Ephesians: Blessed Beyond Belief to Build up the Body
Lesson 15: Armed for Victory
Ephesians 6:10-22 Walk Wisely in the Spirit

Small Group Questions
List 3 observations from this passage—what are the key thoughts?

Now: Compare and contrast the following passages
—Read 1 Peter 5:8-9 and James 4:7—additional insights?
—Read 2 Timothy 2:22; 1Timothy 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:18; 10:14—Observation?

Outline
I. Circular letter to those who are “in Christ” 1:1-2
   A. The Father’s Past Plan: His eternal plan to choose individuals to be blameless and holy, to be adopted as sons—to the praise of the glory of His grace
   B. The Son’s Present Provision of salvation: redeemed and forgiven, based on the superabounding riches of His grace, having made known the mystery of His will—to subject everything to Christ, providing an inheritance for those who believe—to the praise of His glory
   C. The Spirit’s Present Protection of Future salvation: Sealing those who believe as a pledge of His ownership and their assurance of an inheritance—to the praise of His glory

II. Praise to God: The believer’s position in Christ to the Praise of His Glory 1:3-14
   A. The Father’s Past Plan: His eternal plan to choose individuals to be blameless and holy, to be adopted as sons—to the praise of the glory of His grace
   B. The Son’s Present Provision of salvation: redeemed and forgiven, based on the superabounding riches of His grace, having made known the mystery of His will—to subject everything to Christ, providing an inheritance for those who believe—to the praise of His glory
   C. The Spirit’s Present Protection of Future salvation: Sealing those who believe as a pledge of His ownership and their assurance of an inheritance—to the praise of His glory

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   B. Prayer 1:16b-23
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         The hope of His calling
         The riches of His inheritance in the saints
         The extent of His power on their behalf
      3. Creedal confession: Praise to God 1:20-23
         The power to raise and seat Christ
         To subject all things to Him
         To give Him to the Church as Sufficient Head

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            2) Raised us with Christ
            3) Seated us with Christ in the heavenly places
         d. Purpose—to show His immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ
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            (b) The process: of Growth requires unity and synergy—members working together
            (c) The Nourishment
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   1. The Changed Life—Purity 4:17-24
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      a. Negative Exhortation 4:17-19
         1) Command 4:17
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      b. Positive Instruction 4:20-24
         1) What you know 4:20-21
         2) What you should do 4:22-24
            a) Negative: Put off the old self 4:22
            b) Positive: Put on the new self 4:23-24
   2. The Changed Life—Speech 4:25-32
      Primarily corporate/interpersonal conduct
      a. Be honest in Relationships 4:25
         1) Negative Command: “having laid aside falsehood”
         2) Positive Command: Speak truthfully (in 4:15 Paul has said, “in love”)
         3) Positive Reason: Positional Connection
      b. Anger without Sin 4:26-27
         1) Positive Command: “be angry” 4:26a
         2) Negative Command: “do not sin” 4:26b
         3) Reason: Two negative reasons why one must not sin in his anger—or the danger of prolonged anger
            a) “Don’t let the sun go done on your anger” 4:26b
            b) “don’t give opportunity to the devil” 4:27
      c. Don’t steal, share 4:28
         1) Negative Command: “do not steal”
         2) Positive Command: “labor...with his own hands”
         3) Positive Reason: “to share with anyone in need”
      d. Don’t use corrupt words, but edifying words 4:29-30
         1) Negative Command: “let no unwholesome word come out of your mouths”
         2) Positive Command: Substitute—edifying words for unwholesome ones
         3) Positive Reason: “in order to give grace to those who hear”
      e. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit 4:30-32
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Walk in Love and Light 5:1-14
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1. Do not partner with darkness 5:7-10
   a. Command: Do not be involved 5:7
   b. Reason: Christians are Changed People 5:8a-8b
      1) Past: Were darkness 5:8a
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   d. Reason: Characteristics of the fruit of light 5:9
   e. Challenge: Seek to please God 5:10
2. Do not take part in works of darkness 5:11-13
   a. Command: Do not be involved but expose 5:11a
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E. Walk in Wisdom 5:15–6:9
1. Wise worship 5:15-21
   a. The Filling of the Spirit Ephesians 5:15-18
      1) Command — Imperative
      2) Corporate — Plural
      3) Cause — Passive
      4) Continual — Present
      5) Clarification — Definition - Yielding Control
   b. Result—Product of doing God’s will and being filled with the Spirit 5:19-21
      1) Speak — Fellowship Ephesians 5:19a
      2) Sing — Worship - Corporately Ephesians 5:19b
      3) Satisfied — Thanksgiving - to God Ephesians 5:20
      4) Submit —Submission to one another Ephesians 5:21
2. Wise family 5:22-6:4
   a. Wives and Husbands 5:22-33
      1) The Wife’s Primary Responsibility Ephesians 5:22-24
         a) Command: To Submit
         b) Motivation: Her relationship to the Lord
         c) Model: The Life of Christ, and the submission of the church in response.
         d) Requirement: Self-acceptance and respect. Then commitment to husband.
         e) Paradox: Often, in a relational context, women find it easier to love then submit
         f) Product: Harmony
      2) The Husband’s Primary Responsibility Eph. 5:25-33
         a) Command: To love
b) Motivation: His relationship to the Lord
c) Model: Christ’s sacrificial love and death
d) Requirements: Love wife as much as self even to death (and men really love their bodies)
e) Paradox: Men find it easier to be passive (submit) then to love
f) Product: Harmony
b. Children and Parents 6:1-4

3. Wise work: Slaves and Masters 6:5-9

VIII. Stand firm 6:10-20
Fight the Battle Together
A. The Battle 6:10-13
Be Strong in the Lord
Realize you are in a Battle
1. Call to be strong in the face of battle 6:10
What: be strong in the Lord
2. Call to put on the armor in light of the enemy 6:11-12
How: put on God’s armor 6:11a
Why: to stand against the devil’s schemes 6:11b-13
B. The Armor 6:14-17
Stand Firm
Put on the Armor
1. The Command: Stand 6:14a
2. The Supply: Armor 6:14b-16
C. The Need (purpose): Be alert and pray 6:18-20
Pray
Constantly alert

IX. Conclusion 6:21-24
A. Envoy to fill in personal details 6:21-22
B. Benediction 6:23-24

Review
1:1–3:21 Positional Unity of the Church
1:1-23 God’s (life insurance) plan and benefits
1:1-2 A circular letter to those “in Christ”
Paul writes to those “in Christ”—that they might experience God’s grace and peace.
1:3-14 Believers have: Every spiritual blessing—to the praise of His glory
The plan, provision and protection of Salvation
God is blessed, because He has blessed those “in Christ” with every spiritual blessing
“God has enriched believers with every spiritual benefit for their spiritual well-being.”1
A reminder of the great things God has done for the individual believer
WOW—it is all about God
All we have in salvation is for His praise and glory.
1:15-23 Prayer for insight to truly know God
The prayer for those who have everything—know God better
Prayer for personal insight to their relationship with God for the purpose of deeper experiential appreciation
of their riches benefits
To realizing the hope, riches and power on their behalf—which is evidenced by Christ current exalted position
Paul prays that believer’s know God personally and intimately—so that they would realize the hope of their calling
(past), the riches of His inheritance in the saints (value) (future) and the extent of His power on their behalf
(present)—which is evidenced by the power to raise and seat Christ and to subject all things to Him and to give
Him to the Church as sufficient head (make Him head of the Church).
Why did He do this?
“In chapters 2 and 3 Paul explains the execution of the eternal plan by showing how God makes sinners into saints and
builds them into the church, the body of Christ. In 2:1-10 Paul states how sinners, who deserve nothing but God’s
wrath, become trophies of his grace.”2

2:1–3:21 Steps towards fulfilling God’s plan

2:1–10 God’s plan (1:3–14) applied to individuals

Man’s condition 2:1–3
Apart from God man is hopeless because they are dead in trespasses and sin
Condition apart from God (2:1–3)
— though dead in trespasses and sin resulting from
— nature/life—walk according to the values of the world
— devil—are controlled by the ruler of the world
— and actions of the will (enjoyment of sin)

“But God” (God’s provision) 2:4–10
Man’s condition, apart from God is hopeless because they are dead in trespasses and sin
as a result of their walking according to the values of the world, are controlled by the ruler of the world,
and by actions in keeping with their desires.
But God
Who is rich in mercy (character), motivated by His great love (cause)
Applied His power to make believers alive, raised, and seated with Christ, so that they would be a
table of God’s grace
Based on His grace provided a gift
—a relationship with Him—no longer separated (dead) but unified (alive) as an expression of the
surpassing rich of His grace
Obtained through faith
—not works
For the purpose of doing good works
—to reveal God’s grace through actions

• Character—Who is rich in mercy
• Motivated—By His great love
• Based on—His grace
• Provided a gift
• Obtained—through faith
• Purpose—to do good works, which reveal God’s grace in action

2:11–3:13 God’s plan applied corporately

2:11–22 Our new position corporately
Now have been brought near to God and have been made into a new man—entity
2:11–12 Formerly
Those who were hopeless
Separated from God’s promises
and Messiah—given to Israel
2:13–22 Now have been brought near to God
And have been made into a new man—entity

3:1–13 The mystery of the Church is revealed after Christ
Paul explains his role as administrator and dispenser of the mystery to the Gentiles
The church is not natural—unity in spite of diversity is difficult
To show the wisdom of God—even to the cosmic powers

3:14–21 Prayer and Praise
3:14–19 Prayer for the Ephesians to know and experience Christ’s love and experience maturity filled by God
The impossibly big prayer for intimacy and to be total consumed with God
3:20–21 Doxology: Praise to God for His superabounding

4:1–6:9 The Proper Conduct of the Church

4:1–16 Call to a mature unity
4:1–6 Walk in Unity (Call for Unity)
Unity—the unifying or overarching theme of the whole section
4:1 Therefore walk in a manner worthy!!!!!
How can we not desire to walk in a manor worthy of our calling when we have been
planned for, provided for, protected by, prayed for,
sacrificed for, saved by, seated with,
loved, liberated, lifted,
unified,
to the fullest with every spiritual blessing,
with the surpassing greatness of His power,
the fullness of Him who fills all in all,
the riches of His great love,
the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness, unfathomable riches, manifold wisdom, surpassing knowledge,
who is able to do abundantly more than we could even ask or think??????

