

**Weapons & War**  
**September 1, 2024**  
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武器和戰爭  
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**Welcome Kids. Reference the book.** 孩子們，歡迎聚會。要講的經書。

Today: We finish up our study of Paul's letter to the Ephesians with an iconic passage. It's an exciting one because it talks about warfare and weapons and that's always a good time. We do love a good fight. Actually, we love WINNING a good fight. Imagine a video game where the objective is to stay hidden, under a couch while the fighting goes on around you. You get no weapons, defensive or otherwise. You have no part in the fight except to stay out of the way. We really were built to be strong, good, sturdy soldiers and to actually PARTICIPATE in the coming of God's kingdom to our world. 今天：我們用一段標誌性的段落結束了保羅寫給以弗所人的書信的研究。這是一件令人興奮的事情，因為它談論戰爭和武器，這總是一個美好的時光。我們確實喜歡一場精彩的戰鬥。事實上，我們喜歡贏得一場精彩的戰鬥。想像一下一個電玩遊戲，目標是在你周圍發生戰鬥時躲在沙發下。你沒有任何武器，無論是防禦性的還是其他的。除了躲開之外，你沒有參與戰鬥。我們確實被塑造成堅強、善良、堅強的士兵，並真正參與神國度來到我們世界的過程。

But...we live in a world filled with the wrong kind of fighting and so did Paul. (History) So, Paul is going to give the church some clear instructions and really powerful weapons - but before he places those weapons in their hands, he wants to explain to them the rules for engagement. And, in my opinion, never has such an explosive passage of scripture been set up in such clear, decisive way. This first part of the weapons and warfare text is essential for us to read and understand - and to never get it disconnected from the rest of the letter: 但是.....我們生活在一個充滿錯誤戰鬥的世界，保羅也是如此。(歷史)所以，保羅將給教會一些明確的指示和真正強大的武器——但在他將這些武器交到他們手中之前，他想向他們解釋交戰的規則。而且，在我看來，聖經中從來沒有以如此清晰、果斷的方式建立過如此爆炸性的段落。武器和戰爭文本的第一部分對於我們閱讀和理解至關重要 - 並且永遠不要將其與信的其餘部分脫節：

**10**Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11**Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **12**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. Ephesians 6:10-12**

以弗所書 6:10 我還有末了的話、你們要靠著主、倚賴他的大能大力、作剛強的人。6:11 要穿戴神所賜的全副軍裝、就能抵擋魔鬼的詭計。6:12 因我們並不是與屬血氣的爭戰、乃是與那些執政的、掌權的、管轄這幽暗世界的、以及天空屬靈氣的惡魔爭戰。〔兩爭戰原文都作摔跤〕

**Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might.** That in itself is such a foundational element of our faith. This one statement gives the church permission to *want* power, but only a certain kind of power. The saying goes and I believe it: *Absolute power corrupts absolutely*. The people to which Paul is writing have witnessed this principle in action in countless ways. The powers at work in their culture were cruel and heartless and violent. But here is Paul telling them: Power is yours for the taking. But In a constantly shifting geopolitical power structure, Paul is reminding the church what kind of power they are allowed to long for and live into: Be strong in the LORD and in the power of HIS MIGHT. 在主和祂的大能中堅強。這本身就是我們信仰的一個基本要素。這句話允許教會想要權力，但僅限於某種權力。俗話說得好，我也相信：絕對的權力導致絕對的腐敗。保羅寫信的對象已經以無數的方式見證了這項原則的實際運用。他們文化中的權力是殘酷、無情和暴力的。但保羅在這裡告訴他們：權力是你們的，可以奪取。但在不斷變化的地緣政治權力結構中，保羅提醒教會他們可以渴望並生活在什麼樣的權力中：要靠耶和華和祂的大能剛強。

Jesus. Powerful one. ALL powerful one. The truest definition of absolute power...took on the form of a servant. Pinned himself to the cross. Died for the guilty. Defended the weak. Gathered the marginalized. Fed the hungry. Served the poor. *Absolute power...loves absolutely*. (Kid key ring for backpack!) **(And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of<sup>[a]</sup> his Spirit who lives in you. Ro. 8:11 - the power Jesus entrusts to us always leads to LIFE.)** 耶穌。強大的一個。所有強大的一員。絕對權力最真實的定義...以僕人的形式出現。將自己釘在十字架上。為罪人而死。保衛弱者。聚集了邊緣人。餵飽飢餓的人。為窮人服務。絕對的力量.....絕對的愛。(背包的兒童鑰匙圈！)(如果使耶穌從死裡復活者的靈住在你裡面，那麼使基督從死裡復活的那個人也將賦予你必死的身體生命，因為他的聖靈活著羅馬書8:11 - 耶穌給我們的力量總是帶來生命。

