

## Christ: Your Victory

Ephesians Series: Part 9

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HEIGHTS WORSHIP CENTER

Warning! You will face battles

Ephesians 6:10-12; Ephesians 1:19-23, 2:6

- Living as a Spirit filled believer will not spare you from trials & battles
- But the good news is found in the truth of Christ - who He is and what He has already done!
- Your strength is found in Christ & the same mighty power is in you!
- You are victorious! You are strong in Christ! You rule with Christ!

Metaphors in Ephesians:

1. A child of God: loved, chosen, belong, accepted, safe & secure
2. A citizen of God's family: have rights, inheritance, provision
3. Part of the House of God: part of a community of believers, created to carry the presence of God
4. One Body: interdependent, under Christ, with a unique gift to help grow and mature in Christ
5. Full of Christ's love & light: new way of living in Christ
6. A soldier dressed in God's armor

Spiritual Battle Only

Ephesians 6:12, 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

- Don't fight against people - we fight our spiritual enemy
- Battle for your beliefs, thoughts, attitudes
- We have spiritual weapons to fight spiritual battles
- Strongholds: ideologies, thoughts, arguments, reasonings - opposes the knowledge of God
- Satan is a deceiver and accuser
- Ephesians 4:23 NLT "Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes."

RECOGNIZE - RESIST - REPLACE

- Learn to identify thoughts & attitudes that oppose the true knowledge of God
- Take them captive: don't allow them to determine your life; don't dwell, stop train of thought
- Replace with truth = bringing every thought captive to obedience of Christ

Put on God's Armor

Ephesians 6:13-20

- Dress yourself with Truth, Righteousness, Gospel of Peace, Faith, Salvation, Word & prayer
- Belt of Truth: holds everything together - Christ
- Breastplate of Righteousness: covers heart & vital organs - you are right before God
- Shoes of Gospel of Peace: Christ our Mediator - the Message we carry & carries us
- Shield of faith: defensive & offensive use - what you believe
- Helmet of Salvation: guard your minds - renewed in thoughts & attitudes - You have the mind of Christ
- Sword of the Spirit - WORD of God
- Prayer is essential; pray in the Spirit all the time - be alert, persistent
- Bless don't curse!
- Pray for boldness and the right words to share the Good News of Jesus Christ

Don't Give into Fear

Isaiah 8:12-14a, Philippians 1:27-30

- You either choose to fear what they say or fear God & what He says
- Redirect fear from the world into confident assurance in the Lord of Heaven's Armies!!
- Stand united as one - you are not in this battle alone! You are conquerors in the faith of the Gospel
- Encourage each other in Christ, declaring truth and faith, keeping God's perspective
- Refuse to give into fear as a sign to your enemy of defeat & coming destruction
- Endure, don't give into fear or be intimidated - victory is yours!

Victory is yours in Christ Jesus! 1 John 5:4-5