

Empowerment for the Journey:

Empowerment for the Journey:

- It's hard to live the Christian life. Hard to follow. Hard to overcome self. Hard to live pure. Hard to live on mission effectively (Human side, spiritual battle)
- Paul closes Ephesians by exhorting us to access divine enablement to live a life worthy of our calling. We can't live this Christian life without God's power. The battle is too strong.

Empowerment for the Journey:

- Ephesians 6:10-12, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Empowerment for the Journey:

- We need divine power to live a life worthy of our calling, because there is a real spiritual battle. The church at Ephesus understood this. He didn't need to convince them. But, today, we are often ignorant of the enemies schemes. (E.g., condemning words) Paul wants them & us to know that we can overcome. We can live in victory, through the power of God. (Eph 1:18-23; Eph 3:14-21)

Empowerment for the Journey:

- There are powerful, invisible spirit beings that attack believers with the intent of hurting them, causing them to lapse into sin, or making them ineffectual for God's kingdom purposes. (invisible enemy, getting hit unaware; temptation, physical attacks – e.g., cursed; doubt, identity, fear, accusation, condemnation, deceit, etc.) (property; revival casualties)

Empowerment for the Journey:

- How do we access the divine power for victory in the spiritual battle?
- First, we need to access the divine power by putting on the armor of God. Ephesians 6:13f, “Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”

Empowerment for the Journey:

- First, we need to access the divine power by putting on the armor of God. Ephesians 6:13f, “Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Empowerment for the Journey:

- First, we need to access the divine power by putting on the armor of God. Ephesians 6:13f, “In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Empowerment for the Journey:

- First, we need to access the divine power by putting on the armor of God.
- In putting on the armor of God (taken from Isaiah – divine warrior, Is 11), Paul is calling us to put on the new self, cultivate the virtues associated with it & access the resources available through this relationship. Each of these pieces of the armor unpacks some aspect of our new identity in Christ & should be interpreted by the earlier part of the letter (not magic; a lifestyle)

Empowerment for the Journey:

- First, we need to access the divine power by putting on the armor of God.
- Belt of truth – truth about God, identity & speaking truth
- Breastplate of righteousness – gifted, lived into (condemnation & temptation)
- Shoes of the gospel of peace – readiness; (don't stay in camp; move out into enemy territory) (Mt 12:29) (unbelievers are never the enemies, but the victims of the Enemy)

Empowerment for the Journey:

- First, we need to access the divine power by putting on the armor of God.
- Shield of faith – extinguishing arrows; trust in God (bow & arrow was the preferred weapon of Artemis) (promise holds the key)
- Helmet of salvation (future & mostly present – “you have been saved” – broad use of word in kingdom)
- Sword of the Spirit – word. (know & use Scriptures as a means of defense, & accessing God’s power - Gospel) (dream – quoting Scripture – sword – short, knife like)

Empowerment for the Journey:

- Second, we need to access the divine power by praying. Ephesians 6:18-20, “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.”

Empowerment for the Journey:

- Second, we need to access the divine power by praying. Stand ... by putting on the armor. Stand ... by praying.
- At the heart of spiritual warfare is prayer. By prayer we depend upon, and access the power of God. Prayer is foundational for the deployment of all the resources of the armor of God. (“be alert” – “watch” – enjoins us not to minimize the importance of prayer b/c of the battle)

Empowerment for the Journey:

- Second, we need to access the divine power by praying. Stand ... by putting on the armor. Stand ... by praying.
- We are to pray “at all times” with “all perseverance” (NIV - on all occasions, always keep on). Battle on. Eyes on Jesus, the Victor.
- We are to pray with the Spirit’s help, direction, & guidance (pray in or by the Spirit) (HS guided prayer – for whom & how to pray – “praying for all”) (prayer for Paul to declare the gospel boldly, clearly – divine wisdom – before Nero; Finney - Nash)