The power of God is always at work to seek and save the world and to destroy the enemy's attempts to keep us from Him. IT is never at work to destroy US. When our power becomes aimed on one another or on those who bear the image of God, it becomes a dangerous and destructive thing. (Perhaps: Last week the scripture included slaves and masters. With one sentence, Paul upends the power structure at

work: *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.* This kind of flattening of the hierarchy was subversive in that era and that societal system. The more earthly power we have, the more we must fight to live ALWAYS in the power of HIS might because the power of His might will ALWAYS lead us in humility and love. The power of His might is what moved in and through some courageous trailblazers to fight for an end to the evil power imbalance that was slavery. That same power continues to help us fight for those who are victims of every abusive or oppressive power structure at work in our world. To fight for the hungry, the marginalized, the weak...that is the very definition of being strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.) 神的大能總是在工作，尋找並拯救世界，並摧毀仇敵阻止我們遠離祂的企圖。IT 從來不會破壞美國。當我們的力量轉向彼此或那些擁有上帝形象的人時，它就變成了一件危險且破壞性的事情。(也許：上週的經文包括了奴隸和主人。保羅用一句話顛覆了工作中的權力結構：而主人，也要以同樣的方式對待你的奴隸。不要威脅他們，因為你知道他既是他們的主人你的權力在天堂，他沒有偏袒，這種等級制度的扁平化在那個時代和社會制度中是具有顛覆性的。力量透過一些勇敢的拓荒者為結束奴隸制的邪惡權力不平衡而奮鬥。...這就是在主和祂的大能中堅強的定義。

This isn't a week where I've felt particularly strong. It's been a weak week. I've felt weak with sorrow for a couple of friends of mine. Weak with weariness over the condition of the world. And some days, just weak. In myself, there was not a lot of strength to gather...so this instruction from Paul encouraged me so much. Be strong IN the Lord. I don't need my own strength. I can lean the full weight of my heavy heart on Him and the power of His might. This is good, because when I am strong in myself, I often choose to use my strength on the wrong thing. I can so easily get caught fighting the wrong villain... to pick the wrong bad guy. So, in a world that's filled with injustice and oppression and fighting...who is the RIGHT bad guy? Paul gives us more clarity: 這不是我感覺特別堅強的一周。這是疲軟的一周。我為我的幾個朋友感到悲傷而感到虛弱。對世界的狀況感到疲倦而虛弱。有時，只是虛弱。我自己並沒有太多的力量可以聚集.....所以保羅的這條指示給了我很大的鼓勵。在主裡堅強。我不需要我自己的力量。我可以將我沉重的心情全部傾注在祂和祂的大能之上。這很好，因為當我內心強大時，我經常選擇將自己的力量用在錯誤的事情上。我很容易被抓到與錯誤的惡棍戰鬥.....選擇了錯誤的壞人。那麼，在一個充滿不公義、壓迫和戰鬥的世界裡.....誰才是正確的壞人？保羅讓我們更清楚：

**11**Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **12**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. **13**Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **14**Stand firm then,

with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15**and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16**In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17**Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6

以弗所書 6:11 要穿戴 神所賜的全副軍裝、就能抵擋魔鬼的詭計。6:12 因我們並不是與屬血氣的爭戰、乃是與那些執政的、掌權的、管轄這幽暗世界的、以及天空屬靈氣的惡魔爭戰。〔兩爭戰原文都作摔跤〕6:13 所以要拿起 神所賜的全副軍裝、好在磨難的日子、抵擋仇敵、並且成就了一切、還能站立得住。6:14 所以要站穩了、用真理當作帶子束腰、用公義當作護心鏡遮胸。6:15 又用平安的福音、當作預備走路的鞋穿在腳上。6:16 此外又拿著信德當作籐牌、可以滅盡那惡者一切的火箭。6:17 並戴上救恩的頭盔、拿著聖靈的寶劍、就是 神的道。

How do we handle the weight of the war in which we're living? First, STAND. Paul repeats the word four times. Stand your ground. Stick to the plan. Don't get distracted or swayed or sidetracked. The distractions and discouragements then were different than they are now - and they were also the same. But now, we have so many more things vying for our attention and affection. Spinning shiny things are everywhere...whole other worlds are available through the space of the screens in our hands. Text message tones signal: Someone wants you. Someone knows you. Breaking news notifications were happening on my screen while I was studying for this message. - calling me to lay down my plan and escape into the tyranny of the urgent. But the chaos of the currents swirling through our society do not have to sweep me or my attention span away. Not from Jesus, not from His word and not from the people and purpose to which He has called me. Be present. Stand. Stay. Be here right now. 我們如何面對我們所生活的戰爭的重擔？首先，站立。保羅重複了這個詞四次。堅守陣地。堅持計劃。不要分心、動搖或偏離正軌。那時的干擾和沮喪與現在不同——但它們也是一樣的。但現在，我們有更多的事情爭奪我們的注意力和愛。旋轉閃亮的東西無處不在.....透過我們手中的螢幕空間，可以看到整個其他世界。簡訊提示音：有人想要你。有人認識你。當我正在研究這則訊息時，我的螢幕上出現了突發新聞通知。- 呼喚我放下計劃，逃入緊急的暴政之中。但我們社會中的混亂潮流並不一定會席捲我或我的注意力。不是來自耶穌，不是來自祂的話語，也不是來自祂呼召我和目的。出席。站立。停留。現在就在這裡。