**WOW**

4:7-24 Ministry and Maturity
4:7-16 The enablement for Unity and Maturity
The goal of the church is to grow up—together
by practicing the truth in love
by everyone doing their part

Ephesians 4:7-10 Power
Ephesians 4:11-13 God's plan (giving gifted individuals to equip the church for: works of service and to build up the body)
Our mission: Unity and maturity

When this happens the body will grow in love—the unity and maturity that are the Aim—will be reached

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<tr>
<td>4:17-24 The new Christian <strong>Mind</strong></td>
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<td>Principle of separation—purity</td>
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<td>The changed life</td>
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<td>4:25-32 The new Christian <strong>speech</strong></td>
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<td>(This is a critical section for our church: it's OK to have critical thinking but not to have a critical spirit. Gossip, complaining, anger, malice.....)</td>
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<td>Next two may be one</td>
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<td>5:1-6 The new Christian <strong>motivation</strong></td>
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<td>5:7-14 The new Christian <strong>lifestyle</strong></td>
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<td>5:15-21 The new Christian <strong>worship</strong></td>
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4:17-24 Walk in Holiness—Remove and Replace
Put off the old self Lay aside former lifestyle
Put on the new self Be renewed in your mind
The unity and maturity of the church can only be developed and maintained if individuals grow through the influence of the Word and fellow believers.
The goal of the individuals within the church (to grow up) requires—don’t think and live like the pagans
Put aside corruption, impurity and deceitful desires
Be renewed—starting with your thinking which will then lead to your actions
Put on the new self which positionally has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth

Both points—the corporate and individual are mutually supporting.
As individuals grow they will serve as a response to God
As the church ministers to itself, individuals will grow through the influence of the Word and their fellow believers.
This section serves as the overarching principle for the rest of the ethical section—the remainder focuses on what it looks like to put aside old and put on new.

**Good section in which to discuss Spiritual Formation**
Goal: God’s Glory
Process: Transformation of the Whole Being—starting with the mind
Obstacles: Trust (self)—Sin, Stress, Satan, Suffering
Habits: Working with the Holy Spirit
Explain contrast between “old self” and “new self”
“lay aside” ⇤ “Put on” ⇤ SF is about removal and replacement
Can’t just focus on “remove” –the don’ts
Nor just about “adding” – the do’s
“spirit of your mind”—“spirit” here is similar to “mind” or “heart” as the controlling center.
So the mind/heart must be renewed.

4:25-32 The New Christian speech
Walk in holiness by speaking the truth and demonstrate love not anger
Speak truthfully and with edifying words
Don’t let anger lead you to sin, instead
Be kind
Forgive
In Ephesians 4:15 Paul exhorts us to “speak the truth in love”
4:25-32 will give concrete instruction as to what this does and does not look like.

5:1-14 Walk in love and light
5:1-6 Walk in Love
5:7-14 Walk in Light
With a continuing emphasis on truth, Paul calls the community of believers not only to replace falsehood with truth
and anger with kindness and forgiveness but also to walk in love.

This is done through imitating God. We are to be imitators of God by walking in love and walking in light in stark contrast to the dark immorality of the world around us.

But not only are we to abstain from immorality we are to show the contrast by exposing immorality to light and influence.

5:13 could best be translated
“All things exposed/convincing by the light are enlightened,
For everything enlightened takes on the quality of light.”

In character we are to be like light in darkness. Our character must influences other and our purpose must drive our passion.

We must be willing to be different but not isolated. This requires being insolated but not secluded but influencing.

Not isolation but insulation for influence.

The church should not be a fortress but a force in society.

“The gospel flows best through the establishing of significant relationships that are authentic and healthy. When relationships become stagnant and the community of Christ closes itself to the outside world, the result is an institution rather than a movement.” McManus

5:15—6:9 Walk in Wisdom

This whole section is tied together by the “therefore . . .walk as wise” in 5:15, which serves as the basis for the many imperatives of this section. Being wise in their conduct and relationship is depended on being filled by the Holy Spirit.

Walking wisely and walking by means of the Spirit are basically synonymous.

5:15-21 Walk Wisely and Worship Together

In context, last section we asked the question, “How different should we be?”, with the challenge to be different in character (light and darkness). This new section will challenge us not isolate ourselves—we are not to be intimidated by evil, but we must take every opportunity to make an impact in an immoral environment living a life pleasing to God. But how?

Paul, in the opening of the finally “therefore . . .walk” section reminding his readers that they live in an evil society from which they are not to isolate themselves but to influence which will require walking in wisdom. This wisdom comes from submitting (yielding) to the Spirit (be filled with the Spirit) resulting in a focus on others.

The filling of the Spirit enables them to do that which is not natural—submit willingly to others.

Problem: Evil society
Don’t yield to evil—walk wise, not in isolation—but influence it

Solution: Be filled with the Spirit
Yield to the Spirit—not passive, but resulting in focus on others

Result: Proper relationships
Yield to each other—not selfishness, but humbly

Paul’s point, then, is that the Holy Spirit is the controlling influence motivating and directing the lives of believers.

The filling is accomplished by a yieldedness of the believer to the will of God, through which the Holy Spirit controls the believer and is the divine resource which empowers the believer for sanctification which results in service.

5:22-33 The filling of the Spirit enables walking wisely in marriage relationship

5:22-24 The Wife’s role: Commanded to submit
Command: To Submit
Submission is not
Related to inferiority or weakness
Forced
Conditioned on husband’s love
Submission is
A command
A voluntary act of the will
It is first a response to the Lord

Motivation: Her relationship to the Lord

Model: The life of Christ, and the submission of the church in response
Requirement: Self-acceptance and respect.
Paradox: Often women find it easier to love than submit
Product: Harmony

5:25-33 The Husband’s role: Commanded to Love
Command: To love
Four Qualities of a husband’s love
- It is to be a sacrificial love 5:24b
- It is to be a purifying love 5:26-27
- It is to be a caring love 5:28-30
- It is to be an unbreakable love 5:31

5:23 “Head”
What headship is not
- Superiority
- Dictatorial—the husband is not the only decision maker
- Demanding
- It is loving leadership
- Responsibility, not rank
- Sacrifice, not selfishness
- Duty, not domination
- Privilege, not power
Motivation: His relationship to the Lord
Model: Christ’s sacrificial love and death
Requirements: Love wife as much as self even to death
Paradox: Often men find it easier to be passive (submit) then to love
Product: Harmony

6:4-9 The filling of the Spirit enables walking wisely in home and work relationships
6:1-4 Children are commanded to obey their parent and honor them
6:5 Fathers are commanded to replace provocation with proactive upbringing
6:6-8 Slaves are commanded to be obedient, serving as to the Lord first
6:9 Masters are commanded to replace threats with understanding who their ultimate Master is

6:10-20 Spiritual warfare: Standing Firm
We must be aware that we are in a battle and that the power for the battle comes from the Lord through prayer. The armor for the battle is provided by the Lord to enable us to stand firm.

Through spiritual warfare, the devil is trying to keep us from doing what we should be doing—
Standing for the truth (notice the emphasis on truth in the armor)
Sharing the gospel (notice Paul request n 6:18-20)
- Maintaining the unity of the body (theme of the whole book supported by the request to pray for “all the saints”)
Scripture is clear
When facing temptation—Flee
When facing Satan—Stand firm

In temptation, the flesh, world, Satan are trying to get us to do something we should not. Flee (and pursue righteousness)
Through spiritual warfare, the devil is trying to keep us from doing what we should be doing:
- Standing for the truth
- Sharing the gospel
- Maintaining the unity of the body

What is interesting about this is that we tend to reverse the process.
When it comes to temptation, we want to stand and fight. We want to beat it this time.

When it comes to warfare, we tend to run. We give in to fear—what will they think of me if I tell them I am a Christian? What will happen if I don’t go along with the gossip in the church?

But the instructions are clear.
Flee temptation
Stand firm for the truth against the schemes of the devil.

Against
Satan — tries to keep you from doing what you should
Sin — tries to get you do to what you should not

Key Application
Keeping doing what you should — Be Bold
Keep avoiding what you should — Be Bright (holy)
Do it with others

Hebrews 10:24-25 Stir up
Stick together

6:21-24 Conclusion
6:21-22 Tychicus to comfort the Ephesians though Paul is in prison
6:23-24 Benediction
Paul concludes his epistle with a similar tone to the opening and a review of four key themes: peace, love, faith/faithfulness and grace.
He commends God’s grace on those who love Jesus with a permanent love.

Introduction
Questions
Each basic personality has certain internal motivators—so,
What do you value most:
Maintaining harmony or maintaining purity?
Paul taught us in Ephesians that both are necessary
Being right or being at peace?
Paul taught us in Ephesians that both are necessary

List 3 observations from this passage—what are the key thoughts?

Now: Compare and contrast the following passages
—Read 1 Peter 5:8-9 and James 4:7—additional insights?

—Read 2 Timothy 2:22; 1Timothy 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:18; 10:14—Observation?

Ephesians 6:10-20 Key concepts
Stand Firm
Flee

Context
Connect to previous section
Walk(drives the ethical instruction of 4:1—5:21 This is the 5th of 5 sections that start with “walk” περιπατέω and have the inferential οὖν
4:1 walk in a manner worthy of the calling—unity
4:17 walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk—holiness
5:2 walk in love
5:8 walk as children of Light
5:15 walk, not as unwise men but as wise

Spiritual Warfare
The context is key, this section on spiritual warfare which, usually is treated as a standalone passage, must be seen in connection to the whole book and particularly the section on submission. The devil is the great enemy of “one body,” the unity Paul exhorted to and the submission that maintains it. And while the instruction must be applied to individuals, as the individuals apply them, the body stands united.
Submission is the giving up of our rights and the pursuit of our self-interest. The spiritual war is about not giving way, but standing fast. How often we tend to reverse these two. We are all too inclined to give up or to give in, in matters where we should stand fast, and too eager to stand fast where we should give ground. We need to learn to stand where we are commanded to stand, and to submit where we are instructed to submit.

