

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 59 (#912239)
WEEK 12 (912352)
©2012 PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**



PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
a Production of
Precept Ministries International
P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

TITLE: Program 59 – Know How To Stand In Spiritual Warfare

THURSDAY

OPEN

If you’re a child of God, Beloved, you can know that it is war and as the saying goes war is hell because you’re battle is not against flesh and blood but it’s against principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places, and you need to know how to win the war. Well the victory’s already won but how do you win the battle? That’s what we’re going to talk about today as we look at God’s precepts for life.

PART ONE

The word war often strikes terror in our hearts because we think of our loved ones dying. Well I’m going to talk to you about spiritual warfare, and as I talk to you about spiritual warfare, I don’t want it to strike terror in your heart. I don’t want you to say, “Ooo! I’m gonna turn off this program. I

don't want to listen to it because I don't want to get involved in it. Listen. Every single child of God is going to face warfare, and this is good news. This is how you win the battles because the war is ultimately won, and it's Jesus Christ that won that war. But now as Paul brings his epistle to the Ephesians to a close, he's going to bring it to a close by saying, "Finely, brethren, I want you to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. I want you to put on the full armor of God. I want you to know how to stand firm." And then he explains what we are to put on, and he explains to us our one and only offensive weapon is, and we're going to look at all those things, and in looking at those you're going to find out hey, this is war. I can handle this because I am dressed for battle. I can handle this because I've put on the full armor of God. So let's look at Ephesians chapter 6, Ephesians chapter 6, and we want to start at verse 10, Ephesians 6, verse 10. **"Finally...." (Ephesians 6:10a)** I have it underlined in red. **"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might." (Ephesians 6:10)** Now when he says be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might, what he does is he uses three terms for strength, for power that he is already used in this epistle. And he used these words in Ephesians chapter 1 when he prays for those at Ephesus. Watch what he says in Ephesians chapter 1. He wants them to note three things: what is, what is, what is, and the third "what is" is in verse 19, **"And what is the surpassing greatness of His power towards us who believe. These are in accordance with the working [now watch] of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He [God] raised Him from the dead [raised Jesus from the dead] and seated Him at His right hand in...heavenly places." (Ephesians 1:19-20)** Now when He raised Him from the dead and He seated Him in heavenly places, He wants us to understand that it's not being seated down here on earth, it's being seated in heavenly places far above, way far above all principality and all power and all might and all dominion, and every name that is named in heaven and earth. In other words He is in the

supreme position of authority and God wants you to know when He tells us [to be strong,] in Ephesians chapter 6, [in the power of the Lord and in the strength of His might,] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 6:10) he is using these same words here in the dunamis, in that inherent power that is yours and mine. He wants us to understand that we already have the power, we already have the strength, we already have the might. We can handle this. The war has been won. Yes, you’re in a battle. Yes, you’re in a skirmish. It’s kind of like when World War II was over. The war had been won. The victors had been declared but people out there did not know it, and so they continued to fight. And the Germans continued to put the Jews to death simply under the orders of Hitler. It was absolutely awful. That man was demonically possessed and empowered, and it was a warfare that went back all the way to Genesis chapter 3 when God says, [“I will put enmity between you, the serpent, and the woman between the serpent’s seed and the woman’s seed.”] (PARAPHRASE, Genesis 3:15a) There is warfare, and the [warfare is against principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 6:12, KJV) So he once again uses these terms. Terms that they are very familiar with because remember he is using terms that are in the Greek, in the Koine Greek, the common Greek language of the day. The common Greek language under the rule of Rome where they are constantly seeing roman soldiers go by so they’re going to understand what Paul is saying, and not only that but Paul himself, remember, is a prisoner of the Lord. He says it in chapter 3, verse 1, **“For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of [Jesus Christ] for the sake of you Gentiles.”** (Ephesians 3:1) I’m in prison for your sake. In chapter 4, verse 1, **“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you....”** (Ephesians 4:1a) So he was in prison but he knew that he was a prisoner of the Lord not a prisoner of the Roman Empire. The Lord had permitted Paul to go to prison, and when he went to prison and he was sitting there or wherever he went, he was chained to a Roman soldier. So when he looked at this Roman

