



Sunday October 16, 2016
Ephesians 6:10-24 : Stand Strong In The Lord

Be Strong in the Lord

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be **strong** in the Lord and in the **power** of His **might**.

"Finally, build up your strength in union with the Lord and by means of his mighty power." (Good News Bible)

be strong : literally meaning increase in power, be infused with supernatural power and strength

in the Lord : We are in Him. In Him we live, move and have our being. He is our realm of living, existence and habitation. He Himself is the Source of our strength and power. The strength that He imparts is definitely far greater than that of the devil, our enemy.

You draw your strength or you strengthen yourself out of your union with the Lord.

The responsibility to increase in power is on us. We must draw power from the Lord. We must receive from Him. On His side there is limitless supply of power and might.

It is interesting to note that Paul is using three different Greek words to refer to the strength or power available to the believer in the Lord:

- ✓ **strong** (Greek *endunamoo*), derived from *dunamoo*, meaning explosive power or energy, like the power and energy released when a dynamite explodes
- ✓ **power** (Greek *kratos*) = vigor, this kind of power is visibly demonstrated power, not intellectual or hypothetical power. This is the "...mighty power (*kratos*) which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead..."
- ✓ **might** (Greek *isuchus*) = force, ability, e.g. muscular or physical strength

So Paul is telling the believer, be filled or be infused with explosive power and energy, with visibly demonstrative power and supernatural ability that comes from God Himself through your union with Him.

With this kind of power available to the believer - the believer is all set to WIN, ALL THE TIME!



Put On Your Full Armor

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Having been infused with power from God, we need to do one more thing. We need to have on the whole armor given to us by God.

Put on : Paul uses the same word he used in Ephesians 4:24 when he tells us to "put on" the new man. This means we wear this on as our clothing. The believer is responsible for having this on. We don't take off our armor (at least we are not supposed to!).

Keep in mind that before instructing us to put on the whole armor of God, Paul has gone through instructing us how to live in Ephesians chapters 4 and 5. In other words, all of that is a "prerequisite" to this.

whole armor : Paul is referring to a Roman soldier and the full armor a Roman soldier wears that covers him completely. Paul has in mind 7 pieces that make up the armor that a Roman soldier had on.

Here is what a Roman soldier had on and carried as part of his whole armor, some defensive (protective) and some for offensive warfare:

1. Loin belt : The waist-belt, typically about six inches wide, served to hold every part of the clothing tightly together and made the soldier ready for any kind of vigorous activity. The breastplate was held in place by the loin belt. The shield was clipped on one side of the belt when not in use. On the other side of the belt, the sword was hung and carried around when not in use. The loin belt also served as a kind of pocket or pouch to carry personal items such as a dagger, money or other necessary things.
2. Huge breastplate, which consisted of two large metal plates, one that covered the front and the other the back of the soldier. These metal plates were connected together at the top of the shoulder with brass rings and covered the shoulder as well. It went all the way from the neck to the waist and extended below the waist as a skirt. The breastplate was easily the heaviest part of the armor. There were many different designs for the breastplate.
3. Shoes which the Roman soldier wore actually had two pieces of metal to it. One that went from the knee that covered the front and sides of the calf and shin and went all the way down to the top of the foot. The other part of the shoe, again in metal covered the feet. At the bottom of the metal shoe were spikes or hobnails between one to three inches long. These spikes not only gave the soldier stability on the battlefield, but were also "killer shoes". They were used to trample over an enemy



and inflict wounds. The shoes provided *protection* for the lower limbs and feet, provided *stability* and were also used to *inflict injury*.

4. Shield : There were two kinds of shields that were used during that time. There was a small round shield (in Greek, called *aspis*) which was a decorative shield used for ceremonial parades, etc. Then there was a long and wide shield (in Greek *thureos*, literally meaning "a door shaped shield"). Paul uses the word *thureos* referring to the large and wide shield. This was a full length metal (iron) framed shield made up of several layers of leather, usually about six layers of leather tightly woven together. This shield was large and wide, and designed to protect the entire body. When soaked in water before a battle the shield could put out the fiery missiles thrown at them by the enemy.
5. Helmet was very important, covered the head and face and protected them from fatal blows to the head.
6. Sword : while there were many different kinds of swords, the Roman soldier carried one that was broad, double-edged, razor sharp and pointed, designed for jabbing and killing the enemy.
7. Lance, a long spear that could be thrown at the enemy to strike from a distance.

