

### 13 BE STRONG IN THE LORD

If a movie was made of your life what genre would it be, who would play you?

List some battles you've had to win in your lifetime, or maybe lost.



“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about devils,” C. S. Lewis noted in *The Screwtape Letters*. “One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.”

Ok you're nearly home. The letter is nearly done. It's as though Paul is the coach and the team have done their pre-season training, they're in the rooms before coming out on the ground, and he's describing the battlefield they're about to walk out on.

Welcome to the warzone.

Read Ephesians 6:10-20

If we are walking worthy of our calling, in humility rather than pride, in unity rather than divisiveness, in the new self rather than the old, in love rather than lust, in light rather than darkness, in wisdom rather than foolishness, in the fullness of the Spirit rather than the drunkenness of wine, and in mutual submission rather than self-serving independence, then we can be absolutely certain that we will have opposition and conflict.<sup>1</sup>

1. What does Paul mean when he states categorically that our fight is “not against flesh and blood”?
2. Why does Paul so emphasize the concept of *standing* (vv. 11, 13–14), and what would *not standing* look like?
3. Read Luke 4:1-13 and consider the temptation of Christ by the devil. What method did Jesus use to counter the devil's attack (see also Matthew 4:1–11; Luke 22:44)?

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<sup>1</sup> MacArthur, J. (2000). [\*Ephesians: Our Immeasurable Blessings in Christ\*](#) (p. 86). Nashville, TN: W Publishing Group.

4. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3–5. What extra insights into spiritual battle do you find in this passage? What is the tone of this passage? Why?
  
5. When Paul urges us to draw upon the power, might and strength of the Lord Jesus (verse 10), he uses exactly the same trio of words which he has used in 1:19 (*dynamis*, *kratos* and *ischus*) in relation to God's work of raising Jesus from the dead. With such power on hand, why such a high fail rate amongst followers of Jesus?
  
6. In what specific ways does Satan most often wage war against you? Why? How successfully are you resisting him?
  
7. What does this study teach or remind you about spiritual warfare?
  
8. Personalize this passage by turning it into a prayer and asking God to give you the grace to stand in His strength and to fight as you should.

## PRAYER

**Journaling** Take a few moments to record your personal insights from this lesson.