From 4:1 on the readers have been urged to ‘live’ worthily of the high calling which they have received from God. Five times in the paraenetic material of chapters 4–6 the key verb *peripateō* (‘walk, live’) has been used to point to the new and distinctive lifestyle the readers are now to adopt (4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15). The last of these focusses on Spirit-filled Christians *living* wisely in their relationships within the family (5:21–6:9). Now the paraenesis is drawn to a conclusion as Paul sets forth an effective summary, reinforces his earlier exhortations, and challenges his readers to action. Paul uses battle imagery as he calls them to stand firm in the midst of the spiritual warfare that is already in progress. 4

This section is clearly a summary to the whole book, notice the commonalities

- power in 6:10–11 and in 1:19–20; 3:7, 16, 20
- “put on” in 6:11, 14 (NIV, “in place”) and in 4:24
- “the devil’s schemes” in 6:11 and “deceitful scheming” in 4:14; “do not give the devil a foothold” in 4:27 (cf. 2:2)
- evil spiritual forces in 6:12 and in 1:21; 3:10
- “darkness” in 6:12 and in 5:8, 11
- “heavenly realms” in 6:12 and in 1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10
- “the day of evil” in 6:13 and “the days are evil” in 5:16
- “truth” in 6:14 and in 1:13; 4:15, 21, 24, 25; 5:9
- “righteousness” in 6:15 and in 4:24; 5:9
- “the gospel” in 6:15 and in 1:13; 3:6
- “peace” in 6:15 and in 1:2; 2:14–17; 4:3
- “faith” in 6:16 and in 1:5; 2:8; 3:12, 17; 4:5, 13 (cf. 1:13, 19)
- “salvation” in 6:17 and in 1:13 (cf. 5:23)
- “the Spirit” in 6:17–18 and in 1:13–14, 17; 2:18, 22; 3:5, 16; 4:3–4, 30; 5:18
- “the word” in 6:17 and in 5:26 (cf. 1:13 [with logos instead of rhema])
- “saints” in 6:18 and in 1:1, 15, 18; 2:19; 3:8, 18; 4:12; 5:3
- “boldness” in 6:19–20 and in 3:12 (NIV, “freedom” and “fearlessly” respectively)
- “mystery” in 6:19 and in 1:9; 3:3–4, 9; 5:32.5

Another author put it this way

At the same time, a number of concerns within the whole letter are brought back to the readers’ attention in an emphatic way. The recapitulation of various issues, themes, and terminology from the earlier sections of the letter is very impressive, as several recent writers have shown. For example, the imperative to be strong in the Lord (6:10) brings to mind God’s power, which was manifested in Christ’s resurrection and exaltation, and is now available to believers (1:19–20). The imperative regarding divine empowering also has links with believers’ strengthening through the Spirit (3:16) and the praise that God’s power is at work among them (3:20). Often the connections between motifs in Ephesians 1–3 and 6:10–20 highlight the tension between what has already been achieved in Christ, so that believers now experience the life of the

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75. See the discussions of Arnold, 103–22; Lincoln, 432–41; and T. Moritz, *A Profound Mystery*, 181–83; cf. Snodgrass, 334–36. Moritz, who has drawn attention to a wide range of connections between all six chapters of the letter and 6:10–20, notes the cluster of important theological terms (truth, righteousness, faith, word, and Spirit) which link 1:13 with 6:14–17 (where the Old Testament weapon imagery appears). He concludes that 6:10–20 ‘should be interpreted with the entire epistle in view’ (182).
‘new age’, and this present evil age where the powers are active and in which believers now live. Christ has ‘already’ triumphed over the powers (1:21; 3:10). But they still exist, and are active in the disobedient (2:2). Through their prince they seek to gain a base of operations against believers (4:27). These evil supernatural forces listed in 6:12 are the principalities and authorities that have been mentioned in 1:21 and 3:10; the sphere in which they function is the heavenly realm (6:12; 3:10), and the present age over which they hold sway is described in terms of darkness (6:12) or evil days (5:16). Christ’s triumph over the powers has ‘already’ occurred (1:21), so believers no longer live in fear of them. But the fruits of that victory have ‘not yet’ been fully realized, so Christians must be aware of the conflict and be equipped with divine power to stand against them.76

The realities closely connected with the pieces of armour in 6:14–17 have already featured prominently in the earlier chapters of the epistle. So truth (1:13; 4:15, 21, 24, 25; 5:9), righteousness (4:24; 5:9), peace (1:2; esp. 2:14–18; 4:3; cf. 6:23), the gospel (1:13; 3:6; cf. 2:17; 3:8) or word of God (1:13; 5:26), salvation (1:13; 2:5, 8; 5:23), and faith (1:1, 13, 15, 19; 2:8; 3:12, 17; 4:5, 13) are important theological themes which are recapitulated in relation to the weaponry believers are to employ in their spiritual warfare. In addition, the summons to prayer in 6:16–18 picks up terminology already used earlier in the letter: 1:16; ‘all the saints’ (3:18); the ‘mystery’ (1:9; 3:3, 4, 9; 5:32), ‘boldness’ (3:12), and Paul’s imprisonment (3:1; 4:1).77

Overview

This final section of the exhortatory material of Ephesians, in which the readers are urged to be strong in the Lord and to put on God’s mighty armour as they engage in a spiritual warfare with the powers of evil, occupies a highly significant place in the epistle. The paragraph not only ends the paraenetic material begun in 4:1, but it also serves as the climax of the letter as a whole,71 bringing it to a conclusion. The paragraph is neither ‘an irrelevant appendix’ to Ephesians nor ‘a parenthetical aside’ within it but a crucial element to which the rest of the epistle has been pointing.72

Here the apostle looks at the Christian’s responsibility of living in the world from a broader, that is, cosmic perspective. The moral issues with which he deals are not simply matters of personal preference, as many within our contemporary and postmodern world contend. On the contrary, they are essential elements in a larger struggle between the forces of good and evil.73 Throughout this paragraph on spiritual warfare Paul’s sustained imagery is drawn from the prophecy of Isaiah, which describes the armour of Yahweh and his Messiah (11:4–5; 59:17; cf. 49:2; 52:7). The Isianic references depict the Lord of hosts as a warrior dressed for battle as he goes forth to vindicate his people. The ‘full armour of God’ which the readers are urged to put on as they engage in a deadly spiritual warfare (v. 11) is Yahweh’s own armour, which he and his Messiah have worn and which is now provided for his people as they engage in battle (see the following exegesis).8

It was common enough to end with an appeal that took up the central message of the letter, and pressed it to stir the readers’ hearts and wills to support the writer. This is what Paul does here. The section must be read in the light of the whole of Ephesians, as a call to live out the gospel of cosmic reconciliation, not as an appendix for those with a special interest in demons and spiritual warfare. Note that Paul has chosen to recast his message in the form of a battle address: i.e. he addresses the whole church corporately as an army, not singular saints. Lone soldiers are easy to pick off! Note too that Paul has a particular sort of

76 Note especially the treatment of Lincoln, 438–39; cf. G. D. Fee, God’s Empowering Presence, 724. esp. especially
77 Lincoln, 439. See also T. Moritz, A Profound Mystery, 182, and the exegesis below.
71 So Arnold, 103, 105. G. D. Fee, God’s Empowering Presence, 723, even suggests that in ‘this final section of the letter we also most likely are coming to Paul’s primary concern for his recipients’. His placing this material ‘in the emphatic final position suggests that he has been intentionally building the letter toward this climax right along’.7
73 S. H. T. Page, Powers, 248.
battles in mind: one to hold a strong position. His exhortation does not prepare soldiers to make a quick moving attack (and the Roman soldier’s key attack weapons, the twin javelins, are missing), but to take a stand (11), to stand your ground (13) and to stand firm (14). They hold the crown of the hill, as it were, and the enemy must weary itself in constant uphill attack. The strong position Paul has in mind will be clear to the reader: it is our union with Christ (2:5–6), the head over all things (1:22–23), far above all principalities and powers (1:21), and the resurrection power of God at work in us (1:19–2:7). Even the armour and weapons turn out to be a mixture of God’s very own (cf. Is. 59:17) with those of his Messiah (Is. 11:4–5).

And yet Paul shows no triumphalism here. The decisive victory won by Christ lies in the past and the very fact that believers now fight on Christ’s side is clear testimony to that (see 2:1–6); but complete victory still lies in the future. In the meantime it is the day of evil (13) that appears to dominate the scene.

The passage falls into three sections: the call to don God’s armour for the battle (10–13); the detailing of the armour (14–17) and the need for watchfulness, prayer and intercession (18–20).9

THROUGHOUT THE LETTER Paul has described the privilege and wonder of life in Christ and implored his readers to live in a way suitable to such privilege. From 4:17 on he has been urging his readers to stand against the pagan lifestyle around them. Gross sins should not even be named among them, and they should separate from and reprove the darkness. Their homes should reflect the unifying and self-giving character of the gospel. All this requires determined effort, for the darkness is still very present.10

The list is impressive and hardly coincidental. Paul does not recapitulate everything in the letter, but clearly he wants to remind his readers of new life in Christ and its effect.

The attempt to arouse to action is achieved by a stirring use of battle language. Metaphors of battle were (and are) common. The Old Testament and the book of Revelation are full of such imagery to describe God’s own work, whether in defense of, or judgment against, his people.3 As we will see, the wording to describe the armor is drawn mostly from Isaiah.11

Structure

The passage falls into three sections: the call to don God’s armour for the battle (10–13); the detailing of the armour (14–17) and the need for watchfulness, prayer and intercession (18–20).12

Structure. Three imperatives “be strong,” “put on the full armor of God,” and “stand” (vv. 10–11, 14) dominate the text; the rest is explanatory. Verse 10 functions as a heading for the whole passage. Verse 11 explains that we are strong in the Lord when we put on the armor he provides. Verse 12 shows why strength is needed, and the command to put on God’s armor is then repeated (v. 13) and explained (vv. 14–20). Only two imperatives appear in the Greek text of verses 14–20—“stand” in verse 14 and “take” in verse 17. (Participles are used to convey the other main ideas.) Some begin a new paragraph at verse 17, some, such as the NRSV, at verse 18, and still others, like the NIV, at verse 19.8

A schematic of the structure is helpful.

