



Spiritual Warfare
Message Notes, September 25, 2016
Guest Speaker Robert Morgan
Ephesians 6:10-18

The world is broken and evil is rampant in it. The devil and his servants are wreaking havoc. The horrible events of hatred, violence and death are more than the effects of “radicalized” people (as the media puts it); there are demonic forces fueling such thoughts, actions and destruction.

I John 5:19 reminds us that “the world is under the control of the evil one.” In many ways, life is a “battlefield experience.”

How do we stand firm, even gain ground for the kingdom of God, against these forces of darkness? God gives us clear and empowering instruction through Paul in his letter to the Ephesian believers in Ephesians 6:10-18.

I. “Be strong.” (We find this simple but powerful command and encouragement 32 times in Scripture). It is not a call to muster up our own strength. The command is to be strong “in the Lord and in His mighty power. It is a call of faith, surrender and trust.

Paul goes on to elaborate how we can stand with strength and confidence through a familiar analogy:

II. “Put on the full armor of God.” Our true battle is not against humans with swords, guns, or bombs (flesh and blood), “but against the rulers and powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil ...”

And we don’t just armor-up now and then for isolated battles; we “put on the whole armor of God (continually), so that when the day of evil comes, we will be able to stand our ground ... having already done everything to stand.” So armor up with:

- “The belt of truth buckled about your waist.” Trusting every word of your commanding officer. Submitting fully to the infallible truth of Scripture. Embracing the Bible as the determining influence for every aspect of my life.
- “The breastplate of righteousness.” Living a life above reproach. Trusting in God’s grace, through his Holy Spirit within me, to grow in me his holiness and character. Establishing solid “guardrails”, personal commitments/convictions that set strong boundaries for my thoughts, words, and actions. Like a breastplate, a life of holiness protects my heart.
- “Feet fitted with the readiness of the gospel of peace.” Cultivating an evangelistic zeal. Praying for and being attentive to every event and circumstance of my life as potential opportunity to share the “hope that is with in me” and the gospel of my Lord.
- “The shield of faith.” Trusting fully in the promises of God. God’s word reveals His many promises, spoken for every problem or struggle life can bring. When troubles come, focus on His promises more than on the problem. Respond to struggles with faith rather than worry or fear. (Not ignoring the trouble, but by faith, bringing it “to the throne of grace where I will find help in times of trouble.” (Hebrews His promises are a shield that “extinguish the fiery darts” of doubt, fear, and despair. Chief among these promises is our sure salvation by grace and our eternal hope – the heavenly glory that awaits us. Thus we guard our minds with:
 - “The helmet of salvation.” Reminding ourselves (regularly) of our eternal life. This guards our minds and gives us strengthening, even joyful, perspective in the midst of our battle.
 - “The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” Quoting Scripture as freely as I say my name! Reading, meditating, and memorizing God’s word gives us an offensive weapon. We drive the enemy from us with the truth of God’s word.



- “Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers ... be alert, always keep praying for all the saints.” Turn all things over to the Lord in prayer. Cultivating a life of prayer – continually connecting with God, keeping all things before Him, asking for His grace at all times. Praying not just for ourselves, but for each other.

Reflection Questions

1. How are you feeling for spiritual battle these days – strong or weak? (Look to/lean into the Lord for His strength. For a fresh filling of His Spirit. “Be strong in the Lord!”)
2. Where do you feel you are weak in your armor? What armor pieces have you been neglecting?
3. Which pieces of armor are “fitted well” in your life? (Give thanks for God’s grace in these)
4. In your groups, share where you are battling or feeling weak, and pray for each other in these areas. Crying out to the Lord together for His renewing strength.