

STRENGTH FOR SPIRITUAL BATTLE Ephesians 6:10-12

Be Strong in the Lord and in the Power of His Might

1. A Man looses his job, his livelihood, his career, his purpose...
 2. A Woman is loosing her battle with cancer...
 3. A Husband is tempted to leave his wife... a Wife is Tempted to leave her husband
 4. Parents are grieving for their child who has left the Lord for the World...
 5. A Young woman cries herself to sleep, comparing herself to others on instagram
 6. A Young man is wondering if he will ever find a good woman to share his life with
 7. A Young person is questioning their life, faith, future because of peer pressure
 8. Every person faces spiritual battles... —But Where will we find the strength?
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I. THE SPIRITUAL STRENGTH WE NEED... (v.10)

A. THE NEED FOR STRENGTH...

1. Because Spiritual War Requires Spiritual Weapons...

- a) This is an area unfamiliar to us—Peter thought this was a physical Fight...
so he charged ahead with Aggression, Determination and a Sword
- b) But the Arm of Flesh will Fail us—and Peter Denied the Lord 3x that night...
- c) This Battle is a Spiritual Battle so we need to resist in Spiritual Ways

2. Because of the Enemy We Face...

- a) This is not just any Enemy—this Enemy has deceived the whole world!
- b) (1 Jn 5:19 NIV) We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is
under the control of the evil one.

3. Because God Wants Us to be Strong...

- a) God does not want His people to be lukewarm and weak...

(2 Tim 1:7) For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

- b) But He Would Not Call Us to be Strong—if we didn't have Human Weaknesses...

B. THE REALITY OF OUR WEAKNESS...

1. Think About some of the Great Men of Faith...

- a) Solomon was the wisest of all men—He had great wealth and great power...
- b) Samson was the strongest of all men—Able to kill 1,000 men with a jawbone...
- c) David was the most Devoted—man after God's own heart, who wrote most Psalms...
- d) Moses was the most Humble man to ever live—Able to Lead the People of God...
—But Each One Fell to Temptation and Suffered for it...

2. You might Think — I'm a Strong Christian, I Have a Strong Faith...

- a) Are You Wiser than Solomon?
- b) Are You Stronger than Samson
- c) Are You More Devoted than David?
- d) Are You More Humble than Moses?

3. Think About All the Things that Drain Our Spiritual Strength Today...

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| (1) Too much Entertainment. | (11) Trying to keep an unbelieving spouse happy |
| (2) Too much T.V. | (12) Trying to keep up with the 'Joneses' |
| (3) Too much News | (13) Self-Pity, Being a victim, and blaming others |
| (4) Arguments, debates, wrangling | (14) Being Critical of others |
| (5) Laziness. | (15) Doubting the Word of God. |
| (6) Unforgiving attitude | (16) Worry and anxiety |
| (7) Worldly friends | (17) Sin and Selfishness |
| (8) Love of money and career. | |
| (9) Controlling everything trying to grasp some type happiness | |
| (10) Desire for respect and image. | |

All of these are like holes that let your strength drain out—like gaps in your Armor

You have a limited amount of energy, but an unlimited amount of ways to waste it...

C. THE ONLY SOURCE OF STRENGTH... (v.10)

1. We Are Called to be Strong —Strong in What? —Strong in Yourself?

a) NO! Be Strong in the Lord and in the Power of His Might!

2. There's a Big Difference Between YOUR Strength — and GOD'S Strength

a) By Ourselves We're Weak! We Are Weak Emotionally, Physically, Spiritually...

b) Weak in Following God's Will rather than our own—weak in Temptation & Sin

c) We Are Weak in Our Ability to Love and Forgive.

3. The Spiritual Strength We Need is not Found in Us Alone—but in Him!

'People cannot strengthen themselves; they must be empowered, and that not once for all but constantly, as the tense of the Greek indicates. Furthermore, he says, not 'by the Lord', though that would be true enough, but again in the Lord. When life is lived in union with Him, within the orbit of His will and so of His grace, there need not be failure due to powerlessness.' (Foulkes)

→ As John says... (1 John 2:14)

II. THE SPIRITUAL ARMOR WE MUST WEAR... (v.11)

we'll look at each piece closer next week, but lets just notice three things...

