

Ephesians 6:10-13 Spiritual Warfare – Wake Up to the War!

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle 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.

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.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

The book of Ephesians Divides into 3 sections:

Ch. 1-3 *THE WEALTH of the Believer: Who we are in Christ / Blessings – Doctrinal*

A)Ch. 4-6v9 – *THE WALK OF THE BELIEVER: How to walk in light of who we are in Christ –*

B)But then when we hit v.10 of Ch. 6 Paul wraps up talking about SW /Why?

C)Answer: Because there is an Enemy who wants you to forget Who you are in Christ!

1)Forget Your WEALTH in JESUS

D)He wants you to forget how much God loves you and all that He has done for you!

E)An enemy who doesn't want you to walk w/ the Lord; walk in victory - *but defeat and condemnation*

1)An Enemy who doesn't want your life to make a difference!

It has been said that the *Christian life is not a playground but a BATTLE GROUND !!!!*

A)The Bible supports that statement in using terms like *Solider / Army / Battle / Fight / Victory / Defeat – in Describing Christian life*

B)We are NOT JUST Children of God but *SOLDIERS* in the Lord's army!

For that reason the HS has Paul end this letter by talking about the Fight because we need to realize we are in a battle

A)Listen : If we could see behind the scenes into spiritual realm - be amazed - angels and demons

B)Daniel's prayer: Dan 10 - "Moment prayed – An Angel was dispatched w/ an answer but was held up for 21 days - 3 weeks!"

C)All around us is this spiritual realm that we can't see that is way more radical – we could ever imagine.

1)Not the silly Angel on One shoulder and a devil on the other shoulder – commonly portrayed in movies

D)Way more intense than that/ more at stake too!

Having said that -I think When it comes to the subject of spiritual warfare :

Two extreme reaction exist!

A.)1st Some Christians are preoccupied with this idea of Spiritual warfare to the point where – **blame every problem or shortfall on the devil**

B)The Devil made me do it – Gluttony gets blamed on the Demon of Chocolate cake

1)Excuse for our own poor choices/ giving into our flesh and old Sin nature

C)That is not healthy! – **Detrimental when we are not taking ownership for our sin**

The Other extreme reaction that is equally as problematic – Ignorance

A)Some Christians are completely oblivious to the Spiritual Battle around them –

B)They act like the battle doesn't exist

1)They look at everything from a purely rational perspective

C)that completely ignores the Spiritual forces at work all around us

D)I personally have fallen into that trap –

1)I have had times in my walk where I have literally forgot that – there was spiritual warfare –

2)Fallen into deep depression – oblivious to the battle for my heart and mind that is constantly raging

E)Had other times when Denise and I are on edge with one another for no apparent reason.

1)Listen the enemy wants to destroy your family

Ever Notice how you how when you are doing something like watching TV or reading a Magazine or book – not spiritual book – no interruptions

A)But the minute you pick up your Bible – or a want to listen to a podcast spiritual nature –

B)Phone blows up – emails – calls – kids need you

C)Why is that? We are in a battle –

1)We have an Spiritual enemy that wants to distract us from things that will strengthen our walk with God

4 things to consider Today in v. 10-13 an intro to this study

A)1st Consider Our Enemy

B) 2nd HIS STRATEGY

C)3rd Consider our **Source of Power** that is constantly available to us

D)Finally: **Our Call to STAND!!!!**

So first we want to consider our Enemy: Who are we fighting against?

A) **Read v.12 again** For we do not wrestle 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.

B) **This is an important thing to Note that our Battle is not w/ people**

1)Not with flesh and blood –

C)And Our battle is not with institutions – or movements- but rather **w/ the forces** behind those People/ institutions and movements

We wrestle not against flesh & blood Fighting principalities and powers { DEMONIC FORCES

A)So Our Battle is w/ Satan & Cohorts – Fallen Angel – 1/3 angels w/ Him

B)1Peter 5:8 - **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**

C)We Need to be on guard – The Battle is real and our enemy would love to take us down

2nd His Strategy

Now notice the word WILES IN V.11 = Methodia in the Greek – from which we get our English word Methods { Means Strategy

A)It speaks of a carefully arranged systematic program of action for attaining an object / goal or desired End –

B) Satan has a Systematic plan of attack against us & we need to understand what that is

C)2 Corinthians 2:11 – **Don't be ignorant of the schemes or devices of the Devil.**

D)He has a set scheme and devices – he knows where we are susceptible – weaknesses are

When Joe Lewis was the heavyweight boxing champion of the world.

