



Carry the Light

Eph. 6:10-11

Eph. 6:10 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.**

Review

The conduct of a true Christian, one who is genuinely “born again,” is the outcome of a doctrinal foundation. We are **“living out our faith,”** and our testimony indicates the quality of it, be it good or bad.

As I believe, therefore I live.

We need to believe that spiritual warfare is real, face it, fight it, & live victoriously!

It is personal and it is dangerous! Here is a quick review of the last few weeks:

wile

1. A trick, artifice, or stratagem meant to fool, trap, or entice; device.
2. Wiles, artful or beguiling behavior.
3. Deceitful cunning; trickery.
4. to beguile, entice, or lure (usually followed by away, from, into, etc.): <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/wiles?s=t>

ruse

1. A trick, stratagem, or artifice. <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/ruse?s=t>

I. THE REALITY OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

II. THE REASON FOR SPIRITUALWARFARE

III. THE RUSE OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Eph. 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

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A. The Source of our Confidence, Eph. 6:10

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

- The KEY to engaging spiritual warfare is to realize the source of our strength.
- If we truly realize the essence and quality of such strength, we will have confidence to battle courageously.

Psa. 121:2 **My help cometh from the LORD**, which **made heaven and earth.**

B. The Schemes Inflaming our Conflict, Eph. 6:11

Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

1. The Preparation, Eph. 6:11a “Put on the whole armour of God...”

2. The Purpose, Eph. 6:11b “...**that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**”

- The idea of “wiles” = adapt hunting techniques for successful taking of the prey.

We have covered the following “wiles:”

- The first “wile” is DOUBT
- The second “wile” is DISOBEDIENCE
- The third “wile” is DECEIT
- The fourth “wile” is DISTRACTION
- The fifth “wile” is DISCONTENTMENT
- The sixth “wile” is DESTRUCTION = the Ultimate Goal of Satan

As we continue considering what the “wiles” are, please note that these are not in any particular order of magnitude. The “wiles” will vary with each person – different times, different circumstances.

- The seventh “wile” is DISCOURAGEMENT
- The “wile” of discouragement may be due to focusing on self, the past, a sense of failure, hopelessness and a myriad of disappointments.
- David, a “man after God’s own heart” exhibited discouragement.

Psa. 42:5 **Why art thou cast down, O my soul?** and *why* art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him *for* the help of his countenance.

- David also learned how to encourage himself.

1 Sam. 30:6 And **David was greatly distressed**; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: **but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.**

- Satan uses different “devices” to discourage believers.

2 Cor. 2:6 Sufficient to such a man *is* this punishment, which *was inflicted* of many.

7 So that contrariwise ye *ought* rather to forgive *him*, and comfort *him*, **lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.**

8 Wherefore I beseech you that ye would **confirm your love toward him.**

9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be **obedient in all things.**

10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I *forgive* also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave *it*, for your sakes *forgave I it* in the person of Christ;

11 **Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.**

- Satan uses God's people to discourage each other.

Num. 32:7 And wherefore **discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel** from going over into the land which the LORD hath given them? ...

9 For when they went up unto the valley of Eshcol, and saw the land, **they discouraged the heart of the children of Israel**, that they should not go into the land which the LORD had given them.

- Satan uses "tough times" to discourage God's people.

Num. 21:4 And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and **the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way.**

- Satan uses family members to discourage each other.

Col. 3:21 Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, **lest they be discouraged.**

Original Word: ἀθυμέω

Transliteration: athumeo

Definition: I lose heart, am despondent, am disheartened, dispirited, broken in spirit:

<http://biblehub.com/greek/120.htm>

Prov. 17:22 A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: but **a broken spirit drieth the bones.**

Prov. 15:13 A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but **by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.**

- When we are discouraged, we need to encourage ourselves in the Lord, like David.

Psa. 77:1 I cried unto God with my voice, *even* unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me.

2 **In the day of my trouble** I sought the Lord: my sore ran in the night, and ceased not: **my soul refused to be comforted.**

3 I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and **my spirit was overwhelmed.** Selah.

Job 22:29 **When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up;** and he shall save the humble person.

2 Cor. 7:6 Nevertheless **God, that comforteth those that are cast down**, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

1 Pet. 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

7 **Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.**

Conclusion

Josh. 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? **Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee** whithersoever thou goest.

Josh. 10:25 And Joshua said unto them, **Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight.**

2 Sam. 10:12 **Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people**, and for the cities of our God: and the LORD do that which seemeth him good.





1 Chron. 28:20 And David said to Solomon his son, **Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee,** until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

Psa. 27:14 Wait on the LORD: **be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart:** wait, I say, on the LORD. (Psa. 31:24)

Jn. 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but **be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**

Heb. 4:16 Let us therefore **come boldly unto the throne of grace,** that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

15 Steps to Overcoming Discouragement

Whitney Hopler

Discouragement sets in when you start to feel senses of hopelessness about your future - when it seems like the troubling circumstances you're going through won't ever improve. But if you look beyond your circumstances to God, you'll discover the real hope and better future that He promises you.

Here's how you can overcome discouragement:

- 1. Pray.**
- 2. Remember Who God is.**
- 3. Prepare yourself for the discouraging situations you're bound to encounter.**
- 4. Stick to your assignment.**
- 5. Get guidance from a Christian counselor.**
- 6. Refill your spiritual energy tank.**
- 7. Take care of your physical health.**

- 8. Spend time with someone who isn't discouraged.**
- 9. Give to people in need.**
- 10. Simplify your life.**
- 11. Share your faith with others.**
- 12. Use the talents God has given you.**
- 13. Resist Satan's efforts to discourage you more.**
- 14. Choose faith over fear.**
- 15. Never give up!**

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