Heading: “Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power” (v. 10)

3 See, for example, Genesis 15:1; Exodus 14:14, 25; Deuteronomy 1:30; 3:22; 33:29; Joshua 10:14–15; Psalm 18; 35; Isaiah 42:13–25; Jeremiah 21:3–7; 46; Revelation 2:16; 6:2–8; 9:7–19; 19:11–16.
4 Wisdom of Solomon 5:17–23 may also have been part of the formative background, for it describes the armor of wrath God puts on and adopts “breastplate of righteousness” from Isaiah 59:17. The word for “armor” there is the same word as in Ephesians 6:11, 13 panoplia. See also Ignatius, Letter to Polycarp 6:2, which uses language of battle equipment in an exhortation toward Christian living. In the New Testament, see Romans 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:8. Whereas Ephesians has “the breastplate of righteousness” and “the helmet of salvation,” 1 Thessalonians 5:8 has “putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet” (see also Rom. 6:13; 2 Cor. 6:7; 10:3–4).
8 In the first edition of the UBS Greek text verses 14–20 are one long sentence. Logically verse 18 shifts to the subject of prayer, but grammatically it is dependent on verse 17, which causes debate about the flow of the text. The NIV started a new paragraph at verse 19 because the logic shifts to prayer for Paul, but grammatically verses 19–20 merely continue verse 18. The NIV has inserted the word “pray” in verse 19; the text has only “and for me.”
Means of achieving the goal: “Put on the full armor of God” (v. 11a)

**Purpose:** “so … you can … stand … against the devil’s schemes” (v. 11b)

**Explanation of the problem:** “For our struggle is … against the spiritual forces of evil” (v. 12)

**Repetition and explanation of the means of achieving the goal:** “Put on the full armor of God” (v. 13a)

**Purpose:** “so … you may … stand”

**Call for commitment:** “Stand” (v. 14a)

(Four participles explaining the means by which we stand)

- “with the belt of truth buckled around your waist” (v. 14b)
- “putting on [NIV, “with”] the breastplate of righteousness” (v. 14b)
- “with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace” (v. 15)
- “taking up [NIV, “take up”] the shield of faith” (v. 16)

**Call to be equipped:** “Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit” (v. 17)

(Two participles explaining how we take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit):

- “praying [NIV, “pray”] in the Spirit” (v. 18a)
- “being alert with all perseverance and petitions for all the saints” [NIV, “be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints”] (v. 18b)

**Request for prayer for Paul for two purposes:**

- “that … words may be given me” (v. 19)
- “that I may declare [the gospel] fearlessly” (v. 20).

**Exposition**

**VII. Proper Conduct in the Church** 4:1–6:9

A. Walk in Unity 4:1-16
B. Walk in Holiness 4:17-32
C. Walk in Love 5:1-6
D. Walk in Light 5:7-14
E. Walk in Wisdom 5:15-6:9

1. Wise worship 5:15-21
   a. The Filling of the Spirit  Ephesians 5:15-18
   b. Result—Product of doing God’s will and being filled with the Spirit 5:19-21

2. Wise family 5:22-6:4
   a. Wives and Husbands 5:22-33
   b. Children and Parents 6:1-4

3. Wise work: Slaves and Masters 6:5-9

**The Armor**

Faith and the Word are our defense

**VIII. Stand firm 6:10-20**

Fight the Battle Together

A. The Battle 6:10-13

**Be Strong in the Lord**

Realize you are in a Battle

1. **The Call:** be strong in the face of battle  6:10
   **What:** be strong in the Lord

Interesting context, Paul is a prisoner, v. 20, as he writes he may have been looking

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10 Paul uses participles to describe the armor until verse 17, where the imperative “take” is used. Some suggest the shift is from items requiring human effort to those that are pure gift, but this is unlikely. The other pieces of armor are no less gifts, and human effort is also involved in taking the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit. Possibly these two pieces of the armor are more comprehensive, encompassing all other gifts. In any case, Paul emphasizes salvation and the Spirit by the grammatical shift. Faith is also emphasized by the insertion “In addition to all this” (v. 16).

at a Roman soldier and used his armor as a guide for the armament the child of God must use. As well as reflecting on Old Testament passages that flooded his mind.

“be strong” = “be strengthened” is passive

We have His power to strengthen us.

Ephesians 1:19–20 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, (ESV)

2. The Call: to put on the armor in light of the enemy 6:11-13

How: put on God’s armor 6:11a

“our struggle” = wrestle, Roman style, pin the neck so that the loser couldn’t get up and walk away

Why: to stand against the devil's schemes 6:11b-13

Key word: “be able” δύναμαι (11, 13, 16)

The presence and exercise of sufficient power—all we need—Hope, victory will be reality if dependent on God’s power Resurrection power 1:19-20

“Able” is the word δύναμαι, Key word to this section, it appears again in verse 13 and 16. It means, “The presence and exercise of sufficient power” — all we need

“The writer wants his readers to know that their chances of success are more than possible or even probable: victory will be a reality given their dependence upon the divine power.”

“Beyond these capabilities, the certainty of Satan’s attack (v. 13) and the viciousness of his fiery assault (v. 16) add to our causes for concern. If Satan is so capable and his evil so definite and destructive, then we had better regard him seriously. We must also recognize our limitations in confronting him. No one is ready for spiritual warfare until, in view of the nature of this Adversary, we freely confess that apart from God we cannot repel his assaults. This is the second great need of spiritual warfare: along with faith in our new nature, we must confess our helplessness without God.”

But first notice who we are standing against.

that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

The devil is a person not a force

Notice that he has intellect—"schemes"

The devil is powerful, but his power is limited by God (Job 1)
The devil’s purpose is self-exaltation, to replace God, to be autonomous (Isaiah 14)
“I will be like God"
The devil has a strategy
Blinds the eyes of the unsaved (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)

Against the adversary

With believers

Here Paul says so that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

In 2 Corinthians 2:11, Paul states that he is, “not unaware of his schemes.”

15 Bryan Chapell, Holiness by Grace () p. 145.
Schemes, carries the notion of attacks that are constantly repeated and have an incalculable variety. This would include the usual function of Satan as tempting the believer to do evil deeds, but would also involve any effective method in the overall goal of hindering the progress of the gospel and the cause of Christ.16

Mention of the “schemes” of the devil reminds us of the trickery and subterfuge by which evil and temptation present themselves in our lives. Evil rarely looks evil until it accomplishes its goal; it gains entrance by appearing attractive, desirable, and perfectly legitimate. It is a baited and camouflaged trap. As Paul puts it in 2 Corinthians 11:14, Satan masquerades as an angel of light.17

The commander-in-chief of the opposing forces, the devil himself, the sworn enemy of the church. He is a master of ingenious stratagems (methodeias cf. 4:14) and his tactics must not be allowed to catch us unawares. In the immediate context, it is likely that Paul has in mind the devils deliberate attempts to destroy the unity of Christ’s body (3:14-22; 4:1-16, 27) through the invasion of false doctrine and the fomenting of dissension (4:2, 21, 31, 32; 5:6).18

But the devils schemes are multifaceted. The devil is an expert. He understand the game, understands what he must do to win each battle. He is the “angel of light” a master of disguise.

In this section, Paul does not elaborate on what the devil’s schemes are, so let me just briefly list a few, and then we can get back to our defensive stance.

**Accuser** of believers  
*Revelation 12:10*  
*Revelation 12:10* And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.(ESV)

**Attacker**  
*1 Thessalonians 2:18*  
*1 Thessalonians 2:18* because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.(ESV)

Sows tares in the church  
*Matthew 13:38, 39* (one reason we believe that to be a member at Calvary Church, you must be a believer)  
*Matthew 13:38–39* The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels.(ESV)

Causes persecution  
*Revelation 2:10*  
*Revelation 2:10* Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.(ESV)

**Attacks individuals**  
*Eph 6:10-11*

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17 Elsewhere Paul warns of Satan’s temptations and complains of his obstacles (1 Cor. 7:5; 2 Cor. 2:11; 11:3; 12:7; 1 Thess. 2:18).
19 EBC
Asider uses whatever will side track us, from our purpose, to worship, to grow, to be one

Guilt to keep you from serving
Busyness
Any Weakness

In the Late 80's I had a course in seminary in which we dealt with spiritual warfare
Prof told a story (of the mid-80s) of flying somewhere to speak, sat down next to someone who appeared to be praying. When the man looked up, Prof asked him, “I saw you praying, are you a Christian?” “NO.” he replied, “I am a Satanist.” This lead to a discussion in which the young man revealed that he and other Satanist were praying for the moral downfall of Christian leaders. Could it be “simple coincidence” that the 80's were a time when a number of public Christian leaders were caught in immorality?

Application
Whether we like it or not, we are in a spiritual war for which God has provided all we need to have victory. We can be empowered, in His strength according to His might by continually wearing the armor we need for the battle.

The Power of this dark world
The use of the term spiritual for evil forces is somewhat surprising. This is the only time in the New Testament that this word has a negative connotation, but a negative use is understandable given the frequency with which the word “spirit” is used for evil spirits in the Gospels and Acts or occasionally for a spirit contrary to God’s purposes. Paul even used the word “god” in reference to Satan in 2 Corinthians 4:4.

2 Corinthians 4:4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.(ESV)

1 John 5:19 We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.(ESV)

Don’t miss it—we have an active real adversary—enemy
Some worry too much about spiritual warfare—magic, animism
Other don’t consider spiritual warfare at all—materialism

"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 or a magician with the same delight."20

20C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters
A Perspective on Spiritual Conflict

Call to put on the armor repeated 6:13

**Armor**
Must put on the armor before we go to war. (put on the armor of God...then you will be able to stand firm) The life of a Christian, like that of a soldier, is not one of ease and leisure, but of active service. God does not lead us into a battle ill-equipped, or unable to win the battle. Put it on, keep it on—always ready for battle.

But it is a serious battle. Verse 12 “Struggle” = wrestle, Roman style, the goal was to get his two hands around the throat of his adversary and to pin him to the ground by strangling him. Pin the neck so that the loser couldn’t get up and walk away. A life and death struggle. Our adversary, the devil, is trying to destroy us.

**1 Peter 5:8** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (ESV)

Christ has accomplished the victory but we are still involved in battles. “Christ ‘in us’ is our defense, but by studying the spiritual armor, we can gain more specific and practical understanding of how to do spiritual battle.”

