

Eph 6:12-ff.**Introduction:**

- Acts 19:19
- **Our wrestling is not** (οὐκ ἔστιν ἡμῖν ἡ παλη [*ouk estin hēmin hē palē*]). "To us the wrestling is not." Παλη [*Palē*] is an old word from παλλω [*pallō*], to throw, to swing, a contest between two till one hurls the other down and holds him down¹
 - It occurs in the NT only in Eph. 6:12, which gives Christian warfare an eschatological dimension as part of the great final battle that has begun and is intensifying. Christian wrestling is with demonic forces, and the reward is deliverance in the judgment (cf. also 1 Th. 5:8; Rom. 6:13; 13:12).²
 - Against - the tense of the word suggests a face to face conflict to the finish. It also means toward or forward. Paul never implies that the church is under attack in Eph. I believe this was intentional by Paul so that we develop a mindset of victory!
 - But he does make clear our position in Christ, our position of attacking Kingdoms of darkness for the purpose of dominion, and that it is war that we are taking to the enemy!
 - Jesus said the gates of hell would not prevail – meaning that it is hell that is being assaulted by the church!
- Spiritual warfare is that conflict being waged in the invisible, spiritual realm that is being manifested in the visible, physical realm.
- Everything we see in the visible, physical realm is caused, provoked, or at least influenced by something in the invisible, spiritual realm.
 - Therefore it effects your personal life. I.e. Emotions and choices Eph 4:25-27 "Give no opportunity to the devil!"
 - It effects your family.
 - It effects life. Paul encouraged Timothy to be aware of the doctrines of demons. 1 Timothy 4:1
 - It effects the cultures of cities and nations.

I. Enemies of the Church**A. Principalities and powers of the unseen world**

1. Arche – dominion,
2. Exousia – authority

B. Powers of this dark world

1. Kosmokrato – mighty powers in the dark world. This rare and late word is used for

¹ Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Eph 6:12). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

² Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

the gods, and in astrology for the planets, as heavenly rulers. In Eph. 6:12 it is one of the terms used to describe the evil forces with which believers have to contend. It denotes the force and comprehensiveness of their designs.³

2. These "world-rulers" are limited to "this darkness" here on earth.⁴

C. Evil Spirits in heavenly places

1. Ponerous pneumatikos – evil spiritual breath in heavenly places.

2. Eph 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ..NKJV*

II. Demonic Objectives

A. 2 Cor 10:2-6 *The world is unprincipled. It's dog-eat-dog out there! The world doesn't fight fair. But we don't live or fight our battles that way—never have and never will. The tools of our trade aren't for marketing or manipulation, but they are for demolishing that entire massively corrupt culture. We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ. Our tools are ready at hand for clearing the ground of every obstruction and building lives of obedience into maturity.* Message They demolish strongholds.

Strongholds start with:

1. Imaginations – spiritual arrogance, human reasoning or thoughts. These come about by a way of life, traditions, life experiences.
2. Arguments – philosophies, arguments.
 - a. These are mindsets that keep truth out and lies in
 - b. Mindset of the south, inner city.
3. Stronghold – fortified place of human reasoning.
 - a. Keep people from truth or from a knowledge of God – ignorance
 - b. Prevent people from obeying the truth – rebellion
 - i. Mind set is a mind already settled on a set of beliefs. Therefore it resists change.
 - ii. Mind set – is a thought process of a group of people. It requires a strong anointing to break defensive barriers and overcome PRIDE associated with a way of thinking.

B. Guard the territory from Christ's truth

C. Keep people in spiritual ignorance

D. Influence the governing leadership

E. Oppose Christ's ministers

³ Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

⁴ Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Eph 6:12). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

F. Turn the hearts away from Christ and His Truth

III. Seven Kingdom Realities of Victory

A. Truth

1. *Alétheia* is "that which has certainty and force":⁵ *alétheia* is "that on which one can rely": a. as trustworthiness⁶
2. *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.* NKJV Jn 17:17
3. Holy Spirit called Spirit of truth. Jn 14:17, 16:13
4. Ps 85:11 *Truth shall spring out of the earth, And righteousness shall look down from heaven.* NLT Hell is getting hammered from both sides. Jesus sprang up out of the earth and The Throne of Righteousness and Justice preside from above. We have been raised up with Jesus and made to sit with Him in heavenly places.
5. Truth is opposite of lies. Lies put one in bondage but the Truth is what sets us free

B. Righteousness

1. Psalm 89:14 (ESV): "*Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.*"
2. Prov 13:6 (ESV): "*Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, but sin overthrows the wicked.*"
3. When Abraham believed it was credited to him as righteousness (James 2:23).
NOTE: connection between righteousness and faith.
4. *The Messiah as the Righteous.* The Messiah is righteous because his whole nature and action conform to God's will. He is often called "our righteousness." Applied to him are Jer. 23:5; 33:15; Zech. 9:9,
5. Romans 4, Abraham made righteous by faith—so are we.
6. Out of the heart come all the issues of life. So we make the heart good the whole man will be good. That is why it is the breastplate the condition of the heart guards the whole of the man.

C. Peace -

1. Our Kingdom is ruled by the Prince of Peace.
 - a. Peace has to do with confidence.
 - b. Peace has to do with the overthrow of fear. If you know in whom you have believed you live in peace. 2 Tim 1:12
2. Erine - the state of peace, the absence of war.
 - a. Shalom - basic sense is not the narrower one of "peace" but the wider one of "well-being."⁷

⁵ Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

⁶ Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

⁷ Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

- b. It is one thing to have peace between warring nations, it is quite another to have well being.

D. Faith -

1. Formally in the NT, as in Greek usage, *pisteúō* denotes reliance, trust, and belief.
2. I Jn 5:4-5 *"For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"* ESV
3. 1 Peter 5:9 *Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.*
4. Faith was key to Abraham, Hebrews 11, Mark 11:22-24.

E. Salvation

1. Sozo - to keep, to save, to free, to heal, to deliver.
2. Ps 3:8 *Salvation belongs to the Lord.* Salvation is Jeshua! Deliverance!...from what ever you need saving from.
3. Rev 7:10 *"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

F. Word

1. Will not return void, but accomplish what it was sent to do. Is 55:11
2. God watches over His word to perform it. Jer 1:12
3. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Romans 12:1-3.
4. Eph 5:26 we are washed with the Word.

G. Prayer

1. Praying all kinds of prayers—all the time. Eph 6:18 *"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere."* NLT

Conclusion:

- The armor of God empowers us against the works of darkness.
- The armor of God equips us to overcome strongholds.