

THE BIG IDEA: We need His might to stand and fight.The Take-Off

I have only ever been in one fight in my entire life, and it didn't last long.

It was the classic "showdown after school" scenario, and it lasted all of one punch. I'm sure you can guess who DIDN'T land that punch.

There are a couple of reasons why I lost that fight...

- I didn't want to be in it
- I was afraid to be in it
- I didn't think it would actually happen

Sum all of those up, and you could say I lost for one reason: I wasn't ready for it

Think about that in terms of spiritual things: many of us lose fights all the time for the simple fact that we aren't ready to fight.

We don't know how to use the weapons we've been given because we've never even acknowledged the fight that makes this weapons necessary.

We're sleepwalking in the middle of the most important fight of our lives, and it's time to sound the alarm.

[SLEEPWALKING or ALARM story]

Sounding the alarm isn't enough - in fact, this series may trouble you before it thrills you because you're suddenly going to wake up in the middle of a battlefield with bullets and missiles flying all around you!

Not the most peaceful thing to wake up to, is it?

And yet, we **MUST** wake up to the battle that is all around us.

Paul knew it, too. Even after he had written the letter to the Ephesian church that we know as the book of Ephesians in the Bible - a book full of more gospel truth than most, a book that literally drips victory in Jesus - he ended it all by telling them this one thing: "you are in a fight."

Let that sink in for a minute. If we don't accomplish anything else over the next 8 weeks, let's accomplish that: the recognition that we have an enemy who is intent on fighting us.

We can't ignore it any longer, now should we, Besides, we won't want to ignore the fight when we realize 3 truths that our enemy already knows and wants to make sure we forget.

Ephesians 6:10-13

1. We're CONFIDENT in battle

- a. This is not a fight with an uncertain end - we win.
- b. I love this from one commentary: All the resources the Christian soldier needs are drawn from Christ and "His mighty power."
- c. It's the same power that raised Jesus from the dead victorious over the same enemy we're fighting (Eph. 1:19-21).
- d. This "finally" isn't like Paul is saying - "Well, good luck (even though you don't really have a prayer)!"
- e. This "finally" is more like Paul screaming - "You've got this! They can't stop you!"
- f. The only person who **STANDS** in the middle of the fight is the person who is **CONFIDENT**.
- g. Confidence stands. Confidence acts. Confidence doesn't squirm or delay.
- h. [Getting grounded after my first date]
- i. If you and I had to fight **FOR** victory against an enemy more powerful than us, then we would never stand with confidence.
- j. But we aren't fighting **FOR** victory, we're fighting **FROM** victory.
- k. Let's say it another way: We don't fight to secure victory, we fight secure in the victory.
- l. So we stand confident in victory. Want to know why? It's because ...

2. We're CLOTHED in armor

- a. Listen, I run a lot. Too much if you ask Wendy, because I'm usually trying to get up, dressed, out the door and back before she ever wakes up, and most times I wake her up.
- b. Talking to runners, nothing really strikes fear in the heart of a runner like a dog. Or just the thought of a dog. I never really understood this until I met one in Ohio.

- c. I left a piece of myself with him.
- d. But do you know when dogs don't scare me? When they're behind a big fence.
- e. If a dog is mean but locked up, then there's only 2 ways he can get to me: one, if the owner let him out, or two, if I jumped the fence or reached through the fence.
- f. God's not letting the devil loose on you. He's only done that twice - Job and Jesus - and He's not doing that again. (Plus, both of those times, the enemy lost)
- g. So let's talk about the 2nd way to get hurt by that dog. I'd have to try and make friends with it, and with some of the dogs I've heard during some of my runs, that would be stupid.
- h. That's why so many believers are hurt right now. We've convinced ourselves that Satan isn't really THAT bad. We've tried to coexist with him instead of walking in victory over him.
- i. You could ask the question (and probably should): if we win, why do we need protection?
- j. Because a defeated foe is mad, and he's looking for someone to devour.
- k. 1 Peter 5:8 - he is looking for someone to devour
- l. John 10:10 - he is seeking to steal, kill and destroy
- m. But you and I have a good Father who has given us protective armor and powerful weapons, and we'll look at them more over the coming weeks.
- n. He's given us FULL armor - not partial protection, but total protection.
- o. He's not all talk and then no empowering - you've got everything you need to STAND confidently in the fight.
- p. The only question is, will you?

3. We're CALLED to fight

- a. There is a purpose in everything that God does
- b. We have confidence in the battle. Why? Because we're clothed in armor. Why?
- c. Because we are CALLED TO FIGHT!!
- d. Not to admire the armor, polish the armor, or to compare the armor.
- e. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes... (Ephesians 6:13)
- f. Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith... (Jude 1:3)
- g. Fight the good fight of the faith... (1 Timothy 6:12)
- h. We are not given the luxury of hoping that the fight goes away, or isn't as bad as we fear.
- i. Like the Israelites in Deuteronomy 7, God gives us a promised land full of giants and promises us 2 things: that He will drive them out, and He will use us to do it.
- j. There is a victory that we must fight from, and I ask you again: will you fight?

The Landing

[VIDEO - The Patriot, Will You Stop at Only Words?]

If you are standing, it is because you have chosen that the kingdom is worth fighting for.

Your children are worth fighting for. This city, this church, this country - all worth fighting for.

Your blood should be running hot, and your fist should be clenched.

You have all you need for the battle, and I want to close this morning out praying over you - that you would have a full release of the power of His might.

We need His might to stand and fight.

So, finally, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Join me at the altar, and let's pray.