**B. The Armor 6:14-17**

*Stand Firm*

*Put on the Armor*

How do we win the battle? The Armor.

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The Armor Described is that of a heavily armed Roman foot soldier, though as already indicated, the terms for armor and their spiritual associations are drawn from Isaiah. Paul uses this analogy because of the influence of the Old Testament, the picture it presents, and its rhetorical effect. The meaning would not be different if he had written, “Put on truth, righteousness, readiness, and faith, and take hold of salvation and the gospel.” Speculation about the connection between specific “virtues” and specific parts of the armor is not helpful, especially when the breastplate and helmet are associated with different qualities in 1 Thessalonians 5:8.22

Offensive or Defensive?
Nearly all the weapons of our warfare described in Ephesians are purely defensive. Even the sword can be used as well for defense as for offense. The difference between defensive and offensive warfare is this, that in the former I have got the ground and only seek to keep it, whereas in the latter I have not got the ground and am fighting in order to get it. . . . Thus today we do not fight for victory; we fight from victory. We do not fight in order to win but because in Christ we have already won. Overcomers are those who rest in the victory already given to them by their God.23

Do the pieces of armor in verses 14–16 represent gifts from God or our obedience to God? That is, for example, do we belt on God’s truth or the practice of truth? Both are true, but which did Paul have in mind? The separation of gift and task should not be made so starkly, and M. Barth is correct in pointing out that all the theological terms mentioned here are relational terms. They have to do with the covenant. 25 Each one points to a reality about God that determines human action. The nuance varies from item to item as to whether focus is more on God or on the believer.24

1. The Command: Stand 6:14a

ἵστημι

To “stand” connotes strength, stability, and success in a conflict or difficulty.16 25

An English translation cannot easily show it, but the imperatives throughout this section are plural. We usually interpret them as if they were addressed to individuals, but without denying their relevance for individuals, we should understand them as Paul’s instructions for the church collectively to put on God’s armor and stand as one person (cf. Phil. 1:27).15 26

2. The Supply: Armor 6:14b-16

Stand Firm

a. The Belt of Truth Eph. 6:13-14 (See also: John 17:13-17)

Ephesians 6:13–14 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 firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,(ESV)
“A literal translation indicates that we put on the full armor of God and stand, “having the belt of truth buckled” about our waist, and “having the breastplate of righteousness in place,” and so on. God has already put the armor in place. We stand firm because God has already supplied our armor, not in order to receive the armor.

This was the point from the beginning: we stand firm against the assaults of Satan because we have strength in the power of God’s might. God provides the power that enables us to stand against Satan’s attacks (cf. Rom 13:12; 1 Thess. 5:8).”

Literal: wide, heavy, leather belt: Foundational part of the armor, held tonic in (gird loins, 1 Peter 1:13)—prepared for action, freed for quick movement (Hebrews 12:1-2), a place to hang weapons—strong foundation, a place to display awards (metals)—the soldiers’ hope was to go into battle with nothing on his belt and then after the battle to be awarded recognitions for accomplishment

Idea: The truth (and character/integrity) are our foundation (Truth=all of God’s Word, 2 Tim. 1:13-14). There is an exegetical question where this is objective truth, i.e. doctrine, or more subjective meaning character, then translated “truthfulness.” (Is. 11:5) The first seems clearer, but both could be included.

If the truth is our foundation, then guilt (Satan’s sly tactic) will not play a part in our thoughts or actions, because our conscience is clear. If we do not have the belt of truth buckled on we are vulnerable. We will want to flee instead of stand when facing the enemy. We have the objective truth of God’s Word, which we must live-out in our lives.

Principle for Spiritual Battle: “I accept the truth of Scripture and commit myself to following it with integrity.”

To belt on truth means to be strengthened by God’s truth in the gospel and to resolve to live truth.

We are in a truth encounter with Satan. Remember even with Jesus, Satan try to deceive and misuse the Bible. We must know the truth and use it as our defense. It is our foundation.

John 17:13–17 But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (ESV)

Stand firm—1. On the truth accept/realize or 2. In the truth live

b. The breastplate of Righteousness Eph. 6:14

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, (ESV)

Literal: Metal cast of the torso of a man worn to protect the vital organs

Idea: We have protection through the breastplate of...
righteousness (both through the righteousness given to us through Christ and by maintaining a righteous life)

Again as in “truth” this could refer to the righteousness of Christ that is ours or the demonstration of righteousness. The question is, How can we put on what is already ours.

Principle for Spiritual Battle: “By God’s grace, I dedicate myself to living as much like Christ as I know how, counting on Christ’s righteousness to make me acceptable to God, and reject Satan’s accusations against me when I fail.” 30

To put on the breastplate of righteousness means that Christians are to reflect the righteous character of God in their actions. 31

Righteousness
We have not righteousness of our own to give defense against attacks

Isaiah 64:6–7 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. 7 There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.(ESV)

We are imputed (credited) with God’s righteousness. Not something we can put on or put off.

Romans 3:22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:(ESV)
Romans 3:24–26 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.(ESV)

The Holy Spirit produces righteousness in the lives of who are imputed with Christ’s righteousness.

Philippians 1:11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.(ESV)
Romans 6:13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.(ESV)
Romans 8:3–4 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.(ESV)

In hand-to-hand combat, the Roman soldier would try with a short sword to find small breaks or weak points in the armor (breastplate) and thrust his sword in to kill.

“If sins in the life of the child of God remain unjudged and unconfessed, those sins are like a defect in the protective covering and leave an opening through which the dagger points can pierce to his destruction.” 32

Rom. 6:13 imparted righteousness (developing)
1 Pet. 5:15-16 don't habitual harbor known sin
Rom. 8:1 no condemnation - we have imputed righteousness

Our hearts have been guarded against destruction by justification. But we must guard ourselves against the assaults by righteous living.

To avoid strongholds: practice the position you have in Christ. (See the application)

Don’t allow sins to keep you defenses down. One type of breakdown in defense is an unforgiving spirit (remember the context of fellowship: forgiveness).
( Context: Someone who had sinned [rebel, someone who had wronged Paul, and been disciplined by the church] had repented and it was time for the body to forgive him. Paul states that if they forgive him, he already did.)

2 Corinthians 2:9–11 For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. 10 Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, 11 so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs. (ESV)

c. The Shoes of the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace Eph. 6:15

Ephesians 6:15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. (ESV)

Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” (ESV)

Literal: Leather shoes strapped to the legs with leather straps and often with short spikes for footing
Idea: The word “readiness” or “preparation” can either mean “being ready” or “foundation/base”
Principle for Spiritual Battle: I believe in the secure footing of the gospel true for me as I appropriate them and proclaim them.

Usually this is understood in terms of willingness to share the gospel, but the intent is broader than sharing the good news. “Readiness” pertains to all of life. Knowledge of the gospel should make people alert (v. 18) and ready for life. Christians have been taught in the school of Christ. They are careful about their speech and actions. They do not live in the dark. They live wisely, redeeming the time and understanding the will of the Lord. Such people not only share the good news, but they are also agents of peace and love, ready to do the whole will of God. The paradox of armor given to those committed to a gospel of peace reminds the reader that the language is metaphorical.

“the readiness which belongs to the bearer of good tidings....Those who must at all cost stand their ground need to have a secure footing; in the spiritual conflict, this is supplied by the gospel, appropriated and proclaimed.”

The gospel gives us peace with God and therefore peace in the battle.

We can never walk worthy without the gospel.

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29 Both “shield” and “sword” are also metaphors. They are used in the Old Testament of God’s protection and judgment respectively (Ps. 3:3; Isa. 34:6), though that does not seem to be Paul’s main focus here,


34 Bruce p. 408
Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.(ESV)

“The child of God must by the grace of God appropriate that which God has provided in the gospel so that he will have a secure footing when the adversary attacks.”

d. The Shield of Faith Eph. 6:16

“in addition to all of this” The shield also helped protect the rest of the armor.

Two kinds of shields, the one strapped to the arm of a gladiator, small round. The one Paul refers to, was a larger, “door” shield. (The root of the word used for shield here, means door or gate.)

Literal: Shields were about 2½ by 4½ feet, pieces of wood covered with metal or leather. They were used to deflect arrows, spears, and swords. They worked well when a group of soldiers lined up together with their shields together forming a wall. Not only did they have the rest of the armor, but now nothing could hit them.

Flaming arrows: arrows with a piece of wrapped cloth soaked in tar or pitch, usually fatal. Not only did they pierce but burned. But shields could deflect them and when soaked in water extinguish the arrows.

Idea: Exercise of faith. Believing what God has said and living accordingly.

The issue of integrity (as in Truth, if taken subjectively—truthfulness), honesty and sincerity. One with that kind of reputation keeps those who would try to corrupt away because they know they will not corrupt you. The one with flawed character attracts those with flawed character. But if we are secure in the truth of God’s Word, that what He has said about us is true—there is now therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus—we can stand firm holding the shield of faith.

“Of faith” can mean the entire body of truth “the faith” 1 Timothy 4:1 or it can refer to the “faith principle.” “Faith is an attitude toward God in which you reckon God to be a faithful God who will perform that which He has promised. The shield of faith is not the objective body of truth, then, but rather the faith of the warrior in God’s faithfulness to His promises.”

Colossians 2:4–5 I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. 5 For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.(ESV)

1 John 5:4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.(ESV)

Principle for Spiritual Battle: “Whenever I feel like doubting, or sinning, or quitting, I will reject those thoughts and feelings, because I deeply believe that God’s truth and will are best.”

We are adequately protected from all that Satan can throw at us.

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So when “Satan prompts you to sin, and the Holy Spirit prompts you to righteousness.” Then you must choose to using the shield of faith and extinguish the fiery darts of temptation.

1 Peter 5:8–9 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. (ESV)

Our faith needs to be firm. This firm resolution is the product of an unshakable faith in God.

**Take**

e. **The Helmet of Salvation** Eph. 6:17

- **Literal:** Metal headpiece designed to protect the head from blows
- **Idea:** Protection and provided a striking symbol of military victory (on top of the helmet was a plume)
- **Principle for Spiritual Battle:** “I fix my hopes and affections, not in this world, but in Christ and the next world.”

The helmet because it was hot and uncomfortable was only taken up when facing impending danger.

