

BEN WASHINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study Series – Part 1

“On the Battleground...Not the Playground”

Ephesians 6:10-20

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ON THE BATTLEGROUND...NOT THE PLAYGROUND

Part 1: Ephesians 6:10-13 – April 29, 2026

Part 2: Ephesians 6:14 – May 6, 2026

Part 3: Ephesians 6:15 – May 20, 2026

Part 4: Ephesians 6:16 – May 27, 2026

Part 5: Ephesians 6:17 – June 3, 2026

Part 6: Ephesians 6:18-20 – June 10, 2026

ON THE BATTLEGROUND...NOT THE PLAYGROUND



BATTLEGROUND



PLAYGROUND

ON THE BATTLEGROUND...NOT THE PLAYGROUND

PLAYGROUND

A playground is

- A place of recreation
 - A place of leisure and entertainment
- A place associated with comfort, fun, and relaxation
 - A place where danger is not expected

ON THE BATTLEGROUND...NOT THE PLAYGROUND

BATTLEGROUND

A battleground is

- A place of conflict
 - A place where enemies engage in warfare
 - A place requiring vigilance, armor, and strategy
- A place where stakes are high and casualties are possible

ON THE BATTLEGROUND...NOT THE PLAYGROUND

Part 1

Stand Strong in the Struggle

ON THE BATTLEGROUND...NOT THE PLAYGROUND

Ephesians 6:10-20 (KJV)

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. **11** Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12** 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]. **13** 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. **14** Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; **15** And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16** Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. **17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: **18** Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; **19** 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, **20** For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

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Ephesians 6:12 clearly indicates that the conflict with Satan is spiritual, and therefore no tangible weapons can be effectively employed against him and his minions. We are not given a list of specific tactics Satan will use. However, the passage is quite clear that when we follow all the instructions faithfully, we will be able to stand, and we will have victory regardless of Satan's strategy.

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Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus because Paul saw many converted to faith in Jesus Christ and many others who opposed his preaching in the synagogues and homes. One prominent silversmith, Demetrius, who made implements for the worship of Artemis, found his business suffering greatly because people were converting to Christianity. The ensuing near-riot led Paul to leave the city, but only after the apostle had done much to stabilize and grow the Christian community there.

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Ephesians deals with topics at the very core of what it means to be a Christian—both in faith and in practice.

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First Look

The Nature of the Devil (Satan)

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People's beliefs concerning Satan range from the silly to the abstract—from a **little red guy** with horns who sits on your shoulder urging you to sin, to an expression used to describe the personification of evil. The Bible, however, gives us a clear portrait of who Satan is and how he affects our lives. Put simply, the Bible defines Satan as an **angelic being** who fell from his position in heaven due to sin and is now completely opposed to God, doing all in his power to thwart God's purposes.

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Satan was created as a holy angel. Isaiah 14:12 possibly gives Satan's pre-fall name as Lucifer.

Isaiah 14:12-15 (KJV) 12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! [how] art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

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Ezekiel 28:12-14 describes Satan as having been created a cherub, apparently the highest created angel. He became arrogant in his beauty and status and decided he wanted to sit on a throne above that of God (Isaiah 14:13-14; Ezekiel 28:15; 1 Timothy 3:6). Satan's pride led to his fall. Notice the many "I will" statements in Isaiah 14:12-15. Because of his sin, God permanently removed Satan from his exalted position and role.

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Satan became the ruler of this world and the prince of the power of the air (John 12:31; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2). He is an **accuser** (Revelation 12:10), a **tempter** (Matthew 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5), and a **deceiver** (Genesis 3; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:3). His very name means “**adversary**” or “**one who opposes**.” Another of his titles, the devil, means “**slanderer**.”

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Even though he was cast out of heaven, he still seeks to elevate his throne above God. He counterfeits all that God does, hoping to gain the worship of the world and encourage opposition to God's kingdom. Satan is the ultimate source behind every false cult and world religion. Satan will do anything and everything in his power to oppose God and those who follow God. However, Satan's destiny is sealed—an eternity in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10).

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WE ARE ENGAGED IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE!

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There are two primary errors when it comes to spiritual warfare—**over-emphasis** and **under-emphasis**. Some blame every sin, every conflict, and every problem on demons that need to be cast out. Others completely ignore the spiritual realm and the fact that the Bible tells us our battle is against spiritual powers. The key to successful spiritual warfare is finding the **biblical balance**.

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Vs. 10 – “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”

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Literally, Paul wrote strengthen yourselves in the Lord. He probably took the idea from 1 Samuel 30:6, where it is said that David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

The detailed teaching of spiritual warfare in this passage presents two essential components. First, you must be **strong in the Lord** and in the power of His might. Then, you must **put on the whole armor of God**.

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The two are essential, and much teaching on Christian combat neglects the first. If you take a weak man who can barely stand, and put the best armor on him he will still be an ineffective soldier. He will be easily beaten. So equipping for Christian combat must begin with the principle, **be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.**

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Before a soldier is given a gun or shown how to fire a missile, he goes through basic training. One great purpose for basic training is to build up the recruit's physical strength. It is as if the army says, "Soldier, we are going to give you the best weapons and armor possible. But first we have to make sure that you are strong and that you can use what we give you."

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It is not “I do everything and God does nothing.” It is not “I do nothing and God does everything.” It is not “I do all I can and God helps with what I can’t.” Each of those approaches falls short. The key is for me to by faith rely on His might — and rely on it more and more — and then do the work.

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Vs. 11 – “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

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The armor of God will be explained more fully in the next passage; but here the emphasis is on the **whole** armor of God. God gives the believer a full set of equipment, and He sends us out into battle with everything we need at our disposal.

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This ancient Greek word for armor is used in only one other place in the New Testament. In Luke 11:21-22, Jesus speaks of the strong man who is fully armed, but is stripped of all his armor when a stronger one comes and defeats him. We know that Jesus disarmed all principalities and powers (Colossians 2:15).

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This armor is of God both in the sense that it is from Him, and in the sense that it is **His actual armor**. In the Old Testament, it is the LORD who wears the armor (Isaiah 59:17). He now shares that armor with us. Equipped with God's armor, no wonder we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37).

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Isa 59:17 - *For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.*

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We express the strength we have in God by **standing against the wiles of the devil**. Satan's schemes against us come to nothing when we stand against them in the power of God.

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Salvation is received instantly; spiritual preparedness is cultivated daily.

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The Whole Armor

No partial protection permitted

Every piece matters

Many believers are defeated because they wear selective armor.

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**Spiritual warfare is often about endurance
more than aggression.**

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Vs. 12 – “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.”

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Paul did not call the believer to enter into spiritual warfare. He simply announced it as a fact: we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but (we do wrestle) against principalities and so forth. **YOU ARE IN** a spiritual battle. If you are ignorant or ignore that fact, you probably aren't winning the battle.

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The fact that our real battle is not against flesh and blood is forgotten by many Christians, who put all their efforts in that direction. Paul's idea here is much the same as in 2 Corinthians 10:3-4: *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.*

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Paul used a variety of terms to refer to our spiritual enemies. We should regard them as being on many different levels and of many different ranks, yet they all have one goal:

to knock the Christian down from their place of standing.

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Vs. 13 – “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.”

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Paul introduced the idea of the whole armor of God back in Ephesians 6:11. In the following passage he details the specific items related to the armor of God. In this verse, he simply states what the main purpose of spiritual warfare and the armor of God is.

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Without the strength of God and the protection of spiritual armor, it is impossible to stand against the attacks of spiritual enemies.

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References:

The Bible, King James Version

<https://www.gotquestions.org/>

Questions?