

Spiritual Warfare
Ephesians 6:10-20 Lesson 2
May 4, 2014

A. General Review

1. Review of Ephesians 6:10-12, spiritual warfare in the life of a believer
 - a. Our need for God's strength
 - b. Our need for God's protection through His armor as we stand and fight against the schemes of the devil
 - c. Our need for God's understanding that our battle is not physical, but spiritual
2. Ephesians 6:13-20 explains the armor of God and its importance in battles against spiritual forces of evil

Why is appropriate preparation, planning, and execution of a wise battle plan so essential for victory?

How will our lives and our relationships to God be affected if apathy or misunderstanding exists when it comes to spiritual warfare? (Revisit question 6 last week - What is the relationship between God's protection and our ability and desire to praise His name? Would we be able to praise God if His protection were not upon us? Why or why not?)

B. Discussion and Application – Spiritual Warfare

Ephesians 6:10-20

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **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. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. 19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.**

1. Take up the Whole Armor of God, Verse 13

- a. Lays out a battle plan for Christians; Call to action for all believers
- b. To "take up or put on" means to receive from someone. Paul is calling us to receive God's armor from God Himself.
- c. God's promises that we will be able to withstand in the evil day and stand firm
- d. Our responsibility is to "stand firm and withstand spiritual warfare", not destroy
- e. It is Christ's responsibility to "defeat" evil, through victory against death and the forces of evil
- f. Satan wants to "kill, steal, and destroy" every aspect of your life; to steal your joy in the Lord.

2. Stand with the Whole Armor of God, Verse 14-18a

- a. Paul encourages us in our fight by explaining the different aspects of the armor of God
- b. Fastened on the belt of truth; Put on the breastplate of righteousness; Having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace
- c. These 3 pieces use the verb "having" – gives the indication that these gifts have already been given to these believers

- d. Shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; we should not flee from any situation
- e. Take the helmet of salvation
- f. Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God
- g. Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication

Romans 8:26-28

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

All of these pieces of the “armor of God” are given to protect and defend us from spiritual attack – God will never leave us to defend ourselves. In fact, by His grace alone He bestows upon us the weapons and armor to stand firm in Him alone.

3. Keep Alert with all Perseverance through Prayer, Verse 18b-20

- a. Paul completes his focus on spiritual warfare by first linking prayer to alertness and perseverance.
- b. Ephesians calls us to pray for their fellow saints so that we can “boldly proclaim the mystery of the gospel” as an ambassador in chains for the gospel

A. Questions for Small Group Discussion

1. How does Paul's desire that believers “withstand” and “stand firm” shed light on how we should define victory for Christians during spiritual battles?
2. Why is our belief in the ultimate truth of God and His workings in our lives such an important aspect of how we properly battle in times of spiritual warfare?
3. In what ways does the gospel make us ready for spiritual warfare?
4. How can our faith in Christ shield us when we are in the midst of spiritual battle?
5. Why is God's word and our seeking Him of utter importance when it comes to spiritual warfare? What role does God's word play in spurring on our desire to stand firm and withstand spiritual attacks?
6. Why does our prayer life play perhaps the most vital role in us standing firm in the midst of spiritual warfare?
7. Why would prayer keep us alert to spiritual attacks? How does this alertness help with perseverance?
8. Why will praying for each other help in being better at boldly proclaiming the gospel even in times of spiritual attack?