We are to put on the "whole" armor - not just pieces or parts of it. Be clothed and carry with you every one of these 7 pieces of your God given armor.

armor of God : armor given to us by God or armor that comes from God.

This means that this armor and these weapons can only be effective when we are in right relationship with God. So the key to having on the whole armor of God is first of all walking in submission, in unbroken fellowship with God. Without this relationship, the armor has no meaning or power in our lives. This armor is made effective through our personal fellowship with God. This "spiritual armor" comes from God and is ours because of our relationship with Him. , just as everything else we have comes from God.

James 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

This also means that these are mighty weapons through which we can win - always.

2 Corinthians 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

that you may be able to stand : The armor God has given us empowers us with His power making us able to stand, hold up, be successful against, whatever the enemy attempts.



against the wiles of the devil : The wiles, meaning methods, cunning, crafty, trickery of the devil. The word wiles literally means "methods" and has with it the idea of travelling over the same road (using the same old tricks in the bag).

That is why the apostle Paul tells us:

2 Corinthians 2:11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

The word "devices" refers to deceptions, plots, schemes, mind games.

So the devil has his cunning, crafty, tricks and methods and uses mind games, plots and schemes of deception, intimidation, etc. against the believer.

[Pastors can give examples of "mind games", lying thoughts, that the enemy uses to come against believers.]

As believers we must not be ignorant of the methods, devices and strategies of the devil.

We are in conflict and we need to think militarily. Think strategically.

The Real Enemy

Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

wrestle : refers to conflict. The Greek word used here "pale" is the word for "*palastra*", the name the Greeks used for their "house of combat sports" such as boxing and wrestling. The Greek style for boxing and wrestling was very fierce, bloody and dangerous, and often resulted in one of the competitors either giving up or ending up dead. So this is the kind of conflict we are in. Something intense, and which could be fatal.

not against flesh and blood : We are not contending with each other. So don't waste your time fighting with other believers or with people.

Instead, Paul identifies 4 levels of hierarchy in satan's kingdom. He uses the word "against" repeatedly for emphasis, pointing out that these are what we are against.

principalities (Gr. *archas*) : chief or highest ranking demonic powers, who have been there from ancient times



powers (Gr. *exousia*) : those with delegated power. These demonic beings derive their authority from their chiefs or principalities.

rulers (Gr. *kosmo-kratos*) : world rulers, is a military term that was used in the context of bringing troops together in discipline, organization and commitment under a ruler. The devil's operation is highly organized, disciplined and committed. This is an area where the Church suffers. Many believers do not like the order, discipline and commitment that God requires in His Church. Hence the Church is so "defeated" because the enemy operates in a more discipline, organization and commitment manner.

many spirits of wickedness : evil spirits, spirits that carry out evil.

in the heavenly places : the spiritual realm in which these spirits operate.

Take up the whole armor of God

Ephesians 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Since we are engaged in a spiritual battle, he reminds us once again, to take the "whole armor of God",

that you may be able to withstand in the evil day : there are times called "the evil day" where the conflict will be intense. Paul says that with the whole armor of God we will have all the power we need to be able to withstand, that is keep on standing, even in the "evil day".

having done all, to stand : meaning, even when the evil day comes, you can withstand, and having done everything, engaging in all kinds of conflict, you will still keep standing.

Our spiritual armor

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Ephesians 6:15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Ephesians 6:16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Ephesians 6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

In this passage Paul identifies the 7 pieces of spiritual armor that comprise "the whole armor of God":

- Loin belt of truth
- Breastplate of righteousness



- Shoes of the Gospel of peace
- Shield of faith
- Helmet of salvation
- Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God
- The spear of prayer

Lets look at each of these and consider practical things we must do to ensure that we have each part of the armor and weaponry operational in our daily lives

BELT OF TRUTH

It is interesting to note that Paul lists this first. When we look at a person or a soldier and describe their attire, we rarely would start by describing their belt! But that is what Paul does. Because for our spiritual armor, the belt is important.

