

## Be Strong

"(v.10) A final word: ***Be strong in the Lord*** and in his mighty power.

(v.11) *Put* on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm

*against* all strategies of the devil. (v.12) For we are not fighting

*against* flesh-and-blood enemies, but

*against* evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world,

*against* might powers in this dark world, and

*against* evil spirits in the heavenly places.

(v.13) Therefore,

*put* on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

(v.14) Stand your ground,

*putting* on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness.

(v.15) For shoes,

*put* on the peace that comes from the Good News

so that you will be fully prepared. (v.16) In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. (v.17)

*Put* on salvation as your helmet,

and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

(v.18) *Pray* in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your *prayers* for all believers everywhere. (v.19) And

*pray* for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. (v.20) I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So

*pray* that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should."

Ephesians 6:10-20--NLT

New Living Translation

Many modern Christians give far too much attention and power to the devil, almost as if he were omnipresent. The Bible does not present a cosmological dualism, as if God and the devil were virtual equals wrestling for humanity. Only one supreme being exists—God! The force of this entire passage is to underscore God's triumph in Christ—Ephesians 1:15-23. Ephesians does recognize another power at work, but not as a threat to God's purposes or, at least as far as Ephesians 2:1-10 is concerned. Read Ephesians 2 for peace of mind.

How do we handle the evil one? Our text of the morning gives us the following instructions.

1- Be **strong** in the Lord. (6:10-12)

This armor enables us to stand firm **against** the evil.

2-Be **alert**. (6:13-17)

The story of the Bible is the story of God himself taking action against evil.

Put on spiritual armor to resist the enemy in time of evil.

Belt of **truth**.

Body armor of God's **righteousness**.

Shoes of **peace** which comes from the Gospel to be fully prepared.

Hold up the shield of **faith** to stop the fiery arrows of evil.

Put on the helmet of **salvation**,

and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word** of **God** !

3-Be **ready—pray** ! (6:18-20)

The prayers we lift to our Heavenly Father are our request to be bold in our prayers not harsh or vindictive.

God is the only real and legitimate Lord.

Evil and the demonic are illegitimate usurpers.

But this the Bible is very clear.

If you do not have a living, growing relationship with Christ, come forward at the close of our worship time to talk and pray with us. Follow your heart and make the choice to follow Christ. People matter to God—all of them including you!