The helmet of salvation could also be called the helmet of victory. Because believers have the hope/security of salvation. It give the sense of safety from the attacks because of the future salvation.

**But in Ephesians, the believer puts them on to do righteousness and to receive salvation. God’s salvation is the ultimate assurance of protection. From the treatment of salvation earlier in the letter, this salvation is both present and future (cf. 1:10; 2:5–8; 4:30; 5:5).**

1 Thessalonians 5:8–9 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Ephesians 2:4–5 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—(ESV)

1 Peter 1:3–5, 13 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

This hope give us an eternal perspective on present trials.

f. **The Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God** Eph. 6:17-18

- **Literal:** Short (9”) straight sword used by Roman soldiers

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sn The Greek term translated sword (μάχαιρα, machaira) refers to the Roman gladius, a short sword about 2 ft (60 cm) long, used for close hand-to-hand combat. Most see it as the only clearly offensive weapon in the list of armor mentioned by the author (he does not, for example, mention the lance).\(^{41}\)

Roman soldiers also carried a longer double-edged sword (Heb. 4:12)

Idea: Using a specific truth from the Word of God for a specific situation  
It is the “sword of the Spirit” not only because He is the agent behind the inspiration of the text, but because He is the one who applies it to our hearts.  
Principle for Spiritual Battle: “I will master the Word as well as I can, that I will be able to use it to strengthen and guide me in life’s specific circumstances.”

Most see it as the only offensive weapon. It deals with specific parts of God’s Word.

But perhaps the sword is more defensive than offensive.  
Since the victory has been won—we have the defensive armor we need.

Best example of using the Word as a sword is Christ when tempted by Satan (Matt. 4:1-11).

“When you know the Bible well enough to apply it to life’s situations, it becomes as a sword—able to defend against the attacks of the enemy, as well as to be an offensive weapon to put the enemy to flight.”\(^{42}\)

C. The Need (purpose): Be alert and pray 6:18-20

Pray

Constantly alert

Praying in the Spirit

“Prayer in the Spirit is prayer that conforms to the will and purpose of the Spirit.”\(^{43}\)

“The Spirit renews and cleanses our desires, creating an appetite for a closer and more mature relationship with God.”\(^{44}\)

“The Spirit accomplishes what willpower cannot in reconstructing the affections of our hearts.”\(^{45}\)

“Love for God provides the zeal we need to employ the weapons he provides.”\(^{46}\)

The cause of real change is a change in our affection. So why do we love God?

“Our most powerful spiritual weapon is consistent adulation of the mercy of God revealed in Christ.”\(^{47}\)

IX. Conclusion 6:21-24

\(^{43}\) Bryan Chapell, Holiness by Grace () p. 150.  
\(^{44}\) Bryan Chapell, Holiness by Grace () p. 151.  
\(^{45}\) Bryan Chapell, Holiness by Grace () p. 152.  
\(^{46}\) Bryan Chapell, Holiness by Grace () p. 153.  
\(^{47}\) Bryan Chapell, Holiness by Grace () p. 154.
Summary

Prayer
Father, thank you that in Christ I have the hope of my salvation. Help me now to stand firm against the adversary. With Your armor on, help me resist him. May I be self-controlled and alert knowing that the attacks will come, sometimes disguised like an angel of light, and at times direct like a roaring lion. But his purpose is to deceive and destroy me. I accept the call to vigilance and to arms. But Lord, you must be my protector and strength. Amen

When you entered this class we discussed the fact that true Christianity requires commitment. That there is a cost involved in following Christ. Since the goal of this class is: To develop ministry minded people who see ministry as a priority: our guarantee is that there will be opposition. Satan doesn't want anyone to become a Christian. But once they do he wants to keep them from growing. If you are not growing and serving, then you probably won't be attacked. But once you set your heart on growing and serving the Lord you can be certain that the attacks will come.

So as we progress in the next few weeks to discuss: Family, Service, Spiritual gifts, and Bible Study,--toward the goal of being used by God, be aware of the attacks.

Neither Peter nor Paul were kidding when they said:

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour....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. STAND FIRM. (1 Pet. 5:8; Eph. 6:13)

Issue is one of obedience:  
James 4:6–8 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 

Counterbalance to Satan's attacks: Stand Firm

When we think of spiritual warfare, the passages in the New Testament all seem to challenge us to “stand firm” to not give in. While we should not give in to temptation, there seems to be something different going on.

Counterbalance to Satan's attacks: Stand Firm

1 Corinthians 16:13–14 Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done in love. (ESV)

Ephesians 6:10–20 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil 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 firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. (ESV)

48 Adapted from Max Anders, 30 Days to Understanding the Christian Life (Brentwood, TN: Wolgemuth & Hyatt Pub., 1990) p. 253
Contrast between Temptation and Spiritual Warfare

Spiritual warfare: always told to “Stand Firm” or “Resist”

(Eph 6:10-18; 1 Pet 5:8-9; 1 Cor 16:13-14; 2 Thess 2:15; 1 Peter 5:12; Jam 4:7)

Satan is trying to keep us from doing something we should do. Stand Firm

**Ephesians 6:10-20** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil 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 firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.(ESV)

1 Peter 5:8–9 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.(ESV)

1 Corinthians 16:13–14 Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done in love.(ESV)

2 Thessalonians 2:15 So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.(ESV)

1 Peter 5:12 By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.(ESV)

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.(ESV)

Temptation: always told to “flee”

(2 Tim 2:22; 1 Tim 6:9-11; 1 Cor 6:18, 10:14)

2 Timothy 2:22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.(ESV)

1 Timothy 6:9–11 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. 11 But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.(ESV)

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.(ESV)

1 Corinthians 10:14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.(ESV)

The flesh, world, Satan trying to get us to do something we should not do. Flee (and pursue righteousness)

Satan’s strategy with Christians is to keep us out of his way, or to cause of to be a hindrance to the gospel.

Through spiritual warfare, the devil is trying to keep us from doing what we should be doing---
Standing for the truth
Sharing the gospel
Maintaining the unity of the body

As a matter of fact, what lead me to this observation comes from the end of the passage Ephesians 6:19–20 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.(ESV)

Paul’s request for prayer in the midst of spiritual warfare was for Fearless proclamation—that he would stand up and do what he should do.

What is interesting about this is that we tend to reverse the process. When it comes to temptation, we want to stand and fight. We want to beat it this time. When it comes to warfare, we tend to run. We give in to fear—what will they think of me if I tell them I am a Christian? What will happen if I don’t go along with the gossip in the church?

But the instructions are clear.
Flee temptation
Stand firm for the truth against the schemes of the devil.

Review and Application

You must ask yourself: What areas will Satan use to attack me?
1 John 2:16
Desires of the Flesh: food, sleep, sex, activity
Desires of the Eyes: Lust for things and people
Pride of Life: power, ambition, recognition

What must we do?
1. Do not be involved in those things that cause the attack in the first place
2. Maintain your relationship with the Lord
3. Have good fellowship with those of like convictions
4. Confess your sins specifically and regularly
5. Do not be in fear of demons. Remember “Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4)
6. Resist the devil and he will flee from you (James 4:7). This is opposed to passivity. One of the key avenues for evil spirits to begin working in human being, apart from sin, is passivity, the opposite of what God desires.
“The chief condition of the working of evil spirits in a human being, apart from sin, is passivity, in exact opposition to the condition which God requires from His children for His working in them.”
7. Put on the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-19)

Assignment: Read Rom. 6:1-14 and 12:1-2 -- How can these two passages help us in winning the spiritual battles we will face?

Remember—Know — Died to sin in Christ, buried with Him, 6:3, 6, 9; Sin is rendered powerless
Redirect—Offer (do) 6:13

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. The first place the battle are waged are in our minds.

**Spiritual Warfare**
We are guaranteed the victory but we often don't even participate in the battle.

Why:
- We are comfortable
- It's hard work to put on the armor

But:
- Satan is subversive
- We have not been called to a life of pleasure

Conviction: Making a decision about the decision before we are face with the decision.
- Don't be caught off guard.

*What do we struggle against:* 
- All five senses
- World, Flesh, and the Devil
- Unrenewed mind (Mk 15:19; Eph 6 fiery darts; Is 55:7-9)
  (Our mind/will is an air traffic controller, the plan can't land if we don't want it to)

*No instant spirituality*  
- Rom 12:1-2 process

*What do we need to do:*  
- Watch what goes into your mind (Heb 4:12)  
- Let the Word guide our thoughts (Phil 4:8)  
  (don't just try to remove bad, but add good)

**5 Steps to overcoming the struggle**
1. Recognize it all begins in the mind
2. Understand thoughts lead to choices
3. Understand choices turn into acts
4. Understand acts repeated become habits
5. Understand habits turn into strongholds

**Great Saints who failed in their strongholds**
1. Abraham - faith, lied about Sarah, worried for self
2. Moses - humility, struck the rock to show “he” gave water
3. Samuel - availability, not available to son’s
4. David - man after God's own heart, because he would do God's will-fell to immorality doing his own will
5. Elijah - Courage turn to fear

So don't focus only on your weakness, even strength can be made weak if we don't focus on God and grow deeper.

*James 4:7*  
Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (ESV)
Appendix:

**Spiritual Formation in the midst of Spiritual Warfare**

We should have neither morbid fascination nor immobilizing fear when it comes to the spiritual battle we face. It should actually be part of our growth.

But in thinking about spiritual warfare and spiritual formation, we need to look at the relationship between two concepts: temptation and spiritual warfare.

So, what is the difference between temptation and spiritual warfare?

How does proper response to temptation and spiritual warfare strength our growth and prepare us for greater growth?

Though many people want to blame Satan for all our sin, James states that we are tempted by our own desires.

**James 1:13-15** Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)

Does that mean that Satan is not involved or simply that we can't blame him for our sin?

If you look at passage that deal with temptation we see a consistent call to “flee.”

**2 Timothy 2:22** So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (ESV)

**1 Timothy 6:9-11** But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. 11 But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. (ESV)

**1 Corinthians 6:18** Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. (ESV)

**1 Corinthians 10:14** Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. (ESV)

See also narrative of Joseph, Genesis 39:1-20

**Observations**

Flee indicates we have a choice

Flee usually requires not only “stopping” but replacing

If you look at passage that deal with spiritual warfare we see a consistent call to “stand firm” or “resist.”

