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## **Spiritual Warfare** Ephesians 6:10-20

Introduction: Paul is slowly wrapping up his instructions to the church in Ephesus. Now he is going to give them his marching orders. Sun Tzu a Chinese author of The Art Of War of about 544 - 496 B.C. put it this way “If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.” Paul clearly states it this way: stand against the schemes of the Devil.

A. Be strong, NT 1743, “empowered,” vs. 10

1. In the Lord
2. In the might of His strength

B. Put on the full armor of God, vs. 11

1. GK. Aorist Middle Imperative (Preceptaustin)
  - a. Aorist - Calls for a **SPECIFIC, DEFINITE, DECISIVE** choice. "DO THIS NOW, AT ONCE, ONCE FOR ALL & in one quick action (in contrast to present imperative which commands a habitual action). Often expresses a note of **URGENCY**.
  - b. Middle - This voice means that the **SUBJECT initiates** the action and **participates** in the results of the action. The middle voice indicates the subject performs an action upon himself or herself (reflexive action) or for their own benefit.
  - c. Imperative - **COMMAND** - Calls for the recipient to perform a certain action by the order & authority of one commanding. Imperative mood can also indicate a request or entreaty.
2. So you can stand, NT 2476, military term, “stand your ground”
3. Against Satanic schemes, NT 3180, “methods, travesty, trickery”

C. Our warfare

1. Not against flesh and blood, vs. 12
2. Against Satanic forces, vs. 12
  - a. Rulers, NT 746, archas, “chief”
  - b. Authorities, NT, 1849, “delegated influence, authority”
  - c. World powers, NT, 2888, “world rulers”
  - d. Spiritual forces of evilness, NT, 4152, “spiritual”

D. Stand with your armor on, vs. 13-17

1. Take up the full armor, vs. 13
  - a. Aorist, see B.1.a.
  - b. Active – Subject as the doer or performer
  - c. Imperative, see, B.1.c.
2. Armor

- a. Gird loins with truth, vs. 14
  - 1. Gird, NT, 4024, “belt”
  - 2. Loins, NT, 3751, “loins, procreative power”
  - 3. Truth, NT, 225, “truth”
- b. Breastplate of righteousness, vs. 14
  - 1. Breastplate, NT, 2382, “chest”
  - 2. Righteousness, NT, 1343, “justification”
- c. Shod feet with good news of peace, vs. 15
  - 1. Shod, NT, 5265, “to bind under one’s feet, shod, sandal”
  - 2. Feet, NT, 4228, “feet”
  - 3. Good news of peace, NT 2098, 1515
- d. Shield of faith, vs. 16
  - 1. Shield, NT, 2375, “large door shaped shield”
  - 2. Faith, NT, 4102, “persuasion, conviction” Heb.11:1
- e. Helmet of salvation, vs. 17
  - 1. Helmet, NT, 4030, “encirclement of the head, helmet”
  - 2. Salvation, NT 4992, “salvation, rescue morally”
- f. Sword of the Spirit, vs. 17
  - 1. Sword, NT, 3162, “knife, sword, dirk”
  - 2. Word of God
    - a. Spirit, NT, 4151, “Spirit”
    - b. Word, NT, 4487, “utterance, thing spoken”
    - c. God, NT, 2316, “Supreme Deity”

E. Pray, vs. 18-20

- 1. With every kind of prayer, vs. 18
  - a. Always, NT, 3956, “always, all, every”
  - b. Pray, NT 4335, “implication, pray”
- 2. With petitions at every opportunity, vs. 18
  - a. Supplication, NT 1162 “petitions”
  - b. Every opportunity
- 3. In the Spirit, vs. 18
  - a. Negative
  - b. Positive
- 4. Keep alert for it, vs. 18
  - a. Watching, NT, 69, “keep awake, be sleepless”
  - b. Perseverance, NT, 4343, “persistency”
- 5. For all the saints, vs. 19
  - a. All, NT, 3956 “all, every”
  - b. Saints, NT, 40, “sacred, set apart”
- 6. For me, vs. 19
  - a. Know what to say, vs. 19
  - b. Be bold, vs. 19
  - c. To make known the mystery of the good news, vs. 19
  - d. To speak as I ought to speak, vs. 20

Conclusion: Paul is nearly done with his letter. He has informed the church to take a stand three times in these short verses. Get dressed with your armor. Know yourself, know your enemy and take a stand no matter the cost!