

Our Battle Against The Invisible Enemy

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Ephesians 6:10-18

Bro Raj B

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ 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 Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. Ephesians 6:10-20

Invisible Evil Power Around us: Incidents like the recent mass shootings or the terrorist killing the innocent and other ongoing wars etc. are NOT the most tragic things of our times. *Just yesterday a local TV reported that there were 10 shoots in period of 24 hours in Portland city.*

But truly they are NOT the most tragic things of our times. Much worse chaos exists around our lives. With the declining morality, collapsing family structure, the redefined meaning of marriage, the fight for special rights, the emerging meaningless philosophies that are taught in our schools and colleges, illogical social and political ideologies based on the so-called political correctness, godless religions, drugs, sex, the youth being brain washed by science-fiction and unethical movies with a modified morality, and most of all a real terrifying sad turmoil exists around the world.

All of these things have one thing in common. They are against the Living God and His commandments. These are only a few examples of the schemes of Satan, our ancient foe and we are not unaware of his schemes. (2 Cor. 2:11)

Some, in today's generation may wonder in disbelief and say, Satan? Do you believe in Satan? Yes, there are people who do not want to believe Satan exists. They may even think you are a bit off or out of your mind. They may even think we are taking our religious beliefs a little too far. This generation believes life is for enjoyment (2 Tim. 3:4). Their philosophy- "I don't bother you, and you don't bother me. As long as I don't harm others and enjoy what I like, I am fine. Keep your God and His morals to yourself."

Immorality unlimited! Remember, the days of Noah frustrated the Lord so much that he decided to wipe off mankind from the world. Billy Graham, sarcastically said that God may have to apologize if he didn't punish the present generation. "A wicked and adulterous generation" (Matt. 16:4) more sinful compared to the one in the days of Noah.

Is that how God look at us?

Thank God, an income tax officer who personally witnessed the ministry of our Lord told what he saw. This man, Apostle Mathew wrote "When He (Jesus) saw the throngs, He was moved with pity *and* sympathy for them, because they were bewildered (harassed and distressed and dejected and helpless), like sheep without a shepherd. (Matt. 9:36 AMPC)

A picture in the European Museum.

Jesus, by going to the cross, taking our sins upon himself, took on Satan and defeated him and triumphed over sin and death once for all. Equipping us with His Spirit, he commanded us to stay strong resist the Devil.

Let's see who this Satan is and what he is:

SATAN was angel created by God. He was cast down to the earth after he desired to ascend to the heavens and raise his throne above the stars of God in God's presence. He had a name, Lucifer, which means 'morning star' (Is 14:12-14) Pride (the first sin), caused his doom. (Ez. 28:14-15)

The Bible describes Satan as :

Prince of this world (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Eph. 2:2)

A ruler, 'the whole world is under the control of the evil one'. 1 John 5:19; In Matt. 12:26 his kingdom; In Matt 25:41 he has his team of angels (the 1/3 of angels?)

A god 2 Cor. 4:4 god of this age;

According to Rev.2:9; 3:9 Satan has his own religion and his own 'church'

Satan has his own gospel Gal.1:8, his own ministers 2 Cor. 11:15, his own doctrine 1 Tim 4:1, his own communion table and cup 1 Cor. 10:20-21

SATAN'S POWER: 2 Thes. 2:9 the work of Satan with all power, signs and lying wonders (never be powerful compared to Almighty God. (Thank God- Greater is He who is in you than the one in the world)

Devil's schemes Like Baskin-Robins offers ice cream in 31 ice flavor, he comes with a variety of attraction to distract us from our duty. Our duty is to stand in the strength of the Lord.

These are some of Satan's schemes to distract us. Warm fuzzy religion like New Age Movement, Brain washing through the Media, Playing with our minds and conscience through movies like

Star wars, Music Entertainment, Star wars

Theological, Philosophical, Apologetic, agnostic, Social, Political, Economical and Judicial etc.

Our Lord seemed to have plan already for these poor victims.

Finally: Be strong in the Lord

¹⁰ *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.* JB Philips translations says: “be strong—not in yourselves but in the Lord, in the power of his boundless resource.” Our Lord, himself said “... take courage; I have overcome the world.”

To Joshua the Lord commanded: “Be strong and very courageous” (Josh.1:7). And again, He said: ”Have I not commanded you to be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” (Josh 1:9)

Put on the full armor of God, (In Greek it is Panoplia. Meaning, the whole armor, both defensive shielding and offensive weaponry)

Belt = Truth,

Breastplate=Righteousness,

Footgear=Readiness to spread the good news

Shield=Faith

Helmet=Salvation

Sword=Word of God

¹¹ *Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*

Who are we fighting?

We wish it was directed who we should target exactly. It could have been helpful to aim at. But Paul says it's not against flesh and blood. He lists rulers, authorities, powers of dark world and spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Looks like he is asking us take on the invisible powers.

12. 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.

Stand your ground

¹³ *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

¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish Eph 6:10 h all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ 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 Lord's people.

What does the Invisible Enemy know about you? Are you actively serving in God's army?

Yet, it sometimes looks like we are submerged deep down in our own world. The world of comforts. Smart phones on hand, 24/7, with readily available variety of attractive programs to choose from. Are you ready to take on the Enemy who is targeting your children, family and your fellowship? We may be keeping ourselves occupied not wanting to hear things that aren't interesting to our minds.

In his invisible network is Satan aware of your activity? Does Satan see you as a threat to his kingdom?

Paul warned us about the scenario of the perishing world: 2 Tim 3:1-5

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

Are you far from this kind of life as described by Paul in the above scripture?

Let us put on our God given armor:

Let us put on our God given armor. Let's know it is our uniform dress for us believers. Let Satan know who we are when he sees us. Let him know it is not easy to mess with us because we are equipped and fully armed.