

Calvary Chapel of Escondido  
*Men's Ministry Bible Study*  
Ephesians Study #12 - Spiritual Warfare

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We are now looking at an in-depth study on spiritual warfare. Many churches today do not acknowledge spiritual warfare. They do not teach it or prepare for it. They teach these passages as a purely human-to-human relationship. They believe that it is in regards to politics, religion, society, morality and biology, history and culture. This is not what the scriptures here in Ephesians say. We are instructed here how and why we must be prepared.

A soldier preparing for battle must have the strength and confidence to be able to use the equipment he is issued. Through boot camp he is strengthened and trained so that he will be prepared for battle. Without this strengthening and training, you could give him a bullet proof vest, backpack, helmet, utility belt, boots, rifle, state of the art equipment, and when he is not strong enough to carry it or educated enough to use it, this equipment will do him no good.

We are instructed to be strong in the Lord and to put on the whole armor of God. We are shown how to get this strength, how to stand, and how to battle. The book of Ephesians clearly indicates that our battle is with the different ranks, principalities, and spiritual powers. Other scriptures in Romans, Corinthians and Colossians teach us that our battle it is not against flesh and blood. We are battling against the schemes of the devil. We also cannot enter the battle without the strength of God and His protection and His strength.

### **Supportive Scripture**

*And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power. (Ephesians 1:19)*

*But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. (1 Thessalonians 5:8)*

*Then He inaugurated Joshua the son of Nun, and said, "Be strong and of good courage; for you shall bring the children of Israel into the land of which I swore to them, and I will be with you." (Deuteronomy 31:23)*

*In the day when I cried out, You answered me, and made me bold with strength in my soul. (Psalms 138:3)*

*But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)*

*'And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (2 Corinthians 12:9)*

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13)*

*The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. (Romans 13:12)*

*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds. (2 Corinthians 10:4)*

*Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction. (Proverbs 19:18)*

*Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. (Colossians 2:15)*

*He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, (Colossians 1:13)*

*For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak. (Isaiah 59:17)*

*For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)*

*Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. (Revelation 19:15)*

### **Key Verse**

Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. (Ephesians 6:16)

### **Memory Verse**

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:13)

### **Quote**

“Winston Churchill said to Britain in the early days of World War II: “I must drop one word of caution, for next to cowardice and treachery, overconfidence leading to neglect and slothfulness, is the worst of wartime crimes.” (30 November 1874 – 24 January 1965) He is widely regarded as one of the greatest wartime leaders of the century and served as Prime Minister twice (1940–45 and 1951–55).

## **Questions for Group Discussion**

### **Ephesians 6:10-24**

1. **(v.10) Strength** – God’s might does not work as I sit idly by. This strength is not carnal or physical, but a spiritual strength. How can you have this strength and power? How do we as Christians prepare? Jesus did not attack Satan but he did win over the temptations. How did he overcome these temptations?
2. **(v.11) To Stand** – The repetition in verse 11 & 14 is about telling us to maintain our ground, not to yield, or flee. The Bible has a lot to say about standing in our faith against every spiritual attack. We need to follow the example that Jesus set. He did not go out seeking demons to conquer. He set

out to do His Father's will. Then He dealt with satanic opposition when He encountered it. He stood against it, and was not moved. How do we maintain our standing in faith to be able to follow this example? 1 Peter 5:8-9 shares this idea as well.

3. **(v.12) We Wrestle** – The battle is with evil and wickedness. It exists here on earth and in heavenly places. We are shown here that there is a difference in order or rank. What is the difference between these that are listed? Why is this important to understand?
  
4. **(v.13) Take Up the Whole Armor** – The idea is that there would be no open space for the enemy to be able to conquer or to get through while wearing the armor. In Luke 11:21-22, the armor of God is mentioned in one other place in the scripture. This shows everything that we need is at our disposal. Is it possible to defeat the enemy without the armor? Explain.
  
5. **(v.14-17) The Armor** – Faith is represented by what piece of armor? Helmet? Sword? How are each of these representations noted in these verses effective as protection. Are these offensive or defensive weapons? Explain.
  
6. **(v.18-23) Prayer** – The semi-colon after God in verse 17 indicates that what was being said is as equal to what was just said. **Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.** The idea is prayer upon prayer, group prayer, individual prayer, silent prayer, shouting prayer, walking prayer, kneeling prayer, eloquent prayer, groaning prayer, fervent prayer, in other words PRAY! Are you prayed up? Do you spend time in prayer before you go out into the world where the onslaught of the enemy is prevalent? Discuss the power of prayer.

## **Additional Questions for Personal Study**

1. To effectively use the sword, we must regard it **as the word of God - which is the word of God**. If we are not confident in the inspiration of Scripture, that the sword really came from the Spirit, then we will not use it effectively at all. This requires a full knowledge of scripture and our faith trusting in Jesus and God the Father. Are you fully convinced that all scripture is inspired and for our use from God? If so, do you live it or do your actions reveal a lack of faith or understanding?
  
2. The Shield Paul describes is not the small round one, but the large, oblong shield that could protect the whole body. In ancient warfare, these fiery darts were launched in great number at the beginning of an attack. The idea was not only to injure the enemy, but to shoot at him from all sides with a massive number of darts, and thus confuse and panic the enemy. Do you rely on the shield of faith when those fiery darts are launched at you, through trials, and tribulations or full frontal assault by the enemy? If not, how can you change that?
  
3. The idea of **preparation** is really *readiness* - we must be mobile, flexible, and ready with the truth. This is essential in our Christian life, to live in constant readiness and flexibility. Are you flexible or mobile or ready to share the truth whenever you are presented with opposition or attacks?

Martyn Lloyd-Jones listed many ways in which he believes Christians *wasted* their strength. It was as if they had received some of the available might of God, but it simply leaked away like water in a bucket full of holes. These are some of the things Lloyd-Jones thought sapped the strength of the Christian:

- Committing to too many spiritual works or things
- Too much conversation
- Arguments, debates, wrangling
- Laziness
- Too much time in the wrong company
- Too much foolish talk and joking
- Love of money and career
- A desire for respectability and image
- An unequal yoking with an unbeliever
- Ungodly entertainment
- A wrong attitude toward or doubting the Word of God

“We have to walk on a knife-edge in these matters; you must not become extreme on side or the other. But you have to be watchful. And, of course, you can always tell by examining yourself whether your strength is increasing or declining.”