**Ephesians 6:10-13**

***Your Strength Will Fail!***

Introduction

1. Are you trying to live the Christian life in your own strength?

2. Ephesians 6:10-13 we are reminded of our power source, our strength to get up, our strength to go on, our strength to stand!

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**I. THE RESERVOIR OF STRENGTH 6:10**

*In the LORD…His strength…His power…His might*

 *Finally* or in conclusion is literally *For the rest*. We must first realize our own weakness.

 The power mentioned earlier is now seen in full light so we don’t miss it. **There is**

 **something for them to do!** It’s not in us. It is His divine power ***toward us (1:9)*** It is His

 divine power ***in us (3:16).*** Here it is, His divine power ***for us (6:10).***

1. ***The Supply*** There are 3 words used for energy in v. 10…*strong…power…might.*
2. *Strong* in the Greek is *dunamis* from which we get our word, dynamite. It can remove boulders or carve through mountains.
3. *Power* in the Greek is *kratos.* It is a force that is superior to all opposition. No matter how big the bully, there is One bigger!
4. *Might* in the Greek is *ischus*. This is inherent, vital power. There is an inherent ability with the Lord to employ force that is greater than any might may impose. *Greater is He that is within you than he that is in the world.*
5. ***The Source*** The source of the energy is *in the Lord.*
6. It is the Lordship of Jesus Christ. There is the dynamite! **If He is not LORD, we must push and prevail!** He must be in control or we kid ourselves into thinking that we can do it. *Lordship* is a key *Lord* (6:1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10).
7. It’s His might, not mine! This power is inherent. It is available, but we must appropriate this power. **The problem:** **we don’t yield to Him!**

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**II. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF STRENGTH 6:11**

*Put on…*We cannot divorce v. 10 from v. 11. The armor mentioned goes hand in hand with

 \*His strength, power and might. God’s power is available, but we have a responsibility.

 \*Galatians 2:20: *I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth*

 *within me…*I am living the life, yet Christ is living His life through me!

 \*You must live your life with diligence and commitment, yet it is God’s power alone living

 through you. Get out of the road so Christ can be seen!

 \***We choose on what level of the Christian life that we are going to live.**

 ***A. Put on…***the word means, once and for all…put the armor on and leave it! Don’t ever

 live for even a moment in your strength!

 ***B. Stand*** is a key word (vss. 11, 13, 14). The term is a military term for holding a

 position. First, we must maintain our position. We must maintain or hold, secure a

 position before we can defend it.

1. ***Against*** implies a determined hostility confronting the Christian soldier. Our adversary is the Devil. He is smarter, more powerful than you. You are out manned and outnumbered. **We are no match for the Devil!**
2. ***Wiles*** means, schemes, tricks, cunning craftiness. Satan has a bag of tricks to get you to rely on your own strength and thwart the available power. Satan knows you and your weaknesses.

*Let no man say when he is tempted, “I am tempted of God”; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempts he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust (desires), and enticed. Then when lust (desires) hath conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death. (James 1:13-15)*

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**III. THE REASON FOR STRENGTH 6:12**

The word here is hand to hand combat!

1. ***What Our Adversary Is Not*** *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood…*
2. If we could or did wrestle against flesh and blood then we might have a chance, and our strength may be adequate. Our battle is not with that which we can see or touch.
3. It is not your wife, children, alcohol or drugs. Nor is it your job or boss. There is something going on behind the scenes from an unidentified source.
4. ***What Our Adversary Is*** I believe that Satan and his demonic forces are so organized that you wouldn’t believe it. 4 forces are presented. **Spiritual must be fought with and by spiritual!**
5. ***Principalities*** are demons who influence men of position.
6. ***Powers*** are demons who can possess human beings. It occurs frequently in classical and rabbinical literature. Christians cannot be possessed, but they can be influenced.
7. ***Rulers of the darkness of this world*** are demons in charge of Satan’s worldly business (financially, socially, politically).
8. ***Against spiritual wickedness (in the heavenlies)*** vile immoralities, sex, drugs, demons in charge of what mankind worships. These are demons who have charge of religions…Satan worship, the occult. Satan is in the background of heartache and heartbreak. The world is Satan’s. If you do not face your struggles of life from a spiritual stand point you will soon be defeated. These spiritual forces are too much for us! What is one way that Satan works? The power of suggestion…where did you get that thought?

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**IV. THE RATIONALE OF STRENGTH 6:13a**

*Wherefore, take unto you the whole armor of God…*

1. ***Realize*** *Wherefore* The battle lines are drawn. We are pitted against an incredible force that we cannot see, touch, outthink or outwit, and is deceiving, lying and supernatural.

***Our strength is in the Lord (v. 10)*** We have all the available armor necessary (v. 11) ***but the enemy is extremely powerful!***

1. ***Respond*** *Put on…be clothed in…Take up the whole armor of God.* Assume God’s armor is necessary if we are to withstand and stand. It will not just happen. It is not automatic. I must choose by whose strength and by what power source I want to live. **I choose!!!**

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**V. THE RESULT OF STRENGTH 6:13b**

 ***A. That You May Withstand*** That you may be able to resist and stand against. Every

 day since the fall of mankind the day has been evil…**TODAY!**

 ***B. That You May Stand*** *And having done all…***having appropriated His strength,**

 **power and might, and laid aside our strength for His. Put on the available armor.**

*To Stand* is holding your ground, being firmly planted.

***When the shock of the battle is over and the smoke clears,***

***may He find you and me still standing!***