

## **ARMED AND STRONG IN CHRIST**

*(Ephesians 6:10-12)*

The reality of Satan is taught throughout the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Satan is the chief opponent of God and of God's people. The name Satan itself means enemy or adversary. Satan is the ancient foe who seeks to destroy and ruin everything that God does. He is the chief adversary of God and the fierce enemy of every Christian. This is why the Apostle Paul alerts the Christians in Ephesus and all of us who believe in Christ about the reality of Satan and our spiritual battle with him. In the concluding section of his letter, Paul assures us of this comforting and encouraging truth: **Since we are armed and strong in Jesus, we can stand against the devil and live in the victory of Christ.** As we look at Ephesians 6:10-12, we will consider two vital principles for waging this spiritual warfare.

### **1. Find your strength in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord.**

In light of this inescapable warfare we are engaged in, Paul gives us the battle plan for this spiritual conflict. He exhorts us, *"Be strong in the Lord and the strength of His might"* (Ephesians 6:10). God is commanding us to draw our strength upon the Lord Jesus. The phrase *"in the Lord"* and *"the strength of His might"* reminds us that the power to fight and stand firm against the devil comes through our union with the Lord Jesus and the resurrection might of Christ (1 Samuel 30:6; Zechariah 10:12; 2 Timothy 2:1; Ephesians 1:20-21). Furthermore, Paul tells us that God has made a great and sufficient provision to equip us to withstand the assault of the devil. He urges all believers to *"put on the whole armor of God"* (Ephesians 6:11; Isaiah 59:17). We cannot become strong in the Lord if we will not use the spiritual equipment that God has furnished and utilize the means of grace that He has supplied.

### **2. Focus on your \_\_\_\_\_ and understand his \_\_\_\_\_.**

In verses 11 and 12, Paul specifies the supernatural identity of our enemy and the subtle schemes that he employs against God's people. We are fighting against the devil and his supernatural forces. Since his fall, Satan, along with his demonic host, marshals his evil campaigns to oppose God and assault mankind who is the crown of God's creation (Ephesians 6:11; Ezekiel 28:12-15 Isaiah 14:12-17, Ezekiel 28:1-10; Revelation 12:7-9). In Ephesians 6:12, Paul uses four terms to describe our real opponents: *"rulers, authorities, cosmic powers and spiritual forces."* These words highlight the organized, structured, powerful and wicked opposition that is led and provoked by Satan against God and His church (1 John 5:19; 2 Corinthians 4:4).

We are also fighting against the deceptive schemes of Satan (Ephesians 6:11; 4:14). The devil is a shrewd and clever spiritual strategist. He will use guilt, affliction, anger, sexual temptation, fear of death, false doctrines, false religions, counterfeit miracles, idle gossips, the love of money and a host of wicked wiles to carry out his evil purposes (Revelation 12:9-10; Job 2:9; Ephesians 4:26; 2 Samuel 11; 1 Corinthians 7:5; Hebrews 2:14-15). But Satan's wicked schemes, no matter how well planned and executed, continually and will ultimately fail, for God uses them to fulfill rather than hinder His righteous purposes. Satan is not sovereign, God alone is sovereign! And God has already sealed Satan's eternal doom and secured the believers' glorious victory through Jesus' saving work on the Cross (Colossians 2:15).

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