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10 "Finally, **be strong** (2PPPM) in the [Lord](#) and in the strength of His might"

11 **Put on** (2PAMM) the [full armor](#) of [God](#), [so that](#) you will be [will be able](#) (PPN) to [stand firm](#) (AAN) [against](#) the [schemes](#) of the [devil](#).

12 For our [struggle is](#) (3SPAI) [not against flesh](#) and [blood](#), but [against](#) the [rulers](#), [against](#) the [powers](#), [against](#) the [world forces](#) of this [darkness](#), [against](#) the [spiritual](#) forces of [wickedness](#) in the [heavenly places](#).

13 [Therefore](#) \*, **take up** (2PAAM) the [full armor](#) of [God](#), [so that](#) you [will be able](#) (2PAPS) to [resist](#) (AAN) in the [evil day](#), and [having done](#) (AMPMPN) [everything](#), to [stand firm](#) (AAN)

14 **Stand firm** (2PAAM) [therefore](#), [HAVING GIRDED](#) (AMPMPN) YOUR [LOINS](#) WITH [TRUTH](#) and [HAVING PUT ON](#) (AMPMPN) THE [BREASTPLATE](#) OF [RIGHTEOUSNESS](#),

15 and [having shod](#) (AMPMPN) YOUR [FEET](#) WITH THE [PREPARATION](#) OF THE [GOSPEL](#) OF [PEACE](#)

16 [in addition to all](#), [taking up](#) (AAPMPN) the [shield](#) of [faith](#) with which you [will be able](#) (2PFMI) to [extinguish](#) (AAN) [all](#) the [flaming](#) (RPPNPA) [arrows](#) of the [evil one](#).

17 And **take** (2PAMM) THE [HELMET](#) OF [SALVATION](#), and the [sword](#) of the [Spirit](#), which is (3SPAI) the [word](#) of [God](#).

18 With [all prayer](#) and [petition pray](#) (PMPMPN) at [all times](#) in the [Spirit](#), and with this in view, [be on the alert](#) (PAPMPN) with [all perseverance](#) and [petition](#) for [all](#) the [saints](#),

19 [and pray on my behalf](#), that [utterance may be given](#) (3SAPS) to me in the [opening](#) of my [mouth](#), to [make known](#) (AAN) with [boldness](#) the [mystery](#) of the [gospel](#),

20 for [which I am an ambassador](#) (1SPAI) in [chains](#); that *in proclaiming* it I may [speak boldly](#) (1SAMS), as I [ought](#) (3SPAI) to [speak](#) (AAN).

# Ephesians 6:10: SPIRITUAL WARFARE, PART 1

by Dr. Wayne Barber

We are about to see the book of Ephesians come to an end. In verse 10 Paul says,

[Finally](#), **be strong (2PPPM)** in the [Lord](#) and in the strength of His might

The word "[Finally](#)" means that he is drawing everything to a close. In other words, everything that has been said he is now summing up as he closes the book of Ephesians. I want you to know that a lot has been said. The Apostle Paul is writing from prison. Remember he has been in prison for almost five years. He is a political hostage. The Jews want to get rid of him, and the Romans don't know what to do with him. There is not a single charge that will hold up in any court. He was falsely accused way back in Jerusalem. Here he is several years later writing the book of Ephesians. Yet in Ephesians 3:1 and Eph 4:1 he calls himself not a prisoner of the Jews, not a prisoner of the Romans, but a prisoner of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He is writing to Ephesian believers. He wants them to understand what they have in Jesus Christ. Here is a man who has not lost the wonder of his salvation. He is trying to get it across to these Ephesian believers. He wants them to realize what they have in Christ and how to appropriate what they have in Jesus Christ.

Look back with me Eph 3:16. There is no way to go to Ephesians 6:10 without first of all finding the context and the flow of everything that has been said. That word "[Finally](#)" is wrapping it all up. What is the "all" that we are talking about. What has been said in Ephesians? Well, his prayer in 3:16 tells us everything:

"that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man."

The word "power" (dunamis) (note) means ability, ability to do what you could not do before Jesus came into your life.

The Holy Spirit now is in our lives. He lives in the inner man in order to strengthen us, to cause us to be able to do what we could not do without Him. The degree of the strengthening, he says, is

"according to the riches of His glory".