Eugene Peterson says we are being invited to stand in a place of blessing. To inhabit this space where God is lavishing His love. He says this: **Do we realize how unique this is and how refreshing it is to simply be blessed? And by God no less? In a world that confronts us with demands, criticism, misunderstanding, mistrust, manipulation, rivalry, getting and spending, lies and sedition, is there anything like this - sheer, unqualified blessing? Stand still and take it in. - Eugene**

**Peterson** 尤金·彼得森 - 我們認識到僅僅被祝福是多麼特殊多麼有新意嗎？且無缺失地從神來的？在一個面對我們的是要求，批評，誤解，猜疑，操縱，爭競，得到和消費，謊言和煽動的世界中，還有這樣的事——純粹的、無條件的祝福嗎？靜立且抓住它。

Paul goes on to explain that our struggle is not against each other and it isn't even against any other human entity - it's against the "rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Strong language. Throughout his letter to the Ephesians, Paul has only briefly touched down on the idea of an unseen enemy. He's warned them against making room for the enemy, he's said that the days are evil and a few other references, but in this passage, he explicitly names our enemies. He's already said they're not made of flesh or blood - so these rulers and authorities and powers are cosmic in nature. 保羅接著解釋說，我們的鬥爭不是互相對抗，甚至不是對抗任何其他人類實體——而是對抗“統治者、當權者、這個黑暗世界的勢力，以及世界上邪惡的精神力量”。語言強硬。在保羅寫給以弗所教會的信中，他只是簡單地談到了看不見的敵人的概念。他警告他們不要為敵人騰出空間，他說現在的日子很邪惡，還有其他一些提及，但在這段話中，他明確地點名了我們的敵人。他已經說過，他們不是由血肉構成的——所以這些統治者、權威和權力本質上都是宇宙性的。

The people of Israel have a storied history of huge political enemies with towering names like Assyria and Egypt and the Roman Empire. Psalm 83 gives us a long list of people who were against them - Moab and Ammon and Amalek and Sisera and Jabin. They know what it means to be targeted and outmatched. But Paul's list is entirely different. There are no names here that evoke stories of battles fought and lost or won. There is just the summation of character of these unseen forces: *evil schemes - greek word = 'methods' the WAY the enemy works is deceptive*. These are methods used by our enemy and they are tricky. Sometimes really ugly and sometimes truly dazzling, the methods the enemy uses to sidetrack us - to steal us away from our ability to stand are varied and sneaky. (STORY) Paul is telling them: Be alert! Look alive! Don't get fooled. Stand firm in the blessing of God and you won't be undone by the enemy's methods. 以色列人民有著一段傳奇的歷史，他們曾遭遇亞述、埃及和羅馬帝國等巨大政敵。詩篇 83 篇給了我們一長串反對他們的人的名單——摩押、亞捫、亞瑪力、西西拉和耶賓。他們知道成為目標和被擊敗意味著什麼。但保羅的清單完全不同。這裡沒有名字能喚起人們經歷過的、失敗的或勝利的戰鬥的故事。這就是這些看不見的力量特徵的總結：邪惡的計劃——希臘詞="方法"，敵人的工作方式是欺騙性的。這些都是我們敵人所用的手段，而且很狡猾。有時非常醜陋，有時非常令人眼花繚亂，敵人用來轉移我們注意力的方法——竊取我們站立的能力是多種多樣的，而且是鬼祟的。（故事）保羅告訴他們：要警惕！看起來還活著！不要被愚弄。在神的祝福中堅定站立，你就不會被敵人的方法所毀滅。

HOW do we stand? Paul gives us the antidote to the methodology employed by our enemy. He gives us an armor and an arsenal - six words that stand in stark contrast

to the evil scheming at work all around us. He attaches these words to a military implement but I don't want to get too focused on the meaning of the metaphors. The point is: these words reflect the life of the well-armed believer. 我們怎麼樣？保羅為我們提供了針對敵人所採用的方法的解藥。他給了我們盔甲和武器庫——這六個字與我們周圍的邪惡陰謀形成了鮮明的對比。他將這些字詞附加到軍事工具上，但我不想太在意隱喻的意思。重點是：這些話反映了裝備精良的信徒的生活。

