

Now Stand
Hope Chapel Honolulu
Ephesians 6:10-24 (ESV Strong's)

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.
(Ephesians 6:10-13, ESV)

Introduction

I find it strange, sometimes even devilish, how we pick and choose which spiritual truths we will accept, believe and live out. For example, it seems very common to believe, act out and tell others about being saved by grace through faith (2:8), having become God's workmanship (2:10) or about equipping the saints for works of ministry (4:11-13). Yet it is not as common for us to speak the truth in love (4:14-16), to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (5:21) let alone recognize and respond to the spiritual war that rages in and around us (6:10-18). It is not enough for us to believe that we are seated in Christ or to desire to walk in His grace, we must stand in the strength of His might for our faith to have its fullest effect.

1. Bad people are not really the source of our troubles. (Ephesians 6:10-13)

- a) We are limited in our being and doing, but God our Maker, Savior and Helper is not.
- b) "We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but...spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

2. Stand in the armor of God and pray, too. (Ephesians 6:14-20)

- a) Stand in the full armor of God.
- b) Pray "at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication...alert with all perseverance."

3. Grace is the source for reproduction and multiplication. (Ephesians 6:21-24)

- a) Reproduction leading to multiplication in worship, discipleship and witness.
- b) "Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible."

Conclusion

While we might have the knowledge, experience, skill or strength to protect ourselves and our loved ones from human predators, we can only stand against our spiritual enemy in the Name and Strength of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We cannot stand against the schemes of the enemy without the whole armor of God, and our friends, neighbors and even enemies will not survive without perseverance in prayer and supplication with the help of the Holy Spirit.

For our prayerful discovery, discussion and application:

- 1) Why is it so important to "be strong in the LORD and in the strength of His might" (v.10)?
- 2) Why do we need the "whole armor of God" to "stand against the schemes of the devil"?
- 3) Why do the Word and Spirit of God tell us to be fully dressed for prayer and supplication (v.18)?

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