

I. PREPARED FOR BATTLE

- A. In 1945, during the bloody Battle of Okinawa, Desmond Doss entered combat, trained, equipped, and prepared, though his religious convictions kept him from carrying a weapon. At Hacksaw Ridge, while others retreated under enemy fire, Doss stayed behind and rescued approximately 75 wounded soldiers, later receiving the Medal of Honor.
- B. His story illustrates a simple truth: You don't prepare for battle after the battle begins. You prepare before the enemy attacks.
- C. In our study today, Paul instructs us on how to prepare and stay prepared for the spiritual battle that we have been put into.

II. CONTEXT OF OUR STUDY

- A. Ephesians 6:10–20 is Paul's final exhortation in the letter to the Ephesians. After teaching believers who they are in Christ (chapters 1–3) and how they are to respond with a walk worthy of who they are (chapters 4–6), Paul concludes his letter by arming the saint so they can protect what has been given to them.

III. WHY ARE WE IN A BATTLE? WHAT ARE THE STAKES?

- A. Once people have been rescued from the kingdom of darkness and brought into Christ's kingdom, they find themselves in conflict with the kingdom they have left.
 - 1. ***He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,-Coloss 1:13***
- B. The stakes of this spiritual battle are eternal: God's glory and honor, the salvation of souls, heaven or hell, death or life. the triumph of truth, freedom and justice, the maturity of the Bride, our marriages, children, church family, our inheritances, Satan's final defeat, and the fullness of Christ's inheritance.

IV. EPHESIANS 6:10-20

- 1. ***¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the ¹wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against***

flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— ¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

- B. Paul is not using a Roman soldier for his illustration, but God Himself.
Paul exhorts us to put on God's armor on not a Roman soldiers.
- C. *Scripture repeatedly portrays the LORD as a Warrior who fights for His people, defeats His enemies, and triumphs over evil.*
 - 1. ***"The LORD is a man of war; The LORD is His name."-Ex 15:3***
 - 2. ***The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies."-Is 42:13***
 - 3. ***"Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle."-Ps 24:8***

V. VRS 10

- 1. ***¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.***
- B. Spiritual warfare does not begin with our strength and power to overcome the enemy but His. It does not start with our armor but His.

- C. God doesn't call us to spiritual warfare and then expect us to manufacture the strength to fight it. The God who calls us into the battle supplies the strength necessary to stand.

1. ***It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect.³³ He makes my feet like the feet of deer, And sets me on my high places.³⁴ He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.-Ps 18:32-34***

- D. When King David found himself in an intense spiritual battle in Ziglag, where the enemy burned down his city, took his wives and children, David turned to God's strength in the battle and not his own.

1. ***But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.-1 Sam 30:6***

VI. VRS 11

1. ***¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.***

- B. Once again we see that the armor belongs to God and comes from Him. Paul exports us not to run from the enemy, but to stand and confront him with the armor.

1. ***I have pursued my enemies and overtaken them;Neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed.-Ps 118:37***

- C. In this verse, Paul uses the word "stand" for the first of three times in his teaching on spiritual warfare. The Greek word means to remain firm, hold your ground, maintain your position, and resist the enemy's attempts to move you.

- D. This word is also a priestly word that speaks of the positional authority of the saint in every spiritual battle.

1. ***¹¹ My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before Him, to serve Him, and that you should minister to Him and burn incense."-2 Chron 29:11***

- E. When a believer stands in warfare, he stands in heaven's courtroom to execute heaven's authority over the enemy.

1. ***A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened. -Dan 7:10***

F. AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL

1. The greek word for wiles is methodeia where we get our english word "method".
2. Paul is emphasizing that Satan's attacks are not merely random; he operates through intelligent schemes, persistence, and calculated strategies and methods.
3. Peter echoes this truth in 1 Peter 5:8
 - a) ***⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. -1Peter 5:8***
4. Paul knew this too well when speaking of Satan's strategy to harbor unforgiveness in hearts so he has an open door to people.
 - a) ***¹¹ lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices. -2 Cor 2:11***

VII. VRS 12

1. ***¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.***
 - a) "One of Satan's greatest strategies is to get us fighting the people we're supposed to be fighting for: "Your spouse isn't the enemy, your children aren't the enemy, your brother or sister in Christ isn't the enemy, the unbeliever isn't the enemy.
- B. The greek word for "Wrestle" is Palē means wrestling, struggle, or hand-to-hand combat. It describes a close, intense, personal struggle, rather than fighting an enemy from a distance.

1. Being a follower of Jesus is not easy, if it is then I question who you are really following. This walk is a constant struggle with resistance, opposition which requires diligent sustained effort.

VIII. SATAN'S ORGANIZED KINGDOM

- A. Paul described the organized realm of evil spiritual beings under Satan's authority. He lists four different orders of fallen angelic beings here. The four terms used of our spiritual enemies in this verse do not necessarily identify four separate kinds of adversaries as much as they point out four characteristics of all of them.
- B. "Rulers" stress their authority, and "powers" their strength. "Rulers of the darkness of this age" point to their wide influence in the world, and "spiritual hosts of wickedness" relate to their evil character. They operate in the heavenly realms .

IX. GOD'S PURPOSE IN WARFARE

- A. Satan intends spiritual warfare for our harm, but under God's sovereignty the battles we fight turn out for our own good and blessing. Like with Job, Satan can only go as far as God permits
 1. TO TEST US
 - a) Spiritual warfare reveals what we really believe and how much we have actually grown spiritually.
 2. TO KEEP US HUMBLE
 - a) ***"Lest I should be exalted above measure...a messenger of Satan was given to me..."— 2 Corinthians 12:7***
 3. TO TRAIN US HOW TO WAR BIBLICALLY
 - a) God allows spiritual warfare to train, strengthen, and equip us to fight effectively.
 - (1) ***"Now these are the nations which the LORD left, that He might test Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan (this was only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be***

taught to know war, at least those who had not formerly known it).”— Judges 3:1–2

4. TO REFINE US AND SANCTIFY US

- a) ***“And some of those of understanding shall fall, to test them, refine them, and make them white, until the time of the end”
— Daniel 11:35***

5. TO DISCOVER AND ENCOUNTER GOD

- a) ***“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.”-Job 42:6***