***Clear About the Gospel* Bible Study**
Ephesians 6.10-24
BYF - November 22, 2026
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TEACHING OUTLINE

1. Start with announcements and prayer. (5 minutes)

2. Read aloud Ephesians 6.10-24. (5 minutes)

3. Discuss being strong in the Lord for the spiritual battles we face in Ephesians 6.10-12. (15 minutes)

- Meant as a motivational discourse to put into use all that has been described in this letter, like a general addressing the troops before battle
- Verb tenses of "Be strong in the Lord" helpful to understanding the passage:
  - 1) passive tense of "be strong" emphasizes we are not doing it to ourselves, but having it done to us by the Spirit
  - 2) present tense of "be strong" showing ongoing, continuing effort, not a "one and done" event
- Spiritual battle occurring simultaneously with fighting "flesh and blood" (Semitic idiom for human) enemies in material world: against "evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world" (Eph 6.12 NLT)
- Way to describe the presence of evil that works in addition to, or in combination with, fallen human desires and wants
- Care to be taken not to go to interpretive extremes of: 1) stating spiritual evil beings do not exist, 2) explaining the Bible's references to evil beings as simple personifications of unjust human structures (the evils of materialism or consumerism, for example) or 3) seeing demons "under every bush" and behind every human problem
- Much about the passage still stumps us: Who are these powers and principalities? What/where are the heavenly places these battles rage? Not enough information; only passage in New Testament where Paul speaks in these terms
- To stand firm: not to give ground or give up, but to determinedly fight the enemy

4. Discuss the spiritual armor of God used in these spiritual battles in Ephesians 6.13-20. (15 minutes)

- Borrowed from typical armor worn by Roman soldiers: most of armor defensive in purpose
  - Belt of truth: "girding your loins," tying robe and freeing legs so movement not restricted
  - Breastplate or body armor of righteousness: protects body's core
  - Shoes of the gospel's peace, enabling one to move and respond quickly
  - Shield of faith, referencing Roman soldier's large shield to protect the entire body from arrows, called "fiery arrows of the devil" (Eph 6.16 NLT)

    - Helmet of salvation, protecting the head and brain: protecting source of thought and insight
    - Sword of the Spirit that is God's Word: only offensive weapon mentioned in list
  - Prayer essential in this ongoing spiritual conflict: "Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere" (Eph 6.18 NLT); leads to prayer request for Paul's work of sharing the Good News as "God's ambassador" (Eph 6.20 NLT); represents the ruler or government; see 2 Cor 5.18-21 for similar content
  - Paul intends to continue "speaking boldly" (Eph 6.20 NLT) in his role as apostle to Gentiles

5. Discuss Paul's final greetings to his readers in Ephesians 6.21-24. (5 minutes)

  - Tychicus to give full report on Paul's ministry and to encourage letter's recipients; probably the one delivering letter
  - God's blessing of peace, love, and grace for all receiving the letter and seeking to follow Jesus Christ as his disciples

6. Close with prayer.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. As you read Ephesians 6.10-24, what stands out to you from the passage? Why does this get your attention?
2. Paul begins to give a pep talk for the Christian walk being a spiritual battle. Is Paul on target? Who is the enemy we're facing? How is this enemy different from "flesh and blood" enemies we're familiar with?
3. Some are offended by using images of war in describing the Christian life; they think such usage is inappropriate, especially given the gospel's call for peace. (A classic example is opposition to singing "Onward Christian Soldiers.") If you share in this offense, how would you advocate for your position? If you do not share in this offense, how would you answer someone with these concerns?
4. Many people in Western societies are suspicious of the Christian claim that there is a supernatural dimension to life. Discuss how to respond well to someone with a largely materialistic or naturalistic world view. What objections do you expect that you would need to be prepared to answer? What evidence would you give to support your position?