

“**Finally!**” The first word of **verse 10** is a blessing, isn’t it?

That word indicates that we have reached the last major section of the book of Ephesians.

As Paul nears the end of this precious book, he closes with a final series of admonitions.

He challenges his readers to open their eyes to the spiritual warfare in which they are engaged.

He calls them to be sure they are on the right foundation, wearing the proper spiritual garments, fighting the right enemies, and trusting the right Lord.

Verses 10-18 are a statement about the matter of **Spirit-Filled Warfare**.

I am not sure that always recognize it, but we are always engaged in spiritual warfare.

I will say more about it in a moment, but by way of introduction, I would remind you that the people of God face some very real, very powerful enemies in this world.

There is a being called Satan, and he controls an evil kingdom of demonic forces.

Satan and his demons are doing all they can to undermine the work of God in the world.

They are doing all they can to defeat and discourage the people of God.

They are doing all they can to hinder the church, the body of Christ.

They are doing all they can to see that we, the people of God, fail in our mission to live for God and to bring Him glory.

The enemies we face are powerful.

The battles we fight are real.

The costs of defeat are far higher than we realize.

The glories of victory are far more wonderful than we can imagine.

I want to address a few things before we begin:

One of the biggest ways I believe the Devil has attacked, and there are many, is through the idea of political correctness. We have seen over the past few years the movement by the devil to drive our society away from God through political correctness. Congress passed last week a statement banning the use of certain words. You cannot say “he or she” “father, mother,

sister, brother”. I can say parent of or spouse of but you cannot use in Congress anymore words that would have a gender or sex identification.

To go one step forward. Last Sunday our Congress opened up with a Word of Prayer offer up by a congress person from Missouri who is an ordained minister with the United Methodist Church. He closed His prayer by appealing to “Many different faiths” by implying they are all the same. He stated, “We ask it in the name of the monotheistic God, Brahma, and ‘god’ known by many names by many different faiths.” First, yes we serve one God, God is monotheistic, He is one. The Bible tells us that there is one name under Heaven. Second, Brahma is a Hindu god. One of more than 1,000 in Hinduism. He was supposed to have been born from a golden egg and to have created earth and later was to believe to have come out of a lotus that emerged from the navel of another Hindu god. Third, God does not go by any other name. His name is God the creator of heaven and earth.

This congress person said the absolute dumbest thing I have ever heard before in my life. I mean the dumbest thing. He closed by saying “amen” and “a-women”. Trying to say I guess that for years we have been only at the end of a prayer only asking it for men. The word ‘amen’ comes originally from Hebrew. The word itself has no gender to it. It means trustworthy. It then went to Greek. It is a word that never was meant to be used to describe one gender. I don’t think I have ever said this before in a sermon and hopefully never will again. But shame on him.

This passage tells us how to avoid failure, and how to achieve success, in the spiritual battles of life.

This passage is about how we are conduct ourselves in the spiritual warfare that rages around us, and sometimes within us.

I want to being preaching this passage today, and to talk to you about **Spirit-Filled Warfare**.

Today, we will look at **Spiritual Power**.

Notice the **truths** found in this passage that speak about the warfare we fight and the **Spiritual Power** we need, if we are going to be victorious in our Christian walk.

To Know Him and Make Him Known

1) The Source Of Our Strength—Vs. 10

- a) If we are going to be victorious in the spiritual battles we face, we are going to spiritual power.
- b) The problem is, none of us possess spiritual power within ourselves.
- c) We are weak, frail, fallible, foolish creatures, and we are often on the losing side of the battles of life.
- d) If we hope to achieve victory, we must have true spiritual power.
- e) This verse tells us where that power originates.
- f) **Our Strength Comes From A Person - “Be strong in the Lord” –**

