



Our Spiritual Conflict - Ephesians 6:10

What a wonderful set of Bible verses we looked at last week ending with

- **Jude 24 NIV** “To Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy.”

John 16:33 NIV “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

- Trouble in Greek - suffering, discomfort, hardship, tribulation, worry, concern, anxiety, restlessness, disquiet
- I don't think Jesus is talking about the common struggles mankind has but the trouble that will come because of Him

Matthew 10:22 NIV, “You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

- There will be conflict because of Jesus; internal, external, and spiritual
- **John 15:18 NIV**, “If (*When*) the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.”

John 16:33 NIV “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

- To gain courage or confidence: to begin to feel better and more hopeful

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- Jesus then tells us why, “I have overcome the world.”
 - Overcome - Succeed in dealing with (*a problem or difficulty*), defeat (*an opponent or struggle*); prevail. To overpower or overwhelm.
- Notice it does not say “*we in/of ourselves*” have overcome the world

John 16:33 NIV “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

- If we have any hope of standing firm in our Christian faith it depends upon our attachment to Jesus
- Yes, that means salvation but so much deeper
- It is learning to be strong not in ourselves, but Jesus
- To yield all of ourselves to the wisdom, power, and authority of Jesus

Scripture

- **Ephesians 6:10 NIV** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.
- **AMP** In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [draw your strength from Him and be empowered through your union with Him] and in the power of His [boundless] might.

Ephesus

- Paul has been instructing the church at Ephesus on the blessed hope that is ours in Christ Jesus and because of that hope we are to live differently than the world system
- We are citizens of the Kingdom of God, and we fall under His authority
- We are to reflect the character of our King, Jesus Christ

What Paul is instructing will be difficult to live out

- **Ephesians 4:1 NIV**, “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

What Paul is instructing will be difficult to live out

- **Ephesians 4:22-23 NIV**, “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.
- **Ephesians 5:21 NIV**, “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

What Paul is instructing will be difficult to live out

- **Ephesians 6:5,9 NIV**, “5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. 9 And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.”

What Paul is instructing will be difficult to live out

- Not only are we in conflict with our old nature but there is another ally of our old nature
- **Ephesians 4:12 NIV**, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”
- Our only answer to being able to stand in our Christian faith is Jesus

Paul tells us we must, “be strong in the Lord”

- So often we read simple statements like this and assume we know the extent of its meaning then continue on
- What does it mean to, “be strong in the Lord?”
 - **AMP**, “draw your strength from Him and be empowered through your union with Him”

Paul tells us we must, “be strong in the Lord”

- How can I be completely humble, gentle, and patient?
- How can I consistently take off the old self and put on the new?
- How can I consistently submit to all other Christians?
- How can I consistently manage or work with respect, fear, and sincerity of heart?
- The only way is to draw your strength from Jesus to be able to overpower all other influences or urges within

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- Salvation brings us not just the forgiveness of our sin debt, but we are now a branch in the vine of Jesus Christ
- **John 15:5 NIV** “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”
 - The vine nurtures the branches with everything it needs to bear fruit like the root

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- Paul has already told them how to do this
 - **Ephesians 4:23 NIV** to be made new in the attitude of your minds
 - Attitude - a settled way of thinking or feeling about someone or something, typically one that is reflected in a person's behavior

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- **Ephesians 1:15-19 NIV**, ”15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the **Spirit of wisdom and revelation**, so that you may know him better.

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 - We are even dependent upon Jesus for our understanding of who He is and who we are in Him

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- **Ephesians 1:15-19 NIV**, ”18 I pray that the eyes of your heart (*attitude*) may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe.
 - God must enlighten (*bring understanding to*) our attitudes, hearts to be able to understand and apply the nutrients the vine brings to us

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- Paul prays
 - That God gives us a deep and personal and intimate insight
 - The very center and core of your being may be flooded with the light of the Holy Spirit

Paul tells us we must, “be strong in the Lord”

- Paul prays
 - To know and cherish the divine guarantee, the confident expectation to which He has called you
 - Begin to know what the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His spiritual power in us who believe
- When we begin to understand what God has and is doing in our lives, a steadfastness will begin to grow, spiritual fruit will begin to show