Ephesians 1, 2 and 3 sum that up.

Ephesians 1 (click for messages) talks about the RICHES of His glory. Verse 3 sums it all up: We have been given

"every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ"

Then Ephesians 2 (click for messages) shows us the REASONS of our salvation. We

"were dead in your trespasses and sins".

We couldn't save ourselves. It was God who came to save us, to pay a debt on the cross that He did not owe.

In Ephesians 3 there is the REVELATION of our salvation (click for messages). Now according to all that we have in Jesus Christ, He has made us saints; He has chosen us; He has sealed us. All the things that He has done, according to all of that, we are to be strengthened in the inner man with power by the Spirit of God.

Now Ephesians 3:17 (click message) tells us how we are strengthened. It says we are to let Jesus dwell in our hearts by our faith. The word "[dwell](#)" does not mean to come in. It means He is already in and should be made to feel at home while He is there.

"Do you mean all I've got to do is submit my life to Jesus and be willing to obey Him in every area of my life? I've got a problem today. What do I do?"

Well, you go to the Word of God and say,

"God, what do You want me to do?"

Do what God tells you to do. The words faith and obedience are synonymous. By my faith I accommodate His presence. That means I am going to be strengthened in the inner man by the Spirit of God.

(Ed note on "FAITH": "When John Paton was translating the Bible for a South Seas island tribe, he discovered

that they had no word for trust or faith. One day a native who had been running hard came into the missionary's house, flopped himself in a large chair and said, "It's good to rest my whole weight on this chair."

"That's it," said Paton. "I'll translate faith as 'resting one's whole weight on God.'" [MacArthur, J: Ephesians. Chicago: Moody Press](#))

Our hearts are like a house. There are different rooms—a room of our thoughts, a room of our attitudes, a room of our emotions and so on. In each of the areas where our problems fall as we come to God, as we come to His Word, we do what He tells us to do. As we are willing to obey Him, He strengthens us with the ability to do what He has assigned in our life.

Now this thread, being strengthened in the inner man by the Spirit of God, runs all the way through the book of Ephesians. As a matter of fact, in Ephesians 4:1, 2, 3, 4, 5ff (click for messages) the first thing you notice is how it changes the body life of the church. Just think of the potential if each and every person would be abandoned to Christ saying,

"Lord, I want to do whatever you tell me to do. I just want to be filled with Your Spirit, controlled by Your Spirit."

Do you realize the impact we could have on our world? We would be seen differently in the way we behave. We would have humility and gentleness and patience and forbearance. We would be seen handling our differences, loving one another and seeing each other all the way through. We would be seen and identified by the way we believe. You wouldn't have a doctrine here and a doctrine there and a doctrine over there. There are seven doctrines we would not depart from, Eph 4:4 (note), Eph 4:5, 6. We would be seen in the way that we are being built up into the body of Christ. You see a body is to bring visibility to an entity. A church would not be known for its programs, for its preacher, for anything else. It would be known for the Lord Jesus living in the people who make up that church. We would be built up. We would obtain the stature of the fulness of the measure of Christ. It is the design of God that we begin to be fulfilled when each and every person is strengthened in the inner man by the Spirit of God.

It is like putting on a brand new garment. Eph 4:22 (click for message) says to take off the old. In Eph 4:24 (note) it says to put on the new. A garment is something people see. What is happening on the inside must be seen on the outside. Now this garment is a special garment. It is a way of life. It is Jesus being Jesus in me. "You mean to tell me that when I say 'yes' to Jesus, He takes over and begins to manifest who He is in my life?" That is exactly right. This garment, in Eph 4:25 (note), does not lie nor deceive. It always tells the truth and is affected by the truth. Eph 4:26 says it does not become angry at people but only at sin. In Eph 4:28 (note) it does not take nor deplete, but gives and replenishes. Eph 4:29 (note) tells us it does not destroy relationships but builds them up. In Eph 4:30 (note) it does not grieve the Holy Spirit of God. Eph 4:31 (note), it is not bitter, it is not angry, it is not explosive with temper. It is not obnoxiously loud when provoked. It is not motivated by malice. Eph 4:32 (note) says, however, it is kind, tender-hearted and forgiving.

