

## **Be Strong in the Lord**

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Battle Ready

**Text: Ephesians 6:10-11**

Armor of any sort is only as good as the person utilizing it. Armor and weapons are no good in the hands of a wimp, coward or someone who is undisciplined. A soldier must be physically, mentally, and emotionally strong. A deficiency in any of those areas is detrimental to both the individual soldier and those they serve with.

The training of a soldier in service to the Lord must start with being made strong and empowered by the Holy Spirit so they are Spiritually, emotionally and mentally ready to face the enemy. Before the apostle Paul even discussed the Full Armor of God he said, “finally, be strong in the Lord.” This is so important that Paul wants none of us as disciples of the Lord to miss it. He understands without the power of God, no matter how smart and strategic we are, we are really no match for the enemy. **Acts 1:8**

The words ‘be strong’ are the same words we get the word dynamite / dunamis from in Acts 1:8. The word in the Greek is ‘endunamoo’; it means explosive / dynamic strength, ability, and power. It is an empowering or “inner strengthening”. It conveys the idea of being infused with an excessive dose of dynamic inner strength, wisdom and ability.

Remember, there are smart soldiers, meathead soldiers, timid soldiers, and dynamic soldiers who are a perfect mix of intelligence, brawn, bravery, skill, and power. There are soldiers who rush in where angels fear to tread and there are warriors who want to fight like the angels.

Being strong in the Lord and in the power of His might carries with it the idea that it is the power of God that is being deposited inside of us. We are a vessel that carries the power, wisdom, knowledge, and ability of God. **Zechariah 4:6** Paul is saying that before you put on any armor or take on any enemy you need to receive a supernatural strengthening, internal deposit of power into our inner man. Many times, throughout his writings Paul encourages Christians about the continual need to receive the inner strengthening and empowerment of the Spirit of God available to us. **Ephesians 5:18** This verse can be read “be filled and keep on being filled” with the Spirit. People who get drunk must keep drinking to stay drunk. In the same way we must keep going to the well of the Spirit of God for a continual filling.

We desperately need this touch of supernatural power to successfully combat the attacks and battles we will have with the enemy. Without this power we are no match for the schemes, demons, and devices of the enemy. Satan is intelligent, keen, brilliant, shrewd, capable, and determined. He is a smart strategist an orderly planner and is systematic in his assaults. It is true that Jesus stripped Satan of his legal authority over us, but his intelligence is still intact. Our natural mind and strength can easily be over-powered and out witted without the help of the Holy Spirit. Satan knows this and it is important that we know this.

The word endunamoo was used by the Greeks to describe an individual specifically chosen by the gods to perform some extra-special, superhuman task. Paul used this word purposefully to denote a power that takes men and turns them into **champions**. It is a power that is bestowed on an individual when they are called to perform special tasks that are beyond their natural abilities. When God's power is released full-force into the life of a believer, that power takes normal believers and turns them into spiritual giants.

We are told to be strong in the **Lord**. The strength and power that we need can only be found in one place and that source is in the Lord. This power is "locked up" in the Lord Jesus Christ. You cannot find it in education and in books, listening to podcasts or imparted from a person. The power of God comes out of and flows through our **relationship** with Christ. **Acts 17:28** As Christians, we are **in** the Lord. We may not always feel a surge of strength flowing through us but because we are in Him and He is IN us that power is there.

To receive the power that is available to us through the Holy Spirit we do not need to try harder, pray longer or cry out. A riverbed does not try to flow faster, it is simply a **conduit** and a channel for what is flowing. **John 7:38-39** By faith we simply need to receive and embrace this divine power. Because of our **position** IN the Lord, we are surrounded by His power right now. The only prerequisite to receive this power is that we are in the Lord.

### **Ephesians 1:3-13**

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is an enduement of power to be a witness for Christ that we know we have by receiving the initial physical evidence of speaking in tongues or another language. The power that Paul is speaking about in Ephesians 6:10 is the supernatural power that God has given us to fight the unseen **demonic** powers that war against our soul. We are to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

The word power in the Greek is the word 'kratos'. This is **demonstrated** power. It is not a power that you simply believe in intellectually. It is a power that is demonstrated, tangible and almost always comes with an outward manifestation that you can see with your own eyes. **Ephesians 1:19-20** This same power that raised Jesus from the dead is working in us for our combat with unseen spiritual forces. We have **resurrection** power working and flowing through us. Kratos power is so overwhelming that the Roman soldiers guarding Jesus tomb became paralyzed and unable to move. Kratos power is so overpowering so irresistible that it brought divine life to Jesus dead body and He rose from the dead. It is eruptive, visible, and demonstrated power, literally death could not **hold** it back.

Remember when this power was present at the resurrection that the ground shook and not only brought Jesus to life but many others as well. **Matthew 27:50-54** It is the same resurrection power that saved us that now **empowers** us for victory over our enemy. **Ephesians 2:1-5, Colossians 2:13-15** When the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit is operating in our lives, it releases in us the very same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

Because this power is used to denote a manifested kind of work, it looks for an avenue of **release** so that it might demonstrate itself. God doesn't give us this power to just sit inside of us doing nothing. God's power is always given to accomplish a task.

Before Paul ever began to discuss warfare and strategies, before he could talk about the armor of God, he knew he needed to cover the issue of power. Without the operational power of God in our lives, the battle would be **over** before it even began.

We cannot stand against the deeds of darkness and the devil in our **own** power and in our own strength – it is an impossibility. The truth is we do not even possess the power in ourselves to wear or carry the armor of God. We would look, in the spirit, like David when he tried to put on Saul’s armor. We would look like a child playing dress up soldier. Without this power we are no match for our adversary but with the Kratos power of God at our disposal the devil is no match for us. We are able to fight with the armor God has provided.

We are told to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His **might**. This gives the picture of an extraordinarily strong muscular man, like a body builder. A man who is **able** not only strong but agile, flexible, and skilled. Paul doesn’t apply this picture to himself but to God. God is the almighty, all powerful. Is there anyone more powerful than God? Is there anyone more able than God? Is there a force in the universe equal to the muscular ability of God? **Psalm 113:4-6, Psalm 24:8-10**

All that God is, and all the power that He possesses, and all the energy of His mighty muscular ability, is what energizes the power that is at work within us.

One translator put Ephesians 6:10 this way- *Be strong in the Lord and in the powerful, outwardly demonstrated ability that works in you as a result of God’s great muscular ability.*

With this power at work in us we are now ready to **confront** the unseen demonic forces that wage war against the flesh, our soul, and the world.