The belt of truth is what holds all other parts of our spiritual armor together - the breastplate, the shield, the sword and the spear (or lance). Although seemingly unimportant, the belt of truth is extremely vital to the whole armor. The belt, although neither a defensive (protective) or offensive weapon, is important because it holds everything else.

It was also the belt that made the soldier agile and able to move quickly and vigorously in times of conflict.

Truth

Truth is integral to the Christian's life and armor.

The belt of truth is part of the armor of God given to the believer.

Truth of God, truth that comes from God - not "truth" as defined by someone else - but truth as God defines it - is the belt the believer is to wear.

Truth is a Person. Jesus said I am the Truth (John 14:6). Know the Person.

God's Word is truth (John 17:17). Know the Word.

Know the truth : grow in your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus so that you know Him. Grow in your knowledge of the WORD of God.

Believe the truth : believe the Word. Believe the Lord.

Think the truth : keep your thoughts aligned to the Word of God.

Speak the truth : speak aligned to the Word of God.

Live the truth : Live according to the Word of God.

God's people need to be fed with and grounded upon God's Word. They need to know the WORD to have on their God-given belt of truth!



Believer, you need to know the WORD of God.

Everything else we walk in - righteousness, faith, salvation, Gospel of peace, prayer- is dependent on us knowing the truth, the Word of God.

Defend yourself against things contrary to the truth because these can undo your belt of truth.

- ✓ Take time to read, study and meditate in God's Word.
- ✓ Take time to be here at Church every Sunday to hear the Word of God being taught.
- ✓ Take time to talk, discuss, share, study the word with other individuals (Psalm 119:63).

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

We see righteousness referred to as an armor in 2 Corinthians 6:7 and also as a breastplate in Isaiah 59:17.

The breastplate covered a major part of the body, both front and back. The breastplate was of course protective in nature. It was also because he had his breastplate on, the soldier could advance fearlessly into the offensive and run into battle. The shiny breastplate was used often to reflect the bright sunlight into the enemy's face so as to "blind" the enemy.

Righteousness is therefore both a defensive (protective) and an offensive piece of the Christian's armor given to him by God.

This is righteousness given to us by God. We are the righteousness of God. We have been made righteous in His eyes. Therefore we walk in righteousness, purity, holiness empowered by God.

Know that you are the righteousness of God. Know that you are in right standing with God through Jesus Christ. This gives you confidence before God and boldness in the face of the enemy. (2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:17, etc.)

Refuse to accept any guilt, accusation and condemnation. The devil is called the "accuser of the brethren" and this is his "mind game" or tactic - to keep believers under a sense of guilt, shame, accusation and condemnation.

Refuse to be self-condemning or self-degrading. Acknowledge that you are who God says you are.



Live righteous and keep short accounts with God. Walk righteously before God empowered by His Spirit. If you sin, confess, repent and have it cleansed by the blood. Apply the 1 John 1:7-9 principle.

Believers who live under a sense of guilt, shame, accusation and condemnation are already defeated in their minds and hence do no damage to the enemy. Shake that off and know that there is no more condemnation against you in Christ (Romans 8:1).

SHOES OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

The shoes provided **protection** for the lower limbs and feet, provided **stability** and were also used to **inflict injury**.

Paul used the phrase "Gospel of peace" here in Ephesians 6:15 and in Romans 10:15. In Romans 10:15, where Paul quotes from Isaiah 52:7, the context has to do with the sharing of the good news, the message of salvation. In Ephesians he refers to a readiness (preparation) of the Gospel of peace, implying a readiness to preach the gospel of peace, the message of salvation that brings peace.

Paul in his Epistles uses different terms to refer to the Gospel of Jesus Christ: "gospel", "gospel of God", "gospel of His Son", "gospel of Christ", "gospel of peace", "my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ", "gospel of the glory of Christ", "gospel of your salvation". All of these terms referring to the same message of Jesus Christ that brings salvation.

