

## Eph. 6:10-20

Finally – connecting to the rest of chs. 4-6. The preceding passage describes the real battle, this section is about just occupying territory already gained.

- I. Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty strength (10)
  - cf. Acts 9:22, Rom. 4:20, Phil. 4:13, 2 Tim. 4:17
- II. How to be strong in the Lord: (11-20)
  - A. Prepare for battle (11-13)
    - 1. Put on the full armor of God in order to be able to stand against spiritual attack (11-12)
      - a Put on the full armor of God in order to be able to stand. (11)
        - cf. Rom. 13:12, Col. 3:12, 2 Cor 10:4
        - 1) Take up the full armor of God (11a)
          - cf. 4:1-3, 14-15, 17, 24; 5:1, 8, 9, 15, etc. = character
        - 2) Purpose: to be able to stand against the deceitful schemes of the devil. (11b)
          - ‘deceitful schemes’ – crafty scheming with the intent to deceive – lies, distortion of truth,  
-cf. 1 Pet. 5:8-9
      - b Reason: We have spiritual enemies attaching us (12)
        - 1) Neg: Our fight is not with humans (12a)
        - 2) Pos: Our fight is with evil spiritual powers (12b)
          - a) With the rulers
          - b) With the authorities
          - c) With the world-rulers of this darkness
          - d) With the evil spirits in the heavenly realms
            - ‘heavenly realms’ cf. 1:3, 20, 2:6, 3:10
            - “There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist and a magician with the same delight.” C. S. Lewis, Screwtape Letters, p. 3
    - 2. Because of this, take up the full armor of God (13)
      - a Take up the full armor of God. (13a)
        - This is the armor that comes from God, but it is also the same kind of armor that God Himself is said to wear (see cross references below)
      - b Purpose: To be able to withstand and to stand victorious (13b-e)
        - 1) To be able [to do two things]: (13b)
        - 2) The two things: (13c-e)
          - a) To withstand [the attack] in the day of evil (13c)
          - b) To stand victorious in the end (13d-e)
            - (1) After having accomplished all [these] things (13d)
            - (2) To stand (13e)
              - To stand victorious, holding the ground that was defended

**B. Fight when the battle comes (14-17)**

**1. Therefore, stand (14a)**

To stand in resistance, not looking to make the first strike, leaving the initiative to God  
-cf. Exo. 14:13

**2. How to stand your ground in the fight: (14b-17)**

**a Having girded your waist with truth (14b)**

Be prepared and ready with the truth  
-cf. Isa. 11:5, 1 Pet. 1:13, Lk. 12:35

**b Having put on the breastplate of righteousness (14c)**

Righteousness protects from the accusations of the enemy, which are his chief weapon  
-cf. Isa. 59:16-17, 1 Thes. 5:8

**c Having equipped your feet with the preparedness of the Gospel of peace (15)**

Have the readiness of the Gospel of peace under your feet  
-cf. Isa. 52:7, Rom. 10:15, Nah. 1:15

**d Having protected yourself from the evil ones lies with faith (16)**

**1) Having taken up the shield of faith (16a)**

Faith protects from the deceptions of the enemy, which are his chief weapon

**2) Reason: by which you are able to quench all the burning arrows of the evil one (16b)**

his burning arrows are lies and deceptions, which are countered by trusting God and His promises instead of believing the lies

**e Take hold of the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit (17)**

**1) Take hold of the helmet of salvation (17a)**

Salvation protects our mindsets and thinking

**2) And the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (17b-c)**

**a) And [take hold of] the sword of the Spirit (17b)**

This is the only offensive weapon (that can also be used defensively)

**b) Which is the Word of God (17c)**

The Word of God is effective against all the enemy's schemes, and is integrated with all the other pieces of armor (they are all interdependent)

-cf. Isa. 11:4, Hos. 6:5, Heb. 4:12

- C. Watch for attack and work for advance of the Gospel (18-20)
1. Be on the lookout for attack – watch and pray, be on your guard (18)
    - cf. Mk. 14:38 (cp. Mk 13:33-37), Lk 21:36
    - a Praying in the Spirit in all time with every prayer and supplication (18a)
      - cf. Lk. 18:1, Col. 4:2-3, 1 Thes. 5:17, Jude 20
    - b Being vigilant for the same reason in perseverance and prayer concerning all the saints (18b)
      - cf. 1 Pet. 4:7, 1 Tim. 2:1, Matt. 26:41
  2. The offensive – the preaching of the Gospel (19-20)
    - cf. 2 Tim. 4:16-18
    - a Pray that God would empower me (Paul) to preach the Gospel (19-20a)
      - 1) And [Pray] for me (19a)
      - 2) Purpose: That God may give me to boldly proclaim the Gospel (19b-20a)
        - a) So that a word may be given to me when I open my mouth (19b)
        - b) Result: That I may boldly proclaim the Gospel (19c-20a)
          - (1) That freely and boldly I may make known the mystery of the Gospel (19c)
          - (2) On behalf of which I have become an ambassador in chains (20a)
            - cf. Acts 4:29, Col. 4:3-4, 2 Thes. 3:1
    - b Purpose: So that I may speak freely and boldly (20b-c)
      - 1) So that I may speak freely and boldly (20b)
      - 2) As it is necessary for me to speak (20c)