

Message Series:

## Membership Has Its Privileges: Walking with Christ A Study of Ephesians 4-6

Message for Sunday, July 4:

### Equipped for Battle Ephesians 6:10-18

*The Whole Armor of God*

<sup>10</sup> A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

<sup>11</sup> Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

*Ephesians 6:10-13 (NLT)*

**Today's Main Thought:** Followers of Jesus Christ are in a spiritual battle against Satan and must be equipped for battle.

### Followers of Jesus Christ are in a spiritual war against Satan!

- Believers have a real **every day visible** struggle, v. 12a
- Believers have a serious struggle with an **invisible foe**, v. 12b; Ephesians 2:2; 4:27
  - Satan's objective: **To disrupt, distract and destroy God's new creation and the new community (v. 11b; Ephesians 2:10; John 10:10; 1 Peter 5:8).**

*Becoming a follower of Jesus Christ is our enlistment or commission into this spiritual war.*

### Be Strong!

- **Man up!** Be prepared for the fight of your life (v. 10).

- The strength of the Lord is indispensable in the battle against Satan (Acts 19:13-17).
  - Satan is a formidable foe.
  - Believers are ill equipped to battle Satan without God.

*Tasting victory in the Christian life is achieved by a relentless and lifelong struggle against evil.*

### Put on the whole armor of God!

- **God** has crafted the best **protective armor** and **weapons** for followers of Jesus Christ to achieve victory in the Christian life (vv.11; 13-18; Isaiah 59:17; Romans 13:12; 2 Corinthians 6:7; Ephesians 2:14-15; Isaiah 52: 7).
  - Protective armor of God...
    - Belt of **truth**
    - Breast plate of righteousness
    - Comfortable **Gospel boots** of peace
    - Shield of faith
    - Helmet of **salvation**
  - Weapons of God ...
    - Sword **of the spirit** *which is the word*
    - vigilant prayer

Month of July: Summer Series July 11-25