



BIG TIME WRESTLING

Ephesians 6:10-13

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. 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. 14 Stand therefore

In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides]. ([Amplified Bible](#))

William Gurnall, a pastor, in his book entitled *The Christian in Complete Armour*, an exposition of Ephesians 6:10-20.

The saint's war against the Devil, wherein a discovery is made of that grand enemy of God and his people, in his policies, power, seat of his empire, wickedness, and chief design he hath against the saints; a magazine opened, from whence the Christian is furnished with spiritual arms for the battle, helped on with his armour, and taught the use of his weapon; together with the happy issue of the whole war.

Wiersbe - It comes as a shock to the new believer that the Christian life is a battleground and not a playground. In my pastoral ministry, I could always tell when a new Christian was starting to mature, because he found himself fighting battles. This was a good sign because, as Spurgeon used to say, "Satan never kicks a dead horse!" ([The Strategy of Satan](#))

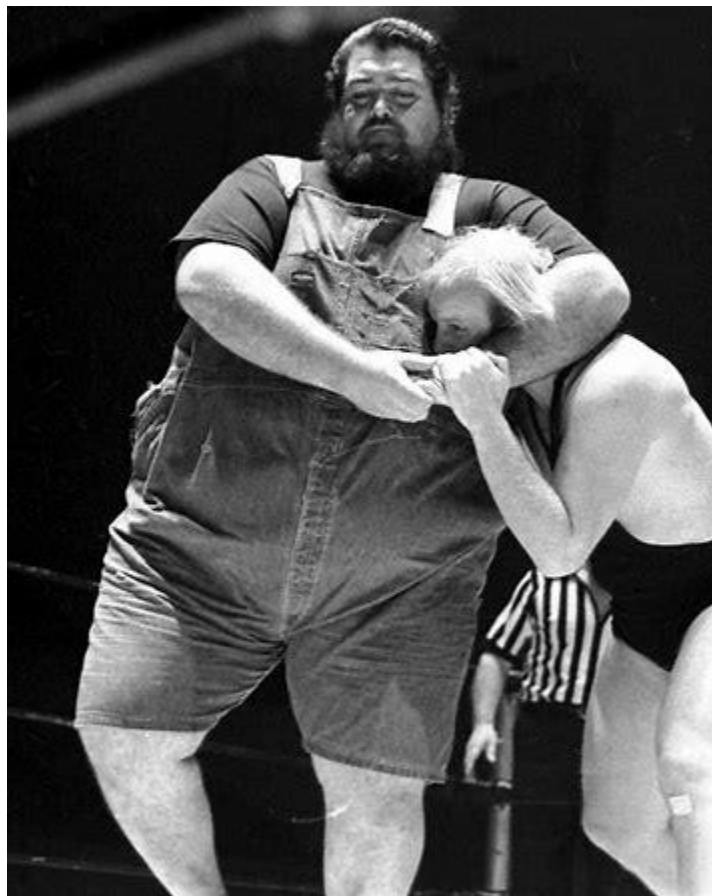
As **Adrian Rogers** said "We are at spiritual war! Therefore, the church is not a cruise ship with the pastor as the master of ceremonies. Indeed it is not a showboat, but a battleship. We're called to see Satan's strongholds crumble under the power of

heaven's artillery. We do not have the luxury of neutrality. We must engage in the fight. A truce will never be called. **God's will for his saints is not that we merely survive, but that we thrive in total victory.** General Douglas MacArthur spoke rightly when he said, "In war there is no substitute for victory." We must be aware of our enemy if we would have this victory. We need to learn of our infernal foe."

For we wrestle **NOT** against
FLESH and **BLOOD**
Principalities
POWERS
Rulers of the **DARKNESS**
of this world
SPIRITUAL **WICKEDNESS**
in high places
EPHESIANS 6:12

III. - Nanny-

Haystacks Calhoun over 600 pounds William Dee



Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, Bruno Sammartino, Andre the Giant, Killer Kowalski The Monguls, Gorilla Monsoon, Hacksaw Jim Duggan

III.- David Wilson, Jason Pratt

• WE ARE IN A BATTLE- A WRESTLING MATCH

wrestling (a contest between two in which each endeavours to throw the other, and which is decided when the victor is able to hold his opponent down with his hand upon his neck)

“to vibrate”

➤ THE REALITY OF THE BATTLE

NOT against

✓ **Flesh and blood**

BUT against

✓ **Principalities**

magistrate, power, principality, principle, rule (in various applications of order, time, place, or rank)

✓ **Rom 8:38-** For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, **G746** nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Ephesians 3:8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; ¹⁰ to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to **the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,** ¹¹ according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. ¹³ Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

Colossians 2: ¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us,

which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

✓ **Powers** Ephesians 2:2; 3:10

superhuman, potentate, token of control), delegated influence:—**authority**, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.