We have as believers personally experienced the Gospel of peace. This message of the gospel of peace, has brought us into peace with God. This message has brought the peace of God into our lives. Now we ourselves walk in peace, peace with God, peace within and peace with one another.

Walking in inward peace is a defense : The peace of God guards, defends our hearts and minds in Christ (Philippians 4:7).

Walking in inward peace causes us to dominate : The God of peace crushes satan underneath our feet (Romans 16:20).

So now our readiness to proclaim, preach, share, communicate the Gospel of peace is,

- ✓ protection to our spiritual advancement and progress in our walk with God
- ✓ stability to our spiritual advancement and progress in our walk with God
- ✓ a weapon that conquers, inflicts injury and dominates the enemy as we walk with God



When we having been established in the Gospel of peace, we now share the gospel of peace, we are walking with our spiritual shoes on - with protection, stability and ability to conquer.

A believer who is unwilling or unprepared to share the Gospel of peace is like a soldier wounded in the feet or a soldier without his footwear. He cannot make much progress and is at a great disadvantage against the enemy.

So be always ready to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Be bold and unashamed of the gospel (Romans 1:16), because the gospel is the power of God.

SHIELD OF FAITH

Ephesians 6:16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

above all : literally meaning "covering over all" because of the large shield he was referring to.

shield : the *thureos* large and wide (like a door) shield that covers you entirely

Faith is this large and wide shield that can cover you entirely and protect you. With this shield we can quench, extinguish and nullify all the fiery darts of the devil.

The devil will throw his fiery darts, but if we have our shield of faith up, all of those fiery darts can be extinguished.

The Roman soldier had to maintain his shield, daily. Since this shield was made of layers of leather, each day he had to rub oil into it, to prevent it from becoming hard and brittle and falling apart.

Another thing the Roman soldier did was to soak the shield in a tub of water, before going out to battle. The enemy would shoot arrows that had heads lit with fire. Hence these water soaked shields would extinguish these lit arrows.

How to maintain strong faith

Our faith needs to be maintained daily and soaked in the Word of God.

Faith comes through a personal relationship with God through His Holy Spirit and through His Word (Romans 10:17).



The fiery darts of the wicked one

What is the enemy targeting when he shoots his fire filled arrows against us?
And what does he want to accomplish?

These fire-filled arrows target primarily the **MIND** and the **FLESH** of the believer. These are the TWO MAIN BATTLE GROUNDS. These are the two main war zones.

The MIND - the enemy shoots his fiery darts of *thoughts, imaginations, reasoning and arguments*. These could be deceptive thoughts, thoughts of doubt, fear, unbelief, etc., lustful imaginations, confusions, intimidations, accusations, condemnations, etc. etc. God has instructed us to RENEW our mind with His Word (Romans 12:2) and to use our spiritual weapons to pull down strongholds, cast down imaginations and reasonings, and take every thought captive (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

The FLESH - the ungodly desires that exist in our body; our ungodly or uncontrolled bodily passions and appetites is another target. The fiery darts of the enemy are designed to stir up, fire up these ungodly desires with temptations and inducements to sin (James 1:14-16). God has instructed us to crucify the flesh with the help of the Holy Spirit and present our bodies as a living sacrifice.

Of course there may be other areas of attack : relationships, finances, health, etc. But most often, the enemy attempts to makes inroad into these, while working through our MIND and our FLESH.

Faith in God and His Word, is what will guard us and keep us strong to quench these fiery arrows that the enemy shoots against us.

Faith is absolute confidence in God and in His Word. It is a conviction, it is being certain of what is not seen.

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

[Pastors, can illustrate through practical examples on how the firey darts would come, and how we use faith as a shield to quench those darts]

Corporate Faith as an offensive weapon



When Roman soldiers had to face a collective enemy, they would come into formation where they would in a single line join their shields side by side. Often their shields had hinges on the metal frames, and so they literally joined their shields together like a massive wall and marched against the common enemy. It was like a modern day armored vehicle or military tank.

