

# Unstoppable

*Doing What We Should Do While God Does What Only He Can Do*

## “Getting Dressed for Battle”

**Ephesians 6:10-20**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Oct. 23, 2016*

**Ephesians 6:10-20** shows us that if we want to live out the Gospel day after day in our homes and in the marketplace, then we need to understand that there are unseen key players and spiritual warfare raging around us.

**Four Strategies** for how you can live out the Gospel and avoid becoming a spiritual casualty:

### I. **You Better Wake Up to the Fact that You’re Not Living in Peacetime But You’re in the Middle of a Spiritual War that’s Raging All Around You**

As a Christian, your soul, body, mind, family, friends, and career are all fields of conflict. The moment you enter into a relationship with Jesus and have peace with God, Satan declares war on you!

All wars are costly, messy and tragic, but some wars are lot messier and more confusing than others, like those that are being fought at close-range. The spiritual warfare we face fits in that category.

In **v.12** Paul writes, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood...” The soldiers who wrestle are the desperate ones on the front lines where the battle is intense and at close range. It becomes hand-to-hand combat where they grapple with each other in a life and death situation.

### II. **You Need to Realize that If You’re a Christian You’re Already Enlisted But it’s Your Choice to Engage in the Battle Every Day**

Paul uses the word ‘stand’ four times in this passage. It’s the Greek word ‘histemi,’ from where we get our English word ‘Antihisemine,’ that means to block or stand against.

**v. 10** ‘Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.’

**v. 13** ‘Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.’

Engaging in the battle will not be automatic. You’ll have to THINK about it and you’ll have to CHOOSE to engage or stand.

### III. **You Need to Recognize Who Your Real Enemy Is and What His Favorite Strategies Are**

#### A. **Satan is Your Real Enemy**

**v. 11**... “... stand against the wiles of the devil.”

#### B. **Your Enemy – Satan – is Not Alone**

**v. 12** speaks of principalities, powers, rulers of darkness and spiritual hosts of wickedness.

### **C. He's a Seasoned and Street-Savvy Opponent**

He's been fine-tuning his strategies of how to best deceive and destroy us for centuries longer than we've been trying to resist him.

### **D. He Rarely Comes at Us Head-On**

**V. 11** says he operates in 'wiles' which comes from the Greek word 'methodeias' from where we get our English words 'methods' or 'methodology.' It means a systematic way of doing things or a logical scheme.

That means Satan is patient, crafty and willing to wait for months or even years to set just the right trap in place for us, and to do it in such a way that we don't get startled or even see it.

The phrase **v. 12** about 'the rulers of the darkness of this world' uses the Greek word 'Kosmokrator' and it means a ruling power or little god of this world.

Satan taps into the fact that we are by nature worshippers. He leads us down a gradual path of making gods out of something else in this world. It's false worship that the Bible calls idolatry. He takes something good that God created and turns it into a 'god thing' that you think will serve you but it ends up enslaving you. It's a worship war.

## **IV. Don't Ever Get Over How Powerless You Are and How Powerful God Is to Wage this War Through You**

Nowhere in this entire passage does Paul begin to tell you about power you have! You don't have anything except what God does in and through you.

Paul starts with the power of God in **v. 10** and then moves it to prayer in **v. 18** because you've got to cry out to God in prayer to give you air support to do in and through more than you could ever do in your own strength.

Prayer was designed to be used in warfare. It was never designed to be some name-it-and-claim way of just padding your own life and telling God what you want Him to do next.

Prayer makes us strong in the Lord, so we can step out and fill our minds with the things He's promised. We obey and His power comes through us.