

**GOING TO ANOTHER LEVEL IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE:
EPHESIANS 6:10-20
STUDY IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS**

Dr. Ché Ahn

May 7, 2023

TEXT: Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong [imperative command] in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God [imperative command], so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 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*. 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. 14 Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF 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*. 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

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, 19 and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

INTRO: I have been saying since the beginning of this year that revival is here, but it is also coming. I have been using the Ezekiel 47 metaphor of the river of God flowing from the Temple to the Dead Sea. The water is ankle deep, but the river will rise until it is overwhelmingly deep and fast. Here is what God says we are to do: We have to “ask the Lord for rain in the time of the latter rain” (Zechariah 10:1). When God starts to move, God wants His people to co-labor with Him and go to another level in prayer and spiritual warfare. This will be the last message in our Ephesians series.

I. FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE



A. JESUS DEFEATED THE DEVIL ON THE CROSS

1. **Ephesians 6:10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.
2. In spiritual warfare we pray based on what the Lord has done for us on the cross and the strength of His *dunamis* power (Zechariah 4:6). That is what it means to be strong in the Lord. It is not by our power but His power.
3. **Revelation 12:7** And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, 8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.”
4. **Colossians 2:15** When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.
5. The devil is defeated. He no longer has authority over *God’s people*. Revelation 1:18, Matthew 28:18-20: “All authority” from Jesus is now delegated to us.
6. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). The way Jesus destroyed and is destroying the works of the devil is twofold. First, when He died on the cross, He took back the authority that man had lost in the garden. Second, when you invite Jesus’ Kingdom to rule and reign in your heart (Luke 17:21 “The Kingdom of God is within you”), you take the King’s authority that God has given to you, to attack the gates of hell. We are to bind the strong man (Matthew 12:29) and plunder hell and bring salvation and reconciliation for the world to come back to God.
7. When Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to the right hand of the Father, He was crowned the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He is not just King over the church but over every jurisdiction—over government, family, education, media, arts and entertainment, and business! And here is the truth, we are seated with Him, far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion!

(Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 2:6) Jesus has restored the authority that we lost in the garden, and now He expects us to rule and take dominion over every power of darkness that is influencing every sphere of society! (Genesis 1:8)

B. GOD HAS ALLOWED SATAN TO OPERATE WITH LIMITATIONS

1. Satan has no authority over believers. Jesus is now your Lord. However, Satan still has power. And he has authority over unbelievers and the institutions of the world. He is still the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2) and ruler over this world (John 14:30) and the god of this age (2 Corinthians 4:4).
2. If you are not saved, you are still under the rule and reign of Satan. **John 8:44** “**You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.**”
3. So, we still have to put on the full armor of God and fight the devil and the powers of darkness. **Ephesians 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.**
4. **1 Peter 5:8 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.**
5. **The best way of explaining this tension of Jesus’ victory and why we still have to engage in spiritual warfare comes from a lesson learned from history.**
6. **D-Day, June 6, 1944, versus V-Day, May 8, 1945.** Between these two historic events, some of the bloodiest battles took place. But D-Day was the day that experts said WWII was essentially over for Hitler and Nazi Germany because of the sheer forces of the Allied powers of troops and arms that landed on the shores of Normandy, France. If Hitler was wise, he would and should have surrendered at that point. But because of his evil heart and pride, he fought to the bitter end.
7. Why has God allowed Satan to continue to operate? Why didn’t He just wipe him off the face of the earth at the cross? The main reason is *to train us for ruling and reigning with God. From the very beginning, God made us in His image and likeness, and He gave us a commandment to subdue the enemy and co-rule and reign with Him over the earth. This dominion mandate has not changed! (Genesis 1:28)*

8. Paul Billheimer: *Destined for the Throne*. God is preparing us for our eternal destiny. Billheimer alleges that this on-the-job training is for our divine assignment in the new heaven and new earth to come.
9. Jesus spent three years training His apostles to preach the gospel of the Kingdom, heal the sick, cast out demons, and live according to the laws of His Kingdom. **The Great Commission is on-the-job training for reigning!**

C. OUR WARFARE IS AGAINST SATAN AND HIS TERRITORIAL SPIRITS

1. **Ephesians 6:14a For our struggle is not against flesh and blood... — NOT AGAINST PEOPLE**
2. **Ephesians 6:14b But against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.**
3. We are reinforcing the victory that Jesus won on the cross.

D. THE GOAL IS TO ADVANCE THE KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN: SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

1. Story of Almolonga, Guatemala: In 1970, drunkenness was endemic. Almost everyone was an alcoholic. There was extreme poverty. Violence ran rampant. Children didn't go to school. The jails were so overcrowded that they had to construct new ones. The land was barren; the crops constantly failed. People were born in misery and died in misery. The principality or territorial spirit over Almolonga was Maximon. He was so powerful that his wooden idol would puff smoke out of his mouth if a cigar was put in his mouth.