Similarly, in a local church, if we believers, each of us who have our shield of faith, if we can join together with each other's faith, we can raise up a wall of faith and go on the offensive toward the enemy. We must begin to do this more often.

What to do when your faith seems weak?

A shield that is not maintained with oil and soaking in water, can get brittle and start to fall apart. So make sure you are in God's presence, your faith is renewed by the oil of the Spirit and soaked in God's Word.

Get help from other believers to be nurtured in the Word and strengthened in the Spirit.

HELMET OF SALVATION

Salvation the saving work of Christ in our lives is this crucial piece of protective armor, our helmet.

Know your salvation : know the completed, sufficient work that Christ has done for us on the Cross and given to us as a free gift of grace (Ephesians 2:8,9)

Rest in and hold firmly to your salvation : Paul told Timothy "fight the good fight of faith, lay hold of eternal life...." (1 Timothy 6:12).

Walk in the full benefits of your salvation : salvation is His work that saves us spirit, soul and body. It includes forgiveness of sin, healing for our bodies, protection, preservation, deliverance, eternal life, etc. We are delivered from the powers of darkness and translated into the Kingdom of His dear Son (Colossians 1:13-14).

blows to the helmet

The enemy would try to deal a death blow with a sword, ax or hammer to the head. These can come in the form of attacks on the mind challenging our very faith in Christ.

We must remain strong in our understanding, comprehension and conviction of the gift of salvation which we possess.

Salvation protects your mind - the main battlefield.



[Practical comments - know how you are saved, why you are saved, dealing with thoughts of doubt concerning salvation, knowing what salvation is]

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, THE WORD OF GOD

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword (*machaira*) of the Spirit, which is the word (*rhema*) of God;

While there were different kinds of swords available, Paul uses the Greek word *machaira* to refer to a long, double-edged sword, about 19 inches long, razor sharp on both sides with a pointed end. This was a deadly weapon.

Hebrews 4:12 refers to the Word of God as a two-edged *machaira*.

The word (*rhema*) is a quickened word, a word that the Holy Spirit has drawn into your heart, brought to your attention, hence called the "sword of the Spirit".

The Holy Spirit will quicken a word from the Scriptures to your heart. Or you ask for that Word (*rhema*) that you can use in that moment of conflict. This is why it is so important to know the Word of God, to be rooted, and established in God's Word. This is your weapon against the enemy.

Once you have the specific Word, then speak that word out. *Rhema* also refers to **a word that is spoken without any doubt**. In Revelation 1:16 and Revelation 19:15 we see the sharp two-edged sword going out of His mouth. This is the spoken Word.

The record we have of Jesus overcoming temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 4, Luke 4) is a perfect illustration of how to use the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. To each temptation that came, Jesus responded by saying what the Word of God said.

Learn to speak the Word to fight against thoughts, temptations that come against you. Learn to speak the Word as an offensive weapon to go against the enemy.

THE SPEAR OF PRAYER

Ephesians 6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

Although Paul does not specifically talk about the spear (lance), we know this was part of the "whole armor" used during that time by the Roman soldiers. We therefore are confident to draw this conclusion that prayer is our spear (or lance).



The spear was used to attack the enemy from a distance. There were many different kinds of spears available, which varied in shape, size, weight and length.

"praying always...." We are to pray always, at all times, in all seasons - seasons of quiet and calm, as well as in seasons of intense conflict.

"...with all prayer and supplication..." literally means with all kinds of prayer and supplication. There are many different kinds of prayers and petitions we can engage in: *prayer of asking and receiving, prayer of consecration, prayer of intercession, prayer of faith, prayer of thanksgiving, prayer of agreement, prayer of binding and losing, prayer in tongues, etc.*

So Paul urges us to use them all...pray with all kinds of prayer.

"...in the Spirit..." led and empowered by the Spirit

"..being watchful..." being alert, vigilant, on the lookout in prayer. Recognize every moment and situation that needs prayer intervention. Seize every opportunity to pray. We actually take preventive measures through prayer and avert, thwart and neutralize plans and schemes of the enemy, by being watchful in prayer.

"..with all perseverance..." this is something we do with endurance. This is not a one off, one day involvement. We keep at this. This is ongoing involvement.

