

Ephesians 6.10-24: Our Situation - Warfare

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What's it like being in a battle or living through a war?

Are we really in a battle – or is it a long-lasting war?

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Are we really in a battle – or is it a long-lasting war?

- We may think we're not in a war.
- We may take the war lightly – think it's just having fun.
- We may think we can fight spiritual forces in our own strength. Jude 8-10 warns us not to.

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On the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings. But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!' Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct - as irrational animals do – will destroy them.

Jude 8-10 (NIV)

The REAL war

- Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.
- Put on the full armour ...
- ... so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.
- For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, ...
- ... but against the rulers, .. authorities, .. powers of this dark world ...
- ... and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

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We take spiritual forces seriously – but we're not afraid of them. Why not?

- We have weapons for defence and offence – like the Roman soldier
- We belong to a disciplined, Holy Spirit-led body – like the Roman legion
- We have an always-victorious general – far superior to Julius Caesar

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The Roman soldier – equipped and disciplined

The Roman legion – united and versatile

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Armour of God – Ephesians 6:13-17

- Helmet of Salvation – Ephesians 6:17
- Breastplate of Righteousness – Ephesians 6:14
- Belt of Truth – Ephesians 6:14
- Shield of Faith – Ephesians 6:16
- Sword of the Spirit – Ephesians 6:17
- Feet of Peace – Ephesians 6 :15

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Therefore put on the whole armour 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.

Ephesians 6.13 (NIV)

- We're in a life-long struggle
- We need every part of the armour
- What / when will be our personal 'day of evil'?
- Standing – on the promises
- Ending well

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A Messianic prophecy:

The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice.
He saw that there was no one,
he was appalled that there was no one to intervene;
so his own arm achieved salvation for him,
and his own righteousness sustained him.
He put on righteousness as his breastplate,
and the helmet of salvation on his head; ...

Isaiah 59.17 (NIV)

The struggle we go through is exactly what the Lord Jesus himself experienced.

Paul's frequent warning:

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the
deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light.

Romans 13.12 (NIV)

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as
a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

1 Thess. 5.8 (NIV)

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Ephesians 6.13 (NIV)

Isaiah 59.17 - Romans 13.12 - 1 Thessalonians 5.8

- Belt of truth
- Breastplate of Christ's righteousness
- Boots with the good news of peace with God – Luke 2.14
- Shield of faith
- Helmet of salvation
- Sword of the Spirit

Pray in the Spirit – on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests...

Stay alert Ephesians 6:24 (NIV)

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Therefore put on the whole armour 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. Ephesians 6:13 (NIV)

Pray in the Spirit on all occasions
with all kinds of prayers and requests...
Stay alert Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)

The church with psalms must shout
No door can keep them out:
But above all the heart
Must bear the longest part.

George Herbert - 1633

Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.
Ephesians 6:24 (NIV)