

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Eph 6:10-18

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

strong = to receive strength, be strengthened, increase in strength NT:1743

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

armor = which God supplies; where the spiritual helps needed for overcoming the temptations of the devil are so called. NT:3833

In Rom 13:14 it is said, "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ." On putting Him on, and being a new man in Him, we put on "the armor of light," "the whole armor of God." Believers have once, and for all, overcome Satan. On the ground of this fundamental victory already gained, they are never again to fight against and overcome him, even as they who once die with Christ have continually to mortify their members upon earth. [fau] **Rom 6:2-14, Col 3:3, 5**

stand firm = also of one who in the midst of the fight holds his position, against the foe NT:2476

schemes = cunning arts, deceit, craft, trickery NT:3180

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

struggle = the term is transferred to the struggle of Christians with the powers of evil NT:3823

flesh and blood = a man, generally with a suggestion of weakness, frailty, mortality NT:4561

"flesh" signifies the entire nature of man, sense and reason, without the Holy Spirit NT:4561

rulers = the term is transferred by Paul to angels and demons holding dominions entrusted to them in the order of things NT:746

powers = the leading and more powerful among created beings superior to man, spiritual potentates NT:1849

world forces = used also of demons NT:1849; the kings of the earth, those who oppose Christ Acts 4:26

of this darkness = metaphorically, of ignorance respecting divine things and human duties, and the

accompanying ungodliness and immorality, together with their consequent misery NT:4655

spiritual forces of wickedness = depravity, iniquity, wickedness, malice NT:4189; wicked spirits NT:4152

heavenly = the lower heavens, or the heaven of the clouds NT:2032

Our struggle is not against men, but demonic spiritual powers 2Cor 10:3-4, 12:10 Eph 6:12

13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

resist = to set oneself against, to withstand resist, oppose NT:436

evil day = of a time full of peril to Christian faith and steadfastness NT:4190; while we are on the earth

stand firm = of one who vanquishes his adversaries and holds the ground NT:2476

14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

girded your loins with truth = to equip oneself with knowledge of the truth NT:4024

breast-plate = a breast-plate or corselet consisting of two parts and protecting the body on both sides from the neck to the middle NT:2382

righteousness = integrity, virtue, purity of life, uprightness, correctness in thinking, feeling, and acting NT:1343 1Thess 5:8

15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

shod your feet with the gospel of peace = readiness of mind that comes from the gospel whose message is peace. [rob] Eph 1:2 grace and peace

16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

shield = it was large, oblong, and four-cornered NT:2375

fiery darts = full of fire; fiery, ignited: darts filled with inflammable substances and set on fire NT:4448

Temptation is thus represented as impelled from a distance. Satan attacks by indirection-through good things from which no evil is suspected. There is a hint of its propagating power: one sin draws another in its track: the flame of the fire-tipped dart spreads. Temptation acts on susceptible material. Self-confidence is combustible. Faith, in doing away with dependence on self, takes away fuel for the dart. It creates sensitiveness to Holy influences by which the power of temptation is neutralized. It enlists the direct aid of God. [vin]

17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

helmet of salvation = the protection of soul which consists in (the hope of) salvation NT:4030

Heb 4:12

sword of the Spirit = the sword with which the Spirit subdues the impulses to sin and proves its own power and efficacy NT:3162 1Jn 3:9

18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

prayer and supplication = any pious address to God, on behalf of others NT:1162

Spirit = in the power of the Spirit, possessed and moved by the Spirit NT:4151 Rom 8:26

2 Cor 10:2-7

2 I ask that when I am present I need not be bold with the confidence with which I propose to be courageous against some, who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh.

3 For though we walk in the flesh(1), we do not war according to the flesh(2),

4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

6 and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

7 You are looking at things as they are outwardly. If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ's, let him consider this again within himself, that just as he is Christ's, so also are we.

Flesh(1) = to live according to the standard of the flesh, to comply in conduct with the impulse of the flesh NT:4561

"flesh" signifies the entire nature of man, sense and reason, without the Holy Spirit NT:4561

flesh(2) = although the nature in which we live is earthly and therefore weak, yet we do not carry on our warfare according its law NT:4561

Eph 4:20-32, James 3:8-10

Power over the enemy:

Matt 16:18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

overcome = "not even the gates of Hades -- than which nothing was supposed to be stronger -- shall surpass the church in strength" NT:2729

Authority – who is in charge:

Rom 13:1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those, which exist are established by God.