A)He fought, 71 times professionally; he lost only once.

B)During the decade and a half he held his title, he defended it 25 times.

C) Lewis was asked in an interview what was the secret of his Success & how he could win over people who were at times much larger than him

1) his response was interesting :

"I study my opponent, I plan my fight very carefully. The results are always the same.

1) I'm never surprised

2) I stay on the offensive".

D) Good advice for us – We need to know the ways that Satan attacks – and we need to stay on the offensive .

V.16 – Fiery darts of the wicked one

A) NLT Flaming arrows =. thought life – Main place he attacks

B) Now when it comes to Satan’s strategy –
1) His methods haven’t Changed much since the beginning - 1 John 2:15-17 Insight into his strategy

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 1
John 2:15-17

Now this is the Essence of Satan’s Strategy – He will use this world & the things of this world to ENITCE our flesh for the Purpose of getting us to PLEASE OURSELVES & NOT PLEASE GOD !!!!

A) This Pattern is seen over & over again in the pages of the Scriptures

B) Lets look at the very first time it occurred **Turn to Gen. 3**

V.1 ¹Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”

B) Notice here that the first thing that Satan does – is fires a dart into Eve’s mind seeking to get her to DOUBT GOD’S WORD - *Has God indeed said*

C) He is always seeking to call into question the word of God

Consider how He appealed to Eve Rd v.2-5 –

² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you

eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Also Doubt God’s heart

A) you will not die – really happen -you are going to be like God – God is holding out on you Eve. –

B) He is also called - *Father of Lies* - liar. Twist truth

C) He uses the word to twist the truth –
1) Tempted Jesus to jump off the pinnacle of the temple – *it is written Angels guard and take care*

D) The Devil knows the Bible – uses it out of context all the time – Deceive and cause to stumble

Jesus referred to him John 10:10 as the thief and a robber who comes to kill rob and destroy

A) He is not your friend – he is set on destruction

B) Notice *how He* appealed to her physical senses V. 6, **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.**

C) Appealed to her physical senses - **3 common areas**

1st He appealed to the lust of flesh. *Woman saw it was desirable for food! "Look at that food!"*

A) Can you hear Eve Rationalizing / *Well I am Hungry & I am kind of too tired to walk over to that other tree – why not eat this*

B) Lust could also be translated Desires of the flesh

C) Better translation – we tend to think of the term lust in a negative way
1) Desires is more natural

D) He appeals to our natural desires – food, companionship, to be liked and accepted
1) Desires for sex and intimacy

E) So he appeals to the natural desires of the flesh

He appealed to lust or Desire of the eyes!

"It was pleasant to the eyes!"

A) Our eyes are a gateway to our hearts – Satan is constantly appealing to that gateway

B) Advertisements- Social media {Constant message is look what you are missing –

1) This would make you really happy

C) He wants us to try and be someone other than who God wants us to be

1) He wants to try and get us to live above our means

D) The Devil is a Master marketer

1) He knows how to get us to desire things we don't even need

E) Let me illustrate how this desire of the flesh and eyes work hand in hand.

A while back Denise made a tray of brownies / I came home

A) I wasn't thinking craving brownies – wasn't thinking about brownies –

B) Brownies are not even one of my favorite deserts

1) Choice I never pick brownies

C) I come home – I go into the kitchen – I see this tray of brownies

1) Denise says *don't eat any of those they are not for us* they were for a ladies ministry event

Suddenly I am craving Brownies – I am hungry

A) Denise goes up stairs get ready- I took one/ good

B) Suddenly – that tray of brownies is calling out my name – Did I need them – No

1) Did she ask me not to eat them – Yes –

C) But every time I came into the Kitchen they were calling out to me – Rob eat me

1) You know you want to: Ate another and another
Rearranging the tray – weeks before I told Denise

Now Eating brownies is not wrong

A) But it illustrates how lust of eyes works pulls you in calls out your name / need get out of sight /

B) INTERESTING I was fine once Denise left !!!!

