

TO LIVE IN POWER

Ephesians 6:10-13

Introduction:

- A. The apostle Paul lived under the the ancient Roman Empire, which was perceived as the most powerful nation in the world.
 1. It brought world p_____ prosperity for its citizens, and freedom.
 2. Dan 2:40-44 prophesied of its fall by the hand of G_____, and that during its existence there would arise an everlasting kingdom, which is the kingdom of Christ.
- B. There is no one more powerful than the L_____ who is the ALMIGHTY.
 1. Eph 6:10 commands us to be s_____ in the Lord and in the strength of His power.
 - a. The action word to be strong is in the passive voice which means that you are not to p_____ the strength but receive it. BE EMPOWERED.
 - b. This command is still in the context of being filled or c_____ by the Spirit (Eph 5:18) and is the f_____ application as indicated by the first word.
 2. What does it mean to live in power?

The realm of powerful living (10)

- A. There are two realms of power listed which are interconnected.
 1. The L_____ and His mighty p_____
 - a. The Lord refers to J_____ (see Eph 1:2,3,15,17; 4:1,5; 5:8,10,17).
 - b. Jesus ultimately demonstrated His power by rising from the d_____.
 - c. The idea is that we are empowered in our r_____ to the Lord and to what He does.
 2. Every other kind of power can be c_____
- B. How did Paul personally demonstrate being empowered in his relationship to the Lord and His activity?
 1. Paul wrote these words while in p_____ and wrote Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon during the same imprisonment.
 2. Paul communicated that the Lord advanced the gospel f_____ because of his imprisonment (Phil 1:12-15)
- C. Application:
 1. Beware of thinking that if your situation were different, that you could be more effective for the Lord (e.g. better h_____)

2. We are not to negotiate the terms of the Lord's power but we are to p_____ ourselves to be empowered by Him.

- Live in r_____ to Him in every area of life.
- Allow His p_____ to propel you.

The reason for powerful living (11,12)

A. Verses 11 shows that we are constantly in spiritual w_____

- Verse 11 gives us the first step in being empowered in the Lord and in His activity – put on the entire a_____ of God.
 - We are not to pick and choose which piece to put on.
 - We are to completely c_____ ourselves with the entire set of armor.
- The spiritual war was d_____ by Satan on us when Jesus died and rose from the dead.
 - Prior to this Satan w_____ against God
 - He t_____ Jesus
 - He p_____ Judas to betray Jesus
 - But through the cross and the grave Jesus triumphed over all d_____ authorities (Col 2:15)
 - Now Satan wars against those who k_____ the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus (Rev 12:17).
 - He has s_____ against you.
 - God has e_____ you with His armor to stand against all the devil's methods.

B. Verse 12 states that our real struggle in life is not with the p_____ things (i.e. – they are not the real issue)

- Satan uses the physical things to trip us up (finances, health, any adversity)
- Our real struggle is with the spiritual forces of w_____ that are in the heavenlies.
 - This word translated as heavenly or high places was used back in Eph 1:3.
 - This word has the general meaning of i_____ places. We cannot see demons or the devil but they are as real as what we can see.

C. Application

- What does Satan want for us?
 - To not s_____ as God sees
 - To let our e_____ run our lives, or doubts, or fears, or finances – the physical things
- What does God want for us?
 - To see as He sees.

- b. To be empowered by the Lord and defeat Satan – put on the whole armor.

The responsibility for powerful living (13)

- A. Verse 13 commands us to t_____ up the full armor of God – this is the second step in being empowered in the Lord.
 - a. In the Greek text the command in verse 13 is different than the command in verse 11
 - 1) Some translations translate the two words the same
 - 2) But the two words do not have the same meaning
 - b. To put on is a metaphor of clothing oneself, to take up is not a metaphor of clothing. The word is used in:
 - 1) Acts 1:2 – the word is used to describe Jesus' ascension into h_____ (He was taken up).
 - 2) Acts 7:43 – the word is used for the action of the Israelites in regards to some i_____ (they took them along with them in their journey).
 - 3) Eph 6:16 – to take up the sword is a different action than putting on the sword difference.
 - c. The first step is to put all the armor on (that is positioning yourself to be empowered); the second step is to take it up or u_____ it (that is using His power).
 - d. between putting on the whole armor and taking it up?
- B. There is no excuse for any failure. Never j_____ your failure.
 1. *If you would not have done that, I would not have lost my temper.*
 2. *That's my weakness, my Achille's heel.*
 3. Verse 13 states and having done e_____, stand firm (use every available t_____ to fight temptation, to fight against Satan's strategies and keep _____ it until temptation goes away).

Conclusion:

- A. If you are a believer in Christ you are a t_____ of Satan (1Pet 5:7; Rev 12:17).
- B. Your struggles are not against the physical things in life but against spiritual forces of w_____.
- C. God has given us every available tool so that we can:
 1. P_____ ourselves to be empowered with the Lord's power.
 2. U_____ those tools to defeat Satan in whatever battle we are in.
- D. Next week we will begin learning what those tools are (each piece of armor) and how to use them.