

## “Know Your Enemy Part 3: Our Weapons”

(Ephesians 6:10-20):

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**Proposition:** We must use every weapon in our fight against the devil.

### **Introduction:**

I want to bring us up to speed first. Maybe you missed the first or second or both of the previous messages in this series on “Knowing our Enemy, the devil.” In the first message I spend the whole time introducing the devil. I tried to separate fact from fiction. I mentioned some cautions and some extremes we should avoid—such as we shouldn’t over-demonize every thing and situation. And on the flipside, we shouldn’t completely ignore the devil either.

And then last week I spoke about the devils tactics—basically he operates on the basis of lies. There is no truth in him. And so he tries to get us away from the bible. And he tries to get us to live our lives based on his lies, on not on the truth of God’s word. But we also emphasized that the devil will take whatever we give him and will patiently wait to change us one degree at a time.

Now if we have this incredibly relentless enemy, that never lets up, that’s always breathing down our necks, then we need some incredibly powerful weapons. An army is only as good as its weapons and the effectiveness of its strategy. So you and I need to know what we have in our arsenal and how to use them.

*“Tools we use on Mexico missions” hand cutter vs. the Metal guillotine. I never knew such a thing existed. I was a bit skeptical.*

Let’s take a look at what’s available to each child of God and follower of Christ.

NIV Ephesians 6:10-19 <sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> 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 saints. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

### **Tap into the power of Christ. (10)**

This implies that our strength alone is not enough. Whatever we bring to the table of spiritual battle is insufficient, in fact it’s useless. There’s only one person, one source from which we can have this power. And that the power of Christ.

So we need to maintain, recognize, tap into the unique relationship that we have with Jesus Christ. The passage says, “Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power”. The phrase ‘in the Lord, in Christ, in Him’, is one of Paul’s favorite ways of describing the relationship Christians have with Christ. We are “in Him”. This phrase occurs dozens and dozens of times throughout his letters. Think about that phrase for a second. Can you picture a more simple and at the same time more profound way of describing your relationship with Jesus? It really is astonishingly beautiful. I think if you asked Paul, “would you describe your relationship to Jesus?” He may say, I am a child of God, or he may say, I am a follower of Christ, or he may say I am a slave or servant of Christ.” Or he may say, I am justified. But most likely he would say, “I am in Christ”. Say that with me would you? “I am in Christ”. There is nowhere in the English language where the two letters I N are so powerful, as in this phrase. When we became Christians we became “IN CHRIST”.

So you and I are to be strong, but not in ourselves and not by our own feeble and finite power because the strength of every Christian is derived. However, even though it’s derived it’s enough and it’s powerful. Jesus + you, Jesus + me = infinite power. The power of the Lord is mighty power. It’s the power to create heaven and earth and galaxies by just saying it. Can you do that? *Chocolate Cake*. Nothing happened. But not so with God. Earth. Water. Sky. Trees. Sun. Human. It’s the power to raise Lazarus from the grave. The bible says the last enemy to be defeated is death. And here comes Jesus, days after Lazarus dies and what does he say? “Lazarus, come forth.” And some pastors have asked the question, “Why did Jesus say Lazarus, come forth.” And not just “Come forth”? Because in a graveyard, everyone might have been resuscitated. Jesus is the one, by uttering one word, can silence a shrieking demon.

Jesus taught his followers in John 15:5. “I am the vine, you are the branches, if a man remains in me and I in him he will bear much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing.”

So you and I must remain in that intimate relationship with the Lord and receive our strength and power for this battle against the devil from Christ alone.

**According to this passage there is a second thing we must do and that is to Utilize the full armor of God.**

Back in 1655 a puritan minister named William Gurnall published a treatise about this passage and he titled it, “The Christian in Complete Armour. Here’s the subtitle. “The saints’ war against the Devil, wherein a discovery is made of that grand enemy of God and his people, in his policies, power, seat of his empire, wickedness, and chief design he hath against the saints; a magazine opened, from whence the Christian is furnished with spiritual arms for the battle, helped on with his armour, and taught the use of his weapon; together with the happy issue of the whole war.” And this little treatise was 3 volumes, 261 chapters, and 1472 pages long. And I’m guessing it was because of the dire importance of this matter for all Christians. He wasn’t the only one. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century Rev. Martin Lloyd Jones wrote a book on the same topic that was over 700 pages long.

