

SPIRITUAL WARFARE EPHESIANS – PART 11

Introduction – Paul concludes his correspondence to the congregation in Ephesus with a call to action. When any group declares war on us, it would be the height of foolishness to ignore it. Satan and his rebellious angels have been at war against God, His angels, and the image bearers of God since the beginning.

Ephesians 1:18-23

A. The Forces of Evil Continue Their Resistance to the Reign of God in Christ

Ephesians 6:10-12

1. The resurrection power of God is unleashed in us through the indwelling Spirit.
2. We must put on the complete armor of God and prepare to take a stand.
3. Remember the ultimate enemy is not the people who oppose us and God, but the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm that are behind them.

B. The Armor Is Not Ours But God's

Ephesians 6:13-17

1. Our responsibility is to put on the armor God supplies us and take a firm stand.
2. The belt holds all the parts of the armor firmly together. The truth God reveals serves the same purpose.
3. The breastplate protects our vital organs. Our right relationship to God and right living is our protection.
4. The Caligula shoes are custom fitted light sandals with spikes in the soles for gripping the ground. The hope of peace with God in the gospel gives us a firm grip when we take our stand.
5. The shield (which was four feet tall and two feet wide) was used to form a wall and covering from the long-distance fiery arrow assault.
6. Our mind is protected by the helmet of salvation. The fact our rescue from sin and death has already been accomplished by Christ allows us to be calm in the midst of intense conflict.

7. Our one offensive weapon is compared to the Roman short sword which represents the Word of God empowered by the Spirit.

C. All Kinds of Prayer in the Spirit

Ephesians 6:18-20

1. Praying together and for all the Lord's people is our most potent secret weapon.
2. We must pray that we, like Paul, speak fearlessly the mystery of the gospel as ambassadors of the kingdom of light.

Conclusion – Ground troops go through long periods of boring routine and hard training preparing for those intense minutes and days of conflict. We must stay alert and train for our battle with the evil one on that evil day. The Roman legions won wars because of constant training, disciplined action, and working in a unified way to defeat foes that usually outnumbered them. Our strength comes from the Lord who equips, trains, and guides us as a team in every engagement.