

Series: Ephesians: Christ's Life In Us

Sermon: Spiritual Warfare

Passage: Ephesians 6:10-12

Illustration:

Need: Warning: to those who are in Christ - "Armor Up, We Are At War!"

I. Be Strengthened! (6:10)

- The command to "be strong" is a passive verb = "allow yourself to be strengthened."
- "the Lord," Jesus himself, is the source and provider of His supernatural power.
- How do we obey this command?

II. Armor Up! (6:11a)

- The strength of Christ is activated as we "put on the whole armor of God."
- God has "blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing" (1:3).
- He has laid out His spiritual armor for us. It fits perfectly and it's in perfect working order. But we must put it on!
- What is this spiritual armor for?

III. We have a spiritual enemy! (6:11b-12)

- The Christian stance is Defensive, not offensive.
- Our enemy is the devil, a rebellious angel, forever opposed to God and His redeemed.
- His "schemes" are strategies to enslave, oppress, and destroy through lies and deceit (**John 8:44**).
- This does not mean that Satan causes every negative thing in a believer's life.
- These enemies are not "flesh and blood," and cannot be addressed physically.
- These enemies are, invisible, powerful, and well organized.
- "Satan has no conscience, no compassion, no remorse, no morals. He feeds on pain and anguish and filth." Kent Hughes
- These enemies, if ignored without spiritual armor, will wreak havoc through deception in the life of the believer, unnecessarily.

IV. Let's recap:

- Powerful, wicked, spiritual forces are in active opposition to God's redeemed!
- God provides for believers to stand strong against our powerful spiritual enemy - His Spiritual Armor!
- When believers "put on" the armor that God provides, Christ strengthens them with His mighty power!