Eph 5:1 (note), Eph 5:2 (note) say that this new garment, this new way of living, imitates God Himself. It walks in love. The word "[imitators](#)" there is the word "mime." (Greek = [Mimetes](#)) How many times have we said it?

It doesn't matter what you say...  
it is how you live.

It does not in any way participate in immorality, according to Eph 5:3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 (See notes Ephesians 5:3; 5:4; 5:5; 5:6; 5:7; 5:8; 5:9; 5:10). It is light that radically effects the darkness.

In Eph 5:15 (note), it causes us to walk wisely in a dark, perverse generation. How do you walk wisely? Well, Eph 5:16 it says to redeem the time, make wise decisions and understand that what you choose, you live by. In Eph 5:17 (note) we must understand what the will of the Lord is. Generically, that means to be submitted and strengthened in the inner man. Specifically that wisdom comes as I am willing to submit to it. In Eph 5:18 (note) we are being filled with the Spirit of God. Now that is in the present tense. In other words, the word "[filled](#)" means constantly being controlled by the Holy Spirit of God. It causes us to fulfill God's design in the area that we live, in our homes.

In Ephesians [5:22-6:4](#) wives are told to submit to their husbands, husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church, children are to obey their parents and fathers are not to provoke their children to anger. It even effects the work place. That is in Eph 6:5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (see notes Ephesians 6:5; 6:6; 6:7; 6:8; 6:9)

Now you say,

"I've been following you. You have gone through the whole book. You left out a verse and I saw it. I am strengthened in the inner man and I put on the new garment. There is something that happens and you didn't say it. I guarantee you that you forgot it."

"What did I forget?"

Eph 4:27 (note) You said earlier that when you put on the garment, the garment does "not give the devil an opportunity."

Did you forget that?"

No, I didn't forget that. I left it out on purpose in order to bring it up last.

Folks, I want you to see something and I want you to hear it loud and clear.

## OUR GREATEST WEAPON

The greatest weapon we have in the spiritual war that we are cast into the moment we are saved is not what we say to the devil. It is how we live the Christ-life before him. My obedience, my surrender, my submission is my greatest weapon in defeating the one who is the prince of darkness that lives around me.

We have seen this strengthening in the inner man, this brand new garment, all of this. Now Paul says:

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might"

The whole book has been leading up to this.

We live in a world that is hostile. I do not need to worry about what I have to say to the devil. But when I bow and I say "yes" to Jesus and commit to doing what His Word has to say, at that very moment, I become a fortress against him. That is my weapon in the warfare I am forced into when I become a Christian. My weapon is my submission to the Lord Jesus Christ.

I want you to see something back in chapter 2. We used to be in his world. We lived in his world. If I could give you a picture this morning of the world totally being enveloped in darkness, that is kind of the way the world is right now. As a matter of fact, the devil has so infected the minds of lost people. They think in such a perverse way. We saw that back in chapter 4. They have depraved minds, depraved morality. They don't have a clue about God. We must understand the hostile world that we live in and came out of. Ephesians 2:1, 2 says,

"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience." (see notes Ephesians 2:1; 2:2)

The devil has power in the lower heavens. He has access to the third heaven ([Click note](#) on "Third Heaven") to accuse the brethren, but his power is in the lower heavens. He walks to and fro on the earth as we find in the book of Job. We do know that there is going to come a day when he is finally and ultimately kicked out of the lower heavens and cannot leave this earth. There he incarnates the Anti-Christ and for three and a half years persecutes the woman, who is Israel (cf Rev 12:13-[note](#)) That will be in the latter days of this age. We know right now the prince of the power of the air is Satan himself.

Ephesians 2:2 continues, "of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience."

"Do you mean to tell me that I used to think that way? You mean to tell me that I used to think I was moral when I was probably immoral and didn't know the difference? Do you mean to tell me that I used to do good and think it was righteous but didn't realize that it was unrighteousness and filthy rags in God's eyes (cf Is 64:6)? Do you mean to tell me that I used to live that way?"

That is right. That is exactly right. Before Christ came into my life, I was under the domain, the right and the might of the ruler of this world, the prince of the power of the air, Satan himself.

Ephesians 2:3 (note) says...

"Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest."