**Truth 真理**

**Righteousness 正義**

**Peace 平安**

**Faith 信心**

**Salvation 救恩**

**Word of God 天道**

These words are not a plan or a program. They are not impersonal. They are not spiritual skills. They are seen in the lives of those who have taken their stand - they are present in US and we grow as we live them out together - in community. As Jamie mentioned last week, these are gifts of BEING, not gifts of DOING. Paul links each word to a military term so that he can remind us: It's really dangerous out there and these words will be your defense and your offense as a resurrection people. We have this armor and these weapons, but we also ARE these weapons in our world. And these weapons - which Paul describes as a **belt, breastplate, shoes, shield, helmet and sword** - are not actually worn on the outside, but rather they become who we are on the inside. 這些話不是計劃或程序。他們並不是沒有人情味的。它們不是精神技能。它們出現在那些採取自己立場的人的生活中——他們存在於美國，當我們在社區中共同實踐它們時，我們就會成長。正如傑米上週提到的，這些是存在的禮物，而不是行動的禮物。保羅將每個詞與軍事術語聯繫起來，這樣他就可以提醒我們：外面真的很危險，這些詞將成為你作為復活子民的防禦和進攻。我們擁有這套盔甲和這些武器，但我們也是我們世界上的這些武器。這些武器——保羅將其描述為腰帶、胸甲、鞋子、盾牌、頭盔和劍——實際上並不是穿在外面的，而是它們成為了我們內在的樣子。

Truth becomes a barrier against deception and discouragement. Righteousness - or being with and like Jesus - becomes safekeeping for your heart. Peace becomes a way you move through the world with a light step, leaving it better than you found it. Faith becomes an insulating shield against the fiery sting of death. The certainty of your salvation begins to guard your thoughts and dreams and decisions... and the word of God becomes the way you move forward through a world that is tangled in confusion

and chaos. All these weapons are actually gifts of living in right relationship to King Jesus. They grow inside of us a life that is ready to be strong in the power of His might, to be swift to do good when we see that evil schemes are at work, to get in the adventure of standing firm, loving absolutely and serving our world relentlessly. These six words are the beautiful bounty of knowing Him, trusting Him, partnering with Him. Truth, Righteousness, Faith, Salvation, Peace and the Word of God. 真理成為防止欺騙和灰心的障礙。公義——或與耶穌在一起並像耶穌一樣——成為你心靈的保護。和平成為一種讓你輕步走遍世界的方式，讓世界變得比你發現的更好。信仰成為抵禦死亡烈火刺痛的絕緣盾牌。你得救的確定性開始守護你的思想、夢想和決定...神的話語成為你在混亂和混亂的世界中前進的道路。所有這些武器其實都是與君王耶穌保持正確關係的禮物。它們在我們內心生長出一種生命，準備好在祂的大能的力量下變得堅強，當我們看到邪惡的陰謀在起作用時，我們會迅速行善，在冒險中堅定不移，絕對地愛並為我們服務。這六個字是認識他、信任他、與他合作的美麗恩賜。真理、公義、信心、救恩、和平和神的話語。

Paul closes this passage this way: 保羅以這樣的方式結束：

**18**And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6 以弗所書 6:18 靠著聖靈、隨時多方禱告祈求、並要在此儆醒不倦、為眾聖徒祈求。

Prayer - perhaps the greatest defense and the most powerful weapon of all. Paul talks about praying in the Spirit. (Story) Let God arise...and his enemies be scattered. "Let God have eyes, if he sees it doesn't matter." Praying in the spirit reminds me...God has eyes. He can see us and He has an opinion about what's happening. During the civil war, people begged the same God for opposite outcomes. Someone's agenda was wrong. I love that God has eyes and can see us and He will also sometimes show you what He sees and that is the most beautiful thing ever...even when it's not something you were hoping to see. Even when it's something that's a long way off. jHere at B4 we believe that we were made to participate with Him and we are welcomed into seeing and hearing His goodness in supernatural ways that always lead to LIFE. 祈禱—也許是最偉大的防禦和最有力的武器。保羅談到在聖靈裡禱告。(故事)讓上帝興起...祂的敵人就會四散。“讓上帝有眼睛吧，如果他看到了也沒關係。”心靈禱告提醒我...上帝有眼睛。他可以看到我們，並且他對正在發生的事情有自己的看法。在內戰期間，人們向同一個上帝祈求相反的結果。有人的議程是錯誤的。我喜歡上帝有眼睛，可以看到我們，他也有時也會向你展示他所看到的，這是有史以來最美麗的東西.....即使這不是你希望看到的東西。即使這是遙遠的事。j在 B4，我們相信我們被造是為了與祂一起參與，並且歡迎我們以超自然的方式看到和聽到祂的良善，這總是帶來生命。

Response: Step into the story of the power that's been promised to you. 回應：走進那已經應許給你的權能的故事。

Benediction. 祝禱