C) So he appealed to the Desire of the flesh – Desire of the eyes

3rd Pride of life

A) **Desirable to make one wise – Like God**

B) We all wrestle with Pride – self worth – desire to be something -

C) Liked and respected and appreciated to be well thought of

1) **Temptation to cut corners to achieve that**

In the Life of the BELIEVER his Chief purpose is to get us to act INDEPENDENTLY OF GOD

A) He wants to get you to do your own thing / to lean on your own understanding

B) to **RELY UPON- your own strength**

1) Very Subtle he wants to Deceive you into thinking that you really don't need God -

C) **You are doing just fine on your own !!!**

1) **UNTIL YOU ARE NOT – FALL**

35 times he is called the Devil = Accuser!

A) He is the accuser of the brethren! –
Condemnation

B) *Throw thoughts in mind –*

1) You are worthless – loser – blew IT

C) ...LIKE : God doesn't care about you - if did - wouldn't be going through this!

D) Condemnation vs Conviction

E) Our Foe – His strategy

3rd Consider our Source of Power: v.10 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might*

A) **Now Listen Paul isn't assuming the role of an Army Drill Sargent here –Not Suck it up soldier be a man – Don't be a Wimp**

B) My Brother was 11 – he decided play pop warner football –

1) I decided I was going to help him get ready –
Chase down street –

C) **Yelling at this poor kid – Come on you can run faster than that – come on you can do better**

1) That is not what Paul is doing here – He is not saying – be strong get pumped get Psyched –

Satan would love for you to think that is what Paul is saying here –

A) He would love for you to go away today simply thinking – I NEED TO BE STRONG

B) Unfortunately that is what a lot Christians do – they think – I need to be stronger – do better

1) MISTAKE – LEANING ON their own STRENGTH

C) That is a Sure fire way to get totally Wiped out – Why? Simple the Devil is Stronger than You –

1) You don't stand a Chance

D) If you don't realize that, he will be Victorious & you will be the Victim

Paul is saying the complete opposite thing here – Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might

A) If You are a believer – Christ is in you!

B) Greater is he that is in you than He that is in the world!

C) So being Strong in the Lord – Starts w/ Knowing I am in Him & He is in Me – Part of me – On His team

D) He has already been Victorious

Col 2:15 *Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.*

As Christians we are not fighting FOR VICTORY – but FROM VICTORY

2 Cor. 10:4 - *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,*

Mighty IN GOD -

So it means operating in His Strength & Not my own

A) David operated in this mode when faced Goliath! *"You come w/ sword and spear - I come in the name of the Lord"*

B) Now Being strong in the Lord begins with being poor in spirit!

1) Recognize our utter dependency upon Him for everything

C) Confess our need of His help - Realizing that w/ out Him we can do nothing Jn 15

D) I have power in Jesus to resist temptation – I have power from Jesus to overcome – darkness

1) I have power to be VICTORIOUS

We will see exactly how this looks and plays out next week – start talking about the Armor

A) The Armor of God is all related to who we are in Christ – Our position in Him

B) His power – His victory is ours!

Finally – What are we called to? – v.11& 13 - 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the Wiles of the devil 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. V.14 Stand there...

A) I think it is obvious that the GOAL of the Lord for us as it relates to the Battle is to STAND

B) No wavering – not up & Down / Standing firm

1) Standing strong

C) To stand firm when used in a military sense, has the idea of holding a critical position while under attack.

D) Feet dug in not giving up any ground – { Defending the line!

E) But when we are successful thru God's Power in Standing firm the Devil is defeated & flees-

1) Frustrated – Not getting anywhere with us

Close with this: James gives us great insight into how to be strong in the Lord – so we can Stand

James 4:7 *Submit to God resist the Devil and he will flee from You*

A) Key is in first phrase – Submit to God –

1) Yield surrender / results in Power – Satan is defeated – Flees

B) Sometimes that verse gets quoted in this way- Resist the Devil and he will flee from you

1) WRONG

C)Missing Key element – I can't effectively and consistently Resist if I am not first submitted

1)Commitment to God and His word is Key!

Our strength is found in being yielded to God

A)Daniel taken to Babylon – epitome of the World

But Daniel was yielded to God – no compromise

B)He purposed in his heart -Not eat of forbidden food – wasn't even tempting

Joseph – Yielded to God – resisted the temptations of Potiphar's wife

A)Not going to sin against my God – first – his master Potiphar was 2nd

B)He was submitted to God – first – because was submitted to God – He had the power to Resist

I think that this whole first Study could be summed up by what Pastor Chuck calls the 3 R'S of Spiritual Warfare

1st - Recognize – Battle & the Enemy

2nd - Rejoice – that the Lord is w/ you – won the War

War

3rd - Resist - Devil will flee