

Walking with Power #9 Ephesians 6:10-24

Introduction

In this last section of the epistle, Paul sums up His letter with the term “finally.”

Finally, in light of all that God has done for you, in light of the glorious standing you have as a child of God, in light of His great plan for the ages, in light of the plan He has for your maturity and growth, in light of the conduct He expects every believer to live by, and in light of the filling of the Spirit that enables our walk in that Spirit, recognize that there is a battle to fight in the Christian life! Walk with Power!

With a series of commands, we are told to put on the armor of God (the whole armor, everything a soldier would need for battle)

Command #1: Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might (vs. 10)

This is the reason we put on the armor, to be strengthened. The term here emphasizes not what we can do, but what God can do on our behalf. (II Tim. 2:1)

“in the Lord”-(a phrase Paul repeats some 35 times in Ephesians) See John 15:4-7

“power of His might”- might is an inherent strength and power is the exercise of that force. It is the idea that we operate with a reserve of strength, His strength.

Command #2: Put on the full armor of God (vs. 11-13)

-Our enemy: Satan (OT term), The Devil (NT term). He is a person with a malevolent heart, wicked soul and an ability to inspired all manner of evil. (See I Thess. 2:18, II Cor. 2:11)

-Satan is in command of an entire army of demons and spirits totally focused on destroying God’s people. These terms may be referring to the “ranks” within his evil army. The distinctions may also be:

Rulers: leaders of evil, perhaps referring to the initial “fallen angels” in Jude 6

Authorities: probably referring to governments and world systems

Powers: spiritual forces of evil

-“The devil is pictured as in command of spirit of forces that rule in the sphere of the world’s moral darkness. Paul uses the plural to describe Satan and his host. These are intangible spiritual entities whose rule is often worked out via concrete historical, economic, political, social and institutional structures.” (Coleman and Peace)

-See II Cor. 10:3-5 We need spiritual weapons, powered by Christ (Zech. 4:6)

Command #3: STAND (vs. 14-15)

We stand in faith (II Cor. 1:24). We stand in grace (Rom. 5:2). We stand in courage and strength (I Cor. 16:13). We stand firm in the will of God, mature and fully assured (Col. 4:12). As we STAND, we are clothed with:

Belt of Truth: This belt held a soldier's undergarment and tunic out of the way. It gave him freedom of movement and a place for his sword. Girded with his belt, he could function.

We need to be girded with truth: See John 14:6 and John 8:31-32

Breastplate of Righteousness: It was made of leather and metal and it protected the vital organs. (See Isa. 59:17)

Feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace: These shoes were half boots that had heavily studded soles with sharp nails imbedded in them. They gave great traction for the soldier. (See Isa. 52:7)

Command #4: Take up or "accept what is offered you" (vs 16-17)

The Shield of Faith: This was a large oblong shield that covered most of the body. It was made of layers of wood with an iron frame. It might be soaked in water before a battle in order to help extinguish fiery arrows. These shields were most effective when an entire row of soldiers held them up in unison.

Remember, "Without faith, it is impossible to please God" (See Hebrews 11:6)

A Helmet of Salvation: This is a metal cap with layers of cloth inside. Our hope of salvation is found in Christ. (See I Thess. 5:8)

The Sword of the Spirit: These were short swords used for hand to hand combat. The term "word" here is not the usual "logos" but it rather speaks of a spoken word. We do battle with God's Word as our weapon. (See II Tim. 3:16-17)

Command #4: Pray! (vs. 18-20)

When? All the time, at all occasions (See I Thess. 5:17)

What? A wide variety of prayers and requests

Attitude? Be alert!

For whom?

Pray for all the saints (believers).

Pray for me (Paul)

Paul asks them to pray for three personal things:

1. For words to share
2. That he would make known the gospel (as an ambassador-someone who is an agent of a ruler)
3. That he would do those declarations without fear

His Final Greeting (vs. 21-22)

-Tychicus: on his mission to Asia Minor carried at least 4 letters; Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians and a lost letter to the Laodiceans (see Col. 4:15)

-He will tell you how I am, what I am doing and will encourage you.

His Salutation (vs. 23)

Peace, love and grace to the brothers

His Benediction (vs. 24)

Takes us back to Eph. 1:3-14

So What?

After 6 chapters of "SITTING" in the great truths of His word, we now are instructed to take our STAND and WALK out the truth in our everyday lives. As we do so, reflect on that full suit of armor that Paul described. Is there a piece that you tend to neglect? What can you do to change that?

Sherry Worel
sworel@stoneybrooke.com