right character, will allow the believer to become useful for God’s purpose (Romans 6:13).





## Verse 15: “preparation of the gospel of peace”

- (Greek: *hetoimasia*) can refer to two things:
- 1. It can mean to be prepared for anything. Peace prepares the believer for evangelism. It prepares him to be ready to share the gospel of peace with anyone at any time as the occasion arises. Isaiah 52:7 supports this meaning, as does Paul’s quote of this Old Testament passage in Romans 10:15. In short, the church fights for the salvation of others. Without the peace of God to give the believer a firm footing, by ruling over his mind and spirit (Colossians 3:15), he would not be protected. Nor would he be able to bring the good news of the gospel to his friends and family.
- 2. “Preparation” can also mean to be prepared in one’s spirit and heart by the peace that the gospel brings. The gospel makes peace with God and humanity (Romans 5:1), bringing to the Christian an inner peace in the midst of life’s storms. This peace gives the believer a personal victory in his own life over the discouragement caused by adverse circumstances (John 16:33; Philippians 4:7). Since we, as Christians, have peace through the gospel we can become ambassadors of peace and take the gospel and its blessings of peace to the whole world (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).



# The Peace of God

- “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).
- “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).
- “And all things are of God; who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; (19) to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. (20) Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. (21) For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).



## Verse 16: “the shield of faith”

- The shield of the Romans soldier covered most of the body and was flexible enough to be turned in any direction to block the blows of the enemy.
- The sides of the shield were designed to interlock with the other shields of fellow warriors. The soldiers could lock their shields together and march toward the enemy as one body.
- The church becomes unbeatable when individual faith joins in unity with the faith of the other members of the church. Individual faith may be defeated, but the unified faith of the whole body creates an impregnable wall of invincibility.
- “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses” (1 Timothy 6:12).



# Fiery Darts

- Fiery darts were common weapons in the arsenal of the armies of Paul's day. The dart, or arrow, was generally dipped in tar and ignited, giving the arrow maximum destructive power. Since most shields were made of wood, precautions were necessary to keep them safe from the fire. They were often covered with leather specially treated to quench the fire of an arrow. As an example, Isaiah 21:5 says,
  - "Prepare the table, watch in the watchtower, eat, drink: arise, ye princes, and anoint the shield."
- Faith is the shield that can quench all satanic temptations. Faith must be anointed with love.
  - "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love" (Galatians 5:6).
- Only a true love that has complete trust in Jesus Christ and His purpose will be able to stand against the fears, disappointments, doubts, and lusts that Satan will launch against the believer.



## Verse 17: “take the helmet of salvation”

- Salvation is a gift to be taken by those who believe, and it provides deliverance in the midst of battle. It does more than deliver from the penalty of sin; it also protects from the power of sin. Ultimately it provides the hope of the final work of redemption as suggested in the parallel passage of 1 Thessalonians 5:8:
- “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.”
- Jesus Christ wears this helmet in Isaiah 59:17, as both Creator and giver of salvation.
- “For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.”
- The helmet protects the head. Satan’s first level of attack is on the mind.

# The Attack on the Mind

- Through evil thoughts he can build strongholds that he uses to incite the imaginations, and from there he is able to control the actions:
  - “Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established” (Proverbs 16:3)
  - “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:7)
  - “(4) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) (5) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringeth into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)
  - “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8).
- **A mind controlled by the proper thoughts, especially armed with the truth of salvation’s deliverance from the guilt of the past and the assurance of present and future help from the Lord, will ensure victory.**



# “sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

- The only offensive weapon
- The “word” is “*rhema*” in Greek (Spoken Word)
- Jesus defeated the devil’s temptation through the *rhema* (spoken) word of God (Jesus) by quoting the *graphe* (written) word of God (Luke 4:1-12)
- Before the Day of Pentecost Peter attempted to use the wrong sword to protect Jesus (Luke 22:47-51), but he found a more effective sword in Acts 2:37 that cut to the heart and brought repentance.
  - “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).





# An Effective Weapon

- The Word is a weapon that can bring conviction of sin into the lives of others, and it has been given to the Christian soldier by the Spirit:
  - “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16)
  - “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:21).
- As the Spirit possesses the believer He provides a sword to use against the devil:
  - “(16) An I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; (17) Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. . . (26) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:16-17; 26).
  - “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come” (John 16:13).



# Sword “of the Spirit”

- It's important to note that the Word of God is the sword “of the Spirit.” **Only the Spirit can effectively wield this weapon.** Therefore, we must be, live, and walk in the Spirit in order for this weapon to be effective for our battle.
  - “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13).
- In order to be victorious in the spiritual battle, we must use **spiritual weapons.**
  - “(4) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) (5) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringeth into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)



# Standing with All Prayer

Ephesians 6:18-20

“(18) Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; (19) and for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, (20) for which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.



# Prayer is the Engagement in Battle

- Prayer is not listed as part of the Christian soldier's armor, but it is necessary to the armor's function. Many people suit up but do not report for duty.
- Four times in this verse he used the Greek word for "all," showing that prayer has the power to be effective regardless of occasion or circumstance.
- **Prayer requires discipline.**
- Prayer is a discipline of endurance.
- The word "watch" simply means "to stay awake," to keep alert.
  - The enemy is on the prowl, but a praying believer is aware of him and ready to meet the conflict head on, armed with the Word of God's promise.



# Prayer

- Prayer includes requests, or “supplications,” but it is much more than that. Too many Christians consider prayer to be merely a time of placing their orders with God for what they want to receive personally.
- Prayer is:
  - Communion with God.
  - Relationship.
  - Thanksgiving.
  - Intercession for others.
  - Supplication.
- All of it is vital, not just for oneself, but for others also.



# Three Truths About Prayer

- 1. There is more than one kind of prayer. The believer is armed with “all prayer.”
- 2. All supplication must be “in the Spirit.” Only the Holy Ghost knows exactly what we need and can lead us in God’s will.
- 3. Prayer is to be given for “all saints.” Prayer is not something that should be centered upon selfish desires. True spiritual warfare involves the entire body of Christ, not just one individual’s needs.



## Verse 19

- Paul realized the tremendous battle he was in. He knew by experience the formidable foe he was up against. He also knew that he could not defeat the enemy within the limitations of his human efforts. So he requested the church to make strong intercession for his ministry. Satan may not stop a sermon, but he will fight to kill a ministry.
- Paul asked for two things:
  - 1. He asked that “utterance may be given unto me.” It is very important for someone to have a word from God if he is going to speak for God. A ministry without a word from God will be ineffective, to say the least. Ability cannot make preaching powerful – only a word from God can.
  - 2. That he might have the boldness to declare words that God gave him to speak, thereby communicating the mystery of the gospel.





## Verse 20

- ▶ Paul called himself an “**ambassador in bonds.**”
- ▶ In Rome, the ambassadors of various countries came and went to make their appeals to Caesar. As representatives of their respective nations, they came with their hopes and dreams to be reconciled to the mighty Roman Empire. Paul's primary desire was to represent the greatest kingdom on earth and heaven, to properly declare the truth that God had revealed to him.
- ▶ Paul was not trying to evoke his readers' sympathy. Rather, he used himself as an example to them of God's grace, which was sufficient to carry him through this awful time of imprisonment and to further the preaching of the gospel. Through his circumstances they could see that their own lives could and would receive grace to overcome any hardship.



# Conclusion

Ephesians 6:21-24

“(21) But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things: (22) whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts.(23) Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (24) Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.”