

- 64. T F The preacher must speak boldly.
- 65. T F I must pray as the Holy Spirit directs in His word.
- 66. T F The longer my prayer the more God is pleased. (Matthew 6:7)
- 67. T F God gives the way of escape for every temptation. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Conclusion

Being a member of Christ’s church means one must FIGHT against Satan. And it means that, when we put on the armour of God, fight with the sword of the Spirit, and pray to God with all our heart that we WILL be triumphant. Victory is ours through Jesus Christ! *“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (Romans 8:37-39) Praise be to God.

THE CHURCH IN EPHESIANS

a Correspondence Course – Nine Lessons by Paul K. Williams

Lesson 9: Fighting Against Satan

Fighting Against Satan

- I. Duties in earthly relationships. 6:1-9**
 - A. Children and parents. (1-4)
 - B. Slaves and masters. (5-9)

- II. Fighting against Satan. 6:10-20**
 - A. Fight in the strength of the Lord. (10)
 - B. Put on the full armour of God. (11,13)
 - C. Because we fight against spiritual forces. (12)
 - D. The pieces of armour (14-17)
 - E. Then pray. (18-20)

Conclusion: Being a member of Christ’s church means one must FIGHT against Satan.

Note to Student: In preparation for this lesson, please read the entire sixth chapter of Ephesians.

Introduction

In chapter 5:22-33 we found that Jesus purchased the church with His blood and cleansed her by the washing of water with the word. In this chapter we read how God has given us the armour and weapons with which to fight Satan so that the church can continue to be the pure bride of Christ. We will find that God gives us everything we need for victory over Satan, but we must use what God gives us—we must FIGHT.

Student’s Name _____

Address _____

I. Duties in earthly relationships. 6:1-9

In 5:22-33 Paul instructs husbands and wives concerning their duties to one another. In this section he talks to children and parents and to slaves and masters.

A. Children and parents (1-4)

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”

When parents are “in the Lord” they are careful to instruct their children in the right way. If children obey parents who are in the Lord *“hat it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth”* (v3).the instructions of loving parents protect children from physical dangers (“Don’t play in the street”) and spiritual dangers (“Don’t drink beer”). Children must always be respectful and careful to obey parents in the Lord.

Even when parents are not Christians, they must be honoured and obeyed in everything which is not against Christ. Christ must come first, so that children must not sin against Him in order to obey parents. But even when parents do not believe in Christ, the children must obey as long as what they do is not a sin. When there is a conflict between what parents demand and what Jesus tells us to do, we must obey Jesus instead of parents. In Matthew 10:34-39 Jesus demands that we follow Him even when it makes the members of our family to be our enemies. *“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”* (Matthew 10:37) Christian, examine yourself. In every situation Jesus must come first. Are you keeping Him first always?

Fathers have a particular responsibility. *“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”* (6:4) The father is the head of the family and as such must set a proper example and be responsible for instruction and discipline. Mothers also have an obligation to love and train children (Titus 2:4-5), but the father has the main responsibility. For this reason he must be careful to set a proper example for his children; he must teach them carefully the word of God; he must discipline them when they disobey. Father, are you carrying out your responsibilities toward your children with love for them and for Jesus?

47. T F The one who has faith trusts in God’s promises.
48. T F The Holy Spirit gives us faith directly without our being taught the gospel.
49. T F Faith comes through hearing the word of Christ.
50. T F We must grow in faith. (Luke 17:5)
51. T F One must overcome all sins before he becomes a Christian.
52. T F One can be saved outside of Christ (Ephesians 1:3)
53. T F Those outside of Christ’s church are unsaved. (Ephesians 5:23)
54. T F The Christina can sin and be lost. (2 Peter 2:20-22)
55. T F When the Christian sins, he must repent and pray (Acts 8:14-24)
56. T F When we walk in the light the blood of Jesus cleanses us from sin. (1 John 1:7-9)
57. T F It is not necessary to know what the Bible teaches.
58. T F When we love the scriptures and know the scriptures we will have the answer for every lie of Satan.
59. T F The Bible is dead. (Hebrews 4:12)
60. T F The Christian must use the Bible to live by and to preach.

E. Then pray. (Vs.18-20)

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Pray for all saints; pray for yourself; pray for preachers of the gospel. Pray *“in the Spirit,”* that is, pray as the Holy Spirit directs in His word. Pray at all times.