- i) The word “**strong**” means “**to be empowered; to be strengthened.**”
 - ii) It was used to speak of “**a deathbed patient recovering from an illness.**”
 - iii) It is the picture of someone who is “**weak being made strong.**”
 - iv) That sounds like what we need.
 - v) We are weak creatures!
 - vi) We are weak emotionally.
 - vii) We are weak in the way we think.
 - viii) We are weak in our spirits.
 - ix) We are weak when it comes to temptation and sin.
 - x) We are weak in our ability to control our own wills.
 - xi) We are simply weak and we need someone to help us.
 - xii) The strength we need to walk in victory in the battles of life will never come from within ourselves.
 - xiii) The strength we need can only come from the Lord.
 - xiv) This verse says, “**be strong in the Lord.**”
 - xv) That means that any spiritual strength we can ever hope to possess must come from Him.
 - xvi) Spiritual power can only be ours through a relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - xvii) This means that just as we trust Jesus and His death and resurrection to save us, we must trust Him to give us the spiritual power we so desperately need.
 - xviii) Just as we need His righteousness to enter into God’s Heaven, we need His power of we are going to stand against the attacks we face in life.
 - xix) Just as we need His blood to take away our sins, we need His power to defeat Satan.
- g) **Our Strength Comes From A Provision - “In the power of His might” –**
- i) The word “**power**” refers to “**dominion.**”
 - ii) It speaks of the power to “**complete and perfect**” something.
 - iii) The word “**might**” has the idea of “**force and strength.**”
 - iv) It speaks of someone who possesses “**absolute ability.**”
 - v) These two words describe the kind of power we need if we are going to experience victory in the spiritual battles we face.
 - vi) How do we get this power?
 - vii) We get it the same way we have our sins forgiven.
 - viii) We get it the same way we are given His righteousness.
 - ix) We get it the same way we are saved.
 - x) We get it simply by trusting Him, and not ourselves.
 - xi) If I try to stand against Satan and his forces in my own power, I will fail.
 - xii) If I can ever learn to lean on the Lord, confess my own weakness, and place my faith in His power alone, I become a candidate for victory.
 - xiii) One of the truths Paul has been trying to teach us that when we are saved, we are made one with Jesus.
 - xiv) Thus, His life becomes our life.
 - xv) His truth becomes our truth.
 - xvi) His way becomes our way.
 - xvii) His power becomes our power.
 - xviii) His strength becomes our strength.

- xix) Here is what we forget: When Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead, He defeated Satan and all his works.
 - xx) That means this war is already over, and Jesus has already won it!
 - xxi) We are not fighting for victory; we are fighting from victory.
 - xxii) If we can come to the place where we understand that our Lord has already defeated Satan, and that when we are in Jesus, we are partakers of His victory, it will help us walk in that victory in the day-to-day battles we face in life.
 - xxiii) So, again, I ask the question, where do we get this power?
 - xxiv) It comes from simply being “**in**” Jesus!
 - xxv) When you are “**in**” Jesus by faith, saved by His grace, you become a partaker of His power, His strength and His ability!
 - h) If there is to be any spiritual power, any spiritual victory, it must come from Him.
 - i) It must be given to us by the Lord.
 - j) True spiritual power will only come to those who are “**in the Lord.**”
 - k) So **The Source Of Spiritual Strength** is Jesus Christ, and His power is only given to those who are in a faith relationship with Him.
 - l) This verse reminds us that we are foolish when we trust in ourselves, and in our own power.
 - m) We are foolish when we think we can fight the devil, his demons, sin, temptation, the world, and the other enemies of life in our own strength.
 - n) We are foolish when we think we can handle it on our own.
 - o) We must realize that we cannot handle it.
 - p) We must realize that we are weak.
 - q) We must realize that, if we try to do it on our own, we will be defeated.
 - r) We must trust not ourselves, but in Jesus Christ Who has promised His power and His victory to His people.
 - i) **Phil. 4:13—“ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me**
 - ii) **2 Cor. 2:14—“ But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place**
 - iii) **Rom. 8:37—“ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us**
 - iv) **1 Cor. 15:57—“ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**
- 2) **The Source Of Our Stability—Vs. 11**
- a) This verse teaches us the glorious truth that it is possible for us to “**stand**” against the enemies who stand against God and against us.
 - b) **How We Are Embattled - “the wiles of the devil” –**
 - i) This phrase both identifies our enemy and how he works.
 - ii) We are told that our enemy is “**the devil.**”
 - iii) We will talk more about him in a moment, but for now, let me just say that he is the enemy of God.
 - iv) He stands against everything God stands for.
 - v) He hates God, and wants nothing more than to destroy God and install himself as the Lord of all.
 - vi) According to the Bible, the devil is the source of evil.

