

THE ADULT TEACHER
LESSON 6 ~ DRESSED FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE
NOVEMBER 8, 2020

Background Scripture: Ephesians 6

Lesson Passage: Ephesians 6:10-17 (KJV)

Introduction: History tells us that as Hitler's appetite for power and territory grew, his army began to march across Europe. In some cases, the fight could hardly be called a battle. The German army advanced, with its tanks and with technologically advanced weapons. In some of the underdeveloped nations, their armies made a futile effort to resist Hitler's aggression, fighting back with spears and even rocks. It was no contest at all, because these nations were not equipped for the battle. The same could be said of Satan, and those whom he opposes. Many of his victims do not even know there is a war going on. They make easy prey. Christians should know that we are in the midst of a great spiritual struggle, although many seem not to believe it. And even more distressing is the fact that many who consider themselves "in the war" do not understand the nature of Satan's schemes, of the weapons which he employs, or of the weapons which God has provided for our defense.

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 6:10-17 (KJV)

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Topic Explored: "Dressed for Spiritual Warfare" ~ Our Scripture reference in Ephesians not only assures us that there is a spiritual war, but it warns us that apart from utilizing the weapons which God has provided for us, we are hopelessly underpowered to overcome. This passage informs us of our divinely provided weapons. The weapons which God has provided for us are those weapons which best repel the attacks of Satan, and thus we can learn a great deal about the nature of Satan's opposition from simply considering each of the weapons at our disposal. We pray that God will give us open hearts and minds to understand the spiritual war, and the means which He has provided for our defense.

Memory Verses: *13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand* (Ephesians 6:13) KJV

Lesson Focus: Ephesians 6:10-17 (KJV)

Verses 10, 11 ~ Paul the Apostle was careful that the Church is aware against whom we are fighting. He says that we are to stand against the devil's schemes or methods. Through his hierarchy of evil, Satan is continually plotting against us. He observes our weaknesses and attacks us in those areas. Do not underestimate the knowledge that he and his evil angels and demons have gained over thousands of years as they have watched people go about their daily lives. He knows how the human mind thinks. Remember, Satan has been at this from the very beginning. Coming to faith in Jesus Christ is to be understood as entering into every spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ ([Ephesians 1:3](#)), but it is also the commencement of a great struggle with Satan and his forces.

Verse 12 ~ The word *wrestle* translated into English as *struggle*, is the Greek word *palē*, which means to wrestle swaying back and forth. It carries the thought of two individuals in hand-to-hand combat, each trying different maneuvers to pin the other into submission. Paul says that our struggle or wrestling is not against flesh and blood. People are never our enemy. The enemy will use people against us when given an opportunity, but the Christian is not to retaliate against that person. It is not flesh and blood that we fight against; the fight is against unseen spiritual forces in the heavenly realms. See opposition for what it is. The REAL battle is with the enemy of our souls. The Lord will give you the strategy to overcome evil with good. Ask God for His plan.

Principalities are beings of the highest-ranking in Satan's kingdom. This word speaks of dark angels of a position so high that these spiritual rulers confer with Satan himself and rule over nations and geographical territories to bring about the goals of these enemies of God. The Greek word for *power* is *Exousia*. This word means authority. It is delegated authority from higher up the chain of command (Matthew 8:9). It speaks of a spirit that is given permission, capability, right, and authority to act. These evil spirits take their orders from those that are high in Satan's chain of command. They apply their power by fear of death and domination through sin and ignorance of Satan's ways.

Against spiritual wickedness in high places pictures evil spirits that hold the physical world under the grip of darkness by an assault on the mind. It is believed that Satan has given these spirits charge over belief systems that tie men's minds to religious works, false gods, and systems of thought that are opposed to the worship of the Lord. These spirits don't so much control territory; their influence is mostly through systems of thought that dominate people's minds to demonic influence.

The church is engaged in a spiritual war, and its enemy is Satan and a host of unseen angelic and celestial enemies whose power vastly exceeds our own. With a few exceptions, our enemies remain invisible to our eyes, but they nevertheless are real, and so is their opposition. These celestial enemies seem to have various forms, as is suggested by the variety of terms used by Paul to identify them: "rulers," "powers," "world forces of this darkness," "spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places". These angelic beings have great power. To underestimate his power is to underestimate the immensity of the spiritual struggle, and the corresponding need which we have for divine enablement, if we are to withstand Satan's attacks (2 Peter 2:9-12).

Verse 13-17 ~ Our protection against Satan's attacks is assured only if and when we take up the *whole* armor of God. Satan's schemes are many, and he attacks us at any point he considers vulnerable. We must be completely equipped, or we are vulnerable to his attacks. Paul is emphatic about putting on the *full armor* of God and then he tells us what all of that armor is. Paul's instructions are informing every Christian that they have been *drafted*, not to fight a physical war, but to fight a spiritual war. We are not encouraged to take up the "full armor of God," we are *commanded* to do so. These verses are our marching orders, and we dare not ignore them, or fail to carry them out to the letter.

The Christian's weapons have been divinely provided, in Christ. Our duty is not to attack Satan, or to defeat him, but rather to withstand his attacks. It is not we who will defeat Satan, but Christ. We are to stand still; because God is the One who wins the battle ([Exodus 14:10-14](#)). The Christian's defenses are directly tied to the gospel. They are truth, righteousness, the preparation of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the Word of God. Our deliverance from Satan's power and our defense from his subsequent attacks are found in Christ and in the gospel which His death and resurrection have made a reality. When we put on the "full armor of God" we are actually putting on Christ.

Let's talk about it. . .

Making it Personal:

Closing Prayer: *“Thank you, Father, for the work of Christ on the cross in delivering me from Satan's dominion. Grant me a growing sense of the power and authority that I have been given to overcome and resist. In Jesus' Name, Amen!”*