Ephesians 6:10 - 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. NASB

A. Finally, be strong in the Lord - With the words “finally my brethren,” Paul begins to close his letter to the Ephesians. Having given them such lengthy instruction in how to live the Christian life, he realizes their great dependence on God to whom he points them to find the strength they need to be victorious in the battle. In fact, he now begins a short discussion bringing the analogy of warfare to apply to Christian life. In this warfare he exhorts them to find their strength “in the Lord,” and not in themselves. This is a theme in the writings of Paul. We cannot live the Christian life apart from divine grace to empower us and to grant us victory against our foes, the world, the flesh and the devil.

Philippians 4:13 - 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. NASB

2 Timothy 2:1-2 - 2:1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. NASB

B. in the strength of His might – Consider, if one find themselves with the strength of the living God, what foe could stand, as Paul describes in Romans 8?

Romans 8:31 - 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? NASB

Even though our strength is weakness, the Lord’s power is mighty and it is our possession, as we learned earlier in the book.

Ephesians 1:19 - 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might NASB

What shall overcome us if we are availed of the power and authority of the Sovereign King Himself? Is this not an encouraging and emboldening promise of victory in all of the areas of Christian life which Paul has just instructed us? With such divine strength, how can we fail?

Colossians 2:9-10 - 9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, 10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; NASB

Ephesians 6:11-13 - 11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is 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 the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. NASB

A. Put on the full armor of God – Here Paul instructs the Christian to “put on” the “full armor of God.” This suggests that we have a real responsibility to avail ourselves of the great devices which God has provided for us in this warfare. We must “put them on.”

Romans 13:12-14 - 12 The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. NASB

Further, he tells us to put on the “full armor of God.” This is to say “all of it,” the complete armor. The Greek word used here “panoplia” describes the entire suit of armor used in warfare of those days and means “full or whole armor.” Therefore Paul contends that we should readily employ the protection that God has granted in this great warfare of Christian life. He will now go on to describe what that armor or protection is in detail.
Not only this but it is the full armor “of God.” It is not the armor of men, but of God. It is not carnal, but spiritual and divinely furnished to equip us with everything that good armor can provide.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 - 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. NASB

B. that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. – Here Paul makes us well aware that we have a real foe in the devil, that is, Satan. He is that enemy against which we must be “strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might” if we hope to “stand.” Our ruthless adversary is described in many places in the NT.

1 Peter 5:8 - 8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. **Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion**, seeking someone to devour. NASB

If we are equipped with the “full armor of God” says Paul, we will be “able to stand.” That is versus falling, which is analogous of spiritual defeat, falling into sin and disgracing our Lord and His glorious name. Therefore we are to possess good hope and courage that we can stand by the mighty power of God, who possess all power and dominion over that enemy which we fight.

Jude 24 - 24 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 NASB

1 Corinthians 10:13 - 13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who **will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able**, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it. NASB

It is interesting that in this war the Christian need only stand to be victorious. And here is described what we must stand against, that is, the “schemes of the devil.” The Greek word used here is “methodeia,” and means trickery and carries the idea of a carefully planned method or scheme. It describes the devil’s warfare, it is the “deceitful scheming or cunning craftiness,” as Paul described in chapter 4:14. This is how the devil fights. He seeks to deceive us and lead us into sin, just as he did Eve in the garden.

2 Corinthians 11:3 - 3 But I am afraid, lest as **the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness**, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. NASB

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 - 10 But whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, 11 in order that **no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes**. NASB

C. For our struggle is 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 – The very nature of Christian life is a “struggle.” We wrestle or struggle with powerful foes as we live out our days. But these foes are not physical, that is, they are NOT “flesh and blood,” NOT men or women, but are described as “spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places.” This is a spiritual warfare and it is waged on a spiritual battlefield with spiritual weapons. Here our adversaries are described as:

- **rulers** - a world-ruler - 2888 gk. kosmokrator, an epithet of Satan:--ruler.
- **powers** - delegated influence:--authority, 1849 gk. exousia, (in the sense of ability); force, mastery (concretely, magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control), jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.
- **world forces** - principality, principle 746. gk. arche, (concretely) chief (in various applications of order, time, place, or rank):--beginning, corner, (at the, the) first (estate), magistrate, power, rule.
These no doubt refer to that heavenly rank and order of demonic powers arrayed against God and His saints in the great conflict of the ages of history. These are described elsewhere in the NT.

Here Christ is the creator of them;

**Colossians 1:16-17** - 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created by Him and for Him. NASB

Here we have been delivered from them by Christ’s mighty work;

**Colossians 1:13-14** - 13 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. NASB

Here Christ has made a public demonstration of their condemnation;

**Colossians 2:15** - 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. NASB

These spiritual forces of wickedness are said to be “in heavenly places,” this the same term used in Eph 1:3, 2:6, 3:10 used to denote the spiritual nature of the enemies and promises of God.

D. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. - Although the Christians warfare is against a host of powerful spiritual enemies, he/she stands by the strength of God’s might and is availed of the “full armor” so that he/she is able “to stand.” The Christian must “take up the full armor of God” if he/she hopes to stand in this struggle. The goal of the Christian’s striving is “to resist” or “to stand,” that is, not to give way or lose ground but to stand resisting the [schemes, temptations, cunning methods] of the spiritual forces of wickedness around them, designed to cause us to sin and defame the glory and praise of God, for whom we live. It is “in the evil day,” or at times of temptation and testing that we must “have done everything to stand.”

**1 Corinthians 16:13-14** - 13 Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done in love. NASB