- vii) Sin first bared its fangs in the heart of the creature known as Lucifer.
- viii) He determined that he would be god, and that he would exalt himself above the throne of the One and True God, **Isa. 14:12-17**.
- ix) Satan was defeated and cast out of heaven, along with one-third of the angels,
- x) **Isa. 14:12—" How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations**
- xi) **Heb. 12:22—" But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels**
- xii) Those fallen angels are demons, and Satan still does all he can to dethrone God and to rob God of His glory.
- xiii) That is our enemy.
- xiv) He is ancient.
- xv) He is powerful.
- xvi) He is deceptive.
- xvii) He is experienced.
- xviii) He has been attacking, deceiving, and defeating the people of God since he tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.
- xix) He has had over 6,000 years of practice, and he knows what he is doing.
- xx) I am not giving him any glory, I am simply telling the truth about our enemy.
- xxi) Paul says that God will give us "**power**" to cause us to "**stand against the wiles of the devil.**"
- xxii) The word "**wiles**" speaks of "**scheming tricks.**"
- xxiii) It is the word that gives us the word "**methods.**"
- xxiv) Satan's "**methods**" and to use "**tricks and schemes**" to deceive the people of God.
- xxv) The word was used to speak of "**a wild animal that silently, cunningly stalks its prey and then unexpectedly pounces on it, devouring it.**"
- xxvi) We will say more about Satan and his schemes in a few minutes.
- xxvii) For now, just remember that Satan has always been, and always will be a "**scheming trickster.**"
- xxviii) Remember that he has a plan to trick you.
- c) **How We Are Equipped - "put on the whole armor of God" –**
 - i) God has equipped us for the spiritual battles we face by giving us His armor.
 - ii) This armor is listed for us in **verses 14-17**.
 - iii) Every piece of "**the armor of God**" is designed to protect the people of God from the attacks of the enemy.
 - iv) In our next several messages we will talk about each piece of "**the armor of God.**"
 - v) We will learn what it is and what it does in our lives.
- d) In this message, I want you to consider the words "**armor,**" "**whole,**" and "**put on.**"
 - i) The word "**armor**" refers to the equipment that God has provided for us to wear in the day of battles.
 - ii) There is "**truth**" to wear as a belt.
 - iii) There is "**righteousness**" to protect the heart.
 - iv) There are "**shoes**" to protect the feet.
 - v) There is a "**shield**" to deflect the arrows of the enemy.

- vi) There is a **“helmet”** to protect the head.
- vii) There is a **“sword”** to use to engage the enemy.
- viii) All of this has been provided to every believer so that we might walk in victory.
- ix) The word **“whole”** suggests that every piece of **“the armor of God”** is essential to endure our victory over the enemy.
- x) We can't **“put on”** a few pieces and leave a few pieces off and expect to achieve success.
- xi) We must wear every piece all the time.
- xii) If we do not, we will be attacked, and we will be defeated when we are.
- xiii) The phrase **“put on,”** is in a tense that suggests that when we **“put on” “the whole armor of God,”** we put it on **“once for all.”**
- xiv) The idea is that **“we dress for the battle and we never take off the uniform.”**
- xv) When we **“put on”** the **“armor of God”** we are to leave it on all the time.
- xvi) We are to be constantly dressed for spiritual warfare.
- xvii) There are no days off in this war.
- xviii) There are no vacations in this war.
- xix) Every day is to be spent on the front lines of battle, engaging with the enemy in vital, spiritual combat.
- xx) God has equipped us for the battles we face.
- xxi) He has given us everything we need to **“stand”** against the enemy and to enjoy His victory day by day.
- xxii) Still, it is up to us wear the armor we have been given, it is up to us to put it on and leave it on.
- xxiii) It is up to us to be sure that every piece is in place.
- xxiv) If we don't obey God's command, and wear the armor He has provided, we have no one to blame but ourselves when we suffer defeat.
- e) **How We Are Enabled - “that ye may be able to stand” –**
 - i) Through the Lord, and what He provides us, makes us **“able to stand.”**
 - ii) The word **“able”** has the idea of **“power, permission, ability.”**
 - iii) We are **“able to stand”** not through our own power, but through the work of God in our lives.
 - iv) His power gives us the **“ability”** to **“stand.”**
 - v) The word **“stand”** is a military term. It means **“to hold a critical position during a time of enemy attack.”**
 - vi) It is the image of **“a soldier refusing to yield even one inch of ground to an attacking foe.”**
 - vii) It is not the image of someone on the offensive, but rather, it is the picture of a soldier on the defensive, protecting the ground that has already been won.
 - viii) For us, this phrase suggests that our enemy, the devil, desires to take what we have been given.
 - (1) He wants our truths.
 - (2) He wants our doctrines.
 - (3) He wants our testimonies.
 - (4) He wants our churches.
 - (5) He wants our families.
 - (6) He wants our marriages.

