

Don't Wrestle With The Devil!

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Eph 6:12 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.

Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

The Christian life is not a wrestling match with the devil! However, this passage of scripture has been used by some to tell us it is! Let's take a fresh look at this verse to see what it is saying to us. Paul tells us to put on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. In verse 12 Paul goes on to mention wrestling with the dark forces of the enemy. This is where many believe that we should and must wrestle with the devil. It is interesting to see what the Greek word for "wrestle" means. This word "wrestle" comes from the Greek word **pale**. Wrestling back in the days of Paul was not anything like today. It was much more violent. Often people died in this sport. Often there would be bones and backs broken! There were very few rules. Another interesting thing about the "pale" or wrestling in Paul's day was the fact that the combatants wrestled naked! They wore no clothes so that the opponent could not grab the clothing. When Paul used this term pale for wrestling those who read this in his day knew exactly what he was referring to. They envisioned a bloody affair in which two naked wrestlers fought. In this context let's look at what Paul was saying. In verse 11 Paul says to put on the whole armor of God to stand against the enemy FOR or BECAUSE we wrestle naked against the enemy without it! Ever since Adam and Eve's fall natural man has wrestled with satanic powers but they were pinned to the mat each time they tried! As redeemed Christians we no longer have to try to match Satan in the natural. We have been taken out of His realm of authority and power and were put into God's! (Colossians 1:13) We now have supernatural armor and weaponry to fight with. When Jesus rose from the dead He stripped the devil of all his armor and authority.

(Col 2:15) Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Satan is naked! However, even in this state natural man is no match for this fallen angel. However, Satan is no match for the Lord Jesus Christ! He is no match against the truth of Christ. He is no match for God's righteousness. He is no match for God's peace. He is no match for God's salvation. He is no match for God's faith. He is no match for God's spoken rhema Word. Satan is no match for Jesus! When Jesus lived on the Earth He overcame Satan by the armor of God!

Isa 11:5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins, and **trustworthiness (truth) the girdle of His waist.**

Isa 59:17 For **He put on righteousness as a breastplate,** And a **helmet of salvation on His head;** He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.

These verses are Messianic prophecies concerning Jesus! Jesus wore armor while he was on the earth and whipped the devil at every turn! On the cross Jesus took off His armor and allowed the devil to pin him and by outward appearance to defeat him. However, when Jesus rose from the dead He rose victorious and stripped the devil of all his armor and authority. (Col. 2:15) When Jesus rose from the dead He left His armor here for us that He used to defeat the enemy with! He no longer needed it! We now can wear this armor! In actuality the armor of God is Jesus Christ Himself! He is the Truth. (John 14:6) He is our righteousness. (Jer. 33:16) He is our peace. (Eph 2:14) He is our hope of salvation. (1 Tim. 1:1) He is the author of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2) He is the Word of God which speaks to us. (John 1:1, Rev. 19:13) We are to put on the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 13:14)

Let's go back to Ephesians 6. Paul told us in verse 11 to put the armor of God on FOR or BECAUSE in vs. 12 that without it we are naked and can only wrestle with the devil and his cohorts. Paul continues his thought in verse 13

(Eph 6:13) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Verse 13 starts with "therefore". When we see the word therefore we need to see why it is there for! It is a connective word to the thought of the previous verse. Paul says "therefore" take up the whole armor of God. Why therefore? It is because in the natural we are naked and can only wrestle

with the devil. However we have armor now to fight with. Who do you think would win? A naked wrestler or a armed soldier? There is no contest! Just one whap on the head of the wrestler with the sword, the wrestler would go down! Satan has been stripped naked brothers and sisters and we now can stand victorious against him in Christ's armor!

I want you to see that we are to **stand** against the enemy, **not charge him or try to defeat him!** Satan is a defeated foe. He has no arms or legs left! Jesus deFEETed Him and disARMed Him! We have been given the victory over Satan! However, Satan will challenge our authority! **He will try to deceive you into thinking you need to fight to get a victory.** We are not the sick trying to get healed, we are the healed that Satan is trying to make sick! We are not the poor trying to get properous, we are the prosperous who Satan is trying to make poor! We are not the unrighteous trying to get righteous, we are the righteous ones Satan is trying to tempt into sin! We stand on victory ground! Stand on that ground in His armor. Armor is for the outside of us. We are to live truthful lives. We are to live righteously. We are to live in peace. We are to live with a confident expectation of God's salvation and deliverance in every situation. We are to walk in faith. We are to act upon God's rhema word. These are offensive against Satan. However, before we can outwardly live this all out we must first put on this armor in our beliefs and thought life. We must dwell upon the truth of the Word of God. We must dwell on that we are righteous in Christ and confess it daily. We are just as we ought to be in God's sight because of the blood and sacrifice of Christ. We are just as we ought to be because of the new birth! We need to dwell on the fact we have peace with God through Jesus' blood. We need to always have confidence that God is delivering us in each situation. We need to spend time in the Word of God that our faith will be strong. We need to spend time before the throne to hear His spoken word to our hearts in which will become a sword in our mouths. (Eph 6:17)

If we trust in ourselves and live according to the flesh then Satan will pin us to the mat with his foot on our throats! But, if you arm yourself with God's truth, righteousness, peace, salvation, faith, and the spoken Word of God then we will keep Satan just where Jesus left him. **UNDER YOUR FEET!** If we try to relate to God on the basis of our performance then we are wrestling with the devil. If we relate to God based upon the performance and sacrifice of Christ for us and His righteousness given freely to us then we will stand as a victorious soldier! Are you a wrestler or a soldier of Christ? Christ has no wrestling team! He has an army! Stand up as a soldier and put on the Lord Jesus Christ! Don't wrestle around with the

devil!