Gear Up!

Tony Mauck · Ephesians 6:10–18

INTRODUCTION

- I grow concerned that sometimes I'm not as perceptive of the invisible adversary that I have. And that you have.
- Because we don't see him, we might not regard him as real, as the formidable threat that he is.
- We are in an intense warfare and battle. Because we live in a world that is dominated by the adversary.

1 The Adversary Is Intent on Your Spiritual Demise

Ephesians 6:12

- The adversary is intent on your spiritual demise.
- Don't think for one second that because you are in Christ or you've been in Christ for some time, that you're somehow exempt from his efforts.
- There is warfare going on, it is intense, it is in the spiritual realm, it relates to the salvation of your soul, and he wants to destroy you.
- What we're talking about tonight isn't against flesh and blood. This is spiritual life and death.

2 We Are Sufficiently Equipped

Isaiah 59

- We're not sent into this battle with insufficient weaponry and armor. We are given all that we need for success.
- And we have superior ends in view. This cause is like no other.
- The salvation of souls and eternity and immortality is on the line in this warfare.
- The imagery of Ephesians 6 is actually drawn from Isaiah 59. As God is painted as the divine warrior.

3 Gear Up: Put On the Full Armor of God

Ephesians 6:14–17

- Victory is ours if we would put on the full armor at our disposal.
- You have to put this on. I can't do it for you.
- It is truth that brings salvation and freedom. And so the thing that ties it all together is the truth of God.
- We are to put on the breastplate of righteousness. That is absolutely non negotiable.
- The shield of faith is about daily devotion to God.
- We can be proactive in the battle. We've been equipped with the powerful and amazing two-edged sword of the Spirit.

4 You Have an Enemy

Ephesians 2:2

- He wants to destroy your connection with God. He doesn't want you donning the shield of faith.
- He wants to impede and prevent and oppose everything that God says is good.
- Woe to those who call evil good and good evil.

5 His Pawns May Be Closer Than You Think

1 John 4:20; 1 Peter 3:7

- It's entirely possible that at times he can even use covenant people.
- Don't think you can't be used. Don't think somebody close to you can't be used.
- His favorite words. Compromise. Rationalize. Justify. He's just got to get you deviated somehow from the truth.

6 He Is Powerless to Defeat Us

Romans 8:35–39; 1 Corinthians 9:24

- If we put on the full armor of God, he is powerless to defeat us.
- There's not any power in this world or in the world to come that is strong enough to conquer the one who has donned this armor.
- We need each other. We absolutely must avoid isolation. There is strength in numbers.

THE CHALLENGE

Don't let the devil whisper in your ear. You can't do this. Because you can. You must never give up. Be courageous. Are you in the battle?

MY NOTES