"....and supplication for all saints." I must engage in prayer for other believers. It is like me throwing spears at the enemy on behalf of my brother or sister in the Lord.

Here is an example of the Lord Jesus how He prayed for Peter, and intercepted what the devil planned to do:

Luke 22:31-32

31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.

32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

Prayer is one weapon through which we can engage the enemy at a distance.

We pray to God, and God causes the enemy to be pushed back. Everytime we pray and intercede, there is something that is released from heaven, like a spear thrown at the enemy, causing the enemy to be halted, deterred and pushed back.

Do you have your armor on?

We are in spiritual conflict? We are living in a war zone.



God has provided you with an armor and weapons of warfare.
Put on the full armor of God, so you can stand, advance and do damage to the works of the devil.

The Church that Jesus is building is a Church that advances to the "gates of hell" (Matthew 16:18-19), the power centers of demonic domination here on earth. We are NOT passive, unwilling, fearful, reluctant soldiers. We are here to advance God's Kingdom forcefully. However, to engage in conflict we must have our full armor on.

Run to the battle with your full armor on!

Individual Soldiers Versus Organized Troops

While all of us must be well-trained, bold, armed soldiers, we must also learn to engage against the enemy as organized troops or an organized army.

As soldiers in an army we need to help each other.

As soldiers in an army, we need to maintain discipline, order, commitment and coordination.

As soldiers in an army we need to move strategically.

As soldiers in an army we also need to take care of our wounded.

Pray for Me

Ephesians 6:19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,

Ephesians 6:20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Closing Words

Ephesians 6:21 But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you;

Ephesians 6:22 whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your hearts.

Ephesians 6:23 Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

SIDE NOTE: Understanding Realms of Jurisdiction

[Pastors, please share this only if you have sufficient time. Else skip.]

The heavens belong to God. In the highest heaven (e.g. third heaven) God has His throne. He rules and reigns.



In a realm outside of the earth realm and outside of the highest heaven, demonic powers are currently permitted to operate, in the heavenly (spiritual) realm. This is their jurisdiction.

Satan gained access to the *earth realm* via the Fall in the Garden of Eden. He thereafter was called the Prince of this world (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11) or the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:3). The Lord Jesus annulled satan's legal right to those of Adam's race who would follow Christ, and be washed by His blood. As far as the believer is concerned, satan has been "disarmed and rendered powerless" with no legal access or right to dominion over the believer (Colossians 2:14-15). This judgment has been passed and the work has been done (John 12:31).

The *earth realm* is our jurisdiction. Man was to guard the garden (Genesis 2:15) and have dominion on the earth. The earth God has given to man (Psalm 115:16). We are pray to see His will established "...on earth as it is in heaven.." (Matthew 6:10). We are to "bind on earth" or "loose on earth" (Matthew 16:18-19). Although we are seated at the right hand of God in the heavenly realms, our realm of jurisdiction is on earth. We extend the authority vested in us, here on earth. We petition God in heaven, our faith reaches our God in heaven for matters here on earth.

So our conflict with satan's kingdom is in the earth realm, where we have jurisdiction. Satan is an intruder and wherever his hierarchy of demonic powers intrude into the earth, we have the legal authorization to undo their works. But we must walk in our God-given armor as we engage in conflict.

The war in the heavenlies takes place between God's angels and demonic powers.

The war in the earth realm is where we engage with demonic powers.

There are two levels of spiritual warfare and we must know how to engage correctly:
Ground level spiritual warfare : this is the conflict we are engaged in where we use our full armor. We stand in our redemption, exercise our authority, bind and loose here on earth.

Strategic level spiritual warfare : this is the conflict the angels are engaged in the heavenly realms. This is outside our realm of direct jurisdiction. When we want something to change at this level, we PRAY AND INTERCEDE to God to cause a change. This is where we use our SPEAR OF PRAYER AND INTERCESSION against the enemy. We refrain from trying to bind principalities and powers in the heavenly realms, as this is outside our jurisdiction. Instead we PRAY AND INTERCEDE, and God throws back the operation of demonic powers in the heavenlies.