

Exegetical Notes – Ephesians 6:10-24

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Ephesians 6:10-24

Verse 10

¹⁰ ***Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.***

- This is Paul's last admonition to the Ephesians.
- He calls his readers to be strong, but not in themselves. He has already told them and us that our strength is found in submission to the Holy Spirit of God. We are to submit to the Holy Spirit and allow the Holy Spirit to "fill us," to control us (see Ephesians 5:15-21). In this is our strength. We are to be strong in the Lord. We are to be dependent on God and His mighty power. OUR STRENGTH IS IN THE LORD! Human strength will not be enough. But the power of God is invincible!

Verses 11-12

¹¹ ***Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*** ¹² ***For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.***

- Christians in every age, including this one, must put on the battle armor of God so that they can stand against the schemes of Satan. These words clearly name the enemy against whom Christian's struggle, the devil. He is real, he is alive, and he is at work. This is not a fictitious, medieval concept. This is declared in the Scripture, the Holy word of God, as truth! Christians believe that the Bible is the Holy Word of God, in its entirety. This is, then, the word of the Lord.
- Christians do not fight against flesh and blood. We do not fight against other people. Our struggle is with those whom Satan has appointed: rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world, and the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly realms. We have already been told that we do not struggle with humans! So those entities described here are NOT human. Satan has, at his

command, an army. These spiritual forces may use humans to accomplish Satan's plans, but they are not flesh and blood. To think that this is not so is to misunderstand the nature of our enemy.

- The reason that we cannot win this battle in our own strength is that we fight against forces which are too powerful for human flesh to overcome.

Verse 13

¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

- Then the haunting "therefore" appears. Because the battle in which Christians are engaged is NOT with human adversaries, we must be prepared to engage in it spiritually. We must be strong in the Lord! We must be filled with the power of God through the Holy Spirit. We must put on the "full armor of God."
- So dressed, we will be able to "stand." The text does not say "overcome." We will not defeat Satan. God will do that at the proper time. But by being dressed in God's armor, we will hold our own. We will stand. When the dust clears, we will still stand! The battle between good and evil will affect us but we will not be overcome by the enemy.

Verses 14-17

¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- Then Paul describes the armor of God which protects us from our true enemy, Satan and his forces. Around our waist is "the belt of truth." The Messiah wears the belt of truth in Isaiah 11:5. The truth of God is the Messiah. Jesus is the truth! The word of God, the Bible is truth. Our first weapon of defense against the evil forces of Satan is the truth which God has given us. We wear the "breastplate of righteousness." In Isaiah 59:17, God himself wears the "breastplate of righteousness." Righteousness is the defining characteristic of justice. The righteousness of the Father protects us. Our shoes are "the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace." We

are not barefooted. On our feet are the shoes which make it possible for us to walk in peace. We do not go forth to wage war. We go forth to wage peace! (The phrase, "Gospel of Peace," is found nowhere else in the New Testament.) We WALK into the enemies' camp laying our weapons down. The battle belongs to the Lord. We bring peace. We hold "the shield of faith." It allows us to deflect and extinguish the "flaming arrows" of Satan. He will shoot at us. He will try to take us out. We do struggle against the powers that Satan controls. But our faith in God holds. In the struggle, we extinguish Satan's attack on us by holding fast to the promises of God. On our head is the "helmet of salvation." We have been saved by grace and not of our own doing. Our salvation belongs to the Lord. We hold "the sword of the Spirit." The only offensive weapon described here is "the sword of the Spirit." This reminds us again that the battle belongs to the Lord. Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit we fight these evil forces, not in our own strength, but in the power of God and His word.

- We are admonished to remember all that God has provided for protecting us to enable us to stand against the schemes of Satan.

Verses 18-20

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

- And then we are told to be continually praying for "ALL the saints," for each other, because we are ALL struggling against the forces of Satan. Pray that we will all be able to stand and to be standing when the battle is over.
- Christians are not supposed to be fighting with each other. We are supposed to be praying for each other and supporting each other. We are to be submitted to the Lord and to the authorities He has placed over us (see Ephesians 5:21). We are to be praying for each other continually.
- Paul asks for the faithful to be praying for him, too. He was a prisoner of the Roman government, under house arrest in Rome for preaching the Gospel, when he wrote this letter to the Ephesians. He asks that his fellow believers pray that he would not be afraid but enabled to speak boldly even while he is under this attack of Satan to silence him.

Verses 21-24

²¹ Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing. ²² I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you.

²³ Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

- Paul is sending Tychicus to Ephesus so that the Christians there will know how he is and how he is doing.
- Paul concludes this letter with a benediction, a prayer of blessing, on the Christians in Ephesus.

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