**Ephesians 6:10-18** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil 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 firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, (ESV)

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**1 Corinthians 16:13-14** Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done in love. (ESV)

**2 Thessalonians 2:15** So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. (ESV)
I Peter 5:12 By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. (ESV)
James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (ESV)

Observations
Stand firm indicates we have a choice
So what is the difference or relationship between spiritual warfare and temptation?
My proposal is simple:
In spiritual warfare, Satan is trying to keep us from doing something we should do therefore we are commanded to stand firm—keep doing what we should do.
When facing temptation, our flesh, the world and Satan are trying to get us to do something we should not therefore we are commanded to flee (and pursue righteousness).
Satan’s strategy with Christians is to keep us out of his way or to cause of to be a hindrance to the gospel.
Through spiritual warfare, the devil is trying to keep us from doing what we should be doing—
Standing for the truth
Sharing the gospel
Maintaining the unity of the body
As a matter of fact, what led me to this observation comes from the end of the most “famous” passage on spiritual warfare

Ephesians 6:19-20 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, 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. NIV

Ephesians 6:18-20 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. (ESV)

Paul’s request for prayer in the midst of spiritual warfare was for fearless proclamation—that he would stand up and do what he should do.
What is interesting about this is that we tend to reverse the process.
When it comes to temptation, we want to stand and fight. We want to beat it “this time.”
When it comes to warfare, we tend to run. We give in to fear—what will they think of me if I tell them I am a Christian? What will happen if I don’t go along with the gossip in the church?
But the instructions are clear.
Flee temptation—don’t give in to what you should not do.
Stand firm for the truth against the schemes of the devil—don’t give in, do what you should do.
Appendix: Biographical Support

Illustration

Lot and Psalm 1 “In,” but not “Of” the World

Introduction

Is it possible to be “in” the world, but not “of” the world?

Genesis 13:1-13 (8-13)

Context: God has blessed Abram with wealth in the form of livestock. The amount of livestock and need for pasture and water causes conflict between the herdsman of Abram and his nephew Lot.

By the way, this passage along with Acts 15:36-41 and Galatians 2:11-16 provides an interesting study on conflict resolution, which we will look at in a few weeks.

13:12 Having separated from Abram, where did Lot go to live?
“moved his tents as far as Sodom” (NASB)

“as far as”
It indicates the gamut, beginning with the distance from, the advance toward, and the movement up to. It is used spatially, temporally, and comparatively.

Spatially it can indicate arrival at a geographical location ("as far as Bethel," Gen 12:6), at a particular object ("up to the horns of the altar," Ps 118:27) and at a person ("approach to God," Ex 22:8). When used in combination with min it gives the idea of extent ("from Sidon ... as far as Gaza," Gen 10:19). Idiomatically it designates range (from the young to the old, Gen 19:4). 1

Genesis 13:12 Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. (NIV)

Genesis 13:12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the Jordan region and pitched his tents next to Sodom. (NET Bible)

Questions

Anything wrong with where Lot chooses to live?

Flirting with temptation?

Genesis 14:11-12

Context: Lot gets caught in the middle of a war between minor kings of the area (reminds me of the feudal system and kings of farms).

Questions

14:12 Where does the text say that Lot was living?

“for he was living in Sodom” (NASB)

“living in”

3782 (yashab): 8 3427; 922—1. 85.67-85.85 () inhabit, dwell, live, stay, i.e., be in a place for any period of time, usually implying a longer amount of time (Ge 4:16); () be settled, be inhabited (Ex 16:35; Jer 6:8; 22:6; Eze 12:20; 26:17, 19; 36:10; 38:12); () inhabited, be caused to dwell (Isa 5:8; 44:26+); () establish a dwelling place, set up camp (Eze 25:4+); () settle, i.e., cause to dwell and so live in a place or certain set of relationships (Ge 47:11); 2. LN 34.66-34.78 (hif) marry, i.e., join in a marriage relation or covenant with a spouse (Ezr 10:2, 10, 14, 17, 18; Ne 13:23, 27+); 3. LN 17.12-17.18 (qal) sit, be seated, take a sitting position, either in a chair or other object, with the associative meaning of being prominent or notable positively or negatively (Ge 43:33); (hif) seat, i.e., cause one to sit (1Sa 2:8; 1Ki 2:24; 21:9, 10, 12; 2Ch 23:20; Job 36:7; Ps 113:8+); 4. LN 17.26-17.28 (qal) crouch, i.e., a lying motion of a four-footed animal, implying action will soon follow (Ps 17:12); 5. LN 15.75-15.80 (qal) meet, approach, i.e., come near to a place by linear movement, implying an encounter of a person or event (2Ki 4:38); 6. LN 13.48-13.68 (hif) restore, renew, formally, cause to dwell, i.e., cause something to be in an earlier, correct state, as an extension of causing to dwell in a place, or on a prominent seating position (Zec 10:6), note: for another in

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Questions

Again—was there anything wrong with where Lot was living?
He is living in a city, a “were wicked exceedingly and sinners against God” 13:13

Genesis 19:1

(Read 19:1-11 and later 12-16)

Context: In chapter 18 the Lord tells Abraham that, because of the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah, He is going to destroy the cities. Abraham pleads with Him to spare it based on the righteous that live in the city (18:23). As you might remember, Abraham starts with asking for the city to be spared on the basis of 50 righteous inhabitants and lowers it to 10. The Lord promises that if he finds 10 righteous, He will not destroy the city.

Questions

19:1 Where does the text say that Lot was?
“Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom” (NASB)
The expression sitting in the city’s gateway may mean that Lot was exercising some type of judicial function (see the use of the idiom in 2 Sam 19:8; Jer 26:10; 38:7; 39:3).

As the men (all the men) of the city come to request the right to violate the Angels, who they think are men—notice how they refer to Lot.

Genesis 19:9 But they said, “Stand aside.” Furthermore, they said, “This one came in as an alien, and already he is acting like a judge; now we will treat you worse than them.” So they pressed hard against Lot and came near to break the door. (NASB95)

The implication might be, that Lot was an alien, but had not spoken against the practices of the Sodomites.

tn Heb “and he has judged, judging.” The infinitive absolute follows the finite verbal form for emphasis. This emphasis is reflected in the translation by the phrase “dares to judge.”

Remember, Abraham has asked the Lord to spare the city if there were 10 righteous people living there.

Genesis 19:14-16 Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, “Up, get out of this place, for the Lord will destroy the city.” But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be jesting. 15 When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city.” 16 But he hesitated. So the men seize his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, for the compassion of the Lord was upon him; and they brought him out, and put him outside the city. (NASB95)

Four people make it out, and only three survive.

Questions

What does this tell us about Lot’s influence in Sodom?
He didn’t even have influence over his son-in-laws.

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3 NET Bible
4 NET Bible
The phrase translated “son-in-laws, where were to marry” which laterally is, “make oneself a daughter’s husband, the takers of his daughters,” may indicate that they were just betrothed or actually married.

Now if they were married to his daughters, and the text says that two of his daughters had not had relations with men, it is possible that he had other daughters, whom he had not influenced.

**Conclusion**

**Questions**

How do we balance “living in the world, without being of the world?”

Holy, sanctified, set apart, aliens, strangers

2 Corinthians 6:17 “Therefore, come out from among them and be separate,” says the Lord. “And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you. (NASB95)

John 17:15 “I do not ask you to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. (NASB95)

1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen (NASB95)

1 Peter 2:11 Hebrews 11:8-16 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. 13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. 15 And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them. (NASB95)

**Illustration:**

◆ We should be like oil in water. We don’t mix.

Or Better, ◆ Light. Light always overcomes darkness, darkness never overcomes light.

**Application**

Contrast what we have seen in Lot’s progression,

Living near the city

Living in the city

Sitting at the city gate

with

Psalm 1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. 4 Not so the wicked! They are like chalk that the wind blows away. 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. 6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. (NIV)

We have an interesting balance to seek—influencing the world, without being influenced by it.

We must realize that the world’s influence can be subtle, but over time, dangerous.
Joseph

Seduction/Temptation  Genesis 39:7-12
Pursued by Potiphar’s wife  39:7
Rejects temptation  39:8-9
  1. Based on logic—foolish to break his master’s trust
  2. Based on conscience—unthinkable to violate the name of God
     Understood immorality was a sin against God  39:9
Again the contrast between Judah and Joseph.
Demonstrates that even in a foreign land, under difficult circumstance, one must stay faithful to God.

Resolves to stay away  39:10
Consistency/Discipline/Conviction under constant temptation
Runs  39:11-12
Fled temptation
“It’s impossible to yield to temptation while running in the opposite direction.”

Summary: Maintained integrity
The Christian Armor

Salvation

Righteousness

Truth

Gospel of Peace

Faith

Spirit, Word of God

Ephesians 6:10-20
- **Sword of the spirit** -- 1st offensive weapon (Word of God)

- **Prayer and supplication** 2nd offensive weapon (intercession)

- **Helmet of salvation** -- 1st line of defense

- **Shield of faith** -- 2nd line of defense (powerful armor)

- **Breastplate of righteousness** -- armor of obedience

- **Gird loins with truth** -- walking honestly

- **Shod your feet with the gospel of peace** -- witnessing
In the Armor of God, the Breastplate is very important! In ancient times, knights wore breastplates to cover their hearts and chest. The metal kept swords from piercing their hearts and killing them. The part of Armor that God calls our "Breastplate" is the Righteousness of God. Most people spend their whole lives trying to be good, or feeling very bad knowing they are not. God knew from the very beginning, that we could never be 'good': not the kind of 'good' that would get us into Heaven to live with Him. In fact, He knew the harder we tried to be 'good' the more we would get ourselves into trouble. He knew that we would never live in Heaven with Him unless we were GIVEN the righteousness that He had: we could never never be that righteous ourselves.

Now, It may seem a Wondrous THING that someone, anyone could GIVE us Righteousness that was so perfect, that we would be as though we had never ever sinned at all. It is even more WONDROUS to think that God would love us so much that even with all our sin we would be counted as perfectly holy as He is. That is exactly what He did, when Jesus died on the Cross the Day the sky turned as black as the sin we all had in our hearts. He suffered not just the painful death we remember, but He suffered a pain and sorrow we could never see completely: He took on every sin that had ever been committed---EVERY HORRIBLE SIN---and He put them to death. He paid the whole price for sin so that we could be free and live in Heaven. All He has ever asked is that you trust Him for this with your whole heart.

