

Living UP TO OUR Heavenly Calling

A study in the book of Ephesians

March 25, 2025

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Ephesians 6:10-20

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Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil 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 firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

The Apostle makes it clear that every believer is in a continual battle, and we must be able to “stand against the schemes of the devil.” Many Christians today are not prepared for this fight with the devil. **Why is this true?**

Who is our enemy?



His name is Satan, or the devil and numberless demons make up his army. They are organized and controlled to carry out his every demand. He is out to control your mind, emotions, actions—everything about you, especially if you are a Christian. He knows how to fight, and he does it very well.

Because he is not a visible enemy, many Christians don't take him seriously. No Christian should ever participate in any joking about him.

Names for Satan

Tempter - Matthew 4:3

And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

Murderer/liar - John 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Ruler/god of this world - John 12:31, 2 Corinthians 4:4

Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Angel of light - 2 Corinthians 11:14

And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

Devil - James 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Adversary/roaring lion - 1 Peter 5:8

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Accuser of the brothers - Revelation 12:10

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God."

- **What does it mean that Satan is the god/ruler of this world?**

Ephesians 2:2: *...in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.*

- **What does it mean that Satan appears as an angel of light?**

Satan has the ability to appear righteous and appealing, making his deception all the more dangerous.

What do we know about our enemy?

He was Lucifer; he is a fallen angelic being.

Isaiah 14:12 – 15: *How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! ¹³ You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven above the stars of God. I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' ¹⁵ But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.*

He goes to and fro in the earth.

Job 1:7: *The LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."*

He tries to tempt us with power, with fame, with success, with money.

Consider how he tempted Jesus in the wilderness:

Luke 4:

Verse 3: *The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."*

Verses 6 – 7: *To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.*

Verses 9b – 11: *If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you," ¹¹ and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."*

Never forget:

*Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for **he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.** (1 John 4:4)*

He is a master of disguise. Among others, he disguises himself as:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| -A Serpent | -Angel of Light |
| -A Roaring Lion | -A Dragon |

What disguises has he used on you?

What are Satan's objectives?

1 Peter 5:8: He seeks to devour us

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

- Do you think this means literally to devour us? In what ways can we be devoured by Satan?

John 10:10: **He seeks to steal from us, and to kill and destroy us.**

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

- What does Satan want to steal from you?
- Do you think he wants to literally kill you? Why hasn't he?
- What does he want to destroy?

Matthew 13:19: **He tries to keep people from accepting Christ as Savior.**

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11: **He tries to take advantage, especially if we are unforgiving.**

Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, "so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

- How important is it for us to forgive?
- Why is an unforgiving heart a real fertile ground for Satan?

1 Thessalonians 2:18: **He tries to hinder us.**

Because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.

- How does he try to hinder us?

What are Satan's methods?

- Crafty, Deceptive, Liar. He is cursed and is the enemy of the woman's offspring, Jesus Christ. His head will be crushed.
- He knows truth and uses it to deceive. He mixes truth with lies. He tries to destroy and control.

How do we fight Satan?

Ephesians 6:12 – 13: *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 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 firm.*

Who are we not fighting?

- Flesh and blood: "Flesh and blood" refers to human beings, while the real enemy is a realm of spiritual powers and authorities.

Do we often "fight" people instead of fighting the devil?

2 Corinthians 10:3 – 4: *"For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds."*

Who are we fighting?

- Rulers and authorities
- Unseen power that controls this dark world
- Spiritual agents from the headquarters of evil

What rulers? What authorities? What powers? What spiritual forces? Is this just figurative language Paul is using, or are these enemies real?

What kind of organizational tools does Satan use today?

- "Rulers" seem to indicate a top level of evil spiritual forces.
- "Authorities" refer to general forces of evil attacking believers.
- "Cosmic powers" seems to refer to the worldwide nature of this spiritual battle.
- "Evil in the heavenly places" again emphasizes a battle beyond this world.

We also fight other enemies: 1 John 2:15 – 17

- The world
- The cravings of sinful man
- The lust of his eyes
- The boasting of what he has and does

1 Peter 2:11: *Evil, sinful desires which war against your soul.*

James 1:14: *Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.*

Romans 7:23: *But I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.*

Does Satan have all authority and power?

He rules the darkness of this world, but he does not rule God. God is sovereign.

Psalms 24:1: *The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.*

Psalms 47:2, 7-8: *For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.*

⁷For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm! ⁸God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

Matthew 28:18: *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."*

Satan does not have all authority, or all knowledge, or all wisdom, or all power. He just wants you to believe he does.

