

Lesson 98 Answers and Comments

Strengthened	raised	stronger	cannot
Might	dead	Joshua	proved
Inner	set	Caleb	put
Man	heavenly	rent	off
Can	above	clothes	stand
All	principality	exceeding	wiles
Christ	power	good	beguiled
Strengthen	might	land	serpent
Me	dominion	strong	beguiled
Able	raised	courage	any
Exceeding	us	afraid	serpent
Abundantly	up	dismayed	beguiled
Above	together	with	subtilty
Think	made	whithersoever	minds
Power	sit	armour	corrupted
In	heavenly	able	simplicity
Us	Christ	stand	Christ
Exceeding	Jesus	wiles	subtilty
Greatness	Joshua	devil	God
Power	fight	whole	
Us-ward	Amalek	God's	
Working	fought	armed	
Mighty	Joshua	his	
Power	discomfited	armour	
Excellency	people	helmet	
Power	edge	brass	
God	sword	coat	
Wrought	not	mail	

I was thinking this week about Elisha's servant and how he must have felt when he saw the invisible things of God. As I was reading over our verses in Eph. 2:6, 7 "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." I just sat for a few moments and let "faith" (believing what God said) open my spiritual eyes to look at the invisible things that God has for you and me. I saw myself seated there, occupying my position, there in the heavenly places! As far as God is concerned, that's where He sees us! Many times God speaks of future events as if they were the present. God views things from His eternal viewpoint, the ultimate end, that as far as He's concerned, are as real as having already happened. Let us likewise reckon ourselves also to be seated there! Will this knowledge empower and strengthen us as we face our battles? You bet!

Lesson 99 The Believer's Armor Part 3

Eph. 6:12 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Aren't you glad God started out by telling us about His provision of strength, power, and might found in Christ Jesus and about an armor that will enable us to stand against this mighty foe?

As we look at this verse it need not terrify us as we remember this.

Eph. 6:12 "For we _____..."

Wrestle – One of my grandsons is a wrestler. I go to most of his meets and I can tell you first hand that it is a very stressful sport! Seeing two bodies tangled in a fight to the finish is not for the faint of heart. When I think of the word wrestle I think back to that great wrestling match between Jacob and the angel. Read Gen. 32:24-32. Jacob was about to meet up with Esau and he was very anxious about this. Gen. 32:7 "Then Jacob was _____ and _____..." It was at this time of distress that the angel took hold of Jacob and wrestled with him. While they wrestled Jacob _____ and made _____ Hosea 12:4. Jacob wept and prayed as he wrestled the angel. Jacob did not surrender, he kept his ground. Gen. 32:25 "And when he (the angel) saw that he _____ against him..." God's power was evident in Jacob. The angel asks Jacob to _____ in vs. 26. What does Jacob want before he will let go? Vs. 26 _____.

Even though Jacob appears to have the advantage he knew the importance of God's blessing and desires to have God's help and strength in a blessing. What does Jacob want to know in vs. 29? His _____. "...Tell me, I pray thee, thy _____..." The angel does not tell Jacob his name. In vs. 30 Jacob calls the place _____: "for I have seen _____ to _____, and my _____ is _____." Jacob owed his victory that day to God's presence, grace and mercy. He did not say "I'm the conqueror," but God has preserved my life!

Jacob received his blessing vs. 28 "Thy name shall be called no more _____, but _____: for as a _____ hast thou _____ with _____ and with men, and hast _____."

In this wrestling match, Jacob, who was facing a great distress, comes in contact with an angel that proves him, demonstrating his reliance on God and unwillingness to be defeated. He owes his need and desire for God's blessing and receives it. Jacob's struggle ended in Jacob having a limp. Gen. 32:31 "And as he passed over Penuel the _____ upon him, and he _____ upon his thigh."

The honor and privilege Jacob received was more than sufficient to off-set his physical limitation.

I believe Paul uses the word wrestle here to emphasize the personal element of our battle. It is an intense struggle with the enemy that will demand God's strength and provisions.

What is it that we don't wrestle against? _____ and _____

God wants us to be aware of the spiritual nature of our battle. We wrestle against 4 things in Eph. 6:12.

1. _____
2. _____
3. the _____ of the _____ of this world
4. _____ in _____.

Lesson 99 Continued

Principalities – Eph. 1:21 Christ is set in heavenly places “Far above all _____...” Col. 1:16 “...whether they be thrones, or dominions, or _____...” Col. 2:10 “And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all _____ and _____:” Titus 3:1 “Put them in mind to be _____ to _____ and _____...” Principalities, as we can see, are positions of authority, government, beings that rule.

Powers – Eph. 1:21, Col. 1:16, Col. 2:10, again positions of authority

Rulers of the darkness of this world – Job 2:2 “And the LORD said unto _____, From whence comest thou? And _____ answered the LORD, and said, From going _____ and _____ in the _____, and from _____ and _____ in it.” Eph. 2:2 “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the _____ of this _____...” Luke 22:53 “...but this is your hour, and the _____ of _____.” John 14:30 “...for the _____ of _____ cometh, and hath nothing in me.” Acts 26:18 “To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to _____, and from the _____ of _____ unto God...” II Cor. 4:4 “In whom the _____ of this _____ hath _____ the _____ of them which believe not...” Col. 1:13 “Who hath delivered us from the _____ of _____...” The rulers of the darkness of this world work in the children of disobedience, Eph. 2:2. They operate in this world causing God to define this present world as _____ according to Gal. 1:4. Luke 4:5 “And the _____ taking him up into an high mountain, shewed him all the _____ of the _____.” Vs. 6 And the _____ said unto him, _____ this _____ will I give thee...”

Spiritual wickedness in high places – Satan and his co-horts occupy heavenly places. Rev. 12:7-9 “And there was _____ in _____: Michael and his angels _____ against the _____; and the _____ fought and _____, vs. 8 And prevailed not; neither was _____ found any more in _____.” John had a vision that allowed him to see this yet future event.

The believer wrestles against principalities, powers, rulers and wickedness, all of these are very real, and spiritual in nature.

Our enemy is powerful but at the same time powerless! I think of the verses in Romans 8:38, 39 “For I am _____ that neither _____, nor _____, nor _____, nor _____, nor _____, nor things _____, nor things to _____, nor _____, nor _____ nor any other _____ shall be able to separate us from the _____ of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Do you recognize the same words as we just looked at in Eph. 6:12? The enemy can't have any ultimate victory over the believer by separating him from God's love, because Christ has already defeated the enemy and His victory is ours because we are in Him! Col. 2:15 “And having _____ and _____, he made a _____ of them _____, _____ over _____ in it (the cross).” Heb. 2:14, 15 “...that through _____ he might _____ him that had the _____ of _____, that is the _____; vs. 15 And _____ them who through _____ of _____ were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

Lesson 99 Continued

Satan is a defeated foe, but he takes great delight in attacking the body of Christ. His attack is against things that pertain to our very soul. Am I saved, am I really righteous, am I believing the truth, Is it really by grace alone, Am I truly at peace with God, Is God really for me, Is my sin a barrier with God, Are my works needed for salvation, Is Christ really coming again, Am I going to suffer the wrath of God, Why don't more people believe this, Why are there problems in my life, Is God's word really true?

Are we going to yield to the devils tricks? Are we going to wallow in doubt, uncertainty, fear, sinful lusts and unsound doctrine? Are we going to be rendered ineffective and useless to the cause of Christ in this life?? Not if we are strong in the Lord and dressed in God's armor!