Prayer is necessary because when we have done everything we can do on our own, we still need the help of God. While we work as though everything depends on our own efforts, we need to pray as though everything depends on God. For truly, everything we can do needs to be coupled with everything God can do in order for us to live triumphant lives in Christ.

Questions:

61. T F Praying gives the Christian power over Satan.
62. T F The preacher is helped by our prayers.
63. T F I should pray for all Christians.

God for salvation from present sins. (See Acts 8:14-24; 19:18-19; 1 John 1:6-10.) Then he knows that he has salvation, and as a saved person he is triumphing over Satan and all his temptations.

6. Our weapon is the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. This explains how the Holy Spirit helps the Christian. He has furnished the sword by bringing the word of God. With the word of God the Christian can defeat Satan, the way Jesus defeated Satan in the wilderness. (Luke 4:1-12) Every time Satan presented a temptation, Jesus quoted a scripture which defeated him. The answer to every temptation, to every lie which Satan can tell, is found in the word of God. *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* (Hebrews 4:12) The gospel is called *“the power (dynamite) of God for salvation”* (Romans 1:16). What a weapon we have! We need none other. That word preached and lived will win hearts to Christ and defeat Satan’s attempts to drag us down to hell. Read it, lean it, love it, preach it, live it. It is the sword of the Spirit.

Questions:

34. T F The Christian must wear four pieces of armour and he must carry a sword and a shield.
35. T F When the Christian loves the truth, he is protected against the lies of Satan.
36. T F A Christian can overcome Satan by telling lies.
37. T F God’s word is truth. (John 17:17)
38. T F A person earns righteousness by being perfect. (Romans 3:23)
39. T F A person earns righteousness by the washing of water with the word (Ephesians 5:26)
40. T F “The washing of water with the word” means “believing and being baptised.” (Mark 16:16)
41. T F When the Christian sins, he must be baptised again to become righteous (1 John 1:7-9)
42. T F The Christian must hunger and thirst after righteousness. (Matthew 5:6)
43. T F The gospel of Christ brings peace.
44. T F A person must obey the gospel. (2 Thessalonians 1:8)
45. T F The Christian must teach the gospel to others.
46. T F Faith is necessary in order to have victory over Satan.

Questions:

1. T F Parents who are “in the Lord” are Christians.
2. T F It is right for children to obey their parents in the Lord.
3. T F Children must never disobey parents.
4. T F Children must never disobey parents.
5. T F We must put father and mother first.
6. T F The father should teach his children the word of God.
7. T F The father should never discipline his children with the rod.

B. Slaves and Masters (5-9)

Slavery was common in Paul’s time. Men and women who were captured in battle sometimes became slaves. People who could not pay their debts became slaves to the ones they owed money to. Many people were born in slavery and were slaves all their lives. Since the gospel is for all people, slaves heard and obeyed the gospel. When they were Christians, they were free men—but not free from their masters on earth. All who are children of God are free from sin, but the earthly relationships of master and slave continue.

Today there are slaves in a few countries of the world. At one time there were laws in South Africa which made it necessary for certain people to remain farm workers, etc. In these cases, the gospel converts people who are in working conditions which they cannot change. They are like the slaves in Paul’s time.

Employees are not slaves, yet they owe the same obligations to their employers that slaves owe to their masters. The words of this passage apply to all who work for other people.

“Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.” (Ephesians 6:5-8)

In 1 Corinthians 7:21 Paul wrote, *“Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it.”* There are restrictions on slaves which make it harder for them to preach the gospel. Therefore if a slave is able to buy his freedom it is good for him to do so. But if

the slave cannot do this he is not to worry about it. God accepts us whether we are slaves or free.

The duties of slaves are: **obedience** and **good will**. Employees must **obey** “*with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ*” When we work, we must do so as though Christ were our earthly master. Everything we do, we do for Christ, “*not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.*”

This obedience must be acted with **good will**: “*with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.*” Surly, reluctant service to our employers is a sin against Christ, who is our real Master. Remember this, we are serving Christ when we serve our employers. We are cheating Christ when we cheat our employers. The Christian is the best slave, the best employee, because his humble, cheerful, obedient service comes from a heart which is intent on pleasing Christ.

