

**We Are at War: Preparation for War Part 1**  
**Ephesians 6:10-17**  
**Sunday a.m. 7/2/2017**

- ❖ We have seen the Spirit filled life in the church, our families, our job
- ❖ Now, Paul takes us to the battlefield

**Kent Hughes**

"These were such exalted thoughts, substance for dreamy reflection, and then slap! The ugly blood and grime of war with the devil! The fact is, a beautiful life is to be lived even while camped out on enemies' dismal territories."

**Winston S. Churchill** June 4, 1940 to parliament (9 months at war)

We shall go on to the end, **we shall fight** in France, **we shall fight** on the seas and oceans, **we shall fight** with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, **we shall defend** our Island, whatever the cost may be, **we shall fight** on the beaches, **we shall fight** on the landing grounds, **we shall fight** in the fields and in the streets, **we shall fight** in the hills; **we shall never surrender.**

Churchill spoke to Harrow School for Boys on **October 29, 1941**, after the intense bombing of London from **September 7, 1940 to May 11, 1941**

**“Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never—in nothing, great or small, large or petty—never give in, except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force. Never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy.”**

- ❖ The total deaths of World War 2 are estimated between 50-80 million

✪ **There are casualties in this spiritual war**

- ❖ Paul introduces this section with **finally**, I'm bringing it to a close
- ❖ He covered doctrine, unity, the New Man, moral responsibility, church, family and our jobs; now, spiritual warfare

## ⊗ We have a real enemy in Satan and his demonic forces

- **The battle is super natural**

- ✚ It is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces

- **The battle is personal**

- ✚ It is an individual battle, hand to hand combat

- **The battle is not conventional**

- ✚ The weapons nor is the enemy of this world

### **John Calvin**

"He means that our difficulties are far greater than if we had to fight against men. Where we resist human strength, sword is opposed to sword, man contends with man, force is met by force, and skill by skill; but here the case is very different, for our enemies are such as no human power can withstand."

### **Warren 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 Strength for War**

**strong** - from dunamis = to be able or to have power

- ✚ Dunamis describes power that overcomes resistance, effects a change

- ✚ Dunamis is used in the NT to speak of miracles or supernatural acts which have in them the inherent power of God.

### **John McArthur**

The Christian life is a question of availability and appropriation. Know three things: First, it's a war; second, the power to win is available; and third, you have to appropriate that power. You can choose to be fruitless, even though residing in you is the power to do beyond what you can even ask or think.

## **Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)**

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,”

**strengthened** - (kratos) power in action, represents the exercise of might

- ❖ It is power to overcome resistance or whatever stands in the way.
- ❖ It is the power that God used to raise Christ from the dead.

❖ **We are to be empowered with resurrection power that conquered death and sin and Satan, so that we might be enabled to stand firm.**

“Every believer now has the resources within to deal with Satan, no matter what onslaughts the devil may bring. But there are two conditions that must be met -- (1) The believer’s strength must be in the Lord and not in himself and (2) he must utilize the armor—the provision God has made for him.”

❖ **God would not command us to stand firm had He not provided us with the resources that ensure victory in each and every battle**

## ■ **The Preparation for War**

### • **Our armor**

**put on** - (enduo) put on a garment

- ✚ There is a sense of urgency, don't delay
- ✚ There is our choice involved

❖ **We decide to put it on, no one can put it on for us. It has to do with surrendering your will to His will.**

**full armor** - (panoplia) weapon, the complete set of instruments used in offensive and defensive war.

❖ **It's not your armor that you put on, but the armor God supplies**

❖ **The greatest weapon in spiritual war is not what we say to the devil, but how we live our Christian life before Satan and his demons; obedience, surrender, submission**

- **Our decision**

**will be able** - dunamai; This is supernatural power

❖ How else could we ever stand firm against Satan and his demons

- ❖ **We cannot stand without the Spirit's supernatural enablement**

- ✚ We must be willing to let God enable us
- ✚ We must surrender our rights, what we want
- ✚ We must be willing to let God have His way rather than our way
- ✚ We must be willing to allow His Spirit to strengthen and control us at every moment during the battle.

- **Our determination**

**stand against** - (histemi) means to stand.

❖ It conveys the idea of digging in

- ❖ **It was a military term for holding one's position. Hold your ground. Don't give an inch of territory to the enemy.**

❖ The sandals of the Roman soldiers had spikes on them so they could dig in and hold their ground and not be knocked off course.

**wiles** - Schemes, deliberate planning, a systematic approach

- ❖ Satan has a plan to attack us
- ❖ We must have a plan to fight back

- ❖ **We must be prepared for war**

**Close**