

“Strength For The Fight”
Ephesians 6:10-18
Sermon Series: “The Fight Of Your Life”

Introduction: Sun Tzu said in the Art of War: “Every battle is won or lost before it is fought.”

Tony Evans says, “Everything physical and visible is preceded by that which is invisible and spiritual. So, if we want to address the physical and visible, we must first identify the cause which is invisible and spiritual. Therefore, if all we see is what we see, then we are not seeing all there is to be seen. The word, 'heavenly places,' means the spiritual realm. Whatever is going on in your world, your life, is rooted first in the spiritual realm, heavenly places. If you don't know how to navigate that realm, you can't fix this realm. Spiritual warfare can simply be defined as the conflict in the invisible realm that affects what is going on in the visible realm. It is the battle in the unseen that is responsible for the battle in the seen.”

Main Idea: Be strong in the Lord so we can stand victoriously against Satan's attacks.

1. We are in a spiritual fight.

- Stay prepared. No Pearl Harbor.
- Fight behind the fight
- There is a spiritual problem behind our material problems

2. We are commanded to stand in the fight.

- Based on faith not feelings, position not performance, and Jesus's victory
- We live in an evil day, but we will face more attack and temptation and some days than others.
- Stand: Keep standing, keep resisting, it is an offensive and defensive posture

3. We can only stand through God's strength.

- If you're not in a spiritual battle, you must be on Satan's team.
- Fighting from not for victory
- Letting some spiritual realm into our lives (either heaven or hell)
- God's commands always include His enabling (overcoming addictions, etc.)
- Sit-walk-stand (key is position and walk with the Lord)
- When we try to stand in our strength, we are playing into the devil's hands

- Our strength is being drawn from being in union with Jesus.
- Clinton Arnold writes of the phrase, “Be strong,” that it is “passive so it refers to strength outside of us. Nevertheless, because it is imperative, it does imply volition and action on the part of the hearers to seek God and present themselves to him for filling with his power. ‘In the Lord’ clarifies that believers need to draw on divine power.”

The Spiritual Realm:

- We are blessed with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3-14).**
- We have these blessings there because Jesus is there, and we are in Him (1:15-23, 2:6).**
- We are demonstrating the plan of God to the principalities and powers (3:8-11).**

E. F. Scott has provided a helpful and eloquent explanation of the drama of God’s unfolding plan of salvation as a display of his wisdom:

“The hostile powers had sought to frustrate the work of God, and believed they had succeeded when they conspired against Christ and brought about his Crucifixion. But unwittingly they had been mere instruments in God’s hands. The death of Christ had been the very means He had devised for the accomplishment of His plan. So it is here declared that the hostile powers, after their brief apparent triumph, had now become aware of a divine wisdom they had never dreamed of. They saw the Church arising as the result of Christ’s death and giving effect to what they could now perceive to have been the hidden purpose of God.”

4. We stand in His strength by putting on the armor of God.

- This is how we appropriate God’s strength.
- Where are we giving the devil an opening by not wearing his armor?

What is the armor of God?

- A. Gird our waists with truth- know, live and speak the truth**
- B. Put on the breastplate of righteousness- Jesus gives us His justifying righteousness at salvation, and then we are to live righteous lives through sanctification**
- C. Putting the preparation of the gospel of peace on our feet- (Romans 5:1, Isaiah 52:7, Romans 10:15) Stand firm in the fact that we are at peace with God and be prepared to share the gospel of peace with others.**
- D. Take the shield of faith- Trust God and His Word.**
- E. Put on the helmet of salvation- Satan attacks our minds, but we can live with the assurance of our salvation and in our new identity as a child of God.**

F. Take the sword of the Spirit- This is the Word of God, which is our offensive weapon in the fight that we can use against Satan like Jesus did.

-God provides the armor but we have to put it on

Applying the wearing of the armor:

- 1. Know and claim God's Word by faith**
- 2. Spend time with God in prayer, worship, and the Word of God**
- 3. Confess and repent of sin**
- 4. Be filled with the Spirit and abide in Christ**
- 5. Claim our position in Christ**