But thanks be unto God. If you will look over in Colossians 1:13 (note), something happened when you got saved. Did that change the world? No, it didn't change the world but it changed me in the midst of the world. That is what we have to see. Now I am in the world, but I am not of the world. We've got to realize this. In verse 13 of Colossians 1 it says,

"For He [Jesus] delivered [\[rescued\]](#) (see note) us from the domain (right and might) of [darkness](#) and [transferred](#) us to the kingdom of His beloved Son" (note)

Do you understand what we just read?

"Wayne, do you mean I live in a world that is hostile and surrounded by darkness?

Do you mean I live in a world that is filled with deceit and lies and does not know the truth, yet I have been delivered from that?

Do you mean I have been put into another kingdom?

Do you mean that there is somebody else now that rules and reigns over me, I am His property, He purchased me?

Do you mean that He bought me with a price by shedding His blood on the cross?

Do you mean the devil does not have power over me anymore?"

Yes! When will we wake up and understand that? We are saints.

What does the word "saint" (see note) mean? It means that we are in a class all by ourselves, set apart. Wait a minute!

"Do you mean among human beings in this world, controlled by the darkness of the world, infested by his lies and deceit, we are in a class all by ourselves because we have been taken out of his domain and made light?

Do you mean God has actually saved our minds?

Do you mean God has given us the ability to think the right way?

Do you mean God has turned us right side up when we were upside down?"

That is exactly right! Folks, if you don't know this, warfare is going to be a struggle to you. You need to know who you are, whose you are, what has happened to you, and what Jesus Christ has done in your life.

Look at 1John 5:18, 19

"We know that no one who is born of God [transformed, delivered, made into a new creature] sins [habitually = present tense] but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him. We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in [the power of] the evil one."

Do you know what "touch him" means? It means to touch him to do him harm.

"Oh, wait a minute. Do you mean to tell me I am God's property?"

That is right.

"Do you mean to tell me whatever the devil does in my life, He has to give him permission because he can't touch me to do me harm. Is that right?"

That is what it says.

Look at 1 John 5:19:

"We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in [the power of] the evil one."

It is like the whole world is asleep and doesn't have a clue that it is in the arms of the evil one. You see, every day, as a believer, you need to remember who you are, what God has done in your life, whose you are and be strengthened with might with the Holy Spirit of God. Then you are able to live in a world that is infested and infected by the devil. We are able to live in it but never be a part of it because we have the truth that we believe that radically transforms our life.

We must daily understand the flow of Ephesians:  
Be filled with the Spirit,  
be strengthened in the inner man by the Spirit of God.  
That is our classic weapon against the evil one.

I want you to see in verse 10 what Paul does. We have to focus, not on the darkness, but on the light and the power that we already have. When you flip on a light switch and one of your lights goes out you think,

"Uh oh, I am losing power."

No, you are not losing power. It is probably just a bad connection. The power is usually always there. If you understood the power source, you could better understand why being connected to it is so important. We were out in Las Vegas several years ago. We decided to take a tour of Hoover Dam. Standing on top of that dam, you could not begin to understand the power that it was

generating. You could stand up on top for weeks and never understand what was going on until you went deep inside of the dam. When you begin to realize the source, then you begin to want to be connected to the force that comes from it.

The Apostle Paul says,

"Hey, here we are at "Hoover Dam". I want you to see Jesus. I want you to see His power. I want you to see who He is. Come on, let's go deep."

He takes us deep into the recesses of Ephesians 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Then when he is about to discuss warfare he says,

"Now I want you to understand the source so that you can understand the force that He has in your life."

In Ephesians 6:10 I want you to see, first of all, the command. He uses three words. There are four words for power, authority or strength in the Greek language. Three of them are used in verse 10. It sums up everything we have already studied. Before Paul says, "Now put on the armor of Christ" he wants you to know what you have in Christ Jesus. What are the four words? Well, the one that is not used is exousia. That is the right and the might, the authority. But there are three words that are used.

## 1. BE STRONG: ENDUNAMOO

First of all, he says, "be strong." The word that is used there is endunamoo. (note) It is the word that means to be strengthened with ability. Dunamis (note) would fit into that class. It is the word which means to be given ability. Greek verbs ending in double "o" ("--oo") mean not just to be strengthened but let it be proven to be strong.

For example in James 2:21; 22; 23 (see notes Ja 2:21; 22; 23) Abraham was said to be righteous ("justified") by his act of obedience

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?

22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected;

23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of God.