A. THIS IS THE ARMOR [OF GOD]...

1. Not Only Was Goliath Much Stronger than David—He Had Massive Armor...

a) When David took on the challenge to face Goliath on the field of battle

b) Saul offered David his Armor, Armor of the King, Armor of War (1 Samuel 17:38–39)

c) But David Was Weighed Down by Saul's Armor, it didn't fit, heavy, clumsy

2. David Didn't Need Saul's Armor—He Had the Armor of God! (1 Sam 17:32-37)

a) Notice What David Wrote in the Psalms! (Psalm 27:1-3)

B. WE ARE TO PUT ON [THE WHOLE] ARMOR OF GOD... (v.14–18)

1. Each Piece is important; Each Piece is Necessary...

2. Without Each Piece We Have Blind Spots, Gaps in our Armor

3. That Make Us Vulnerable to the flaming Arrows and Lies of the Enemy

C. WE ARE TO [PUT ON] THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

1. The Armor of God is Supplied To Us IN Jesus Christ—
and In a sense, the “whole armor of God” is a picture of Jesus Christ.

→**The Belt of Truth**—Jesus Christ is the Truth (John 14:6),

→**Breastplate of Righteousness**—Christ is our righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Cor 1:30)

→**The Shield of Faith**—Our Faith in Christ is our victory (1 Jn 5:4)
and His faithfulness made possible our faith (Gal. 2:20);

→**The helmet of salvation**—Christ is our Salvation purchased by His blood on the
Cross (Luke 2:30; Acts 4:12)

→**The Sword of the Spirit**, which is **the word of God**—Jesus is the Word of God who
became flesh (John 1:1, 14).

→**Even Prayer** is only Available Because of the Atoning Sacrifice of Christ

2. Everything We Need For Victory is Supplied in Christ!

a) (Gal 3:26-27) When we are Baptized Christ, we are clothed with Christ
and we received the armor of God.

3. Paul Tells Us What to Do With the Armor of God (Romans 13:11–14)

- a) We are to wake up (v.11),
 - b) cast off sin, and “put on the armor of light” (v.12).
 - c) We do this by putting “on the Lord Jesus Christ” (v.14).
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III. THE SPIRITUAL FORCES WE FACE... (v.12)

A. NOTICE THE SPIRITUAL FORCES ARRAYED AGAINST US...

1. Paul is not telling us to engage in Spiritual Warfare—He is stating we are
already engaged in spiritual warfare...

a) **In the Tolkien trilogy, Lord of the Rings...**

King Theoden says: “I will not risk open war...”

Aragorn: “Open war is upon you, whether you would risk it or not.”

2. There Are Spiritual Forces Arrayed Against Us Whether We Admit so or not

- a) Against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,
- b) Collectively, they are all spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
- c) Satan is the Prince of this world, the ruler of this world and all the world is under the
control of the Evil one (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
- d) (1 Jn 5:19 NIV) “and... the whole world is under the control of the evil one.”

B. OUR BATTLE IS NOT WITH FLESH AND BLOOD...

1. But This is Spiritual Warfare—(2 Corinthians 10:3-4)

- a) Your Enemy is Not Your Wife or Husband, or Brother or Sister in Christ
- b) Our Enemy is in the Spiritual Realm—But He Wants You Fighting Among Yourselves Because it Accomplishes His Work to Divide and Conquer
- c) **COMIC Illustrating:** “Oh you don’t need to fight them... You just need to convince the Pitchfork people that the Torch people want to take away their Pitchforks.”

2. Our Spiritual Enemy Knows How To Divide God’s People...

- a) And One Way is to make us think this is a Physical Battle of Flesh and Blood against our neighbors, or spouse or brethren...
- b) so that we loose our Spiritual Strength and Fall into the World...

C. BUT JESUS HAS DEALT WITH THESE PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS...

1. **(Romans 8:38)** tells us that principalities cannot keep us from God’s love. Therefore, there is a limit to their power.
2. **(Ephesians 1:20-21)** tells us that Jesus is enthroned in heaven, far above all principalities and powers.
3. **(Colossians 1:16)** tells us that Jesus created all principalities and powers.
4. **(Colossians 2:10)** tells us that Jesus is head over all principalities and power. Therefore, Jesus is not the opposite of Satan or principalities.
5. **(Ephesians 3:10-11)** tells us that the church makes known the wisdom of God to principalities and powers.
6. **(1 Corinthians 15:24)** tells us that principalities and powers have an end; one day their purpose will be fulfilled and God will no longer let them work.
7. **(Colossians 2:15)** tells us that Jesus disarmed these principalities and powers at the cross. Therefore our victory is in Jesus’ death, burial & resurrection

D. OUR VICTORY IS FOUND IN CHRIST

1. Our Victory is a result of What Jesus Did for us at the cross (Jn 12:31–33)

(1 Cor. 15:57) thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

(2 Cor. 2:14) thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ

(Rom 8:37) in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

“The Devil fears a soul united to God as he does God Himself” –John of the Cross

CONCLUSION:

- 1) Equipped with God’s armor—we are more than conquerors because we are equipped by the same power that raised Jesus from dead! (Eph 1:19ff)
- 2) Satan may be winning a bunch of battles right now—
—but don’t ever forget, God wins the war!