

PREPARED FOR BATTLE

Ephesians 6:10-20

A hymn of praise because we, who used to be separated, have been made members of God's family.

Therefore, we ought to act like members of a family and live in a way that is worthy of the family to which we belong!

If God has accepted us without distinction, we ought to accept one another the same way.

PAUL HAD TWO MAIN PURPOSES FOR WRITING:

He wants us TO KNOW what a great job God had done in our lives.

He wants us TO LIVE LIKE IT!

WHAT A GREAT JOB GOD DID IN OUR LIVES 1-3

Prayer of praise: summary of God's plan for His people in the present age.

APPLICATION 4:1-6:9

The second half of the letter presents the logical implications that should result from the doctrine presented in the first half.

When the church fully comprehends the greatness of God's plan, we will glorify Him and live as Paul prays that we will – IN UNITY.

POSTSCRIPT: SPIRITUAL WARFARE 6:10-20

This last addendum is extremely important for us to keep in mind if we hope to experience victory.

We must know we're in a battle.

We have to know what kind of battle it is – and what the enemy looks like!

Preparation for spiritual battle 6:10-20

An alert is added to the end of the letter.

We are in a spiritual battle.

"Oh, by the way! We are in a spiritual battle . . ."

Therefore, be ready.

Begins the exhortation with ONE PASSIVE COMMAND:

"Be continuously strengthened

by the Lord and

by the power of His might." **10**

TWO ACTIVE COMMANDS: Inter-twined/repeated together

1. PUT ON GOD'S ARMOR

2. STAND FIRM

PREPARATION FOR THE BATTLE 10-13

WE NEED TO BE PREPARED

We are soldiers and need to be prepared for battle.

A series of commands given for we who ARE IN a spiritual battle.

The commands are intended to prepare us to fight the battle.

The enemy is not a physical enemy.

Therefore, our weapons are not physical; they are spiritual.

THE SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH: IN THE LORD

Our strength for battle is "in the Lord"

He is the source of our strength

We are to be *continuously* fortified by Him.

"Put on (once for all) the full armor of God

*so that you may be able to stand
against the devil's strategies* 11

We are to wear full armor

It is to be put on *once for all*

Our warfare is unceasing.

THE WEAPONS FOR THE BATTLE: THE FULL ARMOR WHICH GOD PROVIDES

The armor provided by God includes all that is necessary for protection.

God has provided what He knows we will need.

THE PURPOSE OF OUR WEAPONS: TO STAND FIRM AGAINST SATAN'S ATTACK

We need the armor in order to stand against Satan's attacks.

THE REASON FOR USING THESE WEAPONS:

"For our battle is

NOT against flesh and blood

But against the rulers

against the authorities

against the world powers of this darkness

against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" 12

Our adversary is not a physical enemy.

We fight an organized system with power.

Every child of God is a soldier.

We can't out maneuver the enemy – we need divine help.

"On account of this,

receive the full armor of God

*in order that you may be able to resist (stand against) in the evil day
and having done everything, to stand."* 14

CONCLUDING WARNING: Take up the FULL armor

Purpose of the warning: so that we can resist the attack and stand firm!

ARMOR FOR THE BATTLE 14-20

We need to put on the complete armor God has provided us, in order to endure and to stand firm against the enemy.

Totally prepared

Not allowing anything to distract us

PRAYING—concerning the spiritual battle.

All the way through the passage prayer accompanies the whole defense strategy!

Our main defense: (that which accompanies all the armor:)

“Praying in the Spirit . . .”

— all the time

— for all the saints

— in all kinds of prayer and petition

This is our central line of defense.

We need to keep praying for God’s protection from the enemy

We need to keep praying for one another.

I am convinced that more than ever before, these are times in which

Satan would like to trip us up and render us ineffective.

I have watched him distract more people, lead them astray, and leave them strewn along the side of the road.

We need to remember to pray for one another!

It would be easy to forget. Let’s covenant together to continue to pray for one another, lest any of us be left as casualties at the side of the road!

WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD THIS WARNING MAKE IN OUR LIVES?

In our understanding?

In our lifestyle?