Listen to what Gurnall says. “In heaven we shall appear not in armour but in robes of glory; but here they are to be worn night and day; we must walk, work and sleep in them, or else we are not true soldiers of Christ.”

We have the full armor of God and that is enough, sufficient for our spiritual battle. They are truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Holy Spirit. I don't have the time to focus on all of them. So I'll only focus on the last two.

Paul often uses the soldier, combat, battle illustration.

## Truth

Gird your loins is like pull up your robe, roll up your sleeves.

This means getting rid of any thing which might be a hindrance in the struggle against evil, eliminating any easygoing casualness which might make him less than ready for the fray. Sincerity, integrity. Or is truth the truth of the gospel. Mitton sees the former.

So it is either the truth of God or the truth of our lives, our integrity. In any case, both are needed to fight against the devil.

**Righteousness** – total obedience to the known will of God.

**Peace.** It is the gospel of peace. So the Christian is tireless in that he knows he is the bearer of the gospel of peace. Bringing peace between God and man.

**Faith** – shield – protection. The utter confidence that God is able to protect and provide in all circumstances.

**Salvation** – helmet. A glad awareness of having been put right with God and the inward sense of wholeness.

**Spirit** – Sword. This is the only weapon in the soldier's armor that is both a defensive and offensive weapon. And it was a short sword, not the real long sword. So it was meant for up close, hand-to-hand combat situations. And this sword is the sword of the Spirit. Which means it's the sword of God. Remember it was the Holy Spirit's responsibility to remind us of the truth. It is he who makes the word stick and makes it effective in a person's life. So in the bible we have the word of God, the word of Christ or the Word himself who is Christ, and the Sword of the Spirit, that is the word of the Spirit.

Last week we learned that the devil is the father of lies and that his aim and goal is to lead us to live our lives based on his lies, not on the truth of God's word. He wants to render us impotent and ineffective. And so in order for us to defend against this, there is only one thing to do. Replace all those lies with truth. Base our lives on the truth of God's revelation that we know as the Bible.

Why? Because

**2Timothy3:16**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17**so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

And Because

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Isaiah 55:11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will **accomplish** what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

The implications for us are obvious.

1. Read the bible.
2. Memorize it –
3. And most importantly, believe it and obey it.

This may be our most powerful weapon against the devil.

**There's one final weapon in our fight against the devil.**

**Prayer**

<sup>18</sup> 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 saints. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Prayer is one of the most mysterious things. There's nothing like prayer that as vulnerable in our posture. But there's nothing like the posture of prayer that makes us so powerful. There's nothing like the act of prayer that shows how weak and feeble and needy we are. And there's nothing like prayer invigorates and enables and provides. There's nothing like prayer that often requires so much spiritual energy to do, but at the same time is so simple to do. There's nothing like prayer that is so neglected and at the same time so desperately needed.

That is prayer and that is our final weapon in the battle against the devil.

1. pray in the Spirit .
2. pray on all occasions
3. pray all kinds of prayers and requests
4. pray for the saints (intercession)
5. pray for the gospel. (pray for missions)

When we look at this request for prayer you realize two things. Prayer is intensely personal. There is nothing more intimate that to pray to God. Nothing can draw you nearer to God than prayer. It is very personal. But prayer must never remain just a personal thing where we focus only on ourselves. Prayer must include the world we live in. It must include the people God has placed in our lives. It must include those who have never heard. It must include the work of the church and missionaries. It must include those who proclaim the word of God. Prayer is personal, but at the same time it is very public.

Rolando – house broken into

Hello Pastor Peter. Blessings to yourself and your family.

I have been writing messages to you but I do not know whether you have received them because

I haven't heard back from you.

I am writing this message to ask you to pray for my wife, kids, and I. This past Saturday while we were away at the three days of power retreat, some robbers took advantage of the situation, and broke into our home. Not only did they steal things, but they also misplaced everything and made a big mess out of the house. When the kids saw what had happened, they broke into tears, and were terrified. We are now very sensitive to outside noises, and we are really afraid that another robbery will happen.

Thank you for your prayers. We believe that we will be back on our feet shortly.

God bless you.

Sasha Kim – looks me straight in the eyes and says “thank you” for praying for us. Thank you for supporting up. And returning the favor he says every Thursday his church lifts up the name of Young Nak to the heavens.

**Conclusion:**

Again I remind you. We are in this spiritual battle whether we recognize it or not, admit or not, believe it or not. We're in it. And to victoriously engage the enemy we must use the weapons God gave us. Let's pray that God would empower us to do so.

