

other by holding them down with their hand upon their opponent's neck.

Our spiritual wrestling match is not against people. It is against:

* **Principalities** = Strong's G746 - arche - "...the person or thing that commences, the first person or thing in a series, the leader... the first place, principality, rule, magistracy - of angels and demons" Primary demonic leaders.

* **Powers** = Strong's G1849 - exousia - "...the power of authority (influence) and of right (privilege) - the power of rule or government (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed)" Demonic authorities over this ungodly world.

* **The Rulers** = Strong's G2888 - kosmokrator - "lord of the world, prince of this age - the devil and his demons"

* **High Places** = Strong's G2032 - epouranios - "...the heavenly regions..."

As we can see, without God, without His Armor, these are battles that we CAN-NOT win.

With His power... WE WIN!

Verse 13

As noted previously, verse 11 tells us to "put on" the whole armor of God and

this verse tells us to "take unto you" the armor. In verse 11, the word is to "sink into clothing", the word used in this verse is different.

"Take unto you" is the Greek word "analambano" (Strong's G353) and it means "you take up, raise - to take up (a thing in order to carry or use it)"

This word involves actively using the Armor of God. That which we have previously become comfortable with and sunk into (like clothing), we now must actively and effectively put to use. We must lift it up and wage spiritual warfare!

Why must we use it? Actively working out with God's armor in battle, prepares and allows us to stand in the evil day.

Therefore, it is critical that we become comfortable with, and actively practicing with the whole Armor of God. **If we as Christians, are to stand in the evil day, we must train diligently in the proper use of God's armor.**

It is not optional!

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The Armor of God

Part 2

The Whole Armor



*"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (11) Put on the **whole armour of God**, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) 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. (13) 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)*

In the first message of this series, we discussed the "preparation" outlined in the first nine verses of this chapter.

THE ARMOR OF GOD - THE WHOLE ARMOR

This “preparation” equips us to properly and effectively use the Armor of God.

In this message, we will be reviewing the **necessity** of wearing the entire Armor of God.

Most Christians will have their favorite aspects of Christian life and spirituality. Some may love worship. Others may thrive on fellowship. Still others may enjoy evangelism. And some may emphasize Scripture study and teaching.

The bottom line is that twice in the four verses quoted above, Paul tells us that we need to take up and put on the **WHOLE Armor of God**. We need each and every piece of God's armor! We cannot simply practice and work on our favorite things.

Many athletes will testify, when they train, they spend the majority of their time working on their weaknesses. I heard one renowned athlete say something to the effect of, “I practice my weakest skill until it has become my strongest. Then I practice my new weakest skill until it has become my strongest.”

This approach just keeps raising the levels of each skill!

We need to take this approach with our spiritual training.

Verse 10

Our strength must come from the Lord and His mighty power. Thus, we must receive power from God to properly put on and use the entire Armor of God. We cannot do it in our strength.

To be strong in the Lord means to be endowed with God's strength, to be strengthened and increase in His strength.

The power of His might means His force, His great power, a dominating force.

Verse 11

We must **“put on”** the whole Armor of God for the purpose of withstanding the wiles of the devil. Without the entire Armor of God, we cannot stand against the devil.

Note that in this verse we are instructed to **“put on”** the Armor of God; whereas, in verse 13, it says we must **“take unto you”** God's armor. There is a difference in the Greek words used in each of these verses. Here is the definition of the word translated **“put on”**:

It is the Greek word “endyo” (Strong's Concordance G1746) and it is defined as...

“to sink into (clothing), put on, clothe one's self”

This implies that we should become familiar and comfortable with God's armor. It must become an inseparable part of our lives in the same way as our clothes are.

Without this intimate need of the Armor of God, we will not be able to stand against the cunning deceptiveness of the devil. (The Greek word for “wiles” is Strong's G3180 - methodeia, and it means “cunning arts, deceit, craft, trickery”.)

Verse 12

First, we note that Paul draws a connection to the Greek Olympic event of wrestling. This is an image that most would be familiar with, and therefore, makes a spiritual connection more “real”.

To wrestle is a contest between two where each tries to throw and pin the