

# Fight for Your Life!

**By Mary Kane**

The Lord thundered from heaven,  
And the Most High uttered His voice,  
Hailstones and coals of fire.  
He sent out His arrows and scattered the foe,  
Lightnings in abundance, and He vanquished them...  
He delivered me from my strong enemy,  
From those who were too strong for me.  
Psalm 18:13-14.

(At the end of this study are some of my favorite resources concerning spiritual warfare.)

Please pray for the Holy Spirit to give you fresh insight and read Ephesians 6:10-19.

Paul wrote The Letter to the Ephesians to the Greek and Jewish believers in the city of Ephesus. Ephesus was a large seaport city in the Roman province of Asia, with about 300,000 citizens. Under the rule of Caesar Augustus, Ephesus became a flourishing center of international trade. The people of Ephesus enjoyed several cultural advantages. The city boasted a theater that seated an estimated 25,000 people. After a day at the office, Ephesians could partake of a little exercise at the local gymnasium. Following a work out at the gymnasium, many citizens probably went to the baths to clean up and relax.

Because the city contained a temple to Artemis, it was considered an important ancient sacred site. The temple to Artemis ranked as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. It was even believed that the statue of Artemis that inhabited the temple was made from a rock that fell to earth from outer space. The silversmiths who resided in the city had a profitable business selling idols of the goddess. Though Artemis was the Greek goddess of wild animals, the moon and the household, in Ephesus she was mainly worshipped as a fertility goddess. Due to the fact that Ephesus was a center of idol worship there was bound to be quite a bit of spiritual warfare within the city, especially when Paul arrived on the scene preaching the truth of the Gospel. Hence for this

reason, Paul may have been inspired and directed by God to include the armor of God in this portion of scripture.

Now that we have a little background information on Ephesus, let's take a look at some important concepts from our text concerning spiritual warfare. Please go back and read verse 10 again.

### **According to verse 10, we are to be:**

Thankfully, God does not call us to stand in our own power or might. He who calls us to be strong and powerful will provide all the strength we need to face the battles that will come. We do not need to judge our ability to be strong by the level of fear or the presence of fear in our lives. Our fears have nothing to do with the availability of God's power and might in the midst of a challenge. As Christians we are to walk by faith not by sight or by fears or by emotions. We need to act despite our fear, wisely trusting that our God's unlimited strength is far greater than our fear. When we let our fears govern our choices rather than God, we are demonstrating that God is not as powerful as the hardship or the enemy we are facing. God has told us that we are to be *strong*. The original word for *strong* in this verse is *endunamoo*. When we trace this word back to its roots, we find some very encouraging information about the quality of strength that God makes available to us when we face the enemy of our souls. Please ready yourself to take in a lot of details concerning the concept of *strong*.

At first glance, *endunamoo* means what you'd expect it to mean; to be bold, to enable and to make strong. But, we've only scratched the surface concerning the power and encouragement that is packed into this one Greek word. Part of *endunamoo* is derived from *dunamis* which translates as "might, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, might, virtue, the power of armies or forces and **power for performing miracles** (BLB, emphasis mine). It also means, in particular, power made available to accomplish a task. So it seems then that Christians have a choice whether or not they will act in the power that is available to them. Finally, *dunamis* comes from *dunamai* which means among other things, to be able, be possible or be of power.

Go back and reread the above information and highlight or underline what is meaningful to you.

Keeping this information in mind, please read Ephesians 6:10 again.

**Now let us try to rewrite Ephesians 6:10 and replace the word *strong* with some of its definitions. I'll get us started:**

"Finally, my brethren...

Here is my attempt:

"Finally, my brethren, be empowered by the miraculous power that God has made abundantly available to you, with which you can achieve any task that God has placed before you. You have been given warlike power, the strength of an army when you must face the enemy. This power has been made accessible to you if you choose to act in the power of His might."

**Wow! Why has God given us this kind of power (verse 11)?**

In our own power, we are no match for the "wiles of the devil." In order to stand in the face of this type of opposition we will need to depend completely on the mighty power of God.

**What do you think it means to "*stand against* the wiles of the devil?**

*Stand* means to stand, abide, continue, covenant and hold up. I particularly like the word *covenant*. In essence, when we *stand*, we covenant with God to stand for truth in the situation or battle we are facing. We also covenant to stand against the lies of Satan.

Please read verse 12 again.

**What does God's word say we *do* according to verse 12?**

We wrestle against the powers of darkness. In order to educate ourselves concerning spiritual warfare, we must take a closer look at the word for *wrestle*. The original Greek word for *wrestle* is *pale* which means "wrestling, a contest between two in which each endeavors to throw the other, and which is decided when the victor is able to hold his opponent down with his hand upon his neck" (*BLB*). This term applies specifically to *one-on-one* combat.

