

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:10-12 (NAS)

- vs 10 • **General Command** – “Allow yourself to be continually strengthened by the power already made available to you in your new position and relationship with Christ.” It is the power that raised Christ from the dead and now dwells in you.

- vs 11 • **Specific Command** – How? By continually and repeatedly putting on, at specific points in time, the spiritual protection God has provided for you . . . for the express purpose of holding on to your position in Christ as you are bombarded by Satanic strategies designed to destroy you and/or render you ineffective in Kingdom pursuits.

- vs 12 • **The Reason for Commands in Verses 10 - 11** – It’s because our real struggle (battle, wrestling match to the death) is not against physical/material adversaries (people, circumstances, organizations), but against a hierarchy of demonic forces doing battle in the spiritual realm.

Five Basic Truths about Spiritual Warfare

1. There is an Invisible World that is Just As Real as the Visible World. (Ephesians 6:12)

- Old Testament – 2 Kings 6:15-19
- New Testament – 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

2. We are Involved in an Invisible War, a Cosmic Conflict That Has Eternal Implications. (Ephesians 6:12)

- *³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, ⁴for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, . . .*
2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NAS)
- *. . . in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
2 Corinthians 4:4 (NAS)
- Application – When was the last time you honestly considered that some struggle or relational conflict was rooted in satanic opposition?

3. Our Foe is **Formidable** and His Goal is to Destroy Us and Discredit the Cause of Christ. (Ephesians 6:12)

- *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.* 1 Peter 5:8 (NAS)
- *But Michael, the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you."* Jude 9 (NAS)

○ Is Satan for Real?

- Authority of the Bible – Genesis 3:1; 1 Chronicles 21:1; Revelation 12:9
- Testimony of Christ – 25 References (Matthew 4)
- Reality of Demons – He's their "prince." – Luke 11:15

○ Who is Satan?

- A created spirit – Colossians 1:16, Job 1:3
- An angel – Matthew 25:41, Revelation 12:7
- A cherub – Ezekiel 28:14
- Highest of all created beings – Ezekiel 28:14, Jude 9

○ Where Did He Come From?

- Created perfect – Ezekiel 28:12 -13
- Had heavenly estate – Jude 6
- Guardian of God's glory – Ezekiel 28
- Occasion of his sin = **power** and **beauty** – Ezekiel 28
- Nature of his sin = **pride** – 1 Timothy 3:6, Isaiah 14:13
- Cause of his sin = **personal free choice** – Habakkuk 1:13, James 1:13

4. We Must Respect Our Foe, but Not Fear Him – Become Acutely Aware of His “Methods,” but Not Be Preoccupied by Them.

(Ephesians 6:11)

- Paul agrees to forgive a brother along with the Corinthian church . . . *“in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”* 2 Corinthians 2:11 (NAS)
- The Vital Question – How can we make sure we are not ignorant of his schemes?
 - **Satan’s Names Reveal His Tactics**
 - Satan (adversary)
 - Devil (slanderer) – 1 Peter 5
 - Lucifer (son of the morning)
 - Beelzebub – Matthew 12:24
 - Belial – 2 Corinthians 6:15
 - Evil one – 1 John 5:19
 - Tempter – 1 Thessalonians 3:5
 - Prince of this world – John 12:31
 - Accuser of the brethren
 - Representations include:
 - Serpent – Genesis 3
 - Dragon – Revelation 12:3
 - Angel of Light – 2 Corinthians 11:14
 - **Satan Attacks God’s Program, the Church, by . . .**
 - False philosophies – Colossians 2:8
 - False religions – 1 Corinthians 10:19
 - False ministers – 2 Corinthians 11:14-15
 - False doctrine – 1 John 2:18
 - False disciples – Matthew 13
 - False morals – 2 Thessalonians 2:7
 - **Satan Attacks God’s People by . . .**
 - Directing governments – Daniel 10:13
 - Deceiving men – 2 Corinthians 4:4
 - Destroying life – Hebrews 2:14

- Persecuting the saints – Revelation 2:10
 - Preventing service – 1 Thessalonians 2:18
 - Promoting schisms – 2 Corinthians 2:10, 11
 - Planting doubt – Genesis 3:1-2
 - Provoking sin:
 - Anger – Ephesians 4:26-27
 - Pride – 1 Timothy 3:6
 - Worry – Matthew 13:22
 - Self-reliance – 1 Chronicles 21:1
 - Discouragement – 1 Peter 5:6-8
 - Worldliness – 1 John 2:16
 - Lying – Acts 5:3
 - Immorality – 1 Corinthians 5:1-2
 - Producing sects/cults – 1 Timothy 4:1
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- **Satan’s Power is Limited**
 - He is created, therefore not omniscient or infinite
 - He can be resisted by the Christian – James 4:7
 - God places limitations on him – Job 1:12
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- Application – “Balance” and wisdom are crucial in our assessment of spiritual opposition. To assign too much or too little credit to the reality of demonic activity is to error greatly.

5. As Believers in Christ, We Do Not Fight “For” Victory, We Fight “From” Victory. In Christ’s Power We Are Invincible! - Ephesians 6:10

Promises from God Concerning Victory Over Satan

- *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.* 1 John 4:4 (NAS)
- *⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith. ⁵And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?* 1 John 5:4-5 (NAS)
- *And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.* Revelation 12:11 (NAS)
- *Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.* James 4:7 (NAS)

Summary

1. Satan is a defeated foe. – (John 12:31)
2. Jesus destroyed the work of the devil. – (Colossians 2:14-15)
3. We are victors in Christ. – (1 Corinthians 15:55-58)
4. We have the power and resources to resist Satan and demonic attacks. (1Jn 4:4)
5. We must learn how to put on the “full armor of God” to experience in daily living the victory we already possess. – (Ephesians 6:13-17)