soldier he had a classic illustration in front of him. I mean, he had a living model of what he was about to say. All he had to do was look at that soldier and say, “Hey, listen. You’re in a warfare, and I want you to know you need to put on the full armor of God.” And so he looks at that soldier, he knows about his armor. He takes that armor, and he relates it to where you and I are in our position in Jesus Christ. So now we have gone from the walk of Ephesians 4 and 5 and the beginning of 6 to the warfare. In Ephesians chapter 6, let’s go back to it. He says, **“Finally, be strong in the Lord...,”** (Ephesians 6:10a) answer my prayer, know the surpassing greatness that I prayed for you, be strong in the Lord, **“...And in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God....”** (Ephesians 6:10b-11a) Now this word “put on” is an eros tense which a punctiliar verb and it really doesn’t have reference to time. It’s just a statement of fact, and it is in the imperative. It is a command from God, and it is in the middle voice. In other words, God supplied the armor. You get dressed, okay? So he’s saying, **“Put on the full armor of God....”** (Ephesians 6:11a) Now the word for armor and you want to write it down unless you downloaded the study guide and it’s right in there, and there’s a drawing in the study guide of the armor that you and I are to put on of a Roman soldier decked out in all of his armor but the word for “full armor” is p-a-n-o-p-l-i-a, and that full armor is made up of hopla. The hopla are the pieces of armor, and what he’s saying to you and to me is look, we’re in a warfare. “I want you to put on the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.” And one of the things that we tell you to do is when you study the Word of God, get a color or get a symbol for the devil and anytime you see any reference to the devil, to demons, to evil spirits, to rulers and authorities what I do is I put a red pitch fork over them. And so I can look down immediately if there’s anything that God is saying about the devil or about his demons or about his domain, I can look and see it on the page of my Bible because I see a red pitch fork. So I have a red pitch fork over the devil. So it says, **“...You**

[are] to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.” (Ephesians 6:11b)

Now the word “stand firm” is a very important term. It’s stete, s-t-e-t-e and this is so good. It’s a military term that means hold your position. So remember I told you the war is won. There’s battles, there’s skirmishes but the war is won. So therefore in this warfare it’s not that you have to fight, it’s that you have to stand firm. It means that you hold your position. Now what he’s been doing in the book of Ephesians in chapters 1 and 2 and 3 is he has been showing you what your position is in Christ. I mean he starts right out and he says that you are blessed by God in heavenly places. You are seated with Christ in heavenly places. You are part of the body of Jesus Christ. You’re [in heavenly places far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that’s named in heaven and earth.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 1:20b-21a) Hold your position. It’s a position of advantage. It’s a position of power and not only that but you have God’s inherent power in you. You have the same power that brought Jesus Christ, listen, out of death. The [wages of sin is death](PARAPHRASE, Romans 6:23a) and it is sin that gives the devil power over us. So what Jesus Christ did was when he died on that cross, He broke Satan’s power. And because you are in Christ and Christ is in you, Beloved, then you and I hold our position. So you don’t have to be afraid. You don’t have to panic. When we talk about spiritual warfare, you don’t need to cover your eyes and close up your ears and say, “I don’t want to see it. I don’t want to hear about it cause I don’t want it to happen to me.” Listen, it’s happening to you because it happens to every single believer. So you better uncover your ears and uncover your eyes and say, “Hey, all I have to do is hold my position dressed in the full armor of God.” We’ll look at it more but first I want you to hear this important announcement.

PART TWO

Do you know what the devil wants to do to you, my friend? The devil wants to take you and he wants to pin you to the ground. That’s what it means when it says that [our struggle is not against flesh and blood but it’s against principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 6:12, KJV) Our struggle is with the devil. And what he wants to do is he wants to take you and he wants to pin you to the ground. That word “struggle” is p-a-l-e in the Greek, and it means to wrestle someone so that you bring him down and you probably watched those infamous wrestling matches. And you know that when they get both shoulders on the ground then the ref is going one and two and three, and he’s pounding that mat and when he pounds it the third time, hey, the wrestling match is over. The victor is the one that has pinned the other one to the ground. So what’s the answer when you’re in a struggle? The answer in the struggle is to stand firm. The answer in the struggle is hey, you hold your position. You say, “But what if I’m not able?” Well you will be able to hold your position, you’ll be able to stand firm, Precious One, if you put on the full armor of God. Now you can’t stand firm if you just have the breast piece on. You can’t stand firm if you just have the belt of truth on. You can’t stand firm if you just have your shoes on. You can’t stand firm if you just have your helmet on, you’ve got to have it all on and then you’ve got to have your shield of faith and then you’ve got your sword, that short Roman sword that was deadly and easy to wield and easy to conceal. You’ve got that sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Hey, you’ve got it made. You say, “Okay, let’s talk about this a little bit more,” because we have to understand what he’s saying here to us so that we know what it means to put on the full armor of God. We need to understand those pieces of armor. So let’s go back to verse 12. Let’s look at our struggle. I’ve quoted the verse to you but I want you to look at it and as you do I want you to make sure that you mark

