

HOW TO DO WHAT GOD WANTS US TO DO
EPH. 6:10-12

Introduction:

- A. The Ephesian letter reveals many thrilling spiritual facts.
 - 1. 1:3 "blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."
 - 2. "chosen us in Him; predestinated unto the adoption of children; in whom we have redemption; made known unto us the mystery of His will; we have obtained an inheritance; saved by grace; sealed by that Holy Spirit of promise."
 - 3. He gave us the ministry.
 - 4. He made us His body.

- B. The letter also contains many sobering teachings.
 - 1. "walk worthy of the vocation wherein ye were called"
 - 2. "we henceforth be no more children."
 - 3. "put off concerning the former conversation the old man."
 - 4. "wherefore put away lying."
 - 5. "let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth."
 - 6. "grieve not the Holy Spirit."

- C. How can we do all the things that He commands and abstain from all the things that He forbids?
 - 1. God knows our frame.
 - 2. God provides a way.

I. GOD HIMSELF WILL STRENGTHEN US. V10.

- A. "finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord."
 - 1. finally = loipon - the rest of it, remaining.
 - 2. strong = endunamoo - to acquire strength.
 - 3. It is not a command to do for yourself.

B. "and in the power of his might."

1. power = Kratos - strength, bodily strength, force, strength as exerted, superiority.
2. might = ischus - physical strength, power naturally resident in the subject.
3. There is a source of power available to us.
 - a. Not do what we want but what He wants.
 - b. Not to glorify us, but Him.

II. WE MUST USE EVERY PRECAUTION. V11

A. "put on the whole armour of God."

1. put on = enduomai - to clothe one's self.
2. whole armour = panoplia - full armor, complete armor. This included such things as a shield, sword, lance, helmet, greaves, and breastplate. Since armor of a soldier was often a display of speldor Barth prefers the translation "the splendid armor".
tou theou - gen. of source or origin indicating that God provides the armor. (Eadie).

B. "that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

1. may be able = dunasthai - so that ye are able.
2. stand = stenai - aor. act. inf. istami to stand.
The word could be used in a military sense indicating either "to take over," "to hold a watch post," or it could also mean "to stand and hold out in a critical position on a battlefield."
3. wiles = methodeia = scheming, craftiness, methods.
4. What would we consider Satan's methods to be?

III. THE NATURE OF THE CHRISTIAN'S (CHRUCHE'S) ENEMY. V11,12

A. "the devil."

1. devil = diabolos - devil, slanderer.
2. He tempted Jesus! Matt. 4:3-10. This proves his arrogance.

3. He is compared to; a fowler, Psalm 91:3 / a wolf, John 10:12 / a roaring lion, I Peter 5:8 / a serpent, Rev. 12:9.

B. "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."

1. wrestle = pale - struggle, hand to hand fighting. Wrestling was characterized by trickery, cunning, and strategy.
2. flesh and blood = haima and sarka = blood and flesh, This has reference to humanity as such, mankind.
3. principalities = arche - the highest dignitaries of the state, the first place.
4. powers = eksousia - denying the presence of any hindrance, liberty or authority to do anything.
5. rulers of darkness of this world = kosmokra tor - lord of the world, the world holders of darkness.
6. spiritual wickedness in high places = the spiritual hosts of evil in the heavenlies.
7. For our contest is not with human foes, but against master-spirits of this world, and spiritual agents from the very headquarters of evil.

IV. WHAT SHALL WE DO?

A. We face the many assaults of Satan.

1. Satan assaults every Christian.
 - a. Temptation to neglect.
 - b. Temptation to quit.
 - c. Temptation to skepticism.
2. Satan assaults the church.
 - a. The temptation to change.
 - b. The temptation to compromise.
 - c. The temptation to back away from problem areas.
 - d. The temptation to quit.

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B. We need to be strong in the Lord.

1. Strong in conviction.
2. Strong in commitment.
3. Strong in prayer.

C. We need to be prepared.

1. Take everything God has to offer.
2. Put off every thing He tells us to put off.
3. Put on every thing He tells us to.