

BE STRONG IN THE LORD. EPH. 6:10-20

INTRO 1

- **What in the world is going on? We are in dark and dangerous days. Watch your step, mistakes here have a great potential for disaster later.**

Paul now moves from the heights of doctrine, to the walking out of the practical and the sweetness of the household and work place, and now to the battle field.

The entire summons to holy living, justification, sanctification and sainthood now comes down to the battle fields, from saints, to servants, to soldiers.

The great privileges, promises and graces in the previous chapters don't just automatically become a reality to us, the worthy calling to holy and Christ like living and spiritual fullness doesn't just happen, it is challenged by our arch enemies, the world, the flesh , and the devil. We are at war and we have an enemy!

- **Lk. 22:31 satan has desired to sift you,**
- **John 10:10; The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.**
- **1 Peter 5:8, 9; Be sober, watchful be vigilant, watchful; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**
- **2 Cor. 2:22; lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.**

The realization of Christians being at war was much more on the forefront of the saints thoughts, actions compared to the luxury, leisurely, self-absorbed Christian life style of today.

- **Richard Alleine The world conquered by the faithful Christian.. 175 pages**
- **Isaac Ambrose. The Christian Warrior. (Read from preface) 150 pgs**
- **John Bunyan the holy war. 310 pages**
- **Richard Gilpin Satan's temptations. 500 pages**
- **William Gouge the armor of God. 776 pages**
- **William Gurnall The Christian in complete armor. 1200 pages.**
- **John Downname The Christian's warfare. 2500 pages**

A true Christian has his enemies under his feet even while he is in the fight. He is a soldier as soon as he is a saint, and he is a conqueror as soon as he is a soldier. His very taking up arms ensures his victory. (Richard Alleine)

The idea that this world is a playground instead of a battleground has now been accepted in practice by the vast majority of Christians. Aiden Wilson Tozer

The clearer we realize we are in a battle, a war, the greater and surer our victory will be, the more focused we are, the better we will fight the good fight of faith. But we must realize, we are in a war. Our thinking must change from peace time, to war time...

Paul is now in a Roman prison, but he is free in heart and spirit, free to fight.

Paul begins with the answer, vs 10, then tells us of the problem, 11-b- 12.

Paul was not spending his time in writing a defense for himself, or funding ways to attack his accusers, but building up the Church.

History records no records or letters or dispatches sent from him to attempt to win his liberty, but many to the churches.

Paul was not so fond of liberty, life or freedom to purchase them at the cost of the gospel, or his communion with Christ. He would not hazard his soul by compromise with the world, the devil or his flesh. He knew too much of another world to pay so high a price for enjoying this one!

Vs. 10

- **Finally Brethren:** Notice Paul's inclusiveness.
 - The Jews despised the gentiles and had an inner dislike to them. They were those who were unworthy, they walked around Samaria, Peter would not go to Cornelius's house. Etc.
 - But here Paul is delighted to call them "my brothers."
 - He is the embodiment of what he taught in chapter 2: 13-18.
- **Be Strong:**
 - to be strengthening. Present tense suggesting a continuous strengthening.
 - To make strong, to endue with strength as, to cloth oneself with strength as putting on a garment. Lk. 24:
 - To be continually strengthened. Eph. 3:18
The Christian man or woman above all other people needs courage, resolution, and determination to be successful in this war.
 - **Joshua 1:6, 7, 9.**
- **Power:**
 - A manifested power. Have you seen God's power?
- **Might:**
 - a might that is inherent in God and is effective. (1:19)
 - An indwelling might. HIS POWERFUL MIGHT.
- **LORD:**
 - He to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; master, owner, He who is supreme in authority, controller, ruler, one having dominion over.
- Paul uses this title 26X in Ephesians.

- **Thomas in John 20:28 my Lord and my God.**
- **Peter Acts 2:36 God has made Him Lord.**
- **My strength is "in the Lord." He strengthens me.**

TO BE STRONG IN THE LORD:

- **What does it mean to be strong in the Lord?**
- **It is not physical, fleshly strength, it is not human confidence, in fact I think it is the opposite.**
 - **2 Cor. 12:10**
 - **Acts 9:5, 6, 13**