- (7) He wants our children.
- (8) He wants our spiritual power.
- (9) He wants everything God has given us.
- f) God is able, through His power, to enable us to take our stand against the attacks of Satan.
- g) He can enable us to stand and protect everything we have been given.
- h) When Satan attacks, we are made “**able to stand.**”
- i) We do not have to give ground.
- j) We do not have to be defeated.
- k) We do not have to lose the battles of life.
- l) This matter of standing is illustrated by the Lord Jesus when He was tempted by the devil, **Matt. 4.**
- m) In that passage, Satan was the one on the offensive.
- n) Jesus merely stood on the Word of God and refused to yield.
- o) He will enable us to do the same thing.
- p) The Lord Jesus said this to the church of Thyatira in **Rev. 2:25**, “**But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.**”
- q) We can’t do that in ourselves, but He makes it possible.
- 3) The Source Of Our Struggles—Vs. 12**
- a) There are a couple of words in this verse that demand special attention.
- b) One of the word “**wrestle**” the other is the word “**for.**”
 - i) The word “**wrestle**” is a word used to describe “**hand-to-hand combat.**”
 - ii) It speaks of the ancient struggles that took place in the Roman arenas.
 - iii) When the combatants met on that field of battle, they were not wrestling to win a prize like modern athletes.
 - iv) They were fighting for their lives, because those ancient contests were a fight to the death.
 - v) Thus, it really was “**no holds barred**” wrestling.
 - vi) The combatants used deception and trickery to defeat their opponents.
 - vii) They cheated, and did what they had to do to win.
 - viii) The word “**for**” reminds us why we must wear the armor of God, if we are to be successful in the battles of life.
 - ix) The very nature of the enemies we face along the way require that we face them in God’s power and not in our own strength.
- c) We are in a literal fight for our lives.
- d) Our enemy will stop at nothing to destroy us.
- e) He will use any trick, any deception, any tactic at all to bring about our defeat.
- f) We need God’s power.
- g) We need God’s help.
- h) We need Him if we hope to stand against the relentless attacks the enemy.
- i) Notice what this verse teaches us about our enemy and his identity.
- j) **Who The Enemy Isn’t - “we wrestle not against flesh and blood” –**
 - i) The implications of that verse are crystal clear.
 - ii) Our enemy is never another human.
 - iii) People hurt us.
 - iv) People lie to us.

- v) People are mean to us.
- vi) People do us wrong.
- vii) But that does not make them the enemy.
- viii) They may be doing the work of the enemy, but they are not the enemy.
- ix) They may want to see our destruction, but they are not the enemy.
- x) They may hate us, but they are not the enemy.
- xi) When other humans act against us, we have two choices.
- xii) We can become angry, hold a grudge and try to get even, or we can forgive them and move on.
- xiii) If we take the first option and seek our pound of flesh, we are really no different than the person who has wronged us.
- xiv) If we hate, hold grudges, and grow bitter toward others, damage our testimony and we dishonor the Lord we claim to love.
- xv) However, if we forgive the offending party, we act like Jesus, because that is what He did when He was crucified,
- xvi) Luke 23:34—" But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves**
- xvii) We act like Him, because that is what He did when we came to Him for salvation, and when we have returned for cleansing time after time.
- xviii) He does not hold our past against us.
- xix) He forgives us and He restore us.
- xx) That is the same kind of love and grace we are to extend to others
- xxi) So, the enemy is never another human.
- xxii) One of the greatest tricks of the devil is to focus our attention on other people and what they do to us.
- xxiii) He uses them to distract us from walking with the Lord.
- xxiv) When we take that bait and focus our attention on what people do, we lose sight of Jesus Christ and the will of God.
- xxv) When that happens, the enemy wins battle and we are defeated.
- xxvi) When we fight one another, Satan simply takes what he wants, because we are not in a position to stand against him.
- xxvii) When we fight one another, we give up the high ground of love and grace in action.
- xxviii) When we fight one another, we shed the amor of God and walk in the flesh.
- xxix) When we fight one another, we tell everyone who sees it that the Gospel is a lie.
- xxx) When we fight one another, we always lose and Satan always wins.
- k) **Who The Enemy Is** - The enemy is Satan, and all the spiritual forces he controls.
 - i) We don't need to get hung up on the individual classifications and ranks mentioned here.
 - ii) What we need to know is that there is a real Devil.
 - iii) He hates God and is doing everything he can to steal God's glory and undermine God's kingdom.
 - iv) He commands a vast army of demonic spirits that are actively seeking to destroy, defeat, demolish, and dismantle the kingdom of God.
 - v) Satan has power, but he does not have all power,