The word James uses for justified (dikaioo) ends in double "--oo" and does not mean that Abraham was made righteous by works. What it means is that by Abraham's act of obedience he was proven or shown to be righteous. His righteousness was put on display by his obedience.

What Paul is saying here is,

"Yes, be made strong, but be seen to be strong. Let others look at you and see you as strong. Put it on display, be proven to be strong, be proven to have ability."

The idea is not a one-time being strong. It is an increasing type of thing. In Acts 9:22 we read that...

"But Saul kept increasing (endunamoo) in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ."

In other words Paul became stronger and stronger spiritually in the ability to prove that Jesus was the Christ. Paul was a converted Jew who had previously persecuted Christ but now he has been given strength to prove that Jesus was the Christ.

In Romans 4:20, Abraham and Sarah were told that they were going to have a child in their old age and Sarah laughed. Abraham didn't know what he was going to do. Paul records that

"yet with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong (endunamoo) in faith, giving glory to God,

In other words God gave them strength to perform, specifically to have a child. If God says you are going to have a child then you are going to have a child. It took place as God said.

Philippians 4:13 (see note) says,

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens (endunamoo) me"

It is not a one-time strengthening. That automatically kills some people's idea of warfare. They think all they have to do is jump into it and it is a one-time thing. No, it is an increasing, it is an ever growing type of strength.

In 1 Timothy 1:12 Paul is thankful that Christ has strengthened Timothy so that he would effectively minister the gospel.

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened (endunamoo) me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service"

In 2 Timothy 2:1, 2 (note):1 he says,

"You therefore, my son, be strong (endunamoo) in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

In other words, the only way to have this kind of strength, this ability, is through the Lord Jesus Christ.

In 2 Timothy 4:16, 17 (note) Paul writes that...

At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. 17 But the Lord stood with me, and strengthened (**endunamoo**) me, in order that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was delivered out of the lion's mouth.

Paul was strengthened when no one stood with him. He said everybody left me but God strengthened me.

Hebrews 11:34 (note), describing the heroes of the faith, says that they...

"quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight."

They were strengthened (endunamoo) by God in order that they would be able to carry out these various exploits.

What we are seeing here is that if you are going to be made strong, it is going to be seen and the greatest way for it to be seen is when you stand face to face with the devil and you are able to continue to stand after he has finished whatever he is bringing in your life.

So the first word (endunamoo) means to be made able, but in such a way that it is demonstrated, proven out, shown forth and put on display.

## 2. STRENGTH: KRATOS

The second word he uses, though, is just as powerful. He says,

"in the strength of His might."

The word "strength" is the word *kratos*. *Kratos* is a little different from the other word. It is the word that refers to the outward manifestation of his power. It is that which determines His dominion.

Now look at what Paul is saying here. "Be made strong in the strength of the Lord." In other words, you had better find out what He has done to find out if he is able to handle it. So you go back through Scripture and take a look at it. In Luke 1:50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55 Mary goes over to see Elizabeth. Elizabeth is pregnant with John the Baptist. Mary is pregnant with baby Jesus and she goes to Zacharias' house. When she walks in the baby inside of Elizabeth leaps. The passage says that she is filled with the Spirit and she blesses Mary. Mary comes out and blesses God. Why? Because of His power to place a baby inside her womb, the eternal Son of God, with her having had no relationship with any man on this earth! What a God!

"Do you mean to tell me that is the one that we are dealing with here? Do you mean to tell me the one who caused the virgin birth, the one who caused it to be able to happen is the God who is going to strengthen me against the devil?"

That's right. I want Him on my side, don't you?

Secondly, in Acts 19:20 it talks about the word of God prevailing and becoming strong. It was increasing and prevailing. The word used there in the strengthening ("growing mightily") of it is this word right here.

"So the word of the Lord was growing mightily (**Kratos**) and prevailing (ischuo)"

The Word of God says, preach the Word and God will take this Word and cause it to increase and cause it to prevail. You don't become like the world to reach the world. God uses His Word to increase and to prevail. This God is the one we are looking at.

