

**Series: Standing Firm
“The Believer’s Warfare”
Ephesians 6:10, 11**

Big Idea – The Christian life is a continual warfare against our enemy Satan.

In the letter to the church at Ephesus Paul starts out talking about doctrine, the teaching about our Position, our “Identity in Christ.” The first 3 chapters say that we are blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies – we are adopted, loved, accepted, forgiven and many more things.

The last 3 chapters talk about our duty, our practice as believers in Christ and lets us know that it is not easy, it is hard, because there is a spiritual warfare going on against Satan.

Stand now for the scriptures that start to talk about this:

Ephesians 6:10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

11 Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to **stand firm** against all the strategies/the tricks/the deceptions of the devil.

12 Because our battle is not against people on this earth, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

We are wrestling with rulers, authorities, the powers who govern this world of darkness, and spiritual forces that control evil in the heavenly world.

13 Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

The more effective you become as a Christian believer in Christ the harder Satan will work against you.

We are all in this warfare, and it’s not just physical, although Satan uses physical elements like persecution and physical hatred and torture. There is also a vast army of spiritual beings at war with believers and Satan is the leader of these evil creatures.

1. Preparing for the battle – vs. 10 “Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might...”

note the phrases **“in the Lord”** and **“in the power of His might”** . Paul often talks about being “in Christ” which means we are one with Him, His life is our life, His power is our power, His truth is our truth. It is because we are “in Christ” that we’re strong

Available power

1 John 4:4 My dear children...God’s Spirit, who is in you, is greater than the devil, who is in the world.”

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Hebrews 2:14 says that at the cross Jesus gave a death blow to Satan and “destroyed him that had the power of death.”

Ephesians 3:20 “Now unto Him Who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”

Appropriated power

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength.”

2 Timothy 1:7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”

2 Timothy 2:1 “Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus.”

Ascribed power

Ephesians 1:19 “I pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him, the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead.”

Colossians 1:11 “God will strengthen you with his own great power so that you will not give up when troubles come, but you will be patient.”

Warning – 1 Cor. 10:12 “...let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall”

vs. 13 says God is faithful and will with the trial, test, temptation make a way of escape”

The way of escape is always “through it” not out of it, and it’s when we admit and understand how weak we are in our own strength that we can be strong in His. (2 Cor. 12:9)

Should we “fight” the devil or not fight? If you’re a soldier on guard duty at the fort and you come under you don’t go out alone to fight off the invaders. If you’re smart, you call the commanding officer.

When Satan attacks you, don’t fight him alone in your own strength, call the Commander, King Jesus. Like David said to the Philistines’ army, “The battle is the Lord’s”

We’re never told to fight the devil, but are told to resist him, Standing Firm!
Stand your ground!

2. Putting on the armor – vs. 11 “Put on the whole armor of God”

the “**whole armor**” phrase is found twice here, vss. 11 & 13.

“put on” in the Greek language here means to put it on once and for all.

Put it on and leave it on the rest of your life.

Depend on the Lord, put on the armor, leave it on and **USE IT!**

(We will teach you how to use the 7 pieces of armor in the coming weeks).

3. The Adversary – vs. 11 “...that you may be able to stand against the wiles/the tricks/deceptions of the devil.”

His backstory

Isaiah 14 & Ezekiel 28 describes him as the highest being ever created by God, Lucifer, aka “light-bearer”, the anointed cherub who covered God’s throne and sparkled with all the jewels of heaven.

But he wanted to be like God, be himself God, so he was thrown out of heaven with 1/3 of the heavenly host of angels, which now comprises his army of demonic spirits.

His reality

We know he’s real because Jesus believed in him, talking with him in Matthew 4 and talking about him in John 12, 14, & 16.

Peter, James and John the apostles all talked about him.

His works

He tempted Eve – Genesis 3, he tempted Christ and perverted God’s Word – Matthew 4, he opposed God’s work – Zechariah 3:1, he hindered God’s servant – 1 Thess. 2, he fought with Michael – Jude 9, he brought sin into the world – Genesis 3, he hinders the Gospel – 2 Cor. 4,

His titles

Lucifer, the anointed cherub – Ezekiel 38; prince of this world – John 16; prince of the power of the air – Ephesians 2; god of this age – 2 Cor. 4; prince of demons – Luke 11:15; Satan (meaning adversary), Devil (meaning slanderer), the old serpent, the great dragon, the roaring lion, the evil one, Abaddon, Apollyon, tempter, accuser, the spirit at work in the children of disobedience.

His character

Murderer and liar – John 8:44; Works overtly and covertly with doctrines of demons and seducing spirits; a sinner – 1 John 3:8; an oppressor – Rev. 12:10; a perverter – 1 Tim. 4:3; an imitator – 2 Cor. 11:13-15.

His methods

The wiles of the devil are lies, false doctrines, false religions and false teaching, deceptions

1. In his own children

Preventing the Word – snatches the Word away - Luke 8:12; blinds minds to the Gospel – Cor. 4:3, 4;

Perverting the Word – Satan has ministers in pulpits who deny
Authority of scriptures, deity of Christ, salvation by grace, the second coming of
Christ to earth, judgment, sin, etc., etc., etc. ad nauseum

Politicking – he influences governments and nations – Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28, Daniel 10.
“all the gods of the nations are demons” – Psalm 106:36, 37

2. In God's children

Creating doubt – Genesis 3:1-5

Persecuting – Revelation 2:10

Hindering service – 1 Thessalonians 2:18

Infiltrating the church – Matthew 13, 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

Dividing the church – 2 Corinthians 2:5 – 11

Tempting to sin – to lie, to doubt, to immorality, to worldliness, to pride, discouragement

James 4:7 Therefore submit yourselves completely to God. Resist, Stand against the devil and he will flee from you.