Paul explains that the real battle is against a hierarchy of evil invisible supernatural beings who are organized and determined to **disrupt, discourage, disillusion, discomfort, disarm, disrupt, dissatisfy, dissuade, distract, disappoint, disgruntle, disequilibrate, disenthral, dishearten, dishevel, distress, disqualify, disquiet, dispossess, disturb, disunite, destroy, deceive**, etc, etc, all the while seeking to cause believers to **doubt** the Word of God and the faithfulness and goodness of God.

Too many Christians have failed to realize that they are engaged in this titanic spiritual struggle of the ages, and that they were "drafted" into God's army the moment they were saved by grace through faith. To be ignorant of our calling and the magnitude of this great struggle is a dangerous ignorance.

✓ **Rulers of the darkness of this world** **Acts 26:8**

a world-ruler, an epithet of Satan:

In context Paul is saying there is an invisible audience of evil princes or chiefs among angels (rulers is plural in the Greek so he is not referring only to Satan). Paul is also teaching that even in the invisible angelic world there is a stratification of authority.

✓ **Spiritual wickedness in high places** **Romans 1:29**

Life is bittersweet. Some days everything is going great. Then, suddenly, life hits us hard with a traumatic event or circumstance that shatters our world, leaving us feeling anxious, helpless, hopeless, depressed, and suicidal. There are times in life when we experience fun and excitement and times when we experience anxiety, pain, anguish, and struggle. Days like this are what Paul refers to in the book of Ephesians as the evil day, the day when you're under spiritual attack.

“The evil day can be described as the day when “all hell breaks loose on you.” When you are under major attack, when your world is being shattered and your dreams are being destroyed, your hopes are being dimmed; and when you look out, all you see is the light of an oncoming train. Paul calls this the evil day. The day when hell is after you and your name has come up” — Tony Evans.

When life hits hard, when we're under spiritual attack, If we're not viewing the problem through spiritual lenses, we may blame people for our problems instead of the source. People are not the source of our problems; they are just the conduit for the problem; the demonic influence that people are under is the source of our problems.

“Everything visible and physical is preceded by that which is invisible and spiritual. Addressing the physical world when the problem or the attack is emanating from the spiritual world, is like a policeman arresting the gun instead of arresting the person who pulled the trigger; they are arresting the vehicle and not the source; the gun is merely the vehicle” — Tony Evans.

The problems of the visible, physical world emanate from the invisible, spiritual world. Only dealing with the problem instead of the root cause is not the best response when you're under spiritual attack because you're not dealing with the source. Relying on humanistic approaches to addressing problems or turning to people for solutions will not help you win a spiritual battle. You can't win a spiritual war using human weapons; human weapons do not affect demons or doctrines of devils; you need spiritual weapons.

THE BATTLE IS REAL.

μεθοδεία **methodeía**, meth-od-i'-ah; from a compound of **G3326** and **G3593** (compare "method"); travelling over, i.e. travesty (trickery):—wile, lie in wait.

The devil is a:

- **MURDERER AND A LIAR**
- **THIEF AND A ROBBER**
- **A DECEIVER AND ACCUSER**

➤ **THE COMMANDS OF THE BATTLE**

● **BE STRONG**

Act 9:22- But Saul increased **G1743** → the more in strength, **G1743** and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.

Rom 4:20- He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong **G1743** in faith, giving glory to God;

Phl 4:13- I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth **G1743** me.

2Ti 2:1- Thou therefore, my son, be strong **G1743** in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Heb 11:34- Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, **G1743** waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

In the Lord

2 Ti 4:17- Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened **G1743** me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

In the power of his might

1 Ti 1:12- And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled **G1743** me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

Eph 1:19- And what **is** the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, **G2904**

Col 1:11- Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, **G2904** unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

Eph 1:19- And what **is** the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty **G2479** power,

• PUT ON

Rom 13:12- The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on **G1746** the armour of light.

