

PUTTING ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

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Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
(Ephesians 6:10-13).

Paul begins this passage with an exhortation to "be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might". Sometimes people think of Christianity as a religion for weaklings. They are quite wrong. It is true that we receive our salvation as a free gift from God, and that there is nothing we can do to earn it. But after we are saved the Lord wishes us to stand and work and fight for him. He wants us to strive to accomplish the utmost for His purposes. The Christian is meant to be strong, not weak.

Yet it is vital that we note the nature of this strength. Paul says that we are to "be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might." Even when our own strength is developed as highly as possible, it is still very slight. We read in Jude 9 that even "Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee." It is from the Lord ^{that must} we derive all our strength. We ^{should} ~~must~~ recognize this fact at every step of the way. Apart from His strength we would be nothing at all.

Nothing is more disagreeable in the Lord's sight than spiritual pride. When we begin to think that we amount to something apart from him, we are apt soon to learn that pride goes before a fall.

Many years ago I heard a great Bible teacher tell of an experience that he had had a few years earlier. As he was talking with another outstanding Christian worker,