Disarming rulers and authority:

Col 2:13-15

13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

3R's:

Recognize = your in a war

1 Peter 5:8-10

8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. 10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. **1Pet 5:6-11, 2Cor 2:10-11, Eph 4:14-15**

Refuse = ignore and avoid; I say we should go on the offensive:

Luke 10:19 "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you.

tread upon = to encounter successfully the greatest perils from the machinations and persecutions with which

Satan would rather thwart the preaching of the gospel NT:3961

serpents = was the emblem of wisdom or shrewdness, intellectual keenness Gen 3:1, Ps 58:5

scorpions = enemies, who were referred to symbolically as scorpions [nel]

power of the enemy = physical and mental power; the ability or strength with which one is endued, which he either possesses or exercises NT:1849

God allows certain powers to Satan and also gives greater power to those He chooses.

Matt 10:7-8, Mark 3:14-15

Resist = James 4:7

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

How do we resist: **John 8:31-32 31, Matt 4:1-11, Rev 1:18**

Luke 10:8-9

8 "Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you;

9 and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

kingdom of God = indicates that perfect order of things which He was about to establish, in which all those of every nation who should believe in Him were to be gathered together into one society, dedicated and intimately united to God, and made partakers of eternal salvation. NT:932

Binding and Loosening:

Matt 16:19

19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

key = the keeper of the keys has the power to open and to shut, the word 2807

[ability and power to obtain knowledge as in Lk 11:52]

bind = to forbid, to prohibit, to declare to be illicit [unlawful] 1210

loose = to declare unlawful 3089

bound and loosed - binding and loosing

Locations:

Matt 16:19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Matt 18:18 "Truly I say to you, whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

When rightly dividing the word it is a must to include the scripture surrounding the verse or verses being examined. In Matthew chapter sixteen verses thirteen through twenty, which includes nineteen, Jesus is establishing some foundational elements and/or principles for His future church. In quizzing His disciples as to His identity, Peter, through supernatural means, that is, through the revelation of the Father has come to recognize Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus goes on to say that upon this rock [element], Jesus the Spirit of prophecy Rev 19:10, He will build His church. God chooses to give knowledge to His church as the key word [ability and power to obtain knowledge] denotes in Lk 11:52 "Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered."

The words bind and loose are almost synonymous in meaning in that they mean to declare what is unlawful, according to what has been established in heaven. Jesus is establishing His earthly kingdom [Rev 11:15] according to heavenly law and the church will have revealed to it anything unlawful; as in

God's covenant found in Heb 10:16-17 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws upon their heart, and upon their mind I will write them," {He then says} "And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

In Mat 18:15-19 we see the same principal revealed dealing with church policy.

What is being said here is this: I [Jesus] will give you [the church as represented by the disciples] the ability and power to obtain knowledge [knowledge of the law of heaven]; and whatever you shall establish as unlawful on earth, has already been established as unlawful in heaven; and whatever you shall say is unlawful on earth, is unlawful in heaven.

This understanding now explains Mat 18:19: that if anything is agreed upon [and it will be, because the church has the law of God in their hearts and minds] it will be done; as long as it is in agreement with the law established in heaven.

While the word meaning in the Greek for loose can imply a loosing of bonds, I have to agree with Thayer's interpretation. Please bear in mind that these are spiritual laws or principals most often.

The power to act:

John 20:21-23

21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

breathed on them = Gen 2:7 gave them the breath of life

receive the Holy Spirit = to gain understanding

Lk 24:45 says He open their understanding = as has been seen through all the gospels they did not understand spiritual things.

Acts 1:4 Jesus says they will be baptized in the Holy Spirit in a few days and receive power after He ascends. This would reveal a difference in "receiving" the Holy Spirit and being "baptized in the Holy Spirit."

23 "If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained."

forgive sins and retain sins = the apostles received from the Lord the doctrine of reconciliation, and the doctrine of condemnation. They who believed on the Son of God, in consequence of their preaching, had their sins remitted; and they who would not believe were declared to lie under condemnation. [adm]
Jn 3:18

There are three kinds of Christians:

1. some see every uncontrollable issue as a "demon"
2. some believe Christian's can't have a "demon"
3. some believe that Christian's can have a "demon" and can be deliver from it