Paul also tells us we must, “be strong in Jesus’ mighty power

- Once we are enlightened of the truth of Jesus, we will begin to see His power is made available to us
 - Electrical outlets have enormous power available if we plug an electrical device into them
 - Tools that allow us to do things impossible on our own strength

Paul also tells us we must, “be strong in Jesus’ mighty power

- Paul has already told us how this is done
 - **Ephesians 3:14-19 NIV**, 14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that **out of his glorious riches** he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

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 - **Ephesians 3:14-19 NIV, 17** so that Christ may dwell (*reign, be Lord, master*) in your hearts through faith.
 - Once Christ begins to be Lord of our lives, we will begin to know His love for us as our roots grow deeper in Him

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 - **Ephesians 3:14-19 NIV**, 17 so that Christ may dwell (*reign*) in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, **being rooted and established in (God’s) love**,
 - Think of tree roots growing down and out soaking up the nutrients and moisture needed to bear fruit

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 - **Ephesians 3:14-19 NIV**, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp (*to bring close*) how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ (*for you personally*),

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- Paul has already told us how this is done
 - **Ephesians 3:14-19 NIV**, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.
- Then and only then will we be able to consistently stand regardless of the pressure applied to our lives

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- Christ must reign in your hearts and minds where decisions are made
- This will only happen consistently when you grasp (*understand and bring close*) the vastness of God’s love for you personally
- When we are overflowing with God’s love for us, we will be filled up completely with the fullness of God

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- This is not a single event but at daily grasping and trusting who Christ is and who we are in Him
- A power comes into the life of a believer who is overflowing with the fullness of God

We come to the point of overflowing fullness of God only through yielding everything about us to Jesus

- So often we will yield our eternity to Jesus because we know we can't do anything about it
 - This brings salvation but not overwhelming fullness and power

We come to the point of overflowing fullness of God only through yielding everything about us to Jesus

- Jesus is our example, He was filled with the fullness and power of God His entire life
 - **Philippians 2:5-9 NIV**, “5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

We come to the point of overflowing fullness of God only through yielding everything about us to Jesus

- Jesus is our example, He was filled with the fullness and power of God His entire life
 - **Philippians 2:5-9 NIV**, “7 rather, he made himself (*comparatively*) nothing (*emptied himself*) by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!”

We come to the point of overflowing fullness of God only through yielding everything about us to Jesus

- Jesus is our example, He was filled with the fullness and power of God His entire life
 - **John 4:34 NIV** “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.”
 - Oh, if our food could be the work Christ is doing in our lives and finish the work He saved us for

We come to the point of overflowing fullness of God only through yielding everything about us to Jesus

- Oswald Chambers, “The first thing I must be willing to admit when I begin to examine what controls and dominates me is that I am the one responsible for having yielded myself to whatever it may be. If I am a slave to myself, I am to blame because somewhere in the past I yielded to myself. Likewise, if I obey God I do so because at some point in my life I yielded myself to Him.”

We come to the point of overflowing fullness of God only through yielding everything about us to Jesus

- Oswald Chambers, “You must yield yourself in utter humiliation to the only One who can break the dominating power in your life, namely, the Lord Jesus Christ. “...He has anointed Me...to proclaim liberty to the captives...” (**Luke 4:18 and Isaiah 61:1**).”
- God will fill you with overflowing fullness of Himself to the same extent or depth of your yieldedness to Him

You will be tempted many times to say, “This is too big for me. God you are asking too much.”

- **Ephesians 3:20-21 NIV**, “20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

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- Peter did not become the Peter of Pentecost until he yielded all of himself to Jesus
- Jude did not become a leader of the church until he completely yielded himself to Jesus
- Paul did not become the Apostle to the Gentiles until he completely yielded himself to Jesus

You will be tempted many times to say, “This is too big for me. God you are asking too much.”

- And you will not become all God desires of you nor receive all God has for you until you yield yourself completely and totally to Him

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- Yield –
 - To give up possession of on claim or demand
 - To relinquish one's possession of
 - To surrender or submit (oneself) to another
 - to give or render as fitting, rightfully owed, or required
- All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give



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