

# Contra Mundum

Battle Ready  
Ephesians 6:10-13  
July 12, 2015

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. -**Ephesians 6:10**

## I. A LIFE OF CONFLICT

- To be close to God/Christ, is to be at enmity with his enemy (Gen. 3:15; Job 1:1-22; John 15:20; 2 Tim. 3:12).
- Jesus himself was often in spiritual battle with Satan (Matt. 16:21-23; Mark 5:1-13; Luke 4:1-15; 22:40-44).
- Paul was keenly aware of the spiritual warfare in Ephesus. It motivated him to keep preaching the gospel there (1 Cor. 16:8-9; Eph. 5:15).
- Life is hard in a fallen world. The Bible does not mince words about that or give false hope (Luke 21:12-19; John 16:33; 1 John 4:1-4).

## II. GOD'S PROVISION: STRENGTH, MIGHT, ARMOR

- Satan is a schemer; he is wily; he's been around a long time; he has many powers and principalities at his command in the heavenly places (vss. 11-12; 2 Cor. 2:11; 1 Peter 5:8-9).
- God is stronger, and we stand in him (1 John 4:4; Jude 24-25).
- God's armor is to be worn at all times, not put on and taken off at our leisure.

## III. THE PURPOSE: THAT WE MIGHT STAND

- We are called to persevere in the faith, to remain with Jesus till the end. Anything less is failure in the faith. God accomplishes this in believers (Matt. 10:22; 1 Cor. 1:7-9; Phil. 1:6; 2:12-13; Heb. 3:14; Rev. 2:26).
- The indwelling of the Spirit of God through the word of God is the key to this battle (Eph. 1:13-14; 1 John 2:14).

**KNOW:** We are in a spiritual battle. This should not surprise us, since the Bible is clear on this matter. We must be prepared to engage in this battle and be standing at the end.

**DO:** Be spiritually equipped to walk boldly in Christ.

### Suggested Reading:

*The Screwtape Letters*, by C.S. Lewis

*The Christian in Complete Armour*, by William Gurnall

*A Parent's Guide to Spiritual Warfare*, by Leslie Montgomery

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### Please read Ephesians 6:10-13

1. Why do you think Paul ends his letter to the Ephesians talking about spiritual warfare? He's gone from the believers' position in Christ (Eph. 1-3:21) to the believers' practice in Christ (4-6:9) to the believers' armor. Why?
2. How does it help us practically to know and believe that Satan and his demons exist?
3. Is it ultimately a hopeless battle for us in these evil days? Can we really resist the devil in a day and age that says he does not exist and there is no objective evil?
4. Read Luke 4:1-15. Did Jesus face real temptation? How did he fight that temptation? What lessons are there for us in this story?
5. Paul wants us to "stand." What did it look like for a Christian to stand in Paul's day? What does it look like today? Can we stand for the faith without attacking others?
6. "We wrestle not against flesh and blood." Do we, in general, believe that? Do our actions and prayers reflect that?
7. What are some practical applications we can take away from this text?