One day, like the Apostle Paul, a worshiper of Maximon, named Riscjché, got saved. He started to lead the alcoholics to the Lord. Finally, he led the high priest of Maximon to the Lord named José Tajej. The power of the territorial spirit was broken. The Time Magazine of Guatemala had the cover story, "The Defeat of Maximon."

Now 90% of Almolonga is born again. The largest and prominent buildings are large church buildings. Out of the 34 bars, 31 of them are closed. People are healthy. The land got healed. They have six harvest seasons in a given year. The vegetables are huge. A carrot is the size of a man's arm. Cabbages are the size of a basketball. The farmers all have Mercedes trucks. Roads have been renamed Jericho Street and Jacob's Well Ave. Businesses call themselves Garden of Eden Pharmacy, New Jerusalem Restaurant, and Zion Barber Shop.

What is remarkable is how the revival hit Guatemala. Forty-five



percent of that nation is born again. Today out of 100 Congressional leaders, 60 are born again. I was asked to address Congress in March on the National Day of Life—a day that they celebrate life. It is a pro-life and pro-Israel nation.

II. WE NEED TO PUT ON THE ARMOR OF GOD: Ephesians 6:13

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. 14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF 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*. 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

A. SPIKE SHOES

- 1. Ephesians 6:12 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.**
2. We need to learn how to stand firm (Ephesians 6:12). We need to resist the devil (1 Peter 5:9). We are living in evil days (Ephesians 6:12).

B. GIRD YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH

- 1.** This is the most vulnerable area. I am talking about truth and walking in integrity. Integrity is what you are when no one is around. The only way the devil can attack is if you give him a legal right. He is a liar and the father of lies.

C. PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- 1.** Positional righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21) and practicing righteousness, doing what is right (Matthew 6:33).

D. SHOD YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

- 1.** We are to be on the offensive. God wants us to go after the harvest.
- 2.** He wants us to evangelize our relatives and friends.
- 3.** He wants us to reach the youth. 80% of those who give their lives to Jesus do so before the age of 21. This is not just for Pastors Carlos and Vashti but for our whole church. Lou Engle and I made a covenant in 1994 when we started HRC that we will go after the youth, no matter how old we become. That is why God honored us by mobilizing TheCall.



4. God wants us to reach the poor (Luke 4:18). In California, the poor are primarily the Latinos. Demographically, the Asians are the wealthiest per capita in California. Second are the Anglo whites. Third are the African Americans, and last are the Hispanics.

E. TAKE UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH

1. **Mark 11:22** And Jesus answered saying to them, “Have faith in God. **23** Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be *granted* him. **24** Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be *granted* you.”
2. Simply put, when we pray, we have to pray in faith!

F. PUT ON THE HELMET OF SALVATION

1. **2 Corinthians 10:3** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, **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.
2. We are transformed by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2).
3. We need to take our thoughts captive to Christ before we pull down strongholds in intercession for others.

G. WIELD THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD

1. **Hebrews 4:12** For the word [*logos*] of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
2. **Romans 10:17** Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word [*rhema*] of God.
3. The sword of the Spirit is a two-edged sword. We need both the *rhema*, the prophetic word, and the *logos*, the written word.

III. THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON: OUR PRAYERS —

Ephesians 6:18 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, **19** and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with

boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
A. EPHESIANS 6:18a WITH ALL PRAYER AND PETITION PRAY AT ALL TIMES.

1. Destiny's testimony: She saw the prayers of the saints that pulled her out of death into life.
2. We need to go into a higher level of intercession as a church.
3. I would like to have our designated intercessors to come up to the platform. I want to honor them but also pray over them that they will go to another level as intercessors.
4. I also want to have those who feel that God has given you the gift of intercession to also please stand up.
5. **What I am asking is that you continue to pray for your loved ones, our church, our city, our state, and our nation.**

B. EPHESIANS 6:18b PRAY AT ALL TIMES IN THE SPIRIT.

1. **Romans 8:26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God.***

C. PRAY FOR ME, AS YOUR PASTOR

1. **Ephesians 6:19 and *pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.***
2. Paul repeatedly asks for prayers in his letters. I am asking for yours.
3. I honestly feel overwhelmed by the responsibilities I have as your pastor and as the presiding apostle of HIM. I ask for your prayers. Thank you for praying for me.

CONCLUSION: Let's ask for the Spirit of grace and supplication to be on us all.