

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:10-18 NLT

"**10** A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. **12** For we [d] are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. **13** Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. **14** Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. **15** For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.[e] **16** In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.[f] **17** Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. **18** Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.[g]"

1) THE UNSEEN BATTLE

- We are in the middle of a battle for our soul and mind with an unseen enemy!
- Spiritual warfare is the conflict being waged in the invisible (spiritual) that is being manifest in the visible (physical realm).
- Fight the Right Foe: The Devil is not a myth or superstition, he is a real entity who desires to lie, disrupt, steal, kill and destroy us (Jn. 10:10; 8:44; 1 Pet. 5:8).
- Satan has been successful in getting us to believe the "lie" that he is not real, and that we are "fighting people" rather than fighting that which is causing them to be the way that they are.
- "One of the greatest tactics the enemy uses is to get us to believe his lies. He attempts to distort and pervert reality, trying to convince us that his lies are truth."- John Mark Comer
- Are there lies right now that you are believing about God, yourself, or others?
- We do not need to panic, fall prey to lies, or live in fear, we just need to stand firm in the truth and promise that the cross wins!

2) DRESSED FOR SUCCESS

- We can't win the battle in our own strength, but instead we must be strong in the Lord and His mighty power.
- We draw our strength, resolve, and courage from Him. "Might" means the force/ability; "Power" refers to God's dominion and sovereign ability to exercise it. When a believer's faith is in God, then the Lord's power becomes the power of that believer.
- Dressed For Success: God has given us the armour needed to be able to stand victorious, but it is our responsibility to suit up!

3) WINNING THE UNSEEN BATTLE

- 4 Keys to Winning the Battle: Prayer, Get in the Word, Praise, and Progress

- 1) Prayer: Be people of everyday prayer. Pray without ceasing. Prayer is a weapon that disables the enemy and builds intimacy with God.

- 2) Get in the Word: Identify the enemy's lies and refute them with His eternal truth (John 8:32 – truth will set you free).

- 3) Praise and Give Thanks: Praise and thanksgiving shifts our focus to truth instead of the lies of the enemy. It turns our voice into the launching pad that enables the powerful force of praise to destroy the works of the enemy! (Ex. breaks off the chains – Paul and Silas.)

- 4) Progress: Keep moving forward for the Kingdom. There is no rear armour! We must always be moving forward for the Kingdom. There is no retreat – only advancement.