

## The Christian's Warfare

**Lesson Scope:** [Ephesians 6:10-24](#)

*References in brackets relate to Lesson Scope unless noted otherwise*

### Lesson Focus:

In previous lessons, we studied the believer's call to a worthy walk. After we have received an understanding of Bible doctrine and practical applications, we still face the challenge of living them out in a hostile world. To draw back from the battle is to be defeated already; the Christian has no option but to fight. Our flesh will fail us in this conflict; for victory we must utilize God's armour. How thankful we are that Christ is our commander and that we have the backing of Almighty God in this battle! The Christian faces a life-and-death conflict against the forces of evil. He must "put on the whole armour of God" in order to "withstand in the evil day."

There is certain dread that accompanies the thought of battle. The outcome of the "battle of life" is a life-and-death matter, and we should take it seriously; but to give in to fear sets us up for defeat. Encourage one another to be courageous in the fight, not having confidence in yourself but girding on the whole armour and having full confidence in our Captain, Jesus Christ.

**Lesson Aim:** To identify keys for Christian victory.

**Theme Verses:** [2 Peter 3:17-18](#). Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

### Lesson Text:

#### A Spiritual Battle

[Ephesians 6:10-13](#) <sup>(KJV)</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may

be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. <sup>13</sup> Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

### **A Spiritual Armor**

**Ephesians 6:14-17** <sup>(KJV)</sup> **Stand** therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; <sup>15</sup> And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

### **A Spiritual Ministry**

**Ephesians 6:18-24** <sup>(KJV)</sup> **Praying** always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; <sup>19</sup> And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. <sup>21</sup> But that ye also may know my affairs, *and* how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things: <sup>22</sup> Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and *that* he might comfort your hearts. <sup>23</sup> Peace *be* to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> Grace *be* with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

## **Questions for Study**

### **A Spiritual Battle**

1. With whom are we in conflict?
2. How does this conflict differ from earthly battles?

### **A Spiritual Armor**

3. What resources does the child of God have at his disposal?
4. How is God's Word a defensive Weapon?
5. What are some essentials for personal victory?

### **A Spiritual Ministry**

6. What does it mean to be an ambassador of the Gospel?
7. How can we support one another in the battles of life?

## **Analysing the Passage:**

“Be strong in the Lord” (6:10) suggests that we are convinced of the ability and leadership of our Captain, from whom we receive strength. The word wiles (6:11) has the idea of craftiness and deceit. Our warfare is not against physical opponents, but against the forces of evil and the devil himself (6:12). As such, it will be won not by physical strength but by spiritual power. The whole armour is complete, provided by God. We cannot pick and choose what parts of the armour we wish to use, but must rather take it as a unit. Prayer is our essential communication with God, who has unlimited power to use against our enemy.

## **Principles and Applications**

### **A Spiritual Battle**

1. A vibrant relationship with the Lord is a key to Christian victory (6:10). Jesus said, “Without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:5). We must maintain a connection to the Vine through Scripture reading and prayer. “The joy of the LORD is your strength.”
2. To experience Christian victory, we must put on the whole armour of God (6:11). The Greek word for armour here is talking about the entire outfit that soldiers of that time wore. The command to “put on” indicates that we have a responsibility to avail ourselves of God’s provision for victory.
3. We need to understand the tactics of the devil to be victorious (6:11-12). Our enemies are not physical but spiritual. However, this does not make them any less real or powerful. The battle that we are fighting takes place in our minds. The devil uses trickery and deceit to attempt to draw us from the path of truth. Satan knows that failures in our walk of life begin in our thoughts. On the one hand is discouragement; on the other, pride. We must appropriate the armour of God to be protected from the devil’s wiles.

### **A Spiritual Armor**

4. To be victorious, our life must be directed by truth and righteousness (6:14). Jesus resisted Satan by quoting Scripture. To experience the same success, we must have the truth hidden in our hearts. Bible memorization is a great asset to the Christian warrior. We must also live the truth. Victory is realized through divine aid coupled with human will. The breastplate of righteousness protects the heart. “Keep thy heart with all

diligence; for out of it are the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23). The Christian who exercises himself in godly conduct gives proof of a heart that is renewed.