Colossians 2:15: *And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he (Jesus) made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

We do not need to fear him.

He is not in all places at all times

He cannot read your mind

He does not have all power

He does not have all wisdom

He is under God's control.

Satan's future destruction

Matthew 25:41: *Eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*

Romans 16:20: *God will soon crush Satan under your feet.*

Jude 6: *Angels of darkness are kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.*

Revelation 20:10: *Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, tormented day and night forever and ever.*

How do we defeat Satan?

The Battle Is in Your Mind!

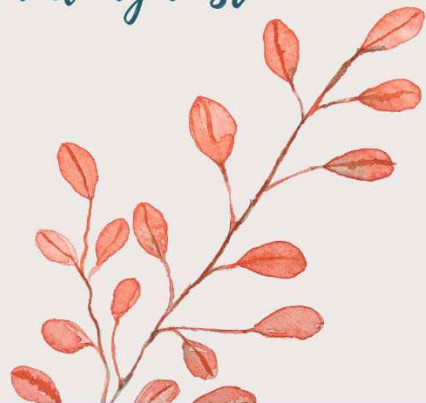
2 Corinthians 10:3 – 5: *For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.*

Ephesians 6:13: *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand...*

Do you know how to use the Word of God as an offensive weapon?



Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.



Ephesians 6:10-11





Navigators Discipleship Tool



EQUIP ME, LORD:

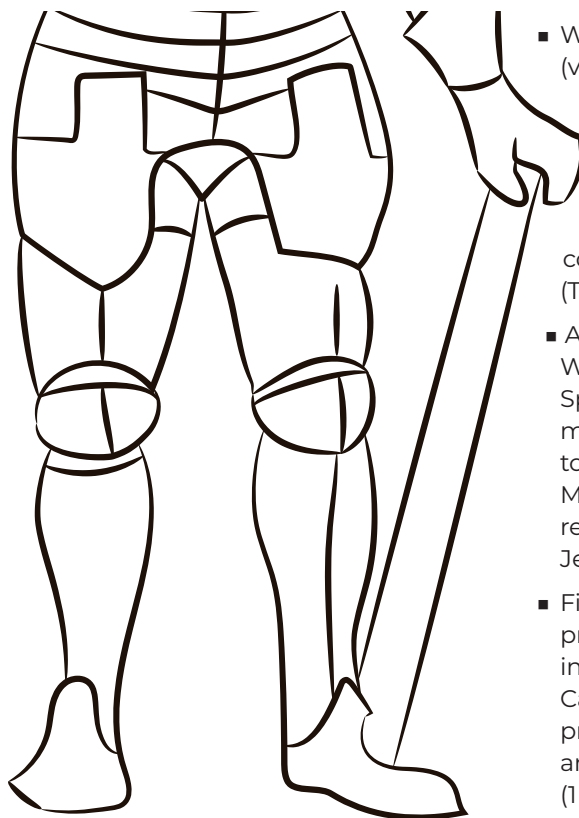
(Ephesians 6:10-18, NIV)

- With the belt of truth (v. 14). May Your truth rule in my heart and be in my mind and on my lips today.
- With the breastplate of righteousness (v. 14). Apart from You there is no righteousness, but through Jesus I have been redeemed and made righteous in Your sight. May I live as a righteous person.
- With feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace (v. 15). May I reflect the gospel in my words and actions, that through me, with my every encounter, others may be drawn one step closer to You.
- With the shield of faith (v. 16). May I take You at Your word concerning promises about the present and future—promises of everlasting love, abundant life, and so much more.

How to Pray on the Armor of God

As God's children, we are in an unseen battle which requires us to pray on the armor of God. He equips us with spiritual armor that is both offensive and defensive against the attacks of the enemy, who doesn't want us to believe God is for us, faithful, and full of unfailing love.

Pray on the armor of God through this prayer based on Paul's instructions in Ephesians 6:10-18. Use God's Word, which is the sword of the Spirit, in this unseen battle — fighting "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. 12).



- With the helmet of salvation (v. 17). Remind me that nothing can separate me from Your love and that I've been saved by grace. In Your grace, help me to say "no" to all ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live a self-controlled, upright, and godly life (Titus 2:12-13).
- And with the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God (v. 17). May Your Holy Spirit reign in my life and bring to my mind just the right Bible verses to be in my heart and on my lips. May I be "filled with the Spirit" and ready with Scripture as You were, Jesus, when the devil tempted You.
- Finally, keep me in an attitude of prayer (v. 18). Remind me to "pray in the Spirit on all occasions." Cause me to be alert and always praying for the saints; to be joyful and to give thanks in everything (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).