Masters also have duties toward Christ. “*And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.*” (6:9) Masters are not told to free their slaves. We must operate within the society in which we find ourselves. But the master is told to conduct himself toward his slaves in a way which takes all the terror and cruelty out of the system. “*Do the same things to them, giving up threatening.*”

The master is to perform duties toward his employees. He is to be fair and give cheerful service to them. He is to take their needs into consideration. He is not to be cruel, but kind. In everything he is to know “*that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.*” Masters get no special privileges in the judgment. They will be judged by the same standard as their employees or slaves. We are all slaves of one Master—Jesus Christ. We will all be judged by the same standard. Therefore masters must treat their slaves or employees in a fair and just manner or they will be called to account by Him who is the Master of all.

Questions:

8. T F A slave cannot be a Christian.
9. T F A slave must run away from his master.

the one who has been forgiven by God and who is living a life of obedience to Him. Only those who have been cleansed by the washing of water and the word and have been placed in the church are righteous. Those in the church are righteous only if they continue to walk in the light and confess their sins to God. Then the blood of Jesus washes us clean from all our sins and we continue to be righteous, to walk in the light. (1 John 1:7-9) The Christian must hunger and thirst after righteousness if he is to stand against the temptations of the devil.

3. Our feet must be shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. The Roman soldier wore sandals which had nails sticking out the sole. These nails gripped the ground firmly, even when it was sloping or slippery. The gospel of peace is the preparation (preparedness) which keeps the Christian firm and upright in the face of Satan’s attack. This gospel must be heard, believed and obeyed. It must be learned so that it can be preached to others. Then we can “stand” when Satan’s lies threaten to push us down.

4. Our shield is faith. The faith which comes from hearing the word of Christ (Romans 10:17) will stop every flaming missile (temptation) of Satan. “*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.*” (1 John 5:4) “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” (Hebrews 11:1) Because of the word of God we are sure that heaven is ours and that God is real and loves us. This inspires such a trust that we are willing to risk our all for Him. We BELIEVE every word He has given us. Therefore we will not give in to the temptations of the world. Our shield is faith.

5. On our head must be the helmet of salvation. The one who is still in his sins is in the hand of Satan. There can be no victory for him. This is why the one who says he must overcome all his sins before he becomes a Christian is trying the impossible. Salvation from sins is necessary before we can conquer Satan.

In order to be saved one must be in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). To get into Christ one must believe in Christ, repent of sins, and be baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27). Then it is that he is cleansed by the washing of water with the word (Ephesians 5:26). Have you been saved?

But one who has once been cleansed can go back into the world of sin and lose his salvation. (See 2 Peter 2:20-22.) The Christian must continually be turning to

- 31. T F The struggle against sin requires spiritual weapons.
- 32. T F The weapon which defeats Satan is truth.
- 33. T F Satan's power is found in lies.

D. The Pieces of Armour (vs. 14-17).

“Stand therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR WAIST WITH TRUTH**, having put on the **BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and having **SHOD YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**; above all, taking the **SHIELD OF FAITH** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the **HELMET OF SALVATION**, and the **SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**, which is the word of God.”

1. Our loins (belly and thighs) must be girded (surrounded) with truth. When a soldier went to battle it is said that he girded his loins. The Christian cannot

fight Satan without the truth. He must love the truth, and know the truth (the word of God). The Christian must hate lies because lies come from Satan. Truth and the love of truth will protect him from the lies of Satan.



2. Our chest and back must be protected by the breastplate of righteousness. Righteousness is “the character or quality of being right or just.” This is granted by God when by faith we obey Christ in repentance and baptism. It is further granted to the Christian when he repents of sins and prays. Righteousness is right living and a love for it. “*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.*” (Matthew 5:6)

the only one who is righteous is

- 10. T F A Christian must be faithful to his employer.
- 11. T F When an employee works well, he is working for Christ.
- 12. T F Stealing from your employer is all right.
- 13. T F If a master mistreats his employees or slaves, he will not go to heaven.
- 14. T F Masters are slaves.
- 15. T F Masters and slaves will be judged by the same standard.