In Colossians 1:11 (see note) Paul prays that the saints at Colossae might be

"strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might (**Kratos**), for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously"

The idea here is in the ability of two things, one to bear up under whatever circumstance comes my way (hupomone) (note). The other is to put up with whoever is in my way, whatever person I have to put up with (makrothumia) (note). You mean to tell me that God is powerful? Yes, sir. He is the God who caused the virgin birth, the God who causes the Word to prevail, the God who gives me the ability to bear up under and to put up with whoever I have got to put up with.

In 1 Timothy 6:13, 14, 15, 16 Paul writes to Timothy...

"I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, 14 that you keep the commandment without \* stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which He will bring about at the proper time --He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion (**Kratos**) !  
[Amen](#)"

That is the one we are talking about right here. Wow! Is that the God who is going to strengthen me?

Hebrews 2:14 (note) says God has the dominion, the might, to render the devil powerless!

"Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power (**Kratos**) of death, that is, the devil"

God has the might to shut him up and to shut him down. God is the One that we are to be strong in.

In 1 Peter 4:11 (note) God empowers ministry in our lives, Peter writing...

"Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion (kratos) forever and ever. Amen."

In Jude 1:24, 25, He is able to keep you and me from stumbling.

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion (**Kratos**) and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."

In Revelation 1:6 ([note](#)), He alone made us what we are in Him.

"He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion (**Kratos**) forever and ever. Amen."

I want you to see Revelation 5:13 ([note](#)). One day, folks, all the evil, unrighteousness, meanness of this world is going to be shut down, put away forever. I want you to see who is going to do it. Chapter 5 is the talking of the sealed book. John has been weeping. Somebody told him that there is no one worthy to open the sealed book. The sealed book contains the events of the end of the age. Finally an elder nudges John and says, " Look over there." He looks and sees the Lamb of God standing as if slain, the Lion of Judah, the root of David. He walks forward and takes that sealed book because He is the only one who is worthy to do what He is going to do. The whole host of heaven breaks out in praise.

Look at Revelation 5:13 ([note](#)):

"And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion (**Kratos**) forever and ever."

Do you mean to tell me the God who is going to throw Satan into a pit, the God who is going to end all unrighteousness, the God who is going to take the sealed book and bring it all to a conclusion is the God who lives in me and is going to strengthen me? Yes, yes and amen yes. Now quit running scared of the devil! Look who lives in you. Look at who you are. Look at whose you are. Look at who He is.

### 3. MIGHT: ISCHUS

The last word is *ischus* [word study]. It means His preeminence. He doesn't have to do anything if He doesn't want to. It is just who He is.

Paul says,

"You want to talk about warfare? Let's talk about the victor. Let's talk about the warrior. Let's talk about the winner. He lives in you and your greatest weapon is when you are strengthened by Himself in the inner man by the Spirit of God."

Listen to what I am saying and put it in the light of Ephesians. He has built it for six chapters. Now he says "Finally." If it was so important, why didn't he put it in chapter 1? Because the important thing is not who our opposition is. The important thing is Who our ally is and that He is in fact the Lord Jesus.

Friend, do you want to defeat the enemy?

Then get filled with the Spirit of God. Get in the Word of God and obey Him

## THE THIRD HEAVEN

**Unger** points out that

"Scripture evidently specifies three heavens, since "the third heaven" is revealed to exist (2Cor 12:2), and it is logical that a third heaven cannot exist without a first and second. . Scripture does not describe specifically the first and second heaven.

The first, however, apparently refers to the atmospheric heavens of the birds (Ho 2:18, "sky") and of clouds (Da 7:13).

The second heaven may be the stellar spaces (cf. Ge 1:14, 15, 16, 17, 18). It is the abode of all supernatural angelic beings.

The third heaven is the abode of the Triune God. Its location is unrevealed. It is the divine plan at present to populate the third heaven. It is a place (John 14:1, 2, 3). It is called "glory" (Heb 2:10-note); those who enter it will be perfected forever (Heb 10:14-note) and made partakers of Christ's fullness (John 1:16), which is all fullness (Col. 1:19-note) and which comprehends the very nature of the Godhead bodily (Col 2:9-note). The apostle John was called into heaven (Rev. 4:1-note). The apostle Paul was caught up to the third heaven (2 Cor. 12:1-9). He was prohibited, however, from revealing what he saw and heard. Heaven is a place of beauty (Rev 21:1-22:7), of life (1Ti 4:8), service (Re 22:3-note), worship (Rev 19:1-note, Re 19:2-note, Re 19:3-note), and glory (2Co 4:17, 18)." ([Unger, M. F., Harrison, R. K., Vos, H. F., Barber, C. J., and Unger, M. F. The New Unger's Bible Dictionary. Chicago: Moody Press](#))

