

1. Our _____ & His _____.

Ephesians 6:10-11: “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. (v.11) Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

“Wiles” is *methodeia* (μεθοδεια), “cunning arts, deceit, craft, trickery.” The word comes from the verbal form *methodeuo* (μεθοδευω), “to follow up or investigate by method and settled plan, to follow craftily, frame devices, deceive.” The word “stratagem” will translate it adequately.” Kenneth S. Wuest, *Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997, c1984), Eph 6:11.

“From the power, malice and skill of Satan, doth proceed all the soul-killing plots, devices, stratagems and machinations, that be in the world. Several devices he hath to draw souls to sin, and several plots he hath to keep souls from all holy and heavenly services, and several stratagems he hath to keep souls in a mourning, staggering, doubting and questioning condition. He hath several devices to destroy the great and honorable, the wise and learned, the blind and ignorant, the rich and the poor, the real and the nominal saints.”

Thomas Brooks, ‘*Precious Remedies Against Satan’s Devices*’, 16.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11: “If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, (v.11) in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.”

WHAT ARE THE SCHEMES THE DEVIL USES AGAINST US?

- _____ (1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Corinthians 11:1-3, 13-15).
- _____ (Revelation 12:10; Zechariah 3; 1 John 2:1-2).
- _____ (Genesis 3; 2 Corinthians 11:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 3:5).
- _____ (Ephesians 4:27; 2 Corinthians 2:11; 1 Corinthians 6:6-8).

- _____ (1 Thessalonians 2:18; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Matthew 13:18-19).

2. Our _____ & _____.

- Use your _____ Against the Devil.

Ephesians 6:10: “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.”

Ephesians 6:12: “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.”

Ephesians 1:19-21: “...and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, (v.20) which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, (v.21) far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.”

Ephesians 2:6: “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus...”

Jude v.9: “But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”

- Use your _____ Against the Devil.

Ephesians 6:10-18: “Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.** (v.11) Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. **Ephesians 6:12-18:** “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. (v.13) **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. (v.14) Stand firm then, with **the belt of truth** buckled around your waist, with **the breastplate of**

righteousness in place, (v.15) and with **your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace**. (v.16) In addition to all this, take up **the shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. (v.17) Take **the helmet of salvation** and **the sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God. (v.18) **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.”

“The armor Paul describes is for protection; the sword (God’s Word) is for actual battle. Each part of the spiritual armor tells us what believers must have if they are to be protected against Satan:

Truth—Satan is a liar, but the Christian who knows the truth will not be deceived.

Righteousness—This means the consistent daily walk of the Christian. Satan is the accuser (Rev. 12:10), but the believer who walks in the light will give Satan no opportunity to attack. We stand in the imputed righteousness of Christ, and we walk in the imparted righteousness of the Holy Spirit.

Peace—Satan is a divider and a destroyer. When the believer walks in the way of peace, the Gospel way, then Satan cannot reach him. *The Christian’s feet should be clean (John 13), beautiful (Rom. 10:15), and shod with the Gospel*. Christians who are ready to witness for Christ have an easier time defeating the evil one.

Faith—Satan is the source of unbelief and doubt. “Has God indeed said?” is his favorite question (Gen. 3:1). Faith is what overcomes every foe (1 John 5:4). As believers use the shield of faith, the fiery darts of unbelief and doubt are kept away.

Salvation—This verse (17) probably refers to our ultimate salvation when Christ returns (see 1 Thes. 5:8). The believer whose mind is fixed on Christ’s imminent coming will not fall into Satan’s traps. The blessed hope must be like a helmet to protect the mind. Satan would love to have us believe that Christ is not coming back, or that He may not come back today. Read Matt. 24:45–51 to see what happens to the person who takes off the helmet of salvation.

These pieces of armor are for the believer’s protection; *the sword of the Spirit and prayer are weapons for attacking Satan’s strongholds and defeating him*. The Christian must fight spiritual enemies with spiritual weapons (2 Cor. 10:4), and the Word of God is the only sword we need. God’s sword has life and power (Heb. 4:12) and never grows dull. Christians conquer as they understand God’s Word, memorize it, and obey it.” **Warren W. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the New Testament* (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1997, c1992), 554.**

FINAL THOUGHTS

When the unseen enemy strikes, will you be ready to take your stand against his schemes?

ULTIMATE FIGHTING CHRISTIAN

Today’s Message:

“The Fight Against Unseen Forces”

Pastor Cory Anderson / SMC / 08.23.09

INTRODUCTION:

Revelation 12:17: “Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off **to make war against** the rest of her offspring—those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

1 Peter 5:8: “Be self-controlled and alert. **Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.**”

Ephesians 6:12: “**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.**”

“In the word “wrestle,” (*palē* (παλη), Paul uses a Greek athletic term. Thayer defines as follows: “a contest between two in which each endeavors to throw the other, and which is decided when the victor is able to press and hold down his prostrate antagonist, namely, hold him down with his hand upon his neck.” When we consider that the loser in a Greek wrestling contest had his eyes gouged out with resulting blindness for the rest of his days, we can form some conception of the Ephesian Greek’s reaction to Paul’s illustration. The Christian’s wrestling against the powers of darkness is no less desperate and fateful.”

Kenneth S. Wuest, *Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997, c1984), Eph 6:12.

“An unseen enemy, he is always near us, about our path and about our bed, and spying out all our ways. A “murderer and a liar” from the beginning, he labours night and day to cast us down to hell. Sometimes by leading into superstition, sometimes by suggesting infidelity, sometimes by one kind of tactics and sometimes by another, he is always carrying on a campaign against our souls.”

J.C. Ryle, *Holiness*, 160.