

## ***Lesson 1***

### ***Are We Really in a War?***

Ephesians 6:10

<sup>10</sup>Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

<sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

<sup>12</sup>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.

<sup>13</sup>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.

<sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

<sup>15</sup>And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

<sup>16</sup>Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

<sup>17</sup>And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

<sup>18</sup>Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

#### **I. The Call to Battle (Eph 6:10-12)**

There was a time when the population at large believed God and heaven were good and Satan and hell were bad and that most conflicts could be traced back to that larger division.

Today, things are different. Many professing Christians have little sense of conflict in their life.

In Eph 6:10-12, Paul issues a call to battle: "...be strong...Put on the whole armor of God..."

#### **A. A Word of Encouragement (Two reasons to be encouraged)**

##### *1. Your Power is a Gift (Eph 6:10)*

- We are not to be strong in our own strength but in the strength that comes from knowing Him.
- God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power of (2 Tim 1:7)-the same power to which Paul refers in "power of His might."
- We are not dressed for battle by someone who is not familiar with war. In the old testament, God presents Himself as a warrior
- Sadly, a lot of modern preaching has a goal of making Christians more comfortable rather than more clothed in the armor of God.

2. *Your Perseverance is Guaranteed (Eph 6:11)*

- The second bit of encouragement Paul gives is that we will “be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” – guaranteed!

**B. A Word of Explanation (Eph 6:12)** (The order against whom we are fighting)

1. *Common Struggle Denied*

- Paul defines who we are not fighting against: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood...”

2. *The Cosmic Struggle Declared (Eph 6:12b)*

- We don’t wrestle with Human beings, but we do wrestle with “Principalities, against powers, against the ruler of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

**II. The Covering in Battle (Eph 6:13-18)**

- There is definitely a war going on all around us. Our greatest comfort as we play our role in this combat is that we are not unprotected. Not only does God provide power and might by which to stand, but He covers us in His armor.

## ***Lesson 2***

### ***Identifying the Enemy?***

#### ***Eph 6:10-12***

<sup>10</sup>Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

<sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

<sup>12</sup>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.

Knowing your opponent or enemy is one of the secrets to victory on the playing field or the battlefield.

#### **I. Satan's Personality**

##### **A. Satan is given many names in Scripture, the following being just some of them:**

- Your adversary (1 Pet 5:8)
- The accuser of the brethren (Rev 12:10)
- The angel of light (2 Cor 11:14)
- The deceiver (Rev 12:9)
- The destroyer ( Rev 9:11)
- The evil one (Jn 17:15)
- The liar (Jn 8:44)
- The murderer (Jn 8:44)
- The prince (Jn 12:31, 14:30, 16:11; Eph 2:2)
- The serpent (Gen 4:3; Rev 20:2)
- The tempter (Matt 4:3)

##### **B. Satan originated in heaven as a wise and beautiful angel. Pride rose up in him and caused him to want to become like God.**

#### **II. Satan's Position**

##### **A. He is a Prince**

- Satan was called "the prince of this world three times in the bible." (Jn 12:31, 14:30, 16:11 (NIV)
- He was called "the prince of the power of the air" in Eph 2:2.

##### **B. He is a Ruler**

- The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one (Jn 5:19)

- Satan has a kingdom just like God has a Kingdom (Matt 12:26)
- Satan has a kingdom he rules-kingdom of darkness (Col 1:13)
- Satan has a kingdom in which he rules over angelic (demon) beings (Matt 25:41) and some humans that have given themselves over to the powers of darkness.
- His hierarchy is explained in Eph 6:12 (the principalities, powers, rulers, and hosts to which Paul refers.
- As many as a third of the created order of angels who rebelled against God went with Satan to earth (Rev 12:4)

**C. He is a God**

- 2 Cor 4:4 refers to Satan as “the god of this age with the power to blind the minds of the unbelieving to the light of the Gospel.
- Satan has his own religion. He has his own church (Rev 2:9;3:9), his own gospel (Gal 1:8), his own ministers (2 Cor 11:15), his own doctrines (1 Tim 4:1), and his own communion table and cup (1 Cor 10:20-21). His goal is to counterfeit everything God does so as to lead astray the unwary-and his religion serves that purpose.

**III. Satan’s Power**

- Satan has power. 2 Thes 2:9 says that Satan works are often accompanied by “all power, signs, and lying wonders.” So he does have supernatural power-as well as the power of death (Heb 2:14) and the power of a stalking lion (1 Pet 5:8).
- Satan has powers but his powers are not equal to God. Satan is not the opposite of God. He is the opposite of the archangel, Michael (Jude 2)
- Satan is more powerful than humans but we must remember we are greater than Satan when we are in Christ (1 Jn 4:4).
- God has Satan on a leash (Job 1-2) and there he remains, in spite of appearances, until he will be cast into the “lake of fire” where he will live in torment forever (Rev 20:10)

**IV. Satan’s Purposes**

**A. He is the great deceiver**

- He is a liar and the father of it (Jn 8:44b)
- He is identified as one “who deceives the whole world.” Rev 12:9
- Deception started in the garden of Eden (Gen 3:1-4)

**B. He is the Great Divider**

- The first thing Satan did after rebelling against God was to divide the hosts of heaven, the other angels, into camps: those loyal to him and those loyal to God.
- He instigated a division in the early church in Jerusalem by promoting dishonesty by a member (Acts 5:1-11)
- He is constantly sowing seeds of division in the Body of Christ through lies, jealousy, pride, power, and finances.

**C. He is the Great Destroyer (Satan uses two means to destroy the people of God)**

*1. He attempts to destroy us through Adversity*

- There is no question about Satan's ability to hinder, delay or frustrate our lives.
- Satan's plan is to create adversity to discourage us to the point that we will at least give up serving the Lord if not give up the faith altogether.

*2. He attempts to destroy us by direct attack*

- Eph 6:16 makes a clear reference to the direct attacks from Satan we are likely to experience: "the fiery darts of the wicked one."
- The most often used attack by Satan is to discourage you because if he discourages you, it means that you lose hope. And if you lose hope, then you lose faith in God and His promises. This is Satan's ultimate goal.

Satan is walking about seeking whom he might devour. The believer is helpless against the devil except when he or she is clothed in the armor of God. We cannot defend ourselves against his direct or indirect attacks in our own strength. It is only as we are "strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" (Eph 6:10) that we can walk in the victory God has planned for us.