

THE NEW HUMANITY OF JESUS THE CHRIST:

MEDITATIONS IN THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL'S ADDRESS TO THE EPHESIAN FAITHFUL

THE LORD IS OUR POWER
(EPHESIANS 6:10-11)

I. Introduction**II. “Finally, Be Strong in the Lord” (Eph 6:10-11)**

- A. Christian, be strong in the Lord (6:10).
1. “Finally” marks 6:10-20 as the conclusion to the letter.
 2. Christians must “be strong.”
 3. “Be strong” means to “be strengthened.”
 4. Christians must find their strengthening...
 - a. “in the Lord”
 - b. “in the strength of his might.”
- B. Christian, put on the whole armor of God (6:11a).
1. The use of the word “armor” introduces the idea of spiritual warfare.
 2. The idea of God’s armor comes mainly from the Old Testament.
 - a. Isaiah 11:4-5: Righteousness and faithfulness are the belts of the Messiah.
 - b. Isaiah 59:17: YHWH puts on righteousness as a breastplate and salvation as a helmet.
 3. The armor of God comprises the holy virtues of God’s character.
 4. The armor of God in 6:11 is the new self of 4:24.
- C. Why Christians must put on the whole armor of God (6:11b).
- Because we need to stand against the schemes of the devil.
- D. Digression: Who is the devil? Ephesians 2:2 says...
1. The devil is “the prince of the power of the air.”
 2. The devil is “the spirit that is...at work in the sons of disobedience.”
 3. Reflection: The devil aspires to be like God himself.

- E. We consider the big picture:
1. By bringing back the theme of “in Christ,” Paul is creating a book-end to the letter.
 2. Ephesians 6:10-11 situates the Christian life in the cosmic context.
 - a. The Christian life is life in Christ Jesus, Lord of the Universe.
 - b. The Christian life is lived against the cosmic powers of darkness.

III. Christ Jesus—the Power of God’s People

To engage in holy war against the prince of the forces of the air, we must be strengthened in the Lord Jesus Christ. And to be strengthened in the Lord, we must receive Christ alone as our life, and live our lives out of the life of Christ.

- A. We receive Christ as our life by accepting that...
1. God has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing (1:3).
 2. God has chosen us in Christ before the world’s creation (1:4).
 3. God has redeemed us in Christ (1:4-6).
 4. God has forgiven our trespasses in Christ (1:7).
 5. God has possessed us for himself in Christ (1:11).
 6. God has sealed us with the Holy Spirit in Christ (1:13).
 7. God has made us alive together with Christ (2:5).
 8. God raised us up in Christ (2:6).
 9. God has seated us in heaven in Christ (2:7).
 10. God has made us in Christ for good works (2:10).
 11. God has united us with Israel in Christ (2:13).
 12. God has made us his temple in Christ (2:22).
- B. We live out of the resurrected life of Christ by putting on the new self/identity—the armor of God.