5. To be victorious, we need to share the Gospel story with others (6:15). God has “committed unto us the word of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:19). We are “ambassadors for Christ” with the privilege of sharing the good news of the possibility of man’s reconciliation to God. A plentiful store of memorized Scripture will make us more effective in our work as ambassadors.

6. Faith in God and His promises is essential to Christian victory (6:1 6-1 7). Satan seeks to cause us to question the righteousness of God. The helmet of salvation represents our deliverance from Satan’s deception and bondage, through the forgiveness of sins. The shield of faith repels doubts that the father of lies would plant in the believer’s mind. God’s Word is a mighty weapon to disarm the foe. God promises, “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

### **A Spiritual Ministry**

7. To be victorious, we must pray for strength and wisdom to be on guard against the subtle snares of the enemy (6:18). The battle is spiritual and must be fought in the strength of the Lord. Our flesh is no help in the battle in which we fight (Matthew 26:41). We cannot afford to contemplate sin but must rather actively avoid temptation. We ought to pray for one another. God is pleased when we come to Him in prayer when we are overwhelmed (Luke 18:1).

8. To be victorious, we must be at rest with the people of God (6:21-24). When brethren are open with each other, it promotes peace and confidence in each other. This makes for an atmosphere of support and working together in a common cause. Conversely, when there is gossiping and infighting in the brotherhood, everyone is weakened and no doubt some will be lost.

### **Important Teachings:**

1. A vibrant relationship with the Lord is a key to Christian victory (6:10).
2. To experience Christian victory, we must put on the whole armour of God (6:11).
3. We need to understand the tactics of the devil to be victorious (6:11-12).

4. To be victorious, our life must be directed by truth and righteousness (6:14).
5. To be victorious, we need to share the Gospel story with others (6:15).
6. Faith in God and His promises is essential to Christian victory (6:11-17).
7. To be victorious, we must pray for strength and wisdom to be on guard against the subtle snares of the enemy (6:18).
8. To be victorious, we must be at rest with the people of God (6:21-24).
9. To be victorious requires steadfast commitment (6:13-14).
10. To experience Christian victory, we must be convinced of the power of salvation and utilize the strength of the Scriptures (6:17)

### **Answers to Questions**

1. With whom are we in conflict?

We are in conflict with Satan, the world, and our own carnal will.

2. How does this conflict differ from earthly battles?

The battle is fought in the minds of men and women. On the one side is pure virtue, on the other unmixed evil.

3. What resources does the child of God have at his disposal?

All the power and riches of heaven, which include the armour described in this chapter.

4. How is God's Word a defensive weapon?

God's Word is truth, and as such it protects us from the lies of the devil.

5. What are some essentials for personal victory?

For personal victory, we must have our minds renewed by the new birth. We must have faith in the power of God for ultimate victory. We must avail ourselves of the armour. We must stand fast and fight, never turning in fear. We need the prayer and support of our brethren and sisters.

6. What does it mean to be an ambassador of the Gospel?

We further the cause of the Gospel by our Walk of life and our speech. Our lives can be an encouragement to our fellow Christians and an example of the power of God to those who do not know Him.

7. How can we support one another in the battles of life?

We can pray for each other. We can give encouraging words to our brethren.

**Summarizing the Lesson:**

Christian, seek not yet repose, Cast thy dreams of ease away;  
Thou art in the midst of foes: Watch and pray.  
Gird thy heavenly armour on, Wear it ever night and day;  
Near thee lurks the evil one; Watch and pray.  
Hear the victors who overcame; Still, they watch each warrior's way; All  
with one clear voice exclaim, Watch and pray.  
Hear, above all these, thy Lord,  
Him thou lovest to obey; Hide within thy heart His word, “  
Watch and pray.”  
Watch, as if on that alone hung the issue of the day;  
Pray that help may be sent down; Watch and pray.  
*Charlotte Elliott*

**Research Guide:**

1. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, a good commentary on verse 12.
2. Compare verse 15 to Isaiah 52:7.