

In the heavenly realm (Series)
Lesson # 5 “Soldiers of Christ Arise”

Ephesians 6:10-24

Scripture: Ephesians 6:12 “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.”

Introduction:

How many of you were alive on December 7th 1941. What happened on that day? World war II was going full steam in Europe with the Germans under Hitler. But on December 7th 1941 the Japanese entered the war in the pacific.

They surprise attacked our Navel Station in Hawaii at Pear Harbor. We had installed radar for protection and even saw them coming but thought it was an overdue squadron of our own planes.

Not only that, we had placed all our air planes out in the middle of the run ways and taken the bombs and fuel out of them to protect ourselves against any enemies on the ground.

We were basically sitting ducks because we weren't prepared. We were sleeping basically not ready. We had our defenses down and that is precisely when the enemy attacked us.

Lesson:

I. Be Strong in the Lord

6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

-Finally here means in the remaining time and includes urgency

-God commands us to be strong

-Not in the surrounding things of Ephesus like power and magic, Philosophy, Artemus and the likes....

-But inside of the Lord

-And in his might

-This is a continual imperative in the Greek

*God doesn't tell us to passively stand like a church mouse in the corner

II. Your in a War

6:11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

-Full armor is the word “Panoply” in the Greek that we sing about in the song “Soldiers of Christ Arise”.

- This has offensive meaning.....Attack!
- Don't turn your back on this enemy
- Don't cower down in the corner and try to hide
- But move forward against him.
- This enemy is tricky a schemer.
- Reminds me of the Screw Tape Letters by C.S. Lewis

III. The Type of War

6:12 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.

- Spiritual not physical, it is fought out inside us.

-Galatians 5:17 “For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.”

-Romans 7:14-20 “For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. 16 But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. 19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.”

-2 Corinthians 4:18 “while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

-2 Kings 6:16-17 “So he answered, " Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, " O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”

IV. Protect Yourself

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;

-Leave nothing unguarded

-With:

-Truth....cinch yourself up in truth

-The tricky enemy will try to deceive you its his M.O.

-Righteousness.....Guard your heart with what is right and Just in God

-Preparedness in the Gospel

-The idea here (feet shod) is to stand on the gospel

V. Trust in God

6:16 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.

-Put up a shield

-Of trust in God

-This will not just block but extinguish or quench the fiery arrows of doubt.

-The story is told of a Cherokee boy and his right of passage to become a man. He is taken out blindfolded and left sitting in the forest. He must sit, facing his fears and hope that a wild animal won't get him or some crazy human attack him in the night. Only when the sun hits his face in the morning can he remove the blind fold and when he does he finds that his father had sit watching him all night.with

-1 John 5:4 "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith."

VI. Remember the Cause

6:17a "And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION..."

-This is a quote from Isa 59:17 where God wears this helmet as a cause.

*Every war needs a cause right?

-Ours is Salvation

VII. Only Offensive Weapon

6:17b "...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

-The only offensive weapon by which we can fight this enemy is God's word.

-Not our own wisdom

-Or all the planning and organization in the world

VIII. Be Alert

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.

-Then God calls us to be vigilant

-Alert....ie awake and watchful

-Remember how Jesus' disciples failed at this in Gethsemane

Conclusion:

These Verbs in this passage are all imperative in other words they are a must.

They are also Aorist tense meaning don't ever stop pushing forward, being prepared, or take off the armor of God.

Maybe there are those hear today who are casualties of this great war.

-Healing is available

-Let us help you get your armor back on.

Final Words of Paul to the Ephesians

21 But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you. 22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.

23 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.