**Does what you have learned about the word *wrestling* change your view of spiritual warfare? In what way?**

There will be times when we will have to go one-on-one in some of our spiritual battles. From the information provided by the definition, we learn that we will have to be quick on our feet and skillful when facing the work of the enemy. We will not have time to learn how to battle effectively when we are in the middle of a battle. Soldiers go to boot camp for many weeks of intense training before they meet the enemy. They learn survival techniques, hand-to-hand combat, perseverance, and how to handle their weapons. A very good friend of mine has a son in boot camp right now. She told me that the soldiers are required to sleep with their guns so that they will be prepared for battle at any moment, and that they will realize how important their weapon is to their survival.

**How can we apply this concept to our lives as Christians?**

Remember, as New Testament Christians, many of our battles will be of the mind. Satan will attempt to get us to doubt what God's Word says about our position in Christ, how we should live our lives and the sovereignty and authority of God. In order to recognize and combat the lies of the enemy, we need to **memorize** God's Word, and we need to **know** God's word. We need to keep our weapon by our side at all times.

Please read verse 13.

## **What does God give us to wear during these battles?**

Aren't you glad that God supplies this armor? I would be poorly shod indeed if I had to come up with my own righteousness in which to fashion a breastplate—I have none, my shield of faith would be about the size of a playing card, and I'd have no helmet because I'm completely unable to save myself. Thank you, Jesus, for supplying me with Your "whole armor," complete and perfectly wrought for battle.

## **After we have put on the whole armor of God we are to:**

We are to stand, not run, duck or hide, but stand in the covenant that God made with us. He will never leave us or forsake us; He will use all things for our good; no weapon formed against us shall prosper; greater is He who is in us than He who is in the world; He has not given us a spirit of fear but of love, power and a sound mind. Good conquers evil, love triumphs over hate, Satan is defeated and God is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, the mighty I AM WHO I AM. He tells us to "Go forth in the power you have mighty warrior," for if that power is small or weak, it will not matter, because with God it will be enough.

## **As we are standing in victory, what does God tell us to do in verse 18?**

He tells us to pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, with perseverance and watchfulness. "All prayer" refers to all types of prayers such as giving thanks, special prayer requests and worship. *Supplication* means to make known your own particular needs in a given situation. If there is one time when we need to be praying for ourselves, it's when we are going through a time of warfare. If you are really living for God, chances are you are in a battle with the enemy over something right now.

## **What issue has you in constant prayer?**

**What do you need in particular during this current battle you are facing?**

Take a moment to bring your particular requests before your Holy Father.

As I heard Beth Moore teach this morning on her on-line Priestly Garments study, "If God has you in a battle, it is for victory!" He will never place you in a battle purposely to fail. He has set you up to be victorious over whatever situation you are facing. Let me encourage you to keep marching, keep praying! Hold on for the victory that is yours if you persist! Never give up!

This verse also tells us to *persevere* in prayer or in other words we are to be diligent, continual, mighty pray-ers. We're also to keep our eyes open and be on the lookout for the snares of the enemy.

**In this present season, how might the enemy be trying to trip you up? Do you see any temptation to stray from God's plan? Do you sense the presence of the enemy?**

The enemy always tries to get to me through fear. He also attacks me by reminding me of all my many past failures and sins. I have learned to silence his voice by quoting scripture and praising God for the way He has delivered me from all those failings and sins of the past and is currently using them for my good.

**What is all this warfare about anyways? What issue has the enemy so concerned about what we are doing? Verse 19 holds the answer to this question. Record your answer in the space provided.**

At the heart of all spiritual warfare is the Gospel. Satan has been trying to stop the spread of the Gospel since the Garden of Eden. If you are serious about the kingdom of God, Satan will take notice. He does not want you or anyone else to find the freedom and grace that comes from the truth of God's Word. We need to be ready for the battle. Let's quit being "pew potatoes," study up on God's Word and get our armor on. And remember, as Beth Moore says, "We are marching *in* victory, not *for* victory.

One final command concerning warfare from God's Word:

**In verse 18 we read we are to offer prayers and supplications not only for ourselves but for:**

**Paul even asks prayer for \_\_\_\_\_.**

Let's learn from scripture that we were never meant to "go it alone," especially where spiritual warfare is concerned. If you're troubled, enlist the help of trusted, mature Christians to lift you up in prayer. Don't be too embarrassed to ask for help! I've asked prayer for everything from fears, doubts, safety, healing from depression and peer pressure. Sometimes relief comes quickly; at other times the victory has been a process. Ask and receive. Your victory may only be one prayer away.

In closing, please reflect on one of my favorite scriptures.

Do not rejoice over me, my enemy;  
Though I have fallen,  
I will rise again.  
Micah 7:8

*This Day We Fight!* by Francis Frangipane  
*Dressed to Kill* by Rick Renner  
*Battlefield of the Mind* by Joyce Meyer  
*Breaking Free* by Beth Moore

