

Series: Healthy Church

Be Strong

Sunday April 15, 2018

1. *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power* (Eph. 6:10).
2. 2 essential components for us to engage spiritual battle:
 - A. To be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
 - B. To put on the whole armor of God.
3. The principle way to be spiritually strong is to rely on God's might for His power when we need it and then step out and do what we need to do!
4. NOT: I do everything and God does nothing.
NOT: I do nothing and God does everything.
NOT: I do all I can and God helps with what I can't.
5. Rely on God for what?
 - A. Relying on God for wisdom (Jas. 1:5).
 - B. Relying on God for the words to say (Lk. 12:12; 21:15; Eph. 6:19).
 - C. Relying on God to go before us (Gen. 39:4, 22; 41:39-40; Mk. 16:7).
6. *"Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them* (the taller and stronger Amorites and Anakites). *The Lord your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes* (Deut. 1:29-30).
7. *The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged* (Deut. 31:8).
8. *I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron* (Isa. 45:2).
9. *...for the Lord will go before you, the God of Israel will be your rear guard* (Isa. 52:12).
10. Rely on God for what?
 - D. Relying on God to work good out of bad (Gen. 50:29-30; Ro. 8:28, 31).
11. *Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist,*

with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all of this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Eph. 6:11-17).

12. The battle and the struggle is real – and our enemy, the devil – is vicious.

13. *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour (1 Pt. 5:8).*

14. The Armor of God: truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, and the word of God.

15. *...demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God... take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ (2 Cor. 10:5).*

16. *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should (Eph. 6:18-20).*

TAKEAWAYS

1. How do you rely on God?

2. What does it mean to you that God is for us?

3. What confusion or doubt, discouragement or lie do you need to take captive and make obedient to Christ?