The Believer’s Battle Plan – Part 1
Ephesians 6:10-18

The word “finally” reminds us that we are nearing the conclusion of Ephesians. This section of the letter deals with the third and final theme:

- Eph. 1-3 – the believer’s wealth
- Eph. 4-6:9 – the believer’s walk
- Eph. 6:10-20 – the believer’s warfare

Some battles are short-lived and others are long and drawn out. For instance, the Battle of Armageddon will be a short battle. In fact, it will be over before it starts. The only time element is when the armies assemble in anticipation and preparation for battle. Christ will then come in power and majesty and the battle will be over (Rev. 19).

Other battles and wars cover a long period of time. For example, the Israelites were at war with the Philistines for many years. Our country has been involved in a long war. U. S. forces have been at war in Iraq and Afghanistan for many years now. But one war has lasted longer than any other. It is the spiritual battle between good and evil.

Our Strength for the Battle:

We can’t afford to be weak and wimpy. We need spiritual boldness and courage (Prov. 28:1). We can’t fight this war in our own strength or we will surely lose the battle. The Lord is our source of strength.

- The Lord gives daily strength – Deuteronomy 33:25 Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be.
- The Lord gives inner strength – Ephesians 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.
- The Lord gives strength through grace – 2 Timothy 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
- The Lord gives strength through faith – Romans 4:20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.
- The Lord gives strength through joy – Nehemiah 8:10 …the joy of the LORD is your strength.
- The Lord gives strength through His promises – Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?
- The Lord gives strength through Scripture – 1 John 2:14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.
The Lord gives strength for every need – Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Our Stand in the Battle:

- The key to victory is standing firm against the enemy (vs. 11, 13, 14). The battle requires patience and perseverance (staying power). 1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Our Struggle in the Battle:

- We are in a personal and intense war. The word “wrestle” (vs. 12) refers to hand-to-hand combat. We are not fighting against human enemies. Lost people are not our enemy. They are victims of the enemy. Our battle is not on a physical or a human level.

  - Our enemy is spiritual – This is “an invisible war.”
  - Our enemy is serious – 1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. A man in the circus ran a want ad: “Lion tamer wants tamer lion.”
  - Our enemy is skillful – The “wiles” (methods) of the devil means that he carefully thinks out his strategy and uses his most effective weapons against us.
  - Our enemy is sophisticated – This suggests a very complicated, highly structured kingdom of evil which Satan controls (see Col. 1:16; Rom. 8:38-39). Martin Luther understood spiritual warfare and described our enemy in his great hymn, A Mighty Fortress is Our God, written in the year 1529:

    A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
    Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
    For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
    His craft and pow’r are great, and armed with cruel hate,
    On earth is not his equal.

    And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
    We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
    The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
    His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
    One little word shall fell him.

Our Strategy for the Battle:

- Be ready for battle – The Christian life is not a pleasure cruise, but a battleship. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor killed more than 2,000 Americans and crippled the Pacific Fleet. On Sept. 11, 2001, about 3,000 people were killed when Islamic terrorists flew planes into the World Trade Center. What do both events have in common? Both were surprise attacks.

- Rely on God’s armor – We must “put on” the whole armor of God. We must put it on ourselves. These verbs describe something done once for all. We must put it on once for all, but then we must rely on it every day.
Resist the enemy – Stand your ground. **James 4:7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **1 Peter 5:8-9** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

**Our Security in the Battle:**

We must have the right equipment if we are to survive (the whole armor of God, vs. 11, 13). David would not use Saul’s armor to face Goliath because he had not “tested” it (1 Sam. 17:39).

- The belt of truth
- The breastplate of righteousness
- The shoes of peace
- The shield of faith
- The helmet of salvation
- The sword of God’s Word
- The weapon of prayer

**Our Success in the Battle:**

Our success can be measured one day at a time, one battle at a time. How do we define success? When we stand against the enemy and withstand the enemy “in the evil day.” We are living in the evil day right now. The evil day began with the sin of Adam and Eve and will end when Jesus returns to set up His kingdom on earth. We are sons and daughters of God, saints, servants, and sheep, but we are also His soldiers. We need to be faithful in battle.

*A Soldier in God’s Army*

I am a soldier in the Army of my God. The Lord Jesus Christ is my Commanding Officer. The Bible is my Code of Conduct. Faith, prayer, and the Word are the weapons of my warfare.

I have been taught by the Holy Spirit, trained by experience, tried by adversity and tested by fire. I am a volunteer in this Army and I am enlisted for eternity. I will either retire at the Rapture or die in this Army, but I will not get out, sell out, be talked out or pushed out.

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I am committed. I cannot have my feelings hurt badly enough to turn me around. I cannot be discouraged enough to turn me aside. I cannot lose enough to cause me to quit.

I will win. My God will supply all my needs. I am more than a conqueror. I will always triumph. I can do all things through Christ. Devils cannot defeat me. People cannot disillusion me. Weather cannot weary me. Sickness cannot stop me. Battles cannot defeat me. Money cannot buy me.

I am a soldier. Even death cannot destroy me, for when my Commander calls me from this battlefield, He will promote me and then bring me back to rule this world with Him.

I am a soldier in God’s army. I will never surrender to the Enemy. I will never turn back. I am a soldier, marching heavenward, claiming victory as I go. Here I stand. Will you stand with me?
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