**Marvin Vincent** writes that...

The conception of seven heavens was familiar to the Jews; but according to some of the Rabbins there were two heavens — the visible clouds and the sky; in which case the third heaven would be the invisible region beyond the sky." (Vincent, M. R. Word studies in the New Testament. Vol. 3, Page 1-354)

1) FIRST HEAVEN = the earth's atmosphere, the realm in which we live that contains the oxygen we breathe. This is the heaven that contains the clouds.

John MacArthur ([Heaven. Chicago: Moody Press](#)) explains the first heaven refers to...

"the troposphere—the atmosphere around the earth, the air we breathe.

For example, Isaiah 55:9 says,

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven..." Here the word heaven refers to the atmosphere, which is where the hydrological cycle occurs.

Psalms 147:8 ([Spurgeon's note](#)) says that God

"covers the heavens with clouds." That is the first heaven."

See also (Ge 8:2; Dt 11:11; 1Ki 8:35)

2) SECOND HEAVEN = interplanetary and interstellar space. The second heaven contains the stars, moons, and planets. For example in Genesis 1

"God said, Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens...God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. And God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth" (Ge 1:14, 16,17)

See also Ge 15:5; Ps 8:3; Is 13:10).

3) THIRD HEAVEN = the abode or dwelling place of God

Paul writes...

2Cor 12:2 know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago-- whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows-- such a man was caught up to the third heaven. (What a contrast between being "let down" in a basket and being "caught up" to the third heaven in Acts 9:25, 2Co 11:33!) 3 And I know how such a man-- whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows-- 4 was caught up into [Paradise](#) (3857) and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.

Psalms 102:19 ([Note](#)) says,

He looked down from His holy height; from heaven the Lord gazed upon the earth.

See also 1Ki 8:30; 2Ch 30:27; Ps 123:1 ([Spurgeon note](#)).

Paul equates the "third heaven with ["Paradise"](#) in 2 Corinthians 12:2-4. One can also compare Revelation 2:7 ([note](#)) with Revelation 22:14 ([note](#))

In Revelation 2:7 ([note](#)) John writes

'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.'

In Revelation 22:14 ([note](#)) John writes

"Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city."

Paradise is synonymous with the abode of God, the third heaven.

In the conclusion of his article entitled "The New Testament Concept Regarding the Regions of Heaven with Emphasis on 2 Corinthians 12:1, 2, 3, 4" . W. Harold Mare writes...

As to the regions of heaven, we observe that the New and Old Testaments agree in conceiving of heaven as basically involving three different areas, the lower, the higher and highest heaven in the last of which God particularly dwells, and we conclude that Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:1-4 has this last area in mind when he talks about the third heaven, implying the two other regions by his use of the word, third. Furthermore, the third heaven where God dwells and where Paul received divine instruction is not to be thought of necessarily as involving a spiritual, non-spatial relationship only, but also as involving space, somewhere out there in the highest or third heaven, beyond our immediate earth and heaven, there being a place where a human being with a body and God who is everywhere can meet. (Grace Journal Volume 11, Winter, 1970) (Bolding added)

In conclusion, it is worth noting that by virtue of the marvels of modern science, man has been able to visit the first heaven of the clouds (most of us have flown in this first heaven) and a select few have even visited the the heaven of the planets, the second heaven (including some who have have walked upon the moon), but man is unable to go to the third heaven, the abode of God (using that term loosely since He is infinite and omnipresent!), without His assistance.

Perhaps you are reading this article out of curiosity but you don't really know whether you will go to heaven when your life on earth is over. You lack the absolute assurance that God makes available to all freely by grace through faith (see Ephesians 2:8-10) in His Son Jesus Christ. So let me ask you...

Would you go to heaven if you died tonight?

Do you want to go to heaven? Do you want to know the way? If you do, then take a few moments and read the two short pamphlets

by the renowned 19th Century American evangelist D L Moody...

[The Way to God & How to Find It](#)

Heaven: Where It Is, Its Inhabitants and How To Get There