When you "put on the breastplate of Righteousness" you are dressing yourself for battle: no one will be able to 'pierce your heart'. No one can accuse you of the sins that have been paid for. If those accusations come: you will win: they come against the ARMOR of His Righteousness. Cover your heart when you go to school! Others will say all manner of wrong things about you and accuse you wrongly. When they do, remember, it is His perfect Righteousness that covers your heart and keeps you safe. Never forget this important piece of Armor: It will keep you alive in Jesus.

The Shield of Faith

IN Ancient Battles many warriors were on foot. Many wore armor to protect their bodies, some wore helmets to protect their heads and all carried weapons to fight the enemy, but most held shields out in front of them, on foot or on horse to deflect arrows and spears shot at them from the enemy. The spears were sharp metal or stone on poles which if they hit their mark, would kill a soldier. A soldier stood behind the shield, safe from the enemy on all sides with careful use of his shield.

God warns us to "ABOVE ALL" take up the shield of faith: He warns us how important this part of His armor is. Faith is spoken of many times in the Bible and it protects the Christian soldier! The enemy were are protecting ourselves against is the ancient enemy of our souls, and he does all he can to turn a child of God away from God. The enemy does not want you to love Jesus or other people. He wants you to give up and not keep walking in Christ. He wants you to hate others and not love them. And he wants you to stay out of the Word of God, which is very dangerous to him! His weapons are described as "fiery darts". Now, a fiery dart is not just a spear that can wound or kill your relationship with God or others, it is a dangerous barb, on fire with whatever it takes to stop you in serving the Lord. It can often be unkind or cruel words, ridicule, or
horrible circumstances. It can be severe disappointment or even physical harm. But faith can overcome all these, becoming a shield against the worst the world and Satan can do.

What does God teach in His Word about faith? Part of faith is TRUST. We learn over time to trust God for His provision, for His protection, for His love and comfort, and for His power and ability when we are weak. An even harder lesson but an important one is trusting God even when it seems that all of the above has failed. With time, we often find that even in the worst things that happen to us, God either had a reason for it or used the bad thing to bring about good. That is sometimes the hardest lesson of all. The Bible also teaches “The Just shall live by faith.” It is not ‘good works’ or religious rituals that make a difference to God—indeed unless these are in obedience to Him they make no difference at all! But FAITH is the thing that pleases Him.

Abraham lived by faith and is called the Father of Faith. We are told to be his children and live by faith also. The first and most important faith we are ever asked for, is Faith in Jesus and what He has done for us. Now, that seems like a small or easy thing, but there is a difference between real faith that heals and saves, and just simply believing that Jesus died on the cross. The Bible says even the demons believe and tremble. But FAITH trusts in what Jesus did. The difference is between just saying Jesus did what He did, or thinking it in your head, or really trusting that He died for your sins. The second takes more than the first, but it is Saving Faith.

How is faith possible? It is not something we can “muster up” on our own. God’s Word describes it as a gift: from the Old Testament through the new, Faith is something that is given by God. It is however given freely to all who seek, and it is required to walk with the Lord.

The only thing we can do is learn to RECEIVE the faith God gives. How do we do that? Jesus said, “And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

That is what we can do: we can become as a little child. A little child trusts their parents. We can trust what God says, even if we do not see the worldly logic in it. We can believe His Word is true and obey it. We can suspend our everyday thinking for “Divine” thinking. We can become as little children, trusting and believing what Our Heavenly Father says.

I once was a University Professor who did not really believe in God very much. I believed that education and human reason alone were to be trusted. When I finally trusted the Lord, it was exactly like the above: I learned to set aside the way the world thinks, and come to God as a child, trusting and believing His Word and divine ways. The result? It was not riches or fame or success. It was a faith in God that has seen me through every very hard time of Life. It was also a perfect peace that always returns after trouble. And it was a deep love for Jesus Christ that gave rest. Faith is the straight and narrow path of God.

**Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth**

**What soldier would ever go to war without a weapon?** Before guns, the weapon of choice for a soldier was always a SWORD! A sword is sharp, and it pierces through the enemy----a sword divides asunder. When the Sword of the Spirit is included among the Armor of God----it is for a very important reason. A soldier without a sword would surely die. But the thing God refers to as the “Sword of the Spirit” is----the Word of God. In the Bible, there are thousands of references to it being ‘God’s Word’. Before every prophet starts his prophesying, he refers to this, saying “The Word of the Lord came to --prophet’s name----.” God gave His Word, first, through Creation, then through the written and oral word, and in perfection sent His Son: Jesus, who was called “The Word” (“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God”John 1)

**It is the Word of God that speaks** all Creation, including Adam into being: in the End it is the Word of God, pronouncing “Time No More” and the mystery of world the way it is now comes to completion and the New Jerusalem appears. The Word of God came to us born as a child, made clear as Messiah: the Word of God speaks, “It is finished” and Heaven is opened to us. The Word of God calmed the seas and storms with 3 words, commanded the deaf to hear, the
lame to walk and unholy spirits to leave. The Word of God gives us the hope of salvation, redemption, God's love and plan, and the hope of heaven.

The written Word of God, as well as the Holy Spirit of God which dwells within and with us, is the sword we may now 'put on' everyday. The Holy Spirit's guidance within and the written Word of God in the Bible will Never disagree with one another: they are in complete accord. As we learn scriptures and apply them to our walk, we pick up that sword. That sword also cuts right through all wrong ideas about God and His Word: it keeps us from error. The Sword of the Spirit comes against Satan as the "accuser of the bretheren" you fight with the Word! The Sword keeps you strong, helps you to stand, and can keep you from falling into sin. The Sword, in short gives you power, along with the rest of the "Armor of God " over all that comes against you.

A Sword must also be sharp to be useful at all. This is a problem many Christians fall into. They go into the daily battles of the world with a very dull sword, or no sword at all. Then they wonder why they are having such trouble at school, church or a job. You have to know the Word of God to use it as a Sword. You have to believe the Word of God in order to place it in your hand! A few verses here or there is o.k. for a start, but if you stay as a Christian only with a few verses, it is like using a small pin instead of a shining bright sword. A Bible collecting dust on a shelf is the dullest sword of all. To know the Word, though, that is another thing: it brings victory and joy, and is a constant reminder that God is with us and provides us with the direction we need to obey and do His Will. Let's say you are at school, a some kids begin to tease and call names, maybe because you are a Christian or a little different in other ways. You can quietly remember a verse such as "when the enemy of the Lord comes in like a flood, the Lord will lift up a standard against him." or one of my favorites is. "The Angel of the Lord encourseth round about; them that fear Him and delivereth them." As you claim these verses in trouble--- believing-- you will find them like a sharp sword defending you. The use of God's Word rightly in prayer, standing on His promises and praying for His will which is greater and smarter than ours, also is a divine weapon. This does not mean we should ever use the Word and its power to get our own way in the world: that is foolish and sometimes even very sinful, but when we apply it HIS way, it provides the right kind of protection for a soldier of the Lord.

Always put on the Sword of the Lord when you dress in the whole Armor of God. Pick up the Word in your hand, carry it in your mind and heart, study it, remember it, memorize it, use it. Apply it to all you do. Meditate on it day and night: you are called by God to do this! Never leave your Sword at home! Even dressed completely in the rest of the Armor, without your Sword, you are not as safe! The Sword of the Lord is your peaceful and heavenly weapon.

The Gospel of Peace Shoes

How do you prepare your feet with the Gospel of Peace?! Well, that may sound a little confusing ---but this part of the armor is also very necessary. Many times in scripture the Gospel, or "good news" or "glad tidings" is called the Gospel of Peace. Most of our world today is at war: we are at war with other nations, we are at war with our family members and friends, we are at war with those we work with and go to school with and way too often, we are even at war with ourselves. The reason? Our heart wars against God and His Peace. When we are at one with God, we are in perfect peace: the Bible describes it as a peace that passes All understanding. This is because most people have no peace: they keep trying to do things and get things that they think will give them peace. As soon as they have or do those things they find they are still not at peace: they need something new. That can go on forever. The peace that Jesus brings though is a peace inside: a peace with God, because all your sins are forgiven and because He has made you right with God: even when you are not good or right, He has paid the price for it. That peace for us is always moments away.

Sometimes people are surprised at the way Christians seem very calm during hard times and troubles. They may cry, or react strongly at first, but then the 'peace that passes all understanding' gives them a strength beyond their own to get through. This great Peace is there because God indwells us through the Holy Spirit. We may have to learn to walk in that Peace, and to return to it in trouble, but it is ours.

God started teaching about Peace and Rest even in the first few days of the world: when He was finished with His wondrous creation, He made the seventh Day just to Rest. The Hebrew word 'Shalom' means
Peace, the word for that seventh day, Sabbath, or “Shabbat” means peace. From the beginning, He showed that the completion and end of His Work would be Rest and Peace, and that it would be of Him. We could never earn it.

When Jesus came, He made peace on the Cross between God and Man: a peace that would last forever in Eternal Life. When we believe: He is our peace. That peace lives in us and is always available to us, although we may sometimes walk away from it. Sin in our lives brings unrest and a lack of peace.

Our peace with God and our rest in Him was bought for us with a great and terrible price: Jesus paid that price with His suffering because He loved us. When we feel loved, we are at Peace. We can give His Peace to others in many ways: we can put on those shoes with the ‘preparation of the Gospel of Peace’ by ‘walking’ in that Peace and in God’s Way. We can share His Peace by sharing the Gospel, and by being peaceful in our way of dealing with others.

Some practical suggestions? Think carefully before speaking and when someone meets us with anger, take a deep breath and instead of arguing or shouting back, respond with an acknowledgement of their anger. You might say, “you are very angry”. This shows you recognize how they feel and it stops the hurt and anger from gaining control. As Christians, we can listen and pray: the Holy Spirit of Peace is always there for us when we are not peaceful: pray and He will bring peace.

This very important piece of armor teaches us one important lesson: Walk in Peace. Share the Gospel of Peace.

:How beautiful upon the mountain are the feet of those that bear glad tidings......