II. Fighting against Satan–6:10-20

A. Fight in the strength of the Lord.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.” (v10)

1. The Christian is commanded to “*be strong*”. This means the Christian must **do something**; God will not do it for him. False teachers say that at salvation God changes the heart and makes the Christian strong and takes away his desire to sin. This verse shows that the strength of a Christian is the responsibility of the Christian—he must be strong.

2. We are to be strong “*in the Lord.*” **In the Lord** is where every spiritual blessing is found (Ephesians 1:3). Jesus has provided for our strength, but we have to be **in the Lord** in order to have it. Some people seem to think they must overcome all their sins *before* they become Christians. They are doomed to failure. Strength to overcome sins is found **in the Lord**.

3. Our strength is “*in the strength of His might.*” Can you imagine that strength? Is there anything too hard for God? Can Satan ever overcome Him? It is His strength which is available to the Christian. With it, we can **always** overcome Satan. Victory is ours, because we have the strength of God!

Questions:

- 16. T F The Christian is helpless against sin.
- 17. T F God keeps the Christian from sinning and the Christian does not have to do anything.
- 18. T F If I am in the Lord I can overcome sin.
- 19. T F God is more powerful than Satan.

20. T F God's strength is available to the Christian.

B. Put on the full armour of God. (v.11,13)

“Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” (v.11) *“Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”* (v.13)

Yes, victory is ours. *“You may be able to stand.”* *“You may be able to withstand in the evil day.”* Victory because we have put on the **full** armour of God and have done everything. With the armour of God plus our whole-hearted efforts Satan will be defeated.

In New Testament times the soldier had to be protected from arrows, spears, clubs, axes and stones. His armour was designed to protect his entire body. He wore a helmet to protect his head, a breastplate to protect his upper body, a girdle (skirt) to protect his lower body, and shoes to protect his feet and legs and to help him to grip the soil firmly. In one hand he held a shield with which to ward off the blows of the enemy and to catch any arrows coming his way, and in his other hand he had a sword with which to carry the battle to the enemy. When a full-trained soldier wore all his armour, carried his shield and used his sword, he was an effective soldier. He could stand in battle.

The strength which God supplies is found in using the armour which He tells us to put on. Every piece is important. Just as every piece of armour was necessary for the protection of a soldier on the battle field, so must every piece of armour supplied by God be worn by the Christian. If a piece is missing, Satan will be able to find our weak spot. But if the Christian wears the armour and fights with the skill God's word gives him, he can stand against Satan and all his allies.

This armour must be taken up daily. Just as a soldier must don his armour for every battle, so must the Christian take up the armour of God. When we are cleansed by the washing of water with the word, we have not won the battle against Satan. We must fight and fight without letup. Each day we must be sure we are wearing the full armour of God and fighting with the sword of the Spirit.

Questions:

21. T F Every piece of armour is important.
22. T F The Christian is fighting against the evil plans of the devil.

23. T F The Christians must do everything God tells him in order to win over Satan.

24. T F The Christian must wear his armour every day.

25. T F After we are baptised, we do not need to fight sin any more.

C. Because we fight against spiritual forces. (v.12)

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

For a spiritual battle we need spiritual weapons. Satan is a spirit and he uses spiritual forces of wickedness against the children of God. We must use the spiritual forces of righteousness to combat him.

The expression *“in the heavenly places”* is used five times in this book (1:3,20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12). The definition which fits its use is, *“in the spiritual realm>”* We fight spiritual forces in the realm (world) of the spiritual.

This does not mean that there are demons floating around ready to inhabit us. When we look at the armour we will see that it is designed for fighting SIN, not demons. The power of demons was taken away by Jesus and the apostles. Our fight is the fight mankind has always faced—the battle against sin and temptation. Satan wages that fight by using the spiritual forces of lies, while God fights by using the truth.

All of the physical strength and courage of mankind combined cannot win against the spiritual forces of Satan. Man unaided cannot triumph over sin. This is why Jesus died on the cross. This is why He cleanses us by the washing of water with the word. This is why He gives us the armour to fight sin every day. The spiritual struggle requires spiritual weapons—the weapons and armour furnished by God.

Questions:

26. T F The expression “in the heavenly places” means “in heaven where God is.”
27. T F our fight is to keep demons from inhabiting us.
28. T F Our fight is against sin.
29. T F Satan uses supernatural power to force a man to sin.
30. T F Man can defeat Satan without God's help.