- vi) **1 John 4:4—**" You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world
- vii) Satan is the "god of this world,"
- viii) **2 Cor. 4:4—**" in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God
- ix) but he must bow before the God of the universe!
- x) Satan has a vast kingdom, but God's kingdom is infinite.
- xi) So, Satan is our enemy.
- xii) He is out to destroy everything God is and everything God is doing in the world.
- xiii) One of the ways he does this is by attacking the children of God.
- xiv) **Verse 11** talks about "**the wiles of the devil.**"
- xv) As we have already mentioned, that phrase refers to "**deceptive tricks.**"
- xvi) Satan wants to defeat you, and one way he does that is through deception.
- xvii) Let me mention a few of the ways Satan deceives us.
 - (1) **He deceives us by lying to us about the consequences of our sins.**
 - (a) For instance, he will tell you that it's OK to experiment with sex, but he doesn't tell you about venereal diseases, unwanted pregnancies, broken homes, and broken hearts.
 - (b) He does this in any area where sin is involved.
 - (c) That's what he did to Eve in the Garden of Eden. "**And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die,**" **Gen. 3:4.**
 - (2) **He deceives us by casting doubt on the Word of God.**
 - (a) He will tell you that truth is a lie.
 - (b) He will also tell you that lies are truth.
 - (c) He will introduce you to false doctrine.
 - (d) He will cause you to believe good things and trust those good things to save your soul.
 - (e) That's what he did to Eve in the Garden of Eden.
 - (f) **Gen. 3:1—**" **Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"**
 - (g) **Gen. 3:4—**" **The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die**
 - (3) **He deceives us by causing us to doubt God's goodness.**
 - (a) He will tell that there is a better way than serving the Lord.
 - (b) He will make you think that God is holding out on you.
 - (c) Again, that's what he did to Eve in the Garden.
 - (d) **Gen. 3:5—**" **For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**
 - (4) **He deceives us by causing us to think that we achieve salvation or victory on our own.**
 - (a) He will cause you to try to be good enough to be saved.
 - (b) He will cause you to try and earn salvation through good works and self-righteousness.
 - (c) Even after we are saved, he will deceive us into thinking that we don't need God any longer.

- (d) He will cause us to think that we can do it on our own.
- (e) That's what he did to Eve in the Garden.
- (f) **Gen. 3:6—" When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate**
- l) Our enemy is deceptive.
- m) He is smart.
- n) He is powerful.
- o) He is after you, and he will destroy you if he gets an opportunity.
- p) Here is how the Bible describes him.
- q) **1 Pet. 5:8—" Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour**

Conc: How do we defeat an enemy like that?

Here's how: **"Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."**

That's the only way it can be done!

You are no match for the devil.

You are no match for his demons.

But, Jesus is!

When we stand in Him, He will equip us to stand for Him.

So, two questions come to mind as I close.

- Are you **"in Him?"** If you are, you can stand. If you are not, you are already defeated, but you can get in **"in Him,"** if you will come to Him.
- Are you standing in His power? Are you fighting the right enemies? Are you winning or losing in the battles of life?

If you need help in the spiritual battles of life, I invite you to come to Jesus Christ, call on Him for the help you need. He will enable you to stand.