the word “power.” Now remember we were marking the word “power” like a stick of dynamite because the word is dunamis. It doesn’t mean dynamite but it’s dunamis. It’s inherent power. But this one is because it’s the devil’s power instead of coloring it red, I color it black. So I have “power” marked in my Bible. I have “power” marked in chapter 1, verse 19. I have “power” marked in the second prayer in Ephesians chapter 3, and I have it marked in verse 16, and I have it marked in verse 20. You say, “How can you find them so quickly?” Cause I’ve got them marked, and I’ve marked them in a distinctive way. Remember, studying the Bible inductively is going to the Word of God yourself with your eyes to observe what it is saying. Just take those eyeballs and put them down in that text so that you see, what does it say, that’s observation. Interpretation, what does it mean and then application, how am I to live in the light of it. So as we observe the text in verse 12 of Ephesians chapter 6, we come to another use of the word “power.” [Our struggle, our wrestling match, so to speak, is not against flesh and blood,] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 6:12a) [It’s not against human beings] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 6:12a) “**...But [it’s] against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore....**” (Ephesians 6:12-13a) And when you see a “therefore”, you want to know what is the “therefore” there for. Now I mark every “therefore” with three red dots in the shape of a triangle, and so whenever I see three red dots I know I’ve got a “therefore” or a “wherefore,” I’ve got a term of conclusion, and I want to see what the “therefore’s” there for. Well the therefore is telling me since my warfare is not against flesh and blood but since it’s against principalities and powers and world forces of darkness then therefore I am to take up the full armor of God. Now this take up again is an eros verb. It’s a punctiliar verb. It’s just saying do the action. It is in the imperative mood. It is a command and it is in the active voice. Now the active voice means hey, you are responsible to take the action. You are responsible for

this. It's not a cooperative thing. It means God has supplied the armor, now you've got to take it up. Now you've got to put it on. Watch what he says. I'm going to give you an overview, and then we're gonna come back and we're gonna take it apart verse by verse. **"Therefore, take up the full armor of God** [not just one or two pieces] **so that....,"** this is the reason that you take it up, **"...so that you will be able to resist in the evil day..."** (Ephesians 6:13b) We're living in an evil day because the world lies under the power of the evil one. I want you to go in your Bible to 1 John chapter 5, verse 19? And this is what it says, **"We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."** (1 John 5:19) So this is why it's an evil day. It's an evil day because the world lies in the power of the evil one because they are, as we saw in Ephesians 2, sons of disobedience, they are by nature children of wrath, they are in the kingdom of darkness, they are under the power of Satan. (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 2:2-3) They are headed for destruction unless they get saved and Satan, in a sense, is having his heyday. He has access to the throne of God where he accuses us day and night before God. His time is coming when he's going to have a last three and a half years, and then the warfare is going to get more intense until Jesus comes. And when Jesus comes and He takes His throne and He sits in Jerusalem and He rules from Jerusalem, the evil day is over. Okay? The evil day is over. So until that time, you and I are to know that [our struggle is not against flesh and blood but it's against these world forces in heavenly places.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 6:12) **"Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that [now watch] you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."** (Ephesians 6:13) You're gonna stand firm. You're going to hold your position, and where are you seated? You're seated in heavenly places far above all these rulers and powers and that's where your warfare is. So it's almost as if you are standing firm because Christ is seated in heavenly places and because you are His body then listen to me very carefully. All those powers are under

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 59 (#912239)
WEEK 12 (912352)
©2012 PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**



your feet. You have it made. It's just like putting your foot on the chair and that chair is from heaven and all of those powers are underneath you. That's your position and that's what He wants you to hold and He wants you to remember in this warfare that it is the evil day, and that the warfare has been won. The battle is going on but listen, all you have to do is hold your position. So as we continue this on spiritual warfare, I want you to know that it ought to be something that's going to excite you rather than terrify you. It ought to be hey, if I know this truth, then I've got power because truth brings power. Beloved, truth are His precepts for life, and through His precepts we get understanding and we can walk in victory.