

Dress for the Battle

Ephesians 6:10-18

Believers stand victorious only when they recognize the reality of Satan's organized kingdom and daily put on the armor Christ has provided.

Imagine being issued body armor before entering combat.

Instead of putting it on, you lay it in the trunk because you don't think the enemy is nearby.

The armor didn't fail.

You simply never wore it.

That is exactly Paul's concern.

Many Christians believe Satan exists.

Many know about the armor.

Yet they live spiritually exposed every day.

The problem isn't ignorance of the armor.

The problem is forgetting the enemy.

I. Recognize the Reality of the Enemy. (v.11-12)

Before Paul ever lists the armor, he explains why it is necessary.

The devil is real. His kingdom is real. His army is real.

Wiersbe reminds us that Satan is "a created being; he is not like God in being all-knowing, all-powerful, and everywhere-present." (143)

Three truths about Satan:

1. **Satan is powerful...** but not omnipotent.

He has real abilities but does not possess unlimited power like God does.

His power is finite.

2. **Satan is intelligent...** but not omniscient.

Satan is intelligent, observant, and experienced in human behavior, but he does not know everything as God does.

So we should also know that Satan does not automatically know every thought in a person's mind.

3. **Satan is active...** but not omnipresent.

He cannot be everywhere at once.

Satan himself is not personally tempting every believer everywhere simultaneously.

Scripture presents him as a created, finite being who moves about (Job 1:7; 1 Peter 5:8), while other evil spiritual beings also operate under his influence.

So, we're not fighting God's equal opposite.

There is only one God.

We're fighting a defeated, limited creature.

However, he operates through an organized kingdom of demons.

Demons are: unclean spirits, wicked spirits, and are also called evil spirits in scripture.

II. Understand the Enemy's Strategy.

Paul says, "...the schemes of the devil."

Satan doesn't merely attack.

He strategizes.

Wiersbe highlights several realities.

1. Satan has an organized kingdom.

"Satan is a destroyer and a divider when it comes to the church; but in his own kingdom, he is very well organized." (145)

Paul speaks of Satan's hierarchy that we struggle against:

- rulers
- authorities
- cosmic powers
- spiritual forces

This is an organized army, not random evil.

2. Satan often works through people.

This is one of the strongest points from Chapter 9.

Wiersbe reminds us that demons work through people, which is why Paul says our struggle is not against flesh and blood.

Satan worked through Peter (Matt. 16:21-23), Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5), false teachers, idolaters, and deceivers.

"If only believers could be united in their defense and their warfare, Satan would not win so many victories. Sad to say, Christians too often are so busy fighting one another that they have no time for fighting the devil." (146)

Stop fighting people.

Fight the real enemy.

3. Satan deceives before he destroys.

Demons promote

- false doctrine
- idolatry
- occult practices
- moral corruption

Their greatest weapon is deception.

Are you in battles?

Good, because "Satan never kicks a dead horse!"¹

So what do you do now that you know all of this?

III. Stand in the Victory of Christ.

Notice: Paul never tells us to attack Satan, find demons, or cast out territorial spirits.

Instead, he says: vs. 11 Stand. vs. 13 Stand. vs. 14 Stand.

Stand in what God has provided: the complete armor.

¹ Charles Spurgeon. page 127.

The armor:

Belt of Truth exposes deception.

Breastplate of Righteousness protects the heart.

The Gospel of Peace gives stability.

- How you stand pretty well determines how you will fight. If a fighter loses his footing, he may lose the battle.

The Shield of Faith extinguishes Satan's lies.

- The Roman shield was two feet by four feet, made of wood covered with leather and metal. It served as a movable wall behind which the soldiers could hide and protect themselves from the burning arrows shot by the enemy.

Helmet of Salvation guards the mind.

The Sword of the Spirit answers temptation.

Prayer sustains every piece.

- We put on the armor by means of prayer, and we pray by means of the Holy Spirit. (136)
- Wiersbe gives this warning, "Be alert to what the devil is doing, or he will attack you while you are praying!" (138)

IV. Remember the War Has Already Been Won.

Wiersbe points to Matthew 12:22-29

"If I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you. How can someone enter a strong man's house and steal his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house. Anyone who is not with Me is against Me, and anyone who does not gather with Me scatters."

Christ invaded Satan's kingdom.

Christ defeated the strong man.

Christ now rescues captives from Satan's kingdom and turns them into soldiers for His own kingdom. (pp.148-149)

Notice... Paul never tells believers, "Go win the war."

He says, "Stand." Why?

Because Jesus already won it.

We don't fight for victory. We fight from victory.

Wiersbe closes Chapter 9 with two dangers.

1. Don't see a demon behind every tree.
2. Don't ignore demons altogether.

Both extremes are dangerous.

Instead...

- Know your enemy.
- Wear your armor.
- Trust your Savior.

"You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." **1 John 4:4**

Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

That is the final word of the Christian life.

Not fear. Not fascination. But confidence in Christ. (p.150)