

Walking In Victory – Ephesians 6:10-24

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Introduction

1. Sooner or later every disciple discovers that the Christian life is a battleground, not a playground, and that he faces an enemy who is much stronger than he is—apart from the Lord.
2. As Christians, we face three enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil (Eph. 2:1–3). By His death and resurrection, Christ overcame the world (John 16:33; Gal. 6:14), and the flesh (Rom. 6:1–6; Gal. 2:20), and the devil (Eph. 1:19–23). In other words, as disciples, we do not fight for victory—we fight from victory!

I. The Enemy (6:10-12)

- a. The Leader – the devil
 - i. Devil means “accuser,” because he accuses God’s people day and night before the throne of God (Rev. 12:7–11). Satan means “adversary,” because he is the enemy of God. He is also called the tempter (Matt. 4:3), and the murderer and the liar (John 8:44). He is compared to a lion (1 Peter 5:8), a serpent (Gen. 3:1; Rev. 12:9), and an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:13–15), as well as “the god of this age” (2 Cor. 4:4, NIV).
- b. Satan’s Helpers
 - i. Paul called them “principalities ... powers ... rulers ... spiritual wickedness in high places” (Eph. 6:12). The important point is that our battle is not against human beings. It is against spiritual powers.
- c. Satan’s Abilities
 - i. The Book of Job tells what his power can do to a man’s body, home, wealth, and friends. Jesus calls Satan a thief who comes “to steal, and to kill, and to destroy” (John 10:10). Not only is Satan strong, but he is also wise and subtle, and we fight against “the wiles of the devil.”

II. The Equipment (6:13-17)

- a. The Girdle of Truth (v14a)
 - i. The girdle holds the other parts of the armor together, and truth is the integrating force in the life of the victorious disciple.
- b. The Breastplate Of Righteousness (v14b)
 - i. It symbolizes the disciple’s righteousness in Christ (2 Cor. 5:21) as well as his righteous life in Christ (Eph. 4:24). Satan is the accuser, but he cannot accuse the disciple who is living a godly life in the power of the Spirit.
- c. The Shoes Of The Gospel (v15)
 - i. If we wear the shoes of the Gospel, then we have the “beautiful feet” mentioned in Isaiah 52:7 and Romans 10:15. Satan has declared war, but you and I are ambassadors of peace (2 Cor. 5:18–21); and, as such, we take the Gospel of peace wherever we go.
- d. The Shield Of Faith (v16)
 - i. The “faith” mentioned here is a living faith, a trust in the promises and the power of God. Faith is a defensive weapon which protects us from Satan’s fiery darts.
- e. The Helmet of Salvation (v17)
 - i. The helmet refers to the mind controlled by God.
- f. The Sword Of The Spirit (v17b)
 - i. Hebrews 4:12 compares the Word of God to a sword, because it is sharp and is able to pierce the inner man just as a material sword pierces the body. When He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, Christ used the sword of the Spirit and defeated the enemy. Three times Jesus said, “It is written” (Luke 4:1–13).

III. The Energy (6:18-20)

- a. Pray Always
 - i. Prayer is the energy that enables the Christian soldier to wear the armor and wield the sword. We cannot fight the battle in our own power!
- b. Pray With All Prayer
 - i. There is more than one kind of praying: prayer, supplication, intercession, thanksgiving (Phil. 4:6; 1 Tim. 2:1). In fact, thanksgiving is a great prayer weapon for defeating Satan. "Praise changes things" as much as "prayer changes things."
- c. Pray In The Spirit
 - i. The Bible formula is that we pray to the Father, through the Son, and in the Spirit. Romans 8:26–27 tells us that only in the Spirit's power can we pray in the will of God.
- d. Pray With Your Eyes Open (Be on the alert)
 - i. "Watch and pray" is the secret of victory over the world (Mark 13:33), the flesh (Mark 14:38), and the devil (Eph. 6:18).
- e. Keep On Praying
 - i. The word perseverance simply means "to stick to it and not quit." The early believers prayed this way (Acts 1:14; 2:42; 6:4); and we also should pray this way (Rom. 12:12).
- f. Pray For All The Saints
 - i. We pray as part of a great family that is also talking to God, and we ought to pray for the other members of the family. If my prayers help another disciple defeat Satan, then that victory will help me too. Note that Paul did not ask them to pray for his comfort or safety, but for the effectiveness of his witness and ministry.

IV. The Encouragement (6:21-24)

We are not fighting the battle alone. There are other disciples who stand with us in the fight, and we ought to be careful to encourage one another. What an encouragement it is to be a part of the family of God! Nowhere in the New Testament do we find an isolated disciple. Disciples are like sheep; they flock together. The church is an army and the soldiers need to stand together and fight together.