III. Electric toothbrush question

The whole armor of God

• TAKE UP

ACTION

I. to take up, raise

II. to take up (a thing in order to carry or use it)

ἀναλαμβάνω **analambánō**, an-al-am-ban'-o; to take up:—receive up, take (in, unto, up).

See verse 16

The whole armor of God

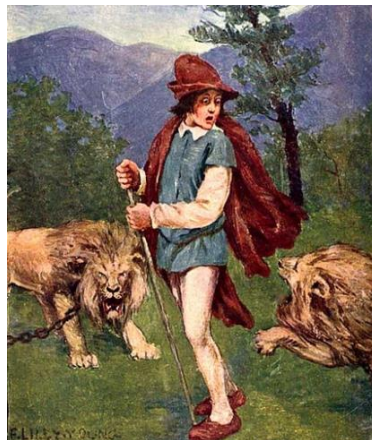
III. Pilgrim's Progress- ...*looking very narrowly before him as he went, he espied two Lions in the way. Now, thought he, I see the dangers that Mistrust and Timorous were driven back by. (The Lions were chained, but he saw not the chains.)*

Then he was afraid, and thought also himself to go back after them, for he thought nothing but death was before him: But the Porter at the lodge whose name is Watchful, perceiving that Christian made a halt as if he would go back, cried unto him saying,

“Is thy strength so small? Fear not the Lions, for they are chained, and are placed there for trial of faith where it is, and for discovery of those that have none. Keep in the midst of the Path, and no hurt shall come unto thee”

...Then I saw he went on, trembling for fear of the Lions, but taking good heed to the directions of the Porter; he heard them roar, but they did him no harm.

In the above quote he has to pass through a narrow ravine and it is getting dark. He sees two lions at either side of his path and they start to roar at him. He is terrified and stops in his tracks. But then a voice shouts out to him that he should not fear, keep to the centre of the path and no harm will come to him – the lions are chained. This is an important spiritual lesson for all Christians. Our lions are chained. Whatever danger, threat, worry assails us –all these are held in check and limited in action by God. He allows them for the testing and strengthening of our faith, not to do us harm. It is a great image – our lions are chained!(John Bunyan, The Pilgrim's Progress, London : Dent, 1954 (1678) page 47)



• STAND

Act 5:20- Go, stand **G2476** and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

Act 26:16- But rise, and stand **G2476** upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

Act 26:22- Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue **G2476** unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:

Rom 5:2- By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, **G2476** and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Stand firm (histemi) means literally to support oneself on the feet in an erect position. It means to take up or maintain a specified position or posture. In context it conveys the idea of digging in (the Roman sandals had spikes for this purpose). To "stand" was used as a military term for holding on to a position.

"Stand" Lyrics

by [Booth Brothers](#) | from the album [Room For More](#)

Some will say it's foolish
Some that it's absurd
But still we choose to build our lives
Upon God's holy Word
We know It's always perfect
We trust It in all things
It's holy and It's right
So whatever this life brings

Chorus:

We stand on what is timeless
We stand on what is true
We stand up unashamed
No matter what the world may do
We stand upon this rock
Spoken by the Lord of all
And though other lives built on sand may fall
We stand

It may not be in fashion

It may not be in vogue
But when we look at empty lives
All around we know
We could live pursuing power
Thinking pleasure satisfies
God's light cuts through the shadows
Revealing they're just lies

Bridge:
Let us trust His every word
Resisting every wrong
Let us read It and believe It
It's our only hope for standing strong

George Duffield, Jr. (1818-1888) wrote this hymn out of a tragic accident that resulted in the early death of one of the most stirring preachers in the northeastern United States during the mid-nineteenth-century. Dudley Tyng (1825-1858),

In addition to starting a new church, Tyng and other ministers preached revival meetings at the local YMCA during lunch and soon began to attract thousands (this revival period is known as "The Work of God in Philadelphia.") In March of 1858 Tyng preached a rousing sermon to 5,000 young men at the YMCA and over 1,000 made a profession of faith. During this sermon, Tyng is said to have declared, "I would rather that this right arm were amputated at the trunk than that I should come short of my duty to you in delivering God's message." Prophetically and tragically, within a few weeks while visiting the countryside, his arm was caught in the cogs of a corn thrasher and severely lacerated resulting in a great loss of blood and an infection that took his life a few days later. Either in his final sermon or on his deathbed, Tyng is to have said, "Let us stand up for Jesus." Another account states that the dying Tyng told his father, a retired minister, "Stand up for Jesus, father, and tell my brethren of the ministry to stand up for Jesus."

1 Stand up, stand up for Jesus
ye soldiers of the cross;
lift high his royal banner,
it must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry

his army he shall lead
till ev'ry foe is vanquished
and Christ is Lord indeed.

2 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
the trumpet call obey;
forth to the mighty conflict
in this his glorious day.

Ye that are men now serve him
against unnumbered foes;
let courage rise with danger
and strength to strength oppose.

3 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
stand in his strength alone;
the arm of flesh will fail you,
ye dare not trust your own.

Put on the gospel armor,
each piece put on with prayer;
where duty calls or danger,
be never wanting there.

4 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
the strife will not be long;
this day the noise of battle,
the next, the victor's song.

To him that overcometh
a crown of life shall be;
he with the King of glory
shall reign eternally.

And it's time we stand and say
That I'm proud to be an American
Where at least I know I'm free
And I won't forget the men who died
Who gave that right to me
And I'd gladly stand up
Next to you and defend her still today
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land (love this land)
God bless the USA
And I'm proud to be an American
Where at least I know I'm free
And I won't forget the men who died
Who gave that right to me
And I'd gladly stand up
Next to you and defend her still today
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land (love this land)
God bless the USA
Songwriters: Lee Greenwood.\

➤ THE OUTCOME OF THE BATTLE

, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

...

that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

From Our Daily Bread - In an article for Youth Ministries magazine, a 14-year veteran of the Navy SEALs describes the color-code system they use to indicate levels of combat readiness. Each stage has a parallel in spiritual warfare.

Condition White

The soldier is relaxed and daydreaming, unaware of his surroundings. A Christian in this condition is easy prey for Satan.

Condition Yellow

The soldier is relaxed physically but alert mentally. A believer at this level may sense trouble coming, but he's not ready to confront it.

Condition Orange

The soldier is physically prepared, mentally alert, and ready to fight. A believer at this stage has on the full armor of God.

Condition Red

As in condition orange, the soldier is ready to fight. The difference is experience. A battle-seasoned Christian knows quickly what to do because of his experience and familiarity with Scripture.

Wherever we as followers of Christ happen to be--at work, in the mall, on a business trip, even among fellow believers--we need to know about Satan's methods and be prepared to resist. He always seems to attack at our most vulnerable moments. But if we stay alert and armed, we can fend off his most powerful attacks. --D C Egner ([Our Daily Bread](#), Copyright RBC Ministries, Grand Rapids, MI. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved)

Thinking It Over - Which color code describes your spiritual condition?
How have you responded recently to temptation?
Are you studying and obeying God's Word?

✓ Spiritual victory comes only to those who are prepared for battle.

You (I) do not need to live in defeat! Change your mindset! You (I) can live in victory! You (I) can have a victorious life. You (I) can live life more abundantly! You (I) can stand against the wiles of devil! I (YOU) can't do it for you (ME)- YOU (I) HAVE TO BE THE ONE THAT TAKES THE ACTION! STOP BLAMING OTHER PEOPLE OR YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES FOR WHERE YOU ARE TODAY. IT'S TOTALLY UP TO YOU (ME) TO BE VICTORIOUS OVER THE ENEMY!

START TODAY. START WRESTLING THE RIGHT WAY. BE STRONG! PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD! TAKE UP THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD!

DON'T WASTE YOUR LIFE LIVING WITH DEFEAT! BE A GOOD WRESTLER!!

God gives the Christian a glorious standing to maintain by faith and spiritual warfare:

- We stand in grace ([Ro 5:2](#))
- We stand in the gospel ([1Cor 15:1](#)).
- We stand in courage and strength ([1 Cor 16:13](#)).
- We stand in faith ([2 Cor 1:24](#)).
- We stand in Christian liberty ([Gal 5:1](#)).
- We stand in Christian unity ([Php 1:27](#)).
- We stand in the Lord ([Php 4:1](#)